

Meiji Japan

Time Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ 1868 – Emperor restored to power = Beginning of Meiji Restoration ~ 1912 – Emperor dies = End of Meiji Restoration
Geographic Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Close to the coast of Korea ~ Series of islands (archipelago) ~ Part of East Asia ~ Few natural resources and raw materials ~ Mountainous (80%) most people therefore live on the coasts
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ 1853 Commodore Matthew Perry ~ 1866-Samurai revolt against shoguns ~ Emperor Mutsuhito a.k.a. Meiji restored ~ Emperor no longer figurehead ~ Holds autocratic power with a (diet) ~ 15yrs old w/ advisors ~ Replaces Tokugawa Shogunate ~ Shoguns replaced by advisors to Emp. ~ Adopts German style government ~ Political parties on regional levels ~ Military strengthened by Western weaponry ~ Constitution of 1889 = 2-house legislature (diet) ~ Wars to gain natural resources ~ Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) = win ~ *gain Formosa (Taiwan) ~ *Korea annexed by Japan ~ Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) = win ~ *Japan gains complete control over Korea (1910) & parts of Manchuria
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Businesses encouraged to use Western methods ~ Factories built and sold to wealthy families (Zaibatsu –Toyota, Mitsubishi, Suzuki) ~ By 1890's – industry booming with modern machines ~ Lack of natural resources leads to expansion ~ Individual ownership & stimulated production ~ Because of land reform ~ Railroads that were built eased international trade ~ Crop tax converted to be payable in money ~ Dependant on World Economy ~ -natural resources from US
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Shintoism becomes popular w/ new interest – traditional & appealed to new nationalist concern with Japan's distinctive mission and the religious functions of the emperor ~ Buddhism lost ground, but stayed important in society ~ Few converts to Christianity
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Samurai are removed as a social class ~ Feudalism replaced by social mobility- adopts a European civil service based system ~ Birthrate dropped during Indust. Rev. ~ Peasants migrated to cities for jobs ~ Women stayed inferior
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Modernized and industrialized ~ Schools/universities set up ~ With Western teachers ~ Taught Western technology ~ By 1900, in full Industrial Rev. ~ Adopted Western technology ~ Railroads, factories, ship-building, mining, and banking
Artistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Former Samurai sent to Europe and America to study their culture and technology ~ Western literary styles and philosophies copied by some Japanese scholars ~ Writers portrayed a feeling of uncertainty in Japan's identity
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Succeeded by another emperor ~ No internal decline ~ Simply shifted out of Reformation into Empire when military found it necessary to expand to gain natural resources. The diet was abolished and not restored until after WWII
Global Connections and Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Similar situation in Russia = Czar Alexander II and Emperor Meiji both realize the need for their empire to Westernize and still preserve tradition ~ Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars = imperialism and colonial expand for resources ~ Late 19th century, becomes stronger country than China ~ Japan called "Yellow Peril" because of its newfound strength ~ Industrialize army to become a global imperial power ~ Reliant on World Market for raw materials; natural resources from US