A Different Response to European and American Imperialism

Japan and the Meiji Restoration

1867
In the 1800’s Europe gained competitive advantage politically and economically due to:

• land, raw materials, and natural resources acquired in America;
• the Industrial Revolution whose powerful machines and exploited workers mass-produced export goods for world markets;
• industrialized military technology.
By the beginning of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, Europe controlled 85\% of the rest of the world. European nations aggressively used

- repeating rifles,
- heavy artillery,
- ironclad ships,
- gunboats with cannons,
- explosive shells, and
- unequal treaties to bully and force their way into overseas lands and commerce.
How did Japan respond to European and American Imperialism in the 1800’s?

How was Japan Different?

• Tokugawa Shogunate Background
• American Intrusion and the Meiji Restoration
• Modernization Japanese Style
Tokugawa Shogunate
Background
(1603-1867)
Japanese Alps, Honshu Island
Forested mountains cover 70% of Japan’s land mass with only 14% farmland
Mt. Fuji
Sapporo, Hokkaido Island
Area of evergreen and broadleaf forests of Japan
Tokagawa Shogunate
1603-1867
CLICKER

How many years did this Shogunate last?
The Shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate lived in Tokyo (Edo) 300 miles from Kyoto where the powerless emperor lived.
- **Domains of Tokugawa shogun and allied daimyo (feudal lords)**
- **Domains of “outside daimyo,” traditional rivals of the shogun**
- **Domains allied against the shogunate at the end of the Tokugawa period**

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The map shows the domains of the Tokugawa shogun and their allies, as well as the traditional rivals of the shogun and domains allied against the shogunate at the end of the Tokugawa period.
Tokagawa Ieyasu
A top warrior, he was declared Shogun and became the first ruler of the Tokagawa dynasty by defeating rivals in civil wars in 1603.
Tokugawa Ieyasu established himself in Tokyo (Edo). He controlled 250 daimyo (warrior lords) with an iron hand, prevented civil war, expelled foreigners, closed off Japan, and established peace and prosperity for 250 years.
Thus, Japan had a feudal structure. What other society(s) also had a feudal structure?

A. Ancient Rome  
B. Medieval Europe  
C. Traditional China  
D. Traditional India
Even though the Shogun was charged with preventing war and regulating society, daimyo were independent on their domains and Japan was, in fact, politically decentralized.
Daimyo visited Edo every other year to participate in ceremonies and rituals.
Samurai Warriors took an oath of loyalty to fight for a Daimyo
Japan’s population and economy exploded during the first 100 years of the Tokagawa Shogunate. Potatoes and sweet potatoes introduced from America and increased rice production provided nutritious food for a better diet.
Cities grew, Japan became highly urbanized.
Forested land was cleared for farms.
Houses were made of wood
Wood was needed for home heating
Massive quantities of wood were needed to fire kilns for making ceramics
By 1700 most of the old-growth forests on the 3 main islands were cut down.
Timber use soared
Deforestation occurred
Deforestation caused
• Soil erosion
• River siltation
• Flooding

Shortages of wood caused
• Competition
• Conflict
The great Meireki Fire of 1657 in Edo killed 100,000 people and burned down half the city. When they began to rebuild the city, they didn’t have enough wood. This fire served as a wake up call that wood was becoming scarce and the increasing population was using up scarce resources.
Severe deforestation at this time could have led to a collapse of Japanese society similar to collapses of the societies of Easter Island, the Southwest Anasazi, and the Mayan’s. The Japanese, however, recognized the problem and implemented intelligent policies.
Measures taken for population control:

- late marriage
- nursed babies longer
- induced abortion
- infanticide
Measures Mandated by Shogun for Resource Conservation:

• Immediately reduce cutting down trees
• Plant new trees
• Present detailed inventories with every measure taken: height, circumference, variety, and health of trees
• Shogun and daimyo determined who could use cut wood. Cedar and oak were reserved for government officials and off limits to peasants.
• Fuel efficient heating stoves invented
• Forest magistrates in villages closed off communally-owned lands, banned cutting wood, and hired armed guards and forest patrols to protect forests
Which of these qualities did Japanese leaders show?

A. Foresight
B. Long-term approaches
C. Ability to Plan
D. All of the Above
Underlying reasons for reversal of environmental degradation were:

A. Tokagawa shoguns felt a stake in preserving resources
B. Short-term over-exploitation of resources seemed foolish
C. There were uniform institutions and methods across the country
D. All of the above
To avoid overuse of her own resources, Japan began to trade with the Ainu indigenous people of Hokkaido Island to avoid overuse of her own resources.
Japanese wanted:
Salmon  Kelp  Abalone
In exchange for:
Sake   Tobacco   Cotton
Results of this trade with the Ainu were:

• Destruction of the fabric of Ainu society due to disease, economic disruption, and military conquests.

• Japan conserved her own resources while depleting resources elsewhere
Opening up of Japan and Beginning of a New Era under the Meiji Emperor
Commodore Perry’s “Black Ships” steamed into Tokyo Bay in 1853
Commodore Matthew Perry
Japanese woodblock print
“Opening of Japan” by Commodore Perry
Awoken from sleep in a peaceful, quiet world by Jokisen tea; with only four cups of it one can't sleep even at night.
Political Crisis for the Shogunate

Western intrusion created factions and a civil war called the Boshin War. Battles were fought between supporters of the Tokugawa Shogunate who could not defeat the foreigners, and supporters of the Meiji Emperor, mainly the Chosun and Satsuma clans, who turned against the Tokagawa and were anti-foreign. They wanted to “expel the barbarians” and restore the Meiji Emperor. British, French, American and Dutch warships bombarded their coastal fortifications, imported Enfield rifles and artillery for their enemies, and routed the Chosun army. The Chosun and Satsuma learned the hard lesson of Western military superiority. They then took steps to learn western military methods and they formed mixed units with samurai and peasants. This military challenge to the Tokagawa undermined it and the Chosun and Satsuma clans finally triumphed defeating the Tokagawa and building a centralized government under the Meiji Emperor. Soon after, in a complete about face, they dropped their anti-foreign attacks and sought foreign knowledge for modernization. Under their slogan “strong army, rich nation,” they pursued a modern military-industrial base for a westernized army and navy to defend Japan against attack and expand its power in Asia.
Chosun and Satsuma samurai who fought in the Boshin civil war on the side of the Emperor’s restoration and Japanese unity.
Meiji Emperor traveling from Kyoto to Edo with full imperial power restored and representing a united Japan
The Tokugawa Shogun resigned and gave power to the Meiji emperor 1867
Many samurai warriors, who fought for daimyo, evolved into an administrative class after the Meiji Emperor’s restoration, but were still devoted to codes of loyalty, honor, and sacrifice.
In bold moves they effected a revolution from above. They restructured the framework of land ownership. No longer did land belong to the Emperor; now private ownership of land was possible. Daimyo domains were abolished and turned into prefectures.

They dismantled the titled 4 classes, Shogun/daimyo, samurai, merchants, and peasants, and merged samurai and peasants into the new military.
Okubo Toshimichi
Samurai who led Meiji Restoration
Saigo Takamori
Gave Tokugawa loyalists clemency
Saigo Takamori
Kido Takayoshi
Policies of centralization and modernization under new Meiji restoration
Ito Hirobumi

An architect of the Meiji Constitution
Drafted the first non-Western Constitution forming a 2-house Parliament called the Diet modeled after that of Germany’s
Yamagata Aritomo
Architect of the modern Japanese military
Used German models of organization with an independent military answering directly to the Emperor, officers trained at a military academy, and uniforms and modern equipment
Modernization of Japan’s military after France, Britain, and Prussia’s was based on universal conscription rather than a samurai class.
Woodblock print of Japan’s Modernization
1870
Zaibatsu

Large capitalist enterprises usually controlled by one family and assisted by the government.
Modernization of Japanese Agriculture
Rice and crops were no longer stored in daimyo warehouses, farmers could sell crops directly to merchants.
Cities grew, railroads connected various regions, and ships sailed to and from large ports.
Fukuzawa Yukichi overhauled the education system creating universal public education.
Woodblock Prints were a high art form
One Hundred Tales of the Moon
Wives and daughters of wealthy merchants enjoyed a leisurely life.
Do you think Japanese leaders of the Meiji restoration made enlightened decisions in the face of European and American imperialism?

What other courses of action could they have taken?