Interactive Notebook Set Up

- 4/5/2018
- Tokugawa and Meiji Japan
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Japan had been decentralized and most power held by the Daimyo between late 15th-16th Cent

Tokugawa Shogunate unified and created a centralized government
- 1600-1868
Neo-Confucian theory that dominated Japan recognized only four social classes—warriors (samurai), artisans, farmers and merchants—and mobility between the four classes was officially prohibited.

- Samurai become salaried bureaucrats and government merchants, not warriors
  - Expected to maintain Code of Bushido

- Peasants were forbidden from engaging in non-agricultural activities
Merchants thrived in commercial economy
- Had wealth, but no status
- Still considered the lowest in society according to the Confucian hierarchy

Art began catering to Samurai, Merchants, and Peasants
- Haiku, woodblock, and Kabuki theater
The Tokugawa Shogunate: Losing Control

In addition to these economic and social changes, other factors contributed to Shogunate’s loss of control in the early 1800s:

- Corrupt and harsh officials
- Severe famine in the 1830s that the shogunate could not deal with effectively
- Expressions of frustration from the poor took form of peasant uprisings and urban riots
Japan became very suspicious and worried about foreign influence or involvement in their government.

Japan deliberately closed itself to Western culture and trade starting in the 17th century.
- Exception = Dutch at the port of Nagasaki.
American Intrusion of Japan

- Expulsion of European missionaries
- Harsh suppression of Christianity
- Japanese forbidden from leaving
- Only 1 port where the Dutch were allowed to trade
- Early 1800s European countries and the U.S. were “knocking on Japan’s door” to persuade them to reopen contact with the West
  - All were turned away
  - Even shipwrecked sailors were jailed or executed
1853 U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry “opened” Japan

Commodore Perry demanded:
- Humane treatment of castaways
- Right of American ships to refuel and buy supplies
- Opening of Japanese ports for trade

He was authorized to use force if necessary, but Commodore Perry approached the Japanese with gifts and a white flag
- War was avoided
Japan agreed to a series of unequal treaties with the U.S. and different Western powers
- They knew what happened to China when it resisted European demands – did not want that outcome

Results of this decision:
- Loss of support for the ruling shogunate
- Brief civil war
- Led to 1868 a political takeover by a group of samurai from southern Japan
  - Called the Meiji Restoration

“Eejanaika”
Dancing on the Eve of the Meiji Restoration
The Meiji Restoration

- **Goals** of the Meiji Restoration:
  - Save Japan from foreign domination
  - Development of a nation-wide economy
  - Transform and modernize Japanese society by drawing upon Western achievements and ideas

- This transformation becomes possible due to:
  - No massive violence or destruction in Japan as in China (Taiping Rebellion)
  - Less pressure from Western powers than in China and the Ottoman Empire
    - Japan = less sought after by Europeans because its location wasn’t very strategic and it didn’t have as many people or riches
    - U.S. ambitions in the Pacific = deflected by the Civil War and its aftermath

Emperor Meiji (1867-1912)
First task was to create true national unity.

Required an attack on the power and privileges of the *daimyo* and *samurai*.

Ended the semi-independent domains of the *daimyo/samurai*.
- Replaced with governors appointed by and responsible to the national government.

National government (not local authorities) now collected taxes and raised a national army.

*Japanese Color Woodblock Print of Meiji Dignitaries (1877)*
The Meiji Restoration

- Dismantling of old Confucian-based social order with its special privileges for certain classes
  - All Japanese became legally equal
- Official missions to Europe and the U.S. to learn about the West
The Meiji Restoration

- Japan **borrowed many ideas from the West and combined these foreign elements with Japanese elements**
  - **Goal was modernize and maintain unique culture**
- **Ex:** Constitution of 1889 included a parliament, political parties and democratic ideals, **BUT** the constitution was presented as a gift from a scared emperor descended from the Sun Goddess
- **Ex:** Modern education system included Confucian principles

*The Meiji Emperor Proclaiming the Meiji Constitution in 1889*
Goals:
- Being a rather small island, Japan and limited resources to assist in Industrialization
- Wanted to be competitive with rather than dominated by the West.
Western powers revised the unequal treaties they had with Japan

- Anglo-Japanese Treaty (1902) acknowledged Japan as an equal player among the “Great Powers” of the world

- Became a military competitor and imperialist power in East Asia
Japanese Imperialism

- War with China = control of Taiwan and Korea
- War with Russia (1904-1905) caused a gained a territorial foothold in Manchuria
- Japan was the first Asian state to defeat a major European power
Causes

- Government set up enterprises and sold them to private investors
  - DID NOT rely on foreign investment/resources
The Japanese government created:

- Railroads
- Postal system
- National currency
- National banking system

Japanese Steam Train (1872)
Characteristics

- Major exports:
  - Silk Textiles
  - Coal
  - Iron/Steel
  - Bamboo Products
Many peasant families slid into poverty

- Taxed too much to pay for Japan’s modernization

- Protests with attacks on government offices and bankers’ homes

- Low pay and terrible working conditions for factory workers (mainly women)
Anarchist and socialist ideas developed among intellectuals.
Efforts to create unions and organize strikes met with harsh opposition.