

THE MODERNISATION OF JAPAN

• What continues on? What changes? How have the changes affected the present?

- Mid-19th century, **Feudal society**, military dictatorship. the “**military aspect**”
- “**the family system**”, “**single but great family, imperial family is main house**” “**union of loyalty and filial piety**”
- “pragmatic”, OPENING UP WAS NECESSARY → “**civil conflict**”
- Influenced by China
- Outsiders → Change → Internal trade
- “eclectic in philosophical basis” (Zen meditation/Christianity/attending Shinto ceremonies)
- Hokkaido, Honshu (largest island), Shikoku, Kyushu



Christianity

- ...Encouraged (foster trade w/ West) → **Hideyoshi**, afraid would undermine authority → ordered missionaries to leave
- **1614**, Christianity banned, missionaries forced to leave

The isolation policy: “Sakkoku”

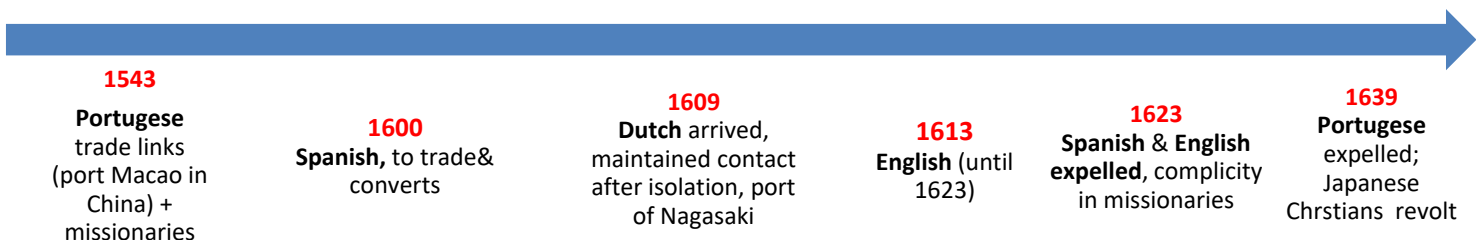
- 200 yrs, information outside through Dutch books, translated by Japanese scholars who specialised in ‘Dutch studies’.
 1. No ships may leave
 2. No Jap may go abroad/living abroad → death
 3. Revealing whereabouts of bateran (Jesuit father) paid 200 pieces of silver
 4. Arrival of foreign ships, guarded by Omura clan
 5. Strict search for bateran on incoming ships
 6. Samurai not allowed commercial dealings

Tokugawa Shogunate

- Yedo (most populous/wealthy area), ruled a quarter (rest by daimyo)
- Authority declined, “**Revere the Emperor. Expel the Barbarian!**” awareness of the shogun’s failure to repel Western powers
- **1867**, Emperor Komei died, succeeded **Emperor Meiji**, 15, (Shogun Tokugawa Keiki) relinquish his power to the new emperor,
- **1868**, After 2 and a half centuries, Tokugawa shogunate was ended

Japan and the West

- during isolation; limited contact w/ Dutch & Chinese traders



Commodore Perry:

- **1853**, Commodore Matthew Perry, Edo harbour, Pressure to trade → end of isolation
- Referred to as “Black Ships”, 4 warships, United States Navy,
- US President Millard Fillmore → Shogun Ieyoshi's, trade & coaling stations Pacific to China & provide protection

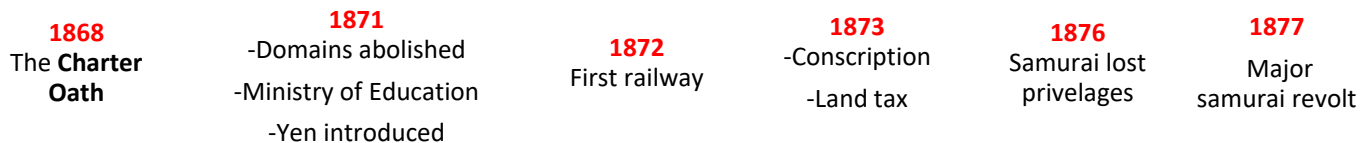
Opening of Japan: → major political, social, economic changes

- **1854**, February, **Treaty of Kanagawa**
 - Two ports to Americans for supplies & trade, American consul, “most favoured nation” (low tariffs, high import quotas...etc)
- **1858**, new treaty; More ports, exchange of diplomatic missions, permitted Americans to reside in Japan



The modernisation of Japan

- Meiji reigned from **1867-1912**, “political revolution”, The “**Meiji Restoration**”
- Feudalism abolished → new...constitutional structure, education, military, economy
- **1868**, **The Charter Oath** ; importation of ideas from the west, New rulers=‘Realists’, accepted to adopt the Westerns methods
- **1871**, **prefectures**=administrative regions , all classes equal before the law
- Imperial army = **German**, conscription; 3 years with the regular army, 4 with the reserve
- Imperial Japanese Navy=**British Royal Navy**, warships purchased from Britain, navy trained along British lines
- Centralised school system=**French & America**, compulsory
- Laws=**French Napoleonic Code**, (& German legal practice) –aim to maintain power, limit freedom of speech & of press



Meiji Constitution

- ...based on **German**, (far from democratic, preserved the position of the emperor) , “a gift from the emperor to the people”
- **1888**, Privy Council, composed of Meiji leaders, serve as a central policy-making body
- **Diet** (parliament) composed of, “**House of Peers**” (members from nobility/Imperial), “**House of Representatives**” (elected)
- 5% of adult male vote; 15 yen or more in taxes,
- **Emperor, Imperial House Law**, “authority to...summon/dismiss Diet, supreme commander of armed forces, responsible for appointing high officials, power to veto and law, suggest amendments to constitution, declare war/peace”
 - Symbolised **national unity**, the oligarchs promoted the idea of a divinely appointed emperor whom the Japanese owed allegiance and promoted the practice of emperor worship

The Genro

- Launched restoration movement, framed the constitution (elder statesmen)
- Eight members, exercised power through the Privy Council,
- Maintained position through the support of the elites, and prominent business leaders



Sino-Japanese War

- **1894-1895**
- Began by a Korean rebellion
- **The Battle of the Yalu River**, decisive battle
- “outcome stunned the world”, Japan had not been expected to win the war
- **Treaty of Shimonoseki**
 - China forced to Surrender, recognise Korean independence, pay 200 million taels, open four more ports to foreign trade

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance

- **1902**
- Britain impressed by Japan, developed a mutual respect for each other, Russia (common rival)
- Alliance aimed at support against Russian expansion in Asia
- Neither power undertook to fight against a third power, both pledge if a fourth power intervened

Russo-Japanese War

- **1904-1905**
- Result=gain total control over Korea,
- First battle where an Asian army had defeated a European one
- **The battle of Mukden**, decisive battle
- **The Treaty of Portsmouth**; Russia recognised Japanese domination of Korea, Japan did not get all that she wished

Social structure:

EMPEROR

- Kyoto, "divine head of society", no real power

- Military and spiritual ruler, sun goddess
- Position of prestige, not power
- **Kuge**, (nobles) of Imperial court
- Worshipped as a god, state cult of emperor worship

SHOGUN (generalissimo/supreme military commander)

- Edo, real power; controlled Daimyo & land

- Established **1192**, Tokugawa family
- Passed down family, abolished **1868**
- Belonged to Samurai Class, military minded
- Shogun position between military leaders **competitive**
- **Bakufu** – government of shogun, "on behalf of the emperor"
 - Administer domain, Control daimyo, Set national policy
- Extensive use of espionage, extend authority

DAIMYO ("great names", "lord")

- Powerful territorial lords, samurai leaders
- Based on hierarchy & loyalty to shogun
- Dubious in character, placed far away from Edo

- Lords:
 - **Tozama daimyo**, "outside lords",
 - Most powerful were western clans (esp. Choshu and Satsuma)
 - **Fudai daimyo**, "inside lords"
 - Trusted, hereditary vassals, placed strategically
- **Kugi**, controlled living patterns of the shore, worked in the shore,
- Supposed to be "**autonomous**", acted as vassals of Tokugawa Shogunate
- If found guilty/disloyalty/misgovernment → lands reduced/confiscated by shogun
- Methods to control daimyo:
 - Restricted in military forces/forbidden to form alliances
 - 2nd year with shogun, families **hostages**
 - Forbidden to build fortified castles/accumulate wealth

SAMURAI (bushi)

- upper samurai; administrators, high social status, little power

- **Buke** – upper, privileged class,
- Able to speak poetry, a high regard
- Belonged/paid by a lord (tf burden on peasants), hereditary class
- Carried two swords, daisho “big and small”:
 - Katana/**kaishaku** – longer sword
 - Wakizashi/**tanto** – smaller sword
- Followed **Bushido**, “Way of the Warrior-Knight”, code of chivalry
 - Japanese code of conduct, “stresses frugality, loyalty, martial arts master and honour unto death”
 - **Seppuku** – ritual suicide by disembowelment,
- **Kirisutogomen** – The right of a samurai to carry arms, kill lower classes
- **Ronin** “wave man” – masterless samurai, still entitled to wear swords
- People were emotionless, emotions interpreted differently
- During Tokugawa shogunate, no wars, Samurai degenerated to a parasitic class of great privilege
 - Lost purpose → left military service → join merchant class/take up scholarship/bandits

FARMERS (Nomin, 90% of population are peasants)

- Provided food for the community

- ...tf considered well
- Mainly grew rice,
- Principal producers,

ARTISANS AND MANUFACTURERS

- Craftspeople, owned workshops

- Crafted weaponry, cooking utensils, sword makers, boat wrights

MERCHANTS

- an unproductive class

- “parasites” , gained profit from other peoples work
- “non-productive” “exploitative” middle man
- **Chonin** “townsman” – a social class, mainly merchants, farmers were not considered chonin
- **Eta**, performed menial tasks, regarded as outcasts

- Static, immobile
- Change → problems (however inevitable)
- Constant spies, **Ninjas**, assassinated people,
 - Assassinations → power