

The Meiji Restoration and Modernization

In 1868, Japan's long history of isolationist policy (*sakoku* 鎖国) came to an end with the collapse of the Edo (Tokugawa) 1_____ (_____ 幕府). The Tokugawa shōgun 將軍 ("great general"), who ruled Japan in the feudal 封建 period, lost his power, and the emperor was restored to the supreme position. The emperor took the name *Meiji* 明治 ("2_____") as his reign name. This event is known as the Meiji Restoration 明治維新 (めいじいしん).

The Reign of the Meiji Emperor 明治天皇 (Meiji Tennō)

When the Meiji emperor was named as head of Japan 3_____, the nation was militarily weak, primarily agricultural, and had little 4_____ development. It was controlled by hundreds of semi-independent feudal lords 大名 (*daimyō*). During the end of the Edo period, in what is known as *bakumatsu* 幕末 (5_____), the Western powers—Europe and the United States—forced Japan to sign treaties that limited Japan's control over 6_____ and required that crimes in Japan concerning foreigners be tried in Western courts. However, when the Meiji period ended, with the death of the emperor 7_____, Japan had

- a highly centralized, bureaucratic government;
- 8_____ 憲法(_____) that established an elected parliament;
- a well-developed transportation and communication system;
- an 9_____ free of feudal class restrictions (士農工商) (*shi-nō-kō-shō*);
- an established and rapidly growing 10_____ based on the latest technology; and
- a powerful army and navy.

By the end of the Meiji period, Japan regained complete control of its foreign trade and legal system. Also, by fighting and winning two wars (one of them against a major European power, 11_____), Japan had established independence and equality in international affairs. In short, most of Japanese society modernized, which is why the Meiji Period is often called 12_____. Japan's success in this modernization created great interest in how the country adopted Western political, social, and economic institutions so quickly.

Success in modernizing partly concerns 13_____ itself. This political revolution "restored" the leadership of the emperor, but he did not rule directly. He was expected to accept the advice of the groups that had overthrown (removed) the shōgunate (*bakufu* 幕府). These new advisors included a small number of ambitious, skillful, and patriotic young men from the lower ranks 14_____, who emerged to take control and establish the new political system. At first, these men only had influence because the emperor accepted their advice and several powerful feudal domains provided military support. However, these new reformers quickly built new 15_____ models. By July 1869, the 16_____ 大名 were requested to give up their domains 藩, and in 1871 these domains were transformed into the 17_____ of a unified central state.

In exchange for giving their lands to the new central state, the feudal lords and the samurai class were offered a yearly stipend (payment), which was later changed to a one-time payment in government bonds. The samurai also lost their class privileges when the government declared ¹⁸_____ (no more class hierarchy 江戸時代の社会). By 1876, the government banned the wearing of ¹⁹_____, and the samurai were made to cut off their top knots (samurai hair) in favor of Western-style haircuts. Most samurai accepted jobs in business and other professions. The more elite and educated samurai reorganized themselves into the *Kazoku* (華族), which would be the new, modern aristocracy/nobility in Japan from 1869 to 1947.

The armies of each domain (*daimyo*) were also disbanded, and ²⁰_____ based on universal conscription was created in 1872, requiring ²¹_____ from all men, samurai and commoner alike. A national land tax system was established that required ²²_____ instead of rice, which allowed the government to stabilize the national budget. This gave the government money to spend to build up the strength of the nation.

Resistance and Rebellion Defeated 反乱 (Hanran)

Although these changes were made ²³_____ and national defense, the loss of samurai privileges brought some resentment and rebellion. While the top leadership, starting in 1872, began traveling to ²⁴_____, to study Western ways, conservative groups back in Japan argued that Japan should invade Korea. This would help patriotic samurai to regain their importance. But the new leaders quickly returned from Europe and reestablished their control, arguing that Japan should concentrate on ²⁵_____ and not engage in foreign wars.

For the next twenty years, in the 1870s and 1880s, the top priority remained domestic reform aimed at changing Japan's ²⁶_____ along the lines of the model provided by the powerful Western nations. The final blow to conservative samurai came during the ²⁷_____, when the government's newly drafted army, trained in European infantry techniques and armed with ²⁸_____, crushed the last resistance of the traditional samurai warriors. With the exception of these few samurai rebellions, Japan's domestic transformation proceeded with remarkable speed, energy, and the cooperation of the people. This phenomenon is one of the major characteristics of Japan's modern history.

Ideology 市民イデオロギー / 市民教育 (civic ideology/education)

In the effort to unite the Japanese nation and deal with the Western (foreign) challenges, the Meiji leaders created a civic ideology/education (市民教育) ²⁹_____. Although the emperor held no political power, he was a symbol of Japanese culture and history. To help increase the emperor's importance, Meiji reformers borrowed Western ideas about Christianity キリシト教 and state power, to try to make Japan into its own kind of "Holy Nation."^(a) But how could leaders achieve this?

In the class system of the Edo era (江戸時代の社会), the emperor and royal nobility (公家 *kuge*) had no power yet had high cultural status. Buddhist monks 坊主/和尚 and Shintō priests 神主 had similar status. But ³⁰_____ 仏教 was a "foreign teaching," so it was difficult to model into a modern nationalist (Japan only) ideology. Therefore, Meiji leaders used ³¹_____ 神道, Japan's native cultural practices (to help their efforts, the government also started a modern campaign to further restrict and reduce Japanese Buddhism).

Although Shintō mostly concerns local deities 神, such as the god of health, Meiji reformers tried to transform Shintō into the national religion of the Japanese civilization. The architectural symbol of this new state religion today remains Meiji Shrine (Meiji Jingū 明治神宮) in Tokyo. In this ³²_____ _____, the emperor was not human but rather a descendent from the gods who created Japan, which made the emperor himself ³³_____. Because this divine emperor (神帝) was presented as a fatherly male, and to help keep the emperor male, Meiji leaders drafted the ³⁴_____ 皇室典範 of 1889 (extended in 1947), which stated that no women could rule Japan (Japan had eight ruling empresses [female emperors 8人の女性天皇] before this time). By closely associating Shintō with the imperial line, the Meiji reformers created a powerful image and ideology that Japan was—and has always been—a single nation unified under the holy father figure of the emperor (although the real history of Japan is quite different).

^(a)Note: the concept of Japan as a Holy Nation was taken from Japanese economic historian Kenichi Ohno (2017), *The History of Japanese Economic Development*.

Social and Economic Changes

The end of feudalism (Tokugawa *bakufu*) opened the way for tremendous ³⁵_____.
_____. Millions of people were suddenly free to choose their occupations and travel around Japan without restrictions. By providing a new environment of political and financial security, the government helped to promote investment in new industries and technologies.

³⁶_____ led the way in such investments, building railway and shipping lines, telegraph and telephone systems, three shipyards, ten mines, five weapons factories, and fifty-three consumer industries (making sugar, glass, textiles, cement, chemicals, and other important products). However, this was very expensive and strained government finances. As a result, in 1880, the government decided to sell most of these industries ³⁷_____, thereafter encouraging such activity through subsidies and other incentives. Some of the samurai and merchants who built these industries established major conglomerates/cartels called ³⁸_____ 財閥, which controlled much of Japan's modern industrial sector. The four most important zaibatsu until 1945 included ³⁹_____ 住友 and ⁴⁰_____ 三井, which had roots in the Edo period, followed by ⁴¹_____ 三菱 and ⁴²_____ 安田.

The government also introduced a ⁴³_____ and a constitution, creating an elected parliament called ⁴⁴_____ 国会. They did this to provide a strong environment for national growth, win the respect of the Westerners, and build support for the modern state. A semi-modern education system had already started during the Edo period, so in 1872 the Meiji government expanded this education system into a national system for the entire population. By the end of the Meiji period, almost everyone attended these free public schools for at least six years. A free education meant that the government could closely ⁴⁵_____, making sure that in addition to skills like mathematics and reading, all students studied "moral training," which stressed the importance of the students' ⁴⁶_____, to the country, and to their families.

⁴⁷_____ 大日本帝國憲法 was "given" to the people by the emperor, and only he (or his advisors) could change it. A parliament was elected beginning in 1890, but only the wealthiest ⁴⁸_____ of the population could vote in elections. In 1925, this was changed ⁴⁹_____ (but not yet women) to vote.

To win the recognition of the Western powers and convince them to change the unequal treaties the Japanese had been forced to sign ⁵⁰_____ (幕末), Japan created a new ⁵¹_____ 法制度, adopting a new criminal and civil code modeled after those of France and ⁵²_____ ドツ. The Western nations finally agreed to revise their trade treaties in 1894, acknowledging Japan as an equal nation in principle, though not yet in international standing.

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ALL 52 are used

in the 1850s
1853-1867
in 1868
in 1912

a constitution (1889)
The 1889 constitution
Satsuma rebellion of 1876-77

Buddhism
daimyō
the Diet
Imperial House Law
the Meiji Restoration
Mitsubishi
Mitsui
new state-supported Shintō
Shintō
shōgunate (*bakufu* 幕府)
Sumitomo
Yasuda

Europe and the United States
Germany
Russia

duty to the emperor
educated population
"enlightened rule"
The government
industrial sector
Japan's modern era
legal system
modern Western guns
a national army
national educational system
prefectures
samurai swords
social and economic institutions
social and political changes
zaibatsu

all classes to be equal
centered around the emperor
control the schools
divine (like a god)
in the name of the emperor
its own foreign trade
its own modernization
military and economic
of the samurai
one percent (1%)
payment in money
technological
three years' military service
to allow all men
to private investors