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FOUR YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE COURSE
(CBCS in Accordance with NEP 2020

SEMESTER- IV

HISTORY OF JAPAN AND CHINA
HISTORY

Surya Kumar Bhuyan School of Social Science
KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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COURSE INTRODUCTION:

This is the sixth Course of B. A. in History entitled *History of Japan and China* under NEP 2024 of Krishna Kanta Handique state open University The course aims at to enlighten the learners with the history of Japan and China. The course consists of fourteen units.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION :

The first unit is titled, *Opening of Japan*. This unit discuses end of Isolation, end of Feudalism in Japan, Commodore Perry and the Treaty of Kanagawa and Harris Treaty in detail.

The second unit is *Rise and Fall of Shagunate*. The unit discuses the beginning of the Shogunate, End of the Shogunate and Encounter with the West.

The third unit entitled, *Transformation of Japan*. This unit tries to discuss the Meiji Restoration and Meiji Constitution.

The fourth unit entitled, *Japan as an Imperial Power*. The unit discuses the Sino-Japanese Relations, Anglo-Japanese Alliance, Russo-Japanese War and the Manchurian Crisis.

The fifth unit *Democracy and Militarism* discuses the Rise of Political Parties in Japan, Failure of Democratic System, Rise of Militarism and the Second Sino-Japanese War.

The sixth unit is *The Washington Conference*. This unit will enlighten the learners with the Background of the Conference, Objectives of the Conference and the Significance of the Conference.

The seventh unit is *Japan Between the Two World Wars*. The unit discuses about Japan and the World War I and Japan and the World War II.

The eighth unit is titled, *Early Chinese Contact with the Europe*. This unit discuses Chinese attitude towards Foreigners, advent of the Europeans and Canton Trade.

The ninth unit is *Opening Up of China*. The unit discuses the first Opium war, second Opium war, increasing western economic interest in China and Open Door Policy.

The tenth unit entitled, *Popular Reform Movement-I*. This unit discuses the Tai-ping movement, Hundred Days Reform Movement and Reform of 1901-1908.

The eleventh unit entitled, *Popular Reform Movement-II*. The unit discuses the Boxer rebellion in detail.

The twelfth unit *Emergence of Nationalism in China* discuses the Chinese Revolution of 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and May Fourth Movement.

The thirteenth unit is *Political Movements in China*. This unit will enlighten the learners with

the political crisis of 1920s' in China and development of Kuomintang and Chiang Kai- Shek.

The fourteenth unit is *Communism in China*. The unit discuses the development of Communism in China under Mao-Tse-Tung and triumph of Communism in China.

While going through this course, you will notice that some boxes are put in the left hand or right hand side of the text. These boxes are meant to serve the purpose of in-text glossary for you. Again, you may find some boxes marked with: "LET US KNOW". These boxes will provide you with some additional interesting and relevant information. The boxes marked with "ACTIVITY" will help you in making your learning more active and efficient. And, at the end of each section, you will get "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study. It will be better if you solve the problems put in these boxes immediately after you go through the sections of the units and then match your answer with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit.

HISTORY OF JAPAN AND CHINA
DETAILED SYLLABUS

UNIT 1 : Opening of Japan **7-17**
End of Isolation, End of Feudalism, Commodore Perry and and the Treaty of Kanagawa, Harris Treaty

UNIT 2 : Rise and Fall of Shagunate **18-26**
Beginning of the Shogunate, End of the Shogunate, Encounter with the West

UNIT 3 : Transformation of Japan **27-38**
Meiji Restoration, Meiji Constitution

UNIT 4 : Japan as an Imperial Power **39-48**
Sino-Japanese Relations, Anglo-Japanese Alliance, Russo-Japanese War, Manchurian Crisis

UNIT 5 : Democracy and Militarism **49-60**
Rise of Political Parties, Failure of Democratic System, Rise of Militarism, Second Sino-Japanese War

Unit 6: Washington Conference **61-67**
Background of the Conference, Objectives of the Conference, Significance

Unit 7 : Japan between the two World Wars **68-80**
Japan and the World War I, Japan and the World War II

Unit 8 : Early Chinese Contact with the Europe **81-91**
Chinese attitude towards Foreigners, advent of the Europeans and Canton Trade

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First Opium war, second Opium war, increasing western economic interest in China and Open Door Policy

Unit 10 : Popular Reform Movement-I **119-134**
Tai-ping movement, Hundred Days Reform Movement and Reform of 1901-1908.

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The Boxer rebellion

Unit 12 : Emergence of Nationalism in China **145-164**
Chinese Revolution of 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and May Fourth Movement

Unit 13: Political Movements in China **165-174**
Political crisis of 1920s' in China and development of Kuomintang and Chiang Kai- Shek

Unit 14 : Communism in China **175-184**
Development of Communism in China under Mao-Tse-Tung and triumph of Communism in China

UNIT 1 : OPENING OF JAPAN

UNIT STRUCTURE

1.1 Learning Objectives
1.2 Introduction
1.3 End of Isolation
1.4 Commodore Perry and Treaty of Kanagawa
1.5 Harris Treaty
1.6 End of Feudalism
1.7 Let Us Sum Up
1.8 Further Reading
1.9 Answers to Check Your Progress
1.10 Model Questions

1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- know about the end of isolation in Japan,
- discuss the expedition of Commodore Perry and the Treaty of Kanagawa,
- describe the Harris Treaty,
- explain the end of feudalism in Japan.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

Japan, today the most prosperous nation in the world was like all other Asian nations victims of aggressive European imperialism. But she unlike other Asian nation successfully resisted European imperialism by quickly industrializing herself and by adopting Western science and civilization. She too was first Asian nation to defeat Russia, a European power and thereby broke the myth of Western invincibility.

However, Japan till the middle of the 19th century was a feudal state trying to maintain her isolation from rest of the world. But the Western powers were making continuous attempt to establish commercial relation with Japan by opening her door. In this unit we will study how the isolation maintained by Japan for a long period of time was broken by the Western powers leading to its opening for the world and the end of feudalism there.

1.3 END OF ISOLATION

From the 17th century onwards, the European nations were busy in promoting trade with the East and in establishing empires. Japanese policy of isolation stood as an obstacle towards it. Only through the Japanese port of Nagasaki, the foreign trade was permitted and that too only for the Dutch.



Whaling: It is the activity of hunting and killing whales.

Attempts were as such made by the Western powers to establish commercial relation with Japan. The first amongst them was Russia whose contact with Japan can be dated back to 1697. From that time onward, Russians repeatedly tried for commercial and diplomatic relations with Japan. All throughout the 18th century, many Russian expeditions reached the Japanese coast without succeeding to break the Japanese seclusion.

At the beginning of the 19th century, a British vassal in 1808 entered the harbour of Nagasaki. Actually, the development of whaling during that period brought many ships from the West into Japanese waters. In 1840, two American ships commanded by Commodore Bidle were sent to the Bay of Yedo for securing trade concessions. But their request for trade was denied.



Shogun: The chief officer of the Japanese Emperor.

Then in 1846, a French ship touched the Riu Kiu Archepelago. The king of Holland in 1847 advised the Japanese to abandon their policy of isolation and in 1849 warned them that an American fleet will soon arrive at Japan. Few years later, in 1853 a squadron of four American ships under the command of Commodore Matthew Galbraith Perry sailed into the Bay of Yedo. It was this American naval mission under Commodore Perry that succeeded in ending the Japanese policy of isolation by concluding a formal treaty with her. We will discuss in the next sub-section regarding Commodore Perry and the Treaty of Kanagawa concluded by him with the representatives of the Shogun.

1.4 COMMODORE PERRY AND TREATY OF KANAGAWA

Commodore Matthew Galbraith Perry in brief Commodore Perry was a distinguished American naval officer. The then American President Fillmore in 1852 selected him to command a naval expedition to Japan to open up her for trading activities. He was provided with a fleet of four ships for undertaking the expedition. Large discretionary power was also provided to Commodore Perry for the mission.

There was no any kind of territorial ambition on the part of America in the Far East behind sending this naval expedition. America just wanted to establish good friendly relationship with Japan so that she could peacefully carry on her trade. The ship-wrecked American seamen often used to take shelter on the coasts of Japan. But the Japanese people considered these American sailors as criminals and tortured them in various ways. As such America wanted to make arrangement in Japan for the protection of her seamen and property.

Again the expansion of the American trans-Pacific trade from San Francisco to China passed through Japan and therefore the American sailors wanted to use some Japanese ports as coaling stations for their trans-Pacific steamships. Hence, America wanted to secure permission so that her ships could enter one or more ports for provisions and to establish a coal depot.

Besides, America also wanted to establish a commercial relationship with Japan. The American traders wanted to trade with Japanese traders through sale or barter. A formal permission was necessary for this from the Japanese Government as she had maintained a policy of seclusion.

On 3rd July, 1853 Commodore Perry with his squadron of four ships entered into the Bay of Yedo. His entry caused havoc amongst the inhabitants of the city. Even the officials of the Shogunate stationed there got annoyed by the power of the American fleet. They failed to obstruct the march of the fleet and to force it to retire to Nagasaki. Until then, any foreigner used to deal with the Shogunate government of Japan from Nagasaki through the Dutch stationed there.

But Commodore Perry was in no mood to deal that way. Rather the strength of his fleet and his personality did attract the officials of the Shogunate at Yedo and was received by them in a respectable manner. Commodore Perry then gave the letter from American President Fillmore for the Japanese Emperor in the hands of the Japanese officials. The letter stated that America was interested in friendship, commerce, coal as well as provisions for its ships, and the protection of ship-wrecked sailors.

Along with the letter from American President, Commodore Perry also gave a letter to the Japanese officials addressed by him to the Japanese Emperor where it was stated that "The President desires to live in peace and friendship with your Imperial Majesty; but no friendship can long exist

unless Japan ceases to act towards Americans as if they were her enemies." As immediate reply was not possible, Commodore Perry sailed away with a promise to return the very next year to receive the reply of the Japanese Emperor.

The letter of President Fillmore created a hue and cry in Japan. The Shogunate Government of Japan failed to act on its own as the position of Shogun was no longer powerful. Hence, the Shogun sought the advice of the leading Diamyos and the Emperor. Majority of the Diamyos and the Emperor himself was not interested in signing any treaty with the American Government. They rather favoured to resist the foreigners if necessary even through an armed conflict. But some of the Diamyos were farsighted enough and opined that an open arm conflict with American forces would definitely earn defeat and dishonour to the Shogun and the Japanese Government. Finally, the opinion of this minority group prevailed and decision was taken to develop a friendly relationship with America.



Diamyo: The great lords

Meanwhile, after the departure of Commodore Perry, Russia demanded for commercial concessions in Japan. This Russian demand hastened the coming of Commodore Perry. In February 1854, with a fleet of seven vessels he once again entered the Bay of Yedo to receive the answer of the letter. He also brought with him precious gifts to show the mechanical advancement of the West. The gifts constituted a miniature railway, telegraph, books and variety of liquors. These gifts greatly impressed the Japanese people.

As per the decision of the Shogunate Government, Commodore Perry was welcomed with cordiality and respect. Commodore Perry too on his part successfully convinced the Japanese Government to sign a treaty with the American Government. Finally a treaty was signed on 31st March, 1854 between Commodore Perry, representing the American Government on one side and the representatives of the Shogun on the other side. This treaty was popularly known as the Treaty of Kanagawa. By this Treaty the American Government got lots of trading concessions in Japan. The treaty also indirectly opened up Japan for trade and commerce with the Western nations. The provisions of the treaty were:

- Two important ports of Japan, Shimoda and Hakodate were opened up to use as coaling and refitting station for the trans- Pacific steamships of the United States.

- The American Government got the right to appoint a consul to reside at Shimoda.
- The Japanese Government agreed to provide protection to the ship-wrecked sailors of America.
- This treaty allowed the American Government to buy coal, water and food from Nagasaki.

It is very important that this treaty did not grant any extra-territorial rights to the American Government. But the importance of the treaty of Kanagawa lies in the fact that it brought an end to more than two centuries of Japanese seclusion. Treaties for commercial privileges were also concluded with Japan by England, Russia, and Holland.



LET US KNOW

The American achievement in opening Japan drew the attention of other European countries towards her. A British admiral, Sir James Stirling negotiated a treaty at Nagasaki in October, 1854. The Russian admiral Count Putiatin concluded a treaty at Shimoda in February, 1855. The Dutch (Holland) also signed a new treaty in January, 1856 to extend their jurisdiction from Nagasaki. These three treaties provided permission to the Western Powers to trade through Japanese officials; to appoint consuls at Shimoda and Hakodate; and to enjoy limited extra-territorial jurisdiction. Except, the treaty with Holland, the treaties with America, England, and Russia was negotiated with Shogunate Government and was approved by the Japanese Emperor in February, 1855.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.1: Which was the earliest power to have contact with Japan?

……

Q.2: When did the treaty of Treaty of Kanagawa sign?

……

Q.3: What was the full name of Commodore Perry?

……

Q.4: When did Commodore Perry enter into the Bay of Yedo?

……

1.5 HARRIS TREATY

America as per a provision of the treaty of Kanagawa was allowed to appoint a consul to reside at Shimoda. Accordingly in 1856 the American Government sent Townsend Harris as the first American Consul General to Shimoda. Harris was a merchant of New York and had already made an extensive tour in the Far- East. He was a man of excellent mind and character.

Townsend Harris reached Shimoda in August, 1856. Initially he had to live a miserable life there as the Japanese disliked his presence there. The Japanese Government did provide him a formal welcome. He was provided with an old temple to reside. The temple was infested with mosquitoes, cockroaches and large rats. Several other obstacles were also created by the Japanese to discourage Harris from staying there.

But Harris faced all the obstacles with great patience and firmness. Finally his honesty and good behavior won the good will of the Japanese authority. As a result of this in 1857 a convention was signed between the American and the Japanese Government. This convention provided America with all that which Britain, Russia, and Holland achieved through their respective treaties with the Japanese Government.

This convention greatly inspired Harris to further strengthen the America-Japanese relationship. He therefore tried his level best to convince the Japanese Government for signing a full-fledged commercial treaty with a friendly nation like America which would be highly beneficial for Japan. Harris was successful in his attempt and in January, 1858 the Shogunate agreed for the conclusion of such a treaty. Finally on 29 July, 1858 a treaty was signed between the two respective governments. The Shogun signed the treaty on behalf of the Japanese Government and Harris represented the American Government. This treaty was popularly named after Townsend Harris as the Harris Treaty and its provisions were:

- Both the nations would maintain diplomatic representation at each other's capital.
- American citizens were provided the permission to reside at Shimoda, Hakodate and Nagasaki.
- The American traders were allowed to carry on trade in the ports of Shimoda, Hakodate, Nagasaki and Kanagawa.

- The American Government was permitted to station a Minister in Yedo and Consuls in all open ports.
- The American navy was allowed to establish supply depots in Yokohama, Hakodate, and Nagasaki.
- The Americans were granted extra-territorial rights in Japan. By this right the Americans would be under the jurisdiction of their Consuls and not of Japanese officials and law for civil as well as criminal cases related with opium trade.
- Religious freedom was granted to the Americans and other foreigners in Japan.
- America got the status of most favoured nation.
- Japan would charge only 5 percent customs duty on all the commodities imported from or exported to America.
- Foreign currency would be legal tender for trade in Japan under certain conditions.
- Japan surrendered her right to enforce her own tariff rates.

America got lots of concessions in Japan through the Harris treaty. The treaty was great diplomatic achievement for America as well as a great personal victory for Harris. It became the basis of the relationship between Japan and Western Powers till 1894. Other Western powers like Dutch, Russian, British and French compelled the Shogun to sign similar treaties with them. Infact by 1867 all European countries concluded treaties with Japan by which they secured commercial relations, open ports, extra-territorial rights, and control over the tariff.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.5: When did Townsend Harris reach Shimoda?

……

Q.6: When the Harris Treaty was signed?

……

Q.7: In which year feudalism officially came to an end in Japan?

……

Q.8: Name the Prominent feudal clans of Japan.

……

1.6 END OF FEUDALISM

The treaties of Kanugawa and Harris opened up Japan directly for America and indirectly for the European powers. This opening of Japan created great repercussions among the patriotic Japanese people leading to anti-foreign movement. The anti-foreign movement further soon developed into an agitation for the abolition of Shogunate. Gradually, the agitation passed through different stages resulting in a brief civil war which resulted in the end or abolition of the Shogunate in 1867. Regarding the structure and end of the Shogunate you will study in detail in the second chapter.

With the abolition of Shogunate, the Japanese Emperor was brought out from his seclusion and was placed on the throne at Yedo in 1868. At that time, Mutsuhits, a young boy of 14 years was the Emperor. He assumed his power with dignity and gave a brief statement to his officials. In his statement, the Emperor put forward the principles of his new rule indicating the desire to transform Japan into a powerful and progressive nation.

The young Emperor stressed on the more centralization of his authority with the Shogunate already being abolished. He considered the feudal lords as obstacle towards centralising his authority and decided for the abolition of feudalism. Prominent feudal lords belonged to powerful western clans of Satsuma, Chosu, Hizen and Tosa.

These four clans had played a prominent role in abolishing the Shogunate and restoring the monarchy in Japan. As such they voluntarily surrendered their position to the Emperor in 1869 and were allowed by the Emperor at Yedo, the new capital of Japan. Remaining feudal lords too followed them voluntarily surrendered their all properties and turned into ordinary people in the eyes of law. Even the old warrior class of Samurai gave up their class privileges.

With all feudal lords and Samurais surrendering their power and privileges, the Emperor through an Imperial edict in 1871 finally abolished feudalism from Japan. This abolition of feudalism affected almost every class of the Japanese society. It also paved the way for the re-organisation of the state on a national basis.



1.7 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learn–

- European nations from 17th century onwards started promoting trade with the East. But Japan maintained a policy of isolation and did not allow foreigners to trade with her. Only the Dutch were permitted to have trade with Japan through the port of Nagasaki. But after repeated attempts by the Western Powers like Russia, England, and America, Japan had to end her policy of isolation in the mid-19th century and was opened up.
- Commodore Perry, a distinguished naval officer was sent by the American President Fillmore to Japan for securing from her commercial concessions. Perry reached Japan on 3rd July, 1853 and then handed over the letter sent by President Fillmore to the Japanese Emperor. He then returned back with a promise of coming back a year letter to know the answer of the letter given by his President. He returned back and was received cordially by the Japanese officials as per the decision of Shogunate Government. Subsequently, on 31st March, 1854 a treaty was concluded between Commodore Perry and the representatives of the Shogun. This treaty was popularly known as the Treaty of Kanagawa and it provided lots of trading concessions to America in Japan.
- The treaty of Kanagawa allowed America to appoint a Consul to reside at Shimoda Accordingly, American Government appointed Townsend Harris, a merchant of New Work as the first American Consul General to Shimoda. Harris reached Shimoda in August, 1856 and in 1857 a convention was signed between the American and the Japanese Government. This convention greatly inspired Harris and he successfully convinced the Shogun in January, 1858 for signing a full-fledged commercial treaty with a friendly nation like America. Finally on 29 July, 1858 a treaty was signed directly between the Shogun and Harris. This treaty was popularly named after Townsend Harris as the Harris Treaty and it provided America with lots of concessions in Japan.

The opening of Japan gradually created anti-foreign movement gradually leading to the abolition of Shogunate. End of Shogunate led to the rise of the Emperor in Japan. The Emperor tried for centralization of his authority and decided to abolish feudalism as powerful feudal lords stood as an obstacle towards centralization. Fortunately, for the Emperor all the feudal lords and the Samurais voluntarily surrendered their position before him. Thereafter, the Emperor through an Imperial edict in 1871 abolished feudalism from Japan. This abolition of feudalism affected almost every class of the Japanese society and paved the way for the re-organisation of the state on a national basis.



1.8 FURTHER READING

1. Singh, A. K., (1984), *History of Far East in Modern Times*, Delhi - 110007, Surjeet Publications.
2. Vinacke, H.M., (1982), *A History of The Far East In Modern Times*, New Delhi, Kalyani Publications.
3. David, M. D., *History of Modern Japan*, (First edition 1979), Bombay 400054, Himalaya Publishing House.



1.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the Question no 1: Dutch

Answer to the Question no 2: 31st March, 1854

Answer to the Question no 3: Commodore Matthew Galbraith Perry

Answer to the Question no 4: 3rd July, 1853

Answer to the Question no 5: August, 1856

Answer to the Question no 6: 29th July, 1858

Answer to the Question no 7: 1871

Answer to the Question no 8: Satsuma, Chosu, Hizen and Tosa.



1.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: Between whom the treaty of Kanugawa was signed?

Q.2: Who was Commodore Perry?

Q.3: Who was Townsend Harris?

Q.4: Between whom the Harris treaty was signed?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: Write a short note on the Treaty of Kanugawa.

Q.2: Mention the achievements gained by America by the Harris Treaty.

Q.3: How the treaties of Kanugawa and Harris treaty opened up Japan for the European powers?

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss the provisions of Harris Treaty.

Q.2: Discuss about the opening up of Japan for the West.

Q.3: Discuss about the end of feudalism in Japan.

* * * * *

UNIT 2 : RISE AND FALL OF THE SHOGUNATE

UNIT STRUCTURE

2.1 Learning Objectives

2.2 Introduction

2.3 Beginning of the Shogunate

- 2.3.1 Tokugawa Shogunate
- 2.3.2 Tokugawa Bakuhan System
- 2.3.3 End of the Shogunate

2.4 Encounter with the West

- 2.4.1 Western powers in Japan
- 2.4.2 Violence against the Foreigners in Japan

2.5 Let Us Sum Up

2.6 Further Reading

2.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

2.8 Model Questions

2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to:

- Know about the establishment of the Shogunate in Japan
- describe the origin of the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan
- explain the Tokugawa Bakuhan System
- analyze the nature of relationship between Japan and the western nations
- describe about the restoration of Meiji in Japan
- explain the process of modernization in Japan
- discuss the constitution making process of Japan
- analyze the different features of the Meiji Constitution

2.2 INTRODUCTION

The Japanese called their country as "Nipon", which means the "Land of raising sun". Today Japan is one of the most advanced nations of the world. Japan is also known as the "England of the East". But it is very interesting that till the middle of the 19th century, Japan adopted a policy of isolation and did not want to have any direct relationship with the rest of the

world. But the western powers always tried to have direct trade relations with her. Accordingly various western powers came to Japan and slowly and gradually Japan was opened up for the trade of the western powers.In this way western ideas interned into Japan. After that by adopting the western ideas very soon Japan emerged as an international power and she started playing a very important role in the international politics. In this unit we will discuss about the rise and fall of the Shogunate and the western interest in Japan in detail.

2.3 BEGINNING OF THE SHOGUNATE

Till the middle of the nineteenth century the Japanese Government wasfeudal and militaristic.The Emperor or the Mikado was the head of the nation. But he was the nominal head. The Mikado was regarded as a sacred figure. The Japanese believed in the "Divine Theory of Kinship". To maintain the divinity of the Emperor, he was made to live in isolation at Kyoto. Therefore with the passage of time the Shogun who was the chief military officer of the Emperor monopolized the powers of the State.

Yoritomo was the first Shogun. He served the Emperor as the head of the armed forces. The Emperor bestowed him the title of Sei- i- tai Shogun which means "Barbarian Subduing General. Later on this title was abbreviated to Shogun.Yoritomo got the title in 1192 and therefore this year is generally considered as the beginning of the Shogunate. The title of Shogun gave Yoritomo the legal control of all the military forces of Japan. To enhance his power and position, Yoritomo organized the military forces of the nation. The administration introduced by his is known as the "Bakufu" which means the "Army Headquarters". In English it is called the Shogunate.

2.3.1 TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE

In 1603 the famous Tokugawa family of Japan assumed the powers of the Shogunate. This is a very important event in the history of Japan. In the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 Ieyasu, the first Shogun of the Tokugawa family defeated his previous Shogun. After that in 1603 Ieyasu declared himself as the new Shogun and therefore this year is considered as the beginning of the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan. The members of the Tokugawa family continued to rule till 1867.

2.3.2 TOKUGAWA BAKUHAN SYSTEM

The administrative system of the Tokugawa Shogunate is known as the Tokugawa Bakuhan System. Under this system they established their full control over the Imperial House. The Emperor and their courts were given a sufficient amount of revenue to maintain their life with dignity. As a sacred figure the Emperor was asked to live at his Palace at Kyoto. Without the permission of the Tokugawa Shogunate no one was allowed to meet the Emperor. The Emperor became the nominal head of the administration and he was not allowed to take active part in the administrative affairs. The capital of the Tokugawa Shogunate was established at Yedo, the present Tokyo and it became the real centre of the government. A huge Palace was built at Yedo for the Shogun. In this way the Tokugawa Shogunate centralized the powers of the administration.

Under the Shogunate the Japanese society was feudal in character.The powers of the Shoguns were largely depended on a group of feudal lords called the Daimyos. They were the military officers under the Shoguns. Under the Daimyos there was a warrior class called the Samurais. The Shogun always kept a strict eye on the activities of the Daimyos and the Samurais so that they could not grow too powerful to raise their voice against the Shoguns.

In this way the Tokugawa Shogunate established a centralized feudal military administrative system in Japan.

2.3.3 END OF THE SHOGUNATE

The Tokugawa family ruled over Japan for a long period of time. During their long rule of about two hundred and fifty years they established a feudal militaristic administrative system in Japan. In the beginning of their rule, there was comparatively peace in the society. But later on their hard rule resulted in the emergence of some social, political and economic crisis in the country. This crisis ultimately paved the way for the end of the Shogunate in Japan.

Absent of a sound economic policy was mainly responsible for the downfall of the Shogunate. There was no any provision for national

loans to improve the economic condition of the nation. Instead of that the peasants who comprise the bulk of the total population of the nation were overburdened with heavy taxes. The economic condition of the peasants was very poor. But the Daimyos and the Samurais lived a very luxurious life. This greatly aggravated the economic situation of the country. The situation became worst with the growing population of Japan which resulted in the shortage of food grains in the country. Therefore a large number of peasants rose in revolt against the Shogunate.

The emergence of the merchant class in Japan also created a crisis in front of the Shogunate. It's very important that the Daimyos and the Samurais lived a very luxurious life and to supply the luxurious commodities to these classes a merchant class emerged in the country. With the passage of time this merchant class economically became so powerful that the feudal lords and the Samurais started borrowing money from them. This enhanced the power of the merchant class and at the same time it also collapsed the existing feudal structure of the Japanese society which was established by the Shogunate.

The arrival of the western powers in Japan made the situation worst.We have already discussed that from the very beginningJapan maintained a policy of isolation and did not want to have any relation with the rest of the world. But the western powers always tried to establish commercial relationships with Japan. Accordingly traders from the western countries came to Japan in large numbers and compelled the Shogunate to sign various treaties with them at different point of time by which the western powers got a lot of commercial concessions in Japan. The growing commercial activities of the western powers in Japan was not at all liked by the patriotic Japanese people, because they considered the foreigners as barbarians and kept themselves sealed from the rest of the world. The growing power of the western countries in Japan also exposed the weakness of the Shogunate and made them very unpopular among the patriotic Japanese people and therefore they organized a revolt against the Shogunate, which was also supported by the Daimyos because they

held Shogun responsible for granting concessions to the foreigners in Japan. All the powerful clans also took arms against the Shogun and put demands for the restoration of all powers to the Emperor. In this brief civil war the Tokugawas were defeated. It marked the end of the Tokugawa rule in particular and the Shogunate in general. In such a situation the Shogun abdicated in 1867. After that the Emperor Mutsuhits, a boy of fourteen years was placed on the throne. This event is known as the Meiji Restoration in the history of Japan.With the Meiji Restoration in 1868 the rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate came to an end in Japan.

2.4 ENCOUNTER WITH THE WEST

Till the middle of the 19th century Japan adopted a policy of isolation and did not want to have any direct relationship with the rest of the world. But as early as the 16th century the Dutch and the Portuguese traders and the Jesuit missionaries came to Japan. After coming into the contact with the Jesuit missionaries, a large number of Japanese people got converted into Christianity.This growing numberof Christian converts greatly alarmed the Japanese Government. Because the Japanese Government thought that the spiritual conquest by the Jesuit missionaries might lead to political conquest of Japan by the Western countries. Therefore in order to maintain the political and cultural integrity of Japan, the Japanese Government ordered the foreigners to leave Japan as soon as possible. Only a few Dutch traders were given permission to carry on trade in the island of Deshima near the Nagasaki port.Through these traders the Shogunate got information about the rest of the world.

Though from the very beginning Japan wanted to maintain a policy of isolation, but the western powers were always interested in establishing direct trade relations with Japan.The first among them was Russia.

2.4.1 WESTERN POWERS IN JAPAN

In 1697 Russia made an unsuccessful attempt to establish direct trade relation with Japan. It was in 1855, February that the Russian admiral Count Putiatin signed a treaty with the Japanese Government and got the permission to trade in Japan through the Japanese officials.

At the same time through this treaty Russia also got limited extraterritorial rights in Japan.

Already in 1853 the American Government sent a naval expedition to Japan under Commodore Mathew Calbraith Perry with a view to open Japan to trade with America. In 1854 Perry signed the Kanugawa treaty with the Shogunate. In 1856, another American officer Townsend Harris signed a treaty with the Shogunate. This treaty is known as the Harris Treaty. Through the above mentioned treaties the American Government received lots of trading concessions in Japan.In October, 1854, a British admiral, signed a treaty with the Japanese Government at Nagasaki.Through this treaty the British Government got some commercial benefits in Japan.

In this way from the very beginning many western powers were trying to break the isolation policy of Japan and to have direct trade relations with her.

2.4.2 AGAINST THE FOREIGNERS IN JAPAN

From the very beginning Japan followed the policy of isolation and that is why the arrival of the foreigners in Japan was not at all welcomed by the patriotic nationalist Japanese people. Therefore they tried to expel the foreigners from their country. Simultaneously they indulged in some violent activities against the foreigners. In January, 1861, an American Mr. Heusken was murdered by the Japanese patriots. Again in September, 1862, C.L. Richardson, a British person visiting from Hong Kong, was killed by the Japanese. As an answer tothis violence, the British force bombarded Kagoshima, a Japanese town in 1863. Again in 1864, a combined British, French, Dutch and American fleet bombarded another Japanese town called Shimonoseki. This revealed the strength of the western military power and the weakness of the Japanese Government. Now the majority Japanese people wanted to adopt the western civilization to make their country powerful enough to protect itself. At the same time, the growing power of the western countries in Japan made the Shogunate very unpopular. This ultimately paved the way for the end of the Shogunate and the restoration of the Meiji in Japan.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.1: The Japanese called their land by which name?

.....

Q.2: Where did Mikado live?

.....

Q.3: Who were the Shoguns?

.....

Q.4: Who was the first shogun of Japan?

.....

Q.5: Who was the first shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate?

.....

Q.6: What was the full name of Commodore Perry?

.....



2.5 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit we have learnt about-

- the establishment of the Shogunate in Japan. The Shoguns were the chief military officers of the Japanese Emperor.
- in 1603 the famous Tokugawa family of Japan assumed the powers of the Shogunate. In 1600 CE in the Battle of Sekigahara, Ieyasu of the Tokugawa family defeated his previous Shogun and declared himself as the new Shogun in 1603 CE. This was the beginning of the Tokugawa Shogunate and they ruled over Japan from 1603 CE to 1867 CE.
- the administrative system of the Tokugawa Shogunate is known as the Tokugawa Bakuhan System. By this system they established their full control over the Imperial House and the Emperor and their courts were given a sufficient amount of revenue to maintain their life with dignity.
- the power of the Tokugawa Shogunate was largely depended on the feudal lords called the Daimyos and the Samurais. These feudal lords

were the military officers under the Shoguns. In this way the Tokugawa Shogunate established a feudal military administrative system in Japan.

- various causes paved the way for the downfall of the Tokugawa Shogunata in Japan. Among them the absence of a sound economic system in the nation, the emergence of the merchant class in Japan, the growing power of the feudal lords and the growing commercial activities of the western powers in Japan deserved special mention. Finally in 1867 the Tokugawa Shogunate abdicated their powers to the Emperor of Japan.
- though Japan always wanted to follow a policy of isolation and did not want to have any direct contact with the outside world, but from the very beginning the western powers tried to established direct trade relationship with Japan and in different course of time these powers by signing different treaties with Japan, opened up Japan for the West and she had to lose her isolation.



2.6 FURTHER READING

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2. Vinacke, H.M., (1982), *A History Of The Far East In Modern Times*, New Delhi, Kalyani Publications.
3. David, M. D., *History Of Modern Japan*, (First edition 1979), Bombay 400054, Himalaya Publishing House.



2.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the question no.1: Nippon

Answer to the question no.2: In his Palace at Kyoto

Answer to the question no.3: The military officer of the Emperor of Japan

Answer to the question no.4: Yoritomo

Answer to the question no.5: Ieyasu

Answer to the question no.6: Commodore Mathew Calbraith Perry

Answer to the question no.7: 1868

Answer to the question no.8: Enlightened Government

Answer to the question no.9: 1874

Answer to the question no.10: 1889, 11th February



2.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: In which year the Shogunate was established in Japan?

Q.2: What is the meaning of Bakufu?

Q.3: In which year the Ballte of Sekigahara was fought?

Q.4: Who was the Daimyos?

Q.5: In which year the Tokugawa Shogunate was established in Japan?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: Mention two educational reforms of the Meiji Government.

Q.2: Mention two nature of the Meiji Constitution.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss about the establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan.

Q.2: Describe the causes which were responsible for the abolition of the Shogunate in Japan.

* * * * *

UNIT 3 : TRANSFORMATION OF JAPAN

UNIT STRUCTURE

3.1 Learning Objectives
3.2 Introduction
3.3 Meiji Restoration
3.4 Process of Modernisation of Japan
    3.4.1 Social Reforms
    3.4.2 Economic Reforms
3.5 Meiji Constitution
    3.5.1 Constitution Making Process
    3.5.2 Main Features of the Constitution
3.6 Let Us Sum Up
3.7 Further Reading
3.8 Answers to Check Your Progress
3.9 Model Questions

3.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Understand Meiji Restoration,
- Analyse the process towards modernization of Japan,
- Discuss Meiji Constitution.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

The abolition of Shogunate was the beginning of the internal transformation of Japan towards a new era. Till the rule of Shagunate, Japan more or less followed a policy of isolation. After the abolition of Shagunate, a new emperor assumed the throne of Japan. This paved a new chapter in the history of Japan. In this unit we shall discuss the transformation of Japan from its medieval era to the modern era in detail.

3.3 MEIJI RESTORATION

Meiji Restoration occupied a very important place in the history of Japan. It inaugurated a new era in Japan. We have already studied that the growing unpopularity of the Shogunate in Japan ultimately paved the way

for abolition of the Shogunate in 1867. After that the Japanese people placed the Emperor Mutsuhits, a boy of fourteen years on the throne at Yedo in 1868. After ascending to the throne the new Emperor assumed the title of "Meiji", which means the "Enlightened Government". This event is known as the Meiji Restoration in the history of Japan. The Meiji continued to rule over Japan till 1912 AD.

Under the Meiji Government, several reforms were introduced in the social, economic and political life of Japan. As a result of which Japan could come out from the ancient darkness and became one of the most advanced nations of the world.

The new Emperor of Japan ruled over the nation for the well-being of his subjects. After the restoration in 1868, Meiji declared Yedo as his new capital, which is now named as Tokyo.From here Meiji published his famous Imperial Oath in 1868, 6th April. This oath is popularly known as the "Charter Oath". This Charter Oath was like a basic foundation of the new administrative system of Japan.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

The main provisions of the Charter Oath are-

- the decisions will be based on public opinion
- the unification of Japan will be achieved by uniting the various sections of the Japanese society
- the old orthodox rules and regulations will be abolished
- knowledge will be searched from all over the world
- one advisory committee will be formed to give advice to the new Emperor for the smooth running of the administration
- several reforms will be undertaken by the new Government for the all around development of the nation
- all the sections of the society will be given chance to fulfill their basic needs.

After the publication of the Charter Oath, Meiji undertook several reforms for the internal reorganization of the nation. It is very important that by 1869 all the powerful clans of Japan had surrendered their powers to the emperor. Thereafter by an Imperial Edict, Meiji abolished feudalism in Japan

in 1871 and established central authority in the nation. Thereafter the feudal lords or the Daimyos were deprived from their old privileges and were granted an annual pension of 1/10th of the revenue collected from their estates. In this way the Meiji Restoration introduced a new chapter of development and success in the history of Japan.



LET US KNOW

The four powerful clans of Japan were Satsuma, Chosu, Hizen and Tosa.These clans played a very important role the restoration of the Meiji by revolting against the Shogunate. After the abolition of the Shogunate, these clans had voluntarily surrendered their positions to the Emperor in 1869. Meiji allowed these clans to stay at Tokyo.

3.4 PROCESS OF MODERNISATION IN JAPAN

Under the Meiji Government, Japan advanced towards a modern era. By adopting the principles of westernization and modernization, the Meiji Government wanted to make Japan as one of the most advanced powers of the world. After the Meiji Restoration several changes were introduced in the social, military and economic life of Japan. As a result of which very soon it emerged as an international power and enjoyed a very special position in the International politics.

3.4.1 SOCIAL REFROMS

One of the major achievements of the Meiji Government was the introduction of various changes in the social life of Japan, as a result of which modernity was introduced in the Japanese society. We have already studied that the Meiji abolished feudalism in Japan in 1871. The abolition of feudalism indirectly paved the way for the creation of a new social structure in Japan. In this new social structure every sections of the society were considered as equal. The abolition of feudalism was greatly beneficial for the Japanese peasants, because they could now come out from the control of the feudal lords and lead a free life. In addition to that the Meiji Government used to collect the taxes from the peasants in cash according to the value of the land.

Again the peasants were given the right either to remain on their land or to sell it out.

The Meiji Government also introduced various reforms in the education system of the state. Hitherto education was restricted to only a few privileged sections of the society. But by the Charter Oath of 1868, the Meiji Government removed all the restrictions in the field of acquiring knowledge, because the Emperor realized that the real progress of the society was not possible without the revision of the old education system. The new Government put more emphasis in acquiring knowledge from whenever it might be found. In 1871 the Education Department was set up in Japan and a law was passed that all the people, irrespective of caste, creed and gender should receive education. In 1882, provisions were made for compulsory primary education in Japan in the American modelby which children of six years old were required to attend a four year course. Secondary education was also introduced, which prepared the students for higher education in the university level. In the secondary level boys and girls were trained differently according to the role they used to play in the society. Accordingly the girls were trained to become a good wife and a mother. But till 1902, the higher education was limited only to the boys. For the training of the teachers normal schools were also established. To train the Japanese youths in western fashion in the field of trade and commerce, commercial schools were also established in the state. Christian missionaries were also allowed to set up private schools in Japan. Teachers were imported from western countries. The Meiji Government encouraged the study of western science and technology. Many books on science and technology, history, political science etc were translated from western languages into the Japanese language. For providing higher education to the Japanese youths, universities were also established on the European model. Many Japanese youths were sent to the western countries for higher education.

Religious reforms were also introduced in Japan under the Meiji rule. The old religious tradition was once again established in the state. The Japanese considered the state and the religion as the same. According to the Japanese people the sovereign came directly from

the heaven to rule. Therefore the Emperor himself was the head of the religious life. This system of worshiping the Emperor and his ancestors was known as Shinto Cult. Apart from Shinto other religions, especially Christianity was allowed to flourish freely in Japan.

The Emperor also reorganized the legal system of Japan. The Government established new courts based upon the French and Russian model. The old cruel punishments were abolished. The German code of commercial law and the French code of criminal law were introduced in Japan. Judges were trained properly to serve for life or for good behavior.

In this way under the Meiji Government the Japanese society advanced towards modernization.



LET US KNOW

Under the Meiji Government the Cult of Shinto was revived. To worship the Shinto Cult alters were established at different places of the State and it was made compulsory for the school students to worship such places.Both civilian and military persons could visit such places.

3.4.2 MILITARY REFORMS

The Meiji Government introduced several reforms to reorganize the military administration of the state. The old feudal army was substituted by a national army. With the abolition of feudalism, the military class under the Tokugawa Shogunate, the Daimyos and the Samurais were deprived from their military powers. Therefore the new Emperor constituted a national army, where soldiers were requited from all sections of the society. Some old Samurai families were also requited in the national army, but as all of them could not be appointed in the new army, therefore most of them had adopted other means of livelihood like business. In 1873 the Japanese army was reorganized in the model of Germany and to supervise this, experts were imported from French and Germany. To reorganize the naval force of Japan, help was taken from the British naval officials. In this way the help of the western powers the Meiji Government reorganized the military force of Japan.

3.4.3 ECONOMIC REFORMS

The Meiji Government reconstructed the internal economy of Japan. The Government did not encourage foreign aid or borrowing money from abroad. Instead of that to make the country self-sufficient they put more emphasis in the establishment of industries in the western model. The existing private concerns were encouraged. To fulfill the requirements of the Japanese people Cotton mills, Paper mills and factories were also set up. With the help of the foreign technicians mines were also exploited in Japan. For the smooth running of the trade and commerce, the first rail- road between Tokyo and Yokohama was inaugurated in 1872. A postal and Telegraph system was established in 1871. In 1873 the Mines Department was established in Japan. For the development of the Japanese economy national credit banks were established in the American model in 1882. In 1882, the Central Bank of Japan was formed. To finance the foreign trade the Yokohama Special Bank was established in 1887.

The Meiji Government introduced a national uniform currency system in Japan. Prior to that there was no uniformity in the national currency of Japan and all the feudal lords had the right to issue their own paper currency. But Meiji stopped this old system by introducing a uniform currency in the state. Provisions were made for postal savings in Japan.

In this way under the Meiji Government a sort of industrial revolution was brought to Japan. As a result of which Japan very soon emerged as an industrial power.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q. 1: In which year the first rail- road between Tokyo and Yokohama was inaugurated?

.....

Q. 2: To reorganize the Japanese army the model of which country was followed?

.....

Q.3: In which year Telegraphy system was established?

.....

3.5 MEIJI CONSTITUTION

By the Charter Oath of 1868, Meiji promised to establish a parliamentary institution for the smooth running of the administration of the country. To keep his promise, in 1868 the new Emperor formed a council of ministers on the basis of the existing Chinese model. In 1874 a Senate was formed which consisted of the representatives of nobility and bureaucracy. The main aim behind the formation of the Senate was to put a check on the growing power of the Emperor. The provincial Assemblies came into existence in 1880. Already many political parties emerged in Japan. The formation of the parliamentary form of government and the emergence of the political parties in Japan arouse a need for drafting a constitution for Japan.Finally the Japanese constitution was drafted and on February 11, 1889 it was put into action.



LETUS KNOW

By 1882 there were as many as three political parties in Japan. The Liberal Party was organized by Itagaki in 1881.This party advocated for a one-house legislature, universal suffrage and a strong foreign policy. The Progressive Party was organized by Okuma in 1882. This party advocated for a bi-cameral legislative, limited manhood suffrage and more restricted constitutional regime on the British model. The Constitutional Imperialist Party was organized by Fukuchi Genichiro and it advocated for an absolute monarchy and a constitution on the Prussian model.

3.5.1 CONSTITUTION MAKING PROCESS

The parliamentary form of government enhanced the drafting of a new constitution for Japan. The Meiji Government wanted to examine the existing political systems of the western world before drafting the new constitution. Therefore the Government appointed a commission on constitutional investigation under the leadership of Ito Hirobum, who was popularly known as Count Ito. Ito visited the western countries to study the different forms of constitution existing all over the world. After the end of his tour Ito finalized the Prussian model as more

suitable for Japan. In 1884 Ito returned back to his own country and very soon the Imperial Government of Japan asked him to draft the new Constitution. Ito was assisted by three Imperial officials, namely Inouye Tsuyoshi, Ito Myoji and Kaneko Kentaro.After drafting the constitution it was ratified by the Privy Council, which was created by Ito for this special purpose. Finally on February 11, 1889 the Emperor bestowed the constitution upon his people as a royal gift in a formal ceremony. By this new constitution, Constitutional Monarchy was established in Japan.

3.5.2 MAIN FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION

The new constitution of Japan defined the powers and functions of the Emperor. Moreover the divine sanctity and the unquestionable authority of the Emperor were also mentioned in the constitution. He was declared as the supreme head of the administration and the military force. As the head of the army and navy, the Emperor had the right to declare war and make peace with the foreign powers. The Emperor possessed the right to summon the Diet, dissolve the House of Representatives, appoint and dismiss the officials and the judges, issue ordinances and sign treaties etc. The Emperor exercised his constitutional powers with the help of the Advisory bodies like the Privy Council, Council of Ministers, and the chiefs of Army and Navy. These officials were solely responsible to the Emperor.



Veto means the power of rejection. By applying this power the Emperor could reject any law.

The new constitution provided for a bi-cameral legislature, which was also known as the Diet. The Diet was composed of two chambers. One was the House of Peers and the other was the House of Representative. The House of Peers was the Upper House and it was consisted of the princes of the royal blood and the representatives of the court and the barons. They were appointed for a period of seven years. Apart from this the Emperor appointed some people to this House for life because of their special service to the nation. The Upper House was highly conservative and aristocratic in character. The main aim behind the formation of this

House was to put a check upon any too liberal decisions of the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives was the Lower House of the Diet. This House was purely an elective body consisting of the representatives of the people of the whole country. In the beginning there were three hundred members in this House, but later on this number increased to three hundred and eighty- one in 1900 and four hundred and sixty- six in 1925. Till 1925 only the rich sections of the society were given suffrage. This obstacle was removed in 1925 by introducing manhood suffrage in Japan.With the approval of the majority members of both the Houses a law could be passed. But the Emperor enjoyed the "Veto" power over all laws.Both the Houses of the Diet enjoyedequal power and prestige in all matters except the financial legislation which was to be introduced in the Lower House. But the Lower House had very limited control over the national finance. The Diet had no control over the expenses of the Imperial Household.

The militarists also took active part in the administration of Japan. Apart from that there were several individuals and groups outside the constitution who took active part in the administration of the country. The most important among them was the Genro institution which came to an end in 1940 with the death of Saionji, its last surviving member.



Genro means elder person of the society.

To help the Emperor in performing his duties, a Privy Council was formed which consisted of a president, a vice- president and twenty four other members. All of them were appointed by the Emperor. In addition to this a Cabinet was formed to help the Emperor in administrative matters.

The constitution of Japan provided for a sound legal system to maintain law and order in the country. The constitution clearly defined the rights and duties of the citizens and to safe gourd this rights and to see that the citizens were performing their duties properly; law courts were established in Japan. No one could be arrested illegally. Legally appointed Judges used to trail the persons who were arrested according to the law. The constitution also granted the Rights of Speech, Religion and Association to the citizens of Japan.

The amendment of the constitution could be initiated by the Emperor with the consent of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives.

In this way a constitutional monarchy was established in Japan. And very soon it emerged as an international power and plays a very important role in the international politics.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.4: When did Meiji ascend to the throne of Japan?

.....

Q.5: What is the meaning of "Meiji"?

.....

Q.6: In which year Senate was formed in Japan?

.....

Q.7: In which year the Japanese Constitution was put into action?

.....



3.6 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learnt that-

- after the abolition of the Tokugawa Shogunate the Japanese people placed the Emperor Mutsuhits, a boy of fourteen years on the throne at Yedo in 1868. After ascending to the throne the new Emperor assumed the title of "Meiji", which means the "Enlightened Government". This event is known as the Meiji Restoration in the history of Japan. The Meiji continued to rule over Japan till 1912 AD.
- after the Meiji Restoration several changes were introduced in the social, military and economic life of Japan. As a result of which very soon it emerged as an international power and played a very special position in the International politics. Feudalism was also abolished in Japan by the Imperial Edict of 1671.

- after the Restoration of the Meiji he promised to establish a parliamentary institution for the smooth running of the administration of the country. To keep his promise, in 1868 the new Emperor formed a council of ministers on the basis of the existing Chinese model. In 1874 a Senate was formed which consisted of the representatives of nobility and bureaucracy. The main aim behind the formation of the Senate was to put a check on the growing power of the Emperor.
- The Provincial Assemblies came into existence in 1880. Already many political parties emerged in Japan. The formation of the parliamentary form of government and the emergence of the political parties in Japan arouse a need for drafting a constitution for Japan. Finally the Japanese constitution was drafted and on February 11, 1889 it was put into action with Constitutional Monarchy. And very soon it emerged as an international power and plays a very important role in the international politics.



3.7 FURTHER READING

1. Singh, A. K., (1984), *History Of Far East In Modern Times*, Delhi - 110007, Surjeet Publications.
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3.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the question no.1: 1872
Answer to the question no.2: Germany
Answer to the question no.3: 1871
Answer to the question no.4: 1868
Answer to the question no.5: Enlightened Government
Answer to the question no.6: 1874
Answer to the question no.7: 1889, 11th February



3.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: Mention one feature of the Meiji Constitution.

Q.2: From which place the "Charter Oath" was declared?

Q.3: In which year the first bank was established in Japan?

Q.4: Which model did Japan follow to reorganize her legal system?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: What do you know about the "Charter Oath"?

Q.2: Write in brief about the constitution making process of Japan.

Q.3: Mention about the educational reforms of the Meiji Government.

Q.4: Write about the main features of the Meiji Constitution.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Write about the Meiji Restoration in Japan. Discuss about the various reforms which were introduced in Japan under the Meiji Government.

Q.2: Describe about the main features of the Constitution of Japan.

* * * * *

UNIT 4 : JAPAN AS AN IMPERIAL POWER

UNIT STRUCTURE

4.1 Learning Objectives
4.2 Introduction
4.3 Sino-Japanese Relations
4.4 Anglo-Japanese Alliance
4.5 Russo-Japanese War
4.6 Manchurian Crisis
4.7 Let Us Sum Up
4.8 Further Reading
4.9 Answers to Check Your Progress
4.10 Model Questions

4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to learn,

- discuss the Sino-Japanese relations,
- explain Anglo-Japanese War,
- describe the Russo-Japanese War,
- explain the Manchurian Crisis.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

Japan's successful modernisation, and her economic progress and military development encouraged her to initiate the policy of territorial expansion. This was also promoted by the growth of Japanese population. She required additional markets for the goods produced by her newly established industries. Therefore she began to develop an assertive foreign policy in order to make her an imperial power. In this unit we are going to discuss about Japan as an imperial power.

4.3 SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS

Though China and Japan both are Far-Eastern countries, but their relation was something like that of East and West. Moreover, Japan appeared like a pigmy before China which looked like a giant because of her much bigger geographical stature. Till the end of the first half of the 19th century China frowned upon Japan and considered her as her tributary

State. But this superiority complex of China did not last long. Gradual development of internal strife and foreign intrusion weakened her position. Her fruitless attempt to maintain the age old policy of isolation could not hold good any longer before the foreign intruders. At the moment when China was experiencing her internal as well as external threat, Japan set her house in order by introducing several reform measures in the liberal imitation of the West. A Westernised Japan now considered herself equal to other foreign countries in strength and status. Hence she aspired to establish, like foreign powers, formal relations with China by achieving from her the most-favoured-nation treatment as well as the right to travel freely in China. But these demands of Japan were rejected in the first instance.

In 1871 a mission was sent to China for trade and friendship under the leadership of Count Ito. Ito opened negotiations with his Chinese counterpart Li Hung-chang and finally concluded a treaty of friendship and amity at Tientsin in 1871. Treaty provided for mutual non-aggression against each other's territorial possession. Both the countries promised each other to render mutual help in case of any one of them were attacked by the third party. But there was difference of opinion regarding the question of most-favoured nation principle. China refused to introduce to this principle in favour of Japan.

Meiji restoration made Japan to aspire for an empire. She was militarily strong and defeated China in 1894-95. However she could not occupy the Lioatang peninsular due to the intervention of the European powers. In 1904-05, she defeated Russia and got Shakhation, Deiran, lease of port Arthur and a portion of Leotang. Moreover, occupation of Leotang remained only a day dream. She gradually penetrated into Korea and her coveted eyes fall on Manchuria. Though in the Treaty of Ports Mouth she promised to maintain the integrity of Chinese empire, she wanted Manchuria for economic expansion. Very diplomatically Japan therefore entered into an agreement with Russia by which Japanese influence on South Manchuria was recognised and Japan started railway line in South Manchuria.

Two major issues which greatly influenced the relationship between China and Japan were regarding the Korea and Manchuria. Both of them had their own interest and their own stand over these two lands. In fact these two issues dominated the whole relationship of China and Japan in the early part of the 20th century, which will be discussed in the proceeding sections.

4.4 ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance signed in 1902 was indeed, one of the most diplomatic event of the modern time. Many causes were responsible for this unusual Alliance.

Firstly, since the Sino-Japanese war, Japan could have been prominent in the Far-East, but the intervention of the western powers for their self-interest checked its ambition. Gradual advancement of Russia and increasing interest of Russia on Korean issue tensed Japan a lot.

Secondly within Japan also, there were two sections of people, one was pro-Russia led by Count Ito held the opinion that a friendly agreement should be made with Russia by which it should be decided once for all that Japan should recognise Russia's exclusive rights on Manchuria and Russia in her turn should recognise Japan's right in Korea and another was pro-English led by Count Hyashi had no faith on Russia, they believed that Japan should establish a friendly relation with England in order to check the advancement of Russia in Manchuria and Korea.

Thirdly, growing disintegration of Chinese empire also alarmed England and with the beginning of the 20th century England was also in search of an ally. Up to the end of the 19th century she followed a policy of isolation. However, it came to be realised in the beginning of the 20th century that a policy of isolation would not do to serve the interest England. The scenario in the Far-East was changing fast, every European power tried to hold their interest in the Pacific region by managing friendly relation with either Pacific power. Japan emerged out as an influential power. But Japan according to England was not an enemy of her. She rather diplomatically needed a strong Japan to check the growing Russian influence in the Pacific region and counter-balanced her Russo-Phobia in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, signed on January, 1902.

The terms of the Alliance firstly mentioned the maintenance of peace, status-quo and territorial integrity of China and Korea. Secondly, they recognised their special 'interest' in China and also Japan interest in Korea on a clear instruction that it should be non-aggression in character. A promise was made to preserve their respective position. Thirdly, it was made mention that if any of the two parties get involved in a war with a third power joined by fourth one, the allies would go to each other's aid. Fourthly, both agreed that

neither of them was to enter into a separate agreement with another Power to the prejudice of the interests of the other without consulting the other. This Alliance was renewed in 1908 and 1911 for a further period of ten years.

- **Effects of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance**

The effects of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance were far reaching. It gave Japan a free hand in the Far East. The Open-Door Policy in China and Japan's special interest in Korea was also recognised. It put an end to the Three-Power Intervention because Germany did not like to incur the displeasure of Britain by supporting Russian cause; France alone was not in a position to support Russia in her cause. Thus Russia was almost diplomatically isolated, it was for this reason Japan was able to inflict a crushing defeat upon Russia in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05. Again Japan could strengthen her position in the Mainland of China with the help of Britain. She also strengthens her hold on Manchuria by occupying Russian leaseholds. As by the terms of the Alliance, Britain recognised Japan's special interest in the Korean issue, Japan could very easily annex Korea in 1910. Thus the Anglo-Japanese Alliance added a new era in the international relation.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.1: In which your Japan sent a mission to China under Count Ito?

.....

Q.2: In which year Anglo-Japanese Alliance was signed?

.....

Q.3: Who was headed by pro-English group in Japan during the time of Anglo-Japanese Alliance?

.....

4.5 RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

Manchuria, being the granary of the Far East and rich in Timber and minerals, was a especial attraction both to Russia and to Japan. In the scramble for concessions, that followed the Sino-Japanese War, Russia had deprived Japan of the fruits of her success. What was more dangerous to Japan was the fact that Russia secured from China a base at the territory which was ceded to Japan by the Treaty of Shimonoseki. In addition to that

she also secured the rights to construct a railroad across northern Manchuria to Vladivostok. These concessions provided Russia a dominating position in Manchuria from where she could threaten Japan's interest in Korea.

In the Port Arthur the Russians had got an ice-free port which they had so long coveted and Japan protected to make it a strong naval base in the Far-East. Next taking advantage of the Boxer disturbances Russia rushed troops into Manchuria to guard the railroads and to protect her citizens. All these activities in Manchuria by Russia alarmed Japan and she suggested a treaty with Russia to define her interest in Manchuria and position in Korea.

As in the previous section we have already discussed about the concern of Britain regarding the possibility of the expansion of Russia and which led to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in 1902, enhanced the power and prestige of Japan. It safeguarded the position of Japan because in case of war should break out between her and Russia, other powers were not likely to join the latter at the risk of a war with England.

The public opinion in Japan was though divided into two section regarding war with Russia, Japanese cabinet already decided to take arms in the events failure to July negations with Russia in 1903. On the other hand in Russia also the ministry of war advocated an aggressive policy. The Czar of Russia backed the cause of those who supported the ministry of war.

LET US KNOW



The years following the Boxer uprisings, there posed additional problems regarding Korea and Manchuria. Therefore Japan at first tried to solve the problems by negotiating with Russia in 1903. She proposed an agreement in which (a) both the countries agreed to respect the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea and to maintain the 'Open Door' principle in these countries.(b) Russia was to acknowledge special interest of Japan in Korea and in return Japan recognised Russia's special interest in Manchuria.

Thus the Russian advance in Manchuria alarmed not only Japan but also the European powers. She was repeatedly asked to withdraw her troops from Manchuria but she did not show any response. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance was a challenge to Russian such attitude. The situation became more problematic when China asked Russia to evacuate Manchuria, and

Russia by ignoring it shifted a section of her army to the Yalu River with a plea to cut timber although her licence to cut timber has already expired. As Japan had already developed interest in Korea so she opposed vehemently Russian activities there. Meanwhile Japan offered negotiations to Russia by recognising Russia's special interest in Manchuria provided Russia should recognise Japan's special interest in Korea. But when the negotiations came into futile Japan resolved to choose the issue of war. On February 8, Japanese force delivered a surprise attack on Port Arthur. War was declared formally on 10th February, 1904. War was fought both on land and sea, both the parties proved their best military power and by summer 1905, both of them exhausted by the strain of war and were ready for peace. The representatives of both the countries were brought together by the good office of Theodore Roosevelt, the American President. Treaty was signed on September 5, 1905 at Portsmouth which is known as the Treaty of Portsmouth. Following were the terms of the treaty-

a) both Japan and Russia promised to evacuate Manchuria except for the leasehold on the Liaotung peninsular.

b) both of them agreed to respect the Chinese sovereignty on Manchuria.

c) Russia was to transfer to Japan her lease of Port Arthur, Dairen and adjacent areas of the Laiotung peninsular and her railway construction in Manchuria by the consent of China.

d) Both the parties agreed to develop their railways in Manchuria only for industrial and commercial purposes.

e) Russia agreed to transfer the southern part of the island Sakhalin to Japan.

- **Effects of the War**

The Russo-Japanese war had far reaching consequences in the world. It checked the Russian advance in the Far-East. At home in Russia the revolutionaries were encouraged by the war against the autocracy of Czar. On the other hand it enhanced Japan's prestige which gave her a standing as a world power. The war encouraged her to enter openly into the competition and rivalry of the European powers in China. China was also influenced by the war as it shook her from her slumber and soused a great enthusiasm for Western learning and Western techniques of warfare. Moreover it encouraged the eastern countries who were groaning under the pressure of the western rule.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.4: Why Manchuria was called as granary of Far-East?

.....

Q.5: When did Japan give a surprise attack on Port Arthur?

.....

Q.6: Under whose leadership Treaty of Portsmouth was singed?

.....

4.6 MANCHURIAN CRISIS

The strategic position of Manchuria made her an attraction in the Far-East. The territory was under the Chinese, but Japanese longed for it. Even the European countries who took some active interest in the Far-East interfered over this question. Manchuria had been regarded by China as a granary and the Chinese nationalist considered it as a place where she could dump her excess population.

Japan on the other hand considered Manchuria to be her own. She claimed that since the coveted eyes of Russia was fixed on Manchuria and Russia would snatch her away unless Japan stood on her way. In the Russo-Japanese war (1904-05) Russia was defeated by Japan and since then the Japanese treated Manchuria as their protectorate. So at times Japan claimed that she saved Manchuria both from China and Russia. However many changes took place in China due to the Nationalist movement. In 1917 Russia was converted into a Communist country and therefore the Western Countries were rather agreeable to the Japanese predominance in Manchuria than the Soviet influence. But it was gradually found that even Japan was adopting an aggressive anti-west policy and a secret movement to make Japan for the Japanese started.

Japanese army headquarters was situated at Mukden in Manchuria.

The tension between Japan and China over the question of Manchuria went on increasing rapidly till it culminated in an armed collusion which started with an unhappy incident of an expulsion of a bomb near Mukden on September 18, 1931.Japan was entitled to garrison her 1500 solders at Mukden for the protection of the South Manchurian railway. However without any authentic evidence Japanese held the Chinese solely responsible for



Japanese army headquarters was situated at Mukden in Manchuria.

the expulsion and immediately took action by advancing their army into Manchuria. Though there was counter reaction from the Chinese side, Japanese army easily overcome the situation and Japanese army occupied the whole of Manchuria within four days. China being helpless appealed to the League of Nations. Japanese delegates in the League immediately assured the other members of the League that Japan had no such aggressive attitude towards China and she proposed to talk with China directly. But China refused such proposal unless and until Japan had not withdrawn her troops from Manchuria. But on the other hand Japan continued their activities in Manchuria and China appealed the League of Nations for the second time. The western powers tried to solve the problem but in 1934, the Tokyo foreign office warned the great powers to keep their hands off in China and demanded that it was their exclusive right over the Chinese issue. This declaration of Japan on China is known as 'The Japanese Monroe Doctrine'. China by opposing the Japanese act declared economic boycott on Japan. Japan immediately tried to take effective measures against the economic boycott of China which inflicted on her a great financial loss. She diverted the attention of China by bombarding at the city of Shanghai in January, 1932. Japan even to consolidate her position in Manchuria established a form of local self governing administrations throughout Manchuria. Meanwhile a Commission was appointed by the League of Nations to look after the Manchurian incident. The Commission recommended certain provisions to check Japanese activities in Manchuria but Japan did not pay any attention to such recommendations. The Manchurian crisis made a huge lost of China.

- **Result of the Manchurian Crisis:**

Japanese never regarded the Manchurian expedition as war. On the other hand they called it as a mere 'incident'. But this incident had far reaching impact upon the history of Far- East. It posed as common threat to the Nationalists as well as the Communists of China. Japan's aggressive policy in Manchuria stimulated nationalist sentiments of Chinese people and who forgot for time being their ideological as well as political differences and presented a united front when Japan started her full-fledged invasion of China in 1937. Again Japan incurred displeasure of most of the great powers by her Manchurian expedition. Her relation with China further detrained by her Manchukuo adventure. It threatened Russian position in North Manchuria and therefore she moved her attention towards Pacific region. All efforts of League of Nations did not affect Japan at all. She consolidated her position

in Manchuria and her created government in Manchukuo. Thus Manchurian Crisis opened a new era in the history of Far-East.



LET US KNOW

Answer the following questions:

Q.7: When did Japan bombard the city of Shanghai?

.....

Q.8: When Japan started her full-fledged invasion of China?

.....



4.7 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learnt about-

- that though China and Japan both are Far-Eastern countries, their relationship was never a cordial one.
- the Anglo-Japanese Alliance signed in 1902, which was indeed one of the most diplomatic event of the modern time.
- the Russo-Japanese war which had far reaching consequences in the world. It checked the Russian advance in the Far-East. On the other hand it enhanced Japan's prestige which gave her a standing as a world power.
- How the strategic position of Manchuria made her an attraction in the Far-East. The territory was under the Chinese, but Japanese longed for it. Even the European countries who took some active interest in the Far-East interfered over this question. Japan on the other hand considered Manchuria to be her own. She claimed that since the coveted eyes of Russia was fixed on Manchuria and Russia would snatch her away unless Japan stood on her way. It led to the occupation of Manchuria by Japan. Though League of Nations tried to solve the problem but could not check the progress of Japan in Manchuria.



4.8 FURTHER READING

1. Singh, A. K., (1984), *History Of Far East In Modern Times*, Delhi - 110007, Surjeet Publications.
2. Vinacke, H.M., (1982), *A History Of The Far East In Modern Times*, New Delhi, Kalyani Publications.

3. David, M. D., *History Of Modern Japan*, (First edition 1979), Bombay 400054, Himalaya Publishing House



4.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the question no1: 1871

Answer to the question no 2: 1902

Answer to the question no 3: Count Hyashi

Answer to the question no 4: It had large store house of Timber and mineral

Answer to the question no 5: On Feb 8, 1904

Answer to the question no 6: Theodore Roosevelt

Answer to the question no 7: 1932

Answer to the question no 8: 1937



4.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) VERY SHORT QUESTIONS (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: What do you know about as 'The Japanese Monroe Doctrine'?

Q.2: Who led the pro-Russian group in Japan?

Q.3: When did Japan declare formal war upon Russia?

Q.4: In which year Russo-Japanese war took place?

B) SHORT QUESTIONS (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: What were the reasons behind the Anglo-Japanese Alliance?

Q.2: Briefly discuss about the result of the Manchurian Crisis.

Q.3: Briefly discuss about the effects of the Russo-Japanese war.

C) LONG QUESTIONS (Answer each question in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss about the Sino-Japanese relationship.

Q.2: 'Manchuria, being the granary of the Far East and rich in Timber and minerals, was a especial attraction both to Russia and to Japan'- Discuss.

* * * * *

UNIT 5 : DEMOCRACY AND MILITARISM

UNIT STRUCTURE

5.1 Learning Objectives

5.2 Introduction

5.3 Rise of Political Parties

5.4 Failure of Democratic System

5.5 Rise of Militarism

5.6 Second Sino-Japanese War

5.7 Let Us Sum Up

5.8 Further Reading

5.9 Answers to Check Your Progress

5.10 Model Questions

5.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- discuss the rise of political parties in Japan,
- explain the failure of democratic system in Japan,
- analyse the rise of militarism in Japan,
- describe the Second Sino-Japanese War.

5.2 INTRODUCTION

Japan had to end her secluded position in the mid-19th century. The opening of Japan brought changes in her political set up. The Tokugawa Shogunate declined and the Emperor of Japan was restored back to its rightful position. This return of Emperor from its so called exile was called the Meiji Restoration regarding which you have studied in the second chapter.

With the coming of the Meiji literarily meaning "Enlightened Government", Japan entered into a new political order with birth of political parties, emergence of democracy, rise of militarism, etc. Japan too adopted imperial policy and waged war with its neighbouring country China. We will study about all these developments of Japan in this chapter.

5.3 RISE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Japanese Emperor Mutsuhito after assuming power as well as rightful position through the Charter or Imperial Oath of 1868 promised among many other things to provide parliamentary institutions in Japan for smooth administration of the country as per the opinion of the public. By an Imperial decree on 12th October, 1881 the Emperor assured the Japanese people that a constitutional government would be established. This royal declaration led to the rise of political parties in Japan.

Already prior to the royal declaration of 1881, a political party called the Risshiska was formed by Itagaki which agitated for economic self-sufficiency of Japan. Another three political parties emerged in Japan with the royal declaration of 1881.The emergence of these political parties enhanced the drafting of a new constitution. These political parties though represented wide divergent views, yet demanded a popular and liberal constitution.

Itagaki organised another party called the Jiyuto in 1881 which was a liberal party. It advocated for unicameral (one house) legislature, universal suffrage, and strong foreign policy. It stood for popular sovereignty in the manner of Rousseau. The party though liberal represented the radicals which wanted the people to have an effective voice in the government of the country.

Okuma, an ex-samurai organised the progressive party in1882 called the Kaishinto. The progressive party consisted of the conservative liberals believing in moderate representative government. It advocated bicameral (two house) legislature, gradual extension of franchise, development of local self-government, policy of internal administrative reorganization and opposition to the policy of imperialism.

Fukuchi Genichiro organised the constitutional imperialist party called the Rikken Teiseito. This party was constituted of the conservatives who though favoured a constitution were opposed to measure weakening the authority of the Emperor. The party advocated for a restricted electorate, an absolute imperial veto on legislation, bicameral legislature, independent judiciary, exclusion of military and naval officers from politics, and complete freedom of speech in the assembly.

Although, the different political parties in Japan represented widely divergent views, they pressed for a popular and liberal constitution. This enhanced the drafting of a new constitution. However, the political parties very intensely presented their views in the public. They bitterly criticized the policies of the Japanese Government in newspaper. In 1882, the Government stopped all criticism of its policies in the newspaper. The very next year in 1883, all political parties were banned by the order of the Government. By 1884, all the activities of major political parties were brought to an end. The same year an Imperial Party was founded to counter and eliminate the influence of the liberal and progressive political parties.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q.1: Who formed the political party called Risshiska?

.....

Q.2: Name the constitutional imperialist party of Japan.

.....

Q.3: In which year Okuma organised the progressive party?

.....

5.4 FAILURE OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

The restoration of Emperor Mutsuhito with full authority and power created a democratic atmosphere in Japan. The emperor promised establishment of a constitutional government and parliamentary institutions in Japan. Many political parties emerged in Japan to take part in the newly emerging democratic set up in Japan.

For facilitating the setting up of democratic institutions in Japan, the feudal lords, samurais, etc surrendered their power and privileges before the emperor. But still these militarists occupied a prominent position in the politics of Japan. The militarists enhanced their power by centering the personal command of the armed forces in the emperor. The military leaders tried to check the growth of political parties as it would undermine their power.

Zaibatsu was a capitalist organization of multimillionaire families. The ex-samurais entering into trade and commerce were related with it. This

organization also checked the growth of political parties in Japan as it did not like the growth of a middle class society.

The militarists who played a dominant role in transforming Japan from a medieval state to a modern one continued to dominate the political set up of Japan till the end of the Second World War. As such democratic system failed to emerge in post-Meiji Japan.

5.5 RISE OF MILITARISM

Militarism in Japan rests on the ideology that the strength of the military is equal to the strength of a nation. The militarism should dominate the social and political life of the nation. From the time of Meiji Restoration, the military had a strong influence on Japanese society. During the Meiji period, almost all leaders in Japanese society were ex-samurai or descendants of samurai, and shared common values and outlooks.

The Meiji government (1868-1911) viewed Japan as threatened by western imperialism. There existed extreme disparity in economic and military power between Japan and the Western colonial powers. Early Meiji leadership therefore adopted the motto fukoku kyohei which means to enrich the country and strengthen the military. A policy was adopted to strengthen Japan's economic and industrial foundations. Only with a strong economic base, Japan could afford to build a strong, modern military like Western colonial powers.

With a strong economy and military could Japan force a revision of the unequal treaties, such as the Treaty of Kanagawa and defend herself against outside powers. Domestic issues within early Meiji Japan also called for a strong military. Internal revolts like the Saga rebellion, Satsuma rebellion, and various peasant uprisings too threatened the Meiji government. Japanese were also strongly influenced by the striking success of Prussia in transforming itself from an agricultural state to a leading modern industrial and military power.

Prussian Chief of Staff Helmuth von Moltkesent Meckel was invited to Japan for providing advice regarding military reforms. Meckel accepted the invitation and made numerous recommendations like reorganization of the command structure of the army into divisions and regiments, strengthening

of the army logistics and transportation structure, establishment of artillery and engineering regiments as independent commands, and revision the universal conscription system to abolish virtually all exceptions.

The recommendations of Meckel were implemented by the Meiji government. Universal military conscription was introduced in1873. Imperial prescript was also proclaimed to soldiers and sailors of Japan in 1882. These enabled the Japanese military to teach thousands of men from various social backgrounds with military-patriotic values and the concept of unquestioning loyalty to the Emperor as the basis of the Japanese state.

Japan started to favour the Prussian political idea of military expansion abroad and authoritarian government at home. With a more aggressive foreign policy, Japan joined the imperialist powers. The victory over China in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) and over Russia in the Russo-Japanese War (1905) made her mark as an imperial power. In 1910 Japan occupied Korea. Then during the First World War (1914-18), Japan extended her imperial territory by occupying the Pacific Islands, Shantung, etc. At the end of the War, League of Nations was constituted with Japan being included as one of the five permanent members of the League's Council.

In Japan, the power and position of the militarists declined to an extent in the post- First World War period mainly because of their costly Siberian expedition during the War. Still, the inclusion of Japan as permanent member in the League's Council provided a formal recognition to her as a World Power. Japan now with new vigor continued her imperialism. She interfered in the Chinese and Russian territory. Japan occupied Manchuria in 1931 and got involved with China in another war, the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-45). During the Second World War, efforts were made by the militarist regime to totally militarize Japanese society through the National Service Draft Ordinance and the National Spiritual Mobilization Movement.

But Japanese failed to have the desired success in the Second World War with the American atom bomb attack and subsequent occupation. Japan had to unconditionally surrender before the Allied Powers. This was a great blow to the militarism in Japan. After the surrender of Japan, the Allied Powers took steps to reduce the military power of Japan. Military leaders were tried for war crimes before the Tokyo tribunal. Pacifism was incorporated as one of the key tenets of the Japanese Constitution.



Pacifism: It is the belief that war and violence are always wrong.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following question:

Q.4: Name the capitalist organization of multimillionaire families of Japan.

.....

Q.5: In which year Japan occupied Manchuria?

.....

Q.6: Mention the period from which Japan involved in the second Sino-Japanese war?

.....

5.6 SECOND SINO-JAPANESE WAR

The power of the militarists in Japan became more and more militant during the 1930s. At home, they tried to remove the moderate party government and outside they attempted to establish Japanese hegemony in the Far East. Japan tried to bring entire north China under its authority. In 1935, Japan occupied Inner Mongolia as it was the most potential base for holding control over north China.

Emboldened by the success in occupying Inner Mongolia, Japan put forward a three-point programme before China to accept in order to settle the Sino-Japanese conflict. The first point demanded suppression of anti-Japanese activities in China; second point demanded China should recognize Manachukuo and should co-operate with Japan and Manachukuo in the process of general economic development; and the third point demanded that the Chinese authority should seek and accept Japanese help in suppressing and eradicating communism in north China.

Japan all throughout the year 1936 tried to persuade the Chinese Government to accept her three-point programme. But the Chinese patriots who were already angry with Japan for her imperialist activities in north China strongly opposed the three-point programme as it would expose the integrity of China. As such to delay, the issue of accepting the Japanese programme, the Nationalist Government of China formulated a counter programme which included Japanese co-operation with China in suppressing Japanese, Korean and Formosan smugglers on the Chinese

coast; cancellation of the Tangku truce and abolition of the dimilitarised zone in Hopei; abolition of the dimilitarised abolition of the dimilitarised zone set up around Shanghai in 1932 peace agreement; withdrawal of Japanese troops from all positions in Hopei and Chahar provinces; and abolition of Yin Ju-Keng's East Hopei Autonomous Regime.



LET US KNOW

Japan after occupying Manchuria established new independent state known as Manachukuo. The state came into existence on 18 February, 1932 declaring its independence of the Nationalist Government of China. It remained as a puppet in the hands of the Japanese Government. Pu-Yi, subsequently known as Mr. Henry Pu-Yi, the last Emperor of the Ching Dynasty who had abdicated his throne in 1912, was appointed as the Emperor of Manachukuo. No other country of the world except Japan recognized the new state of Manachukuo which was actually an offspring of Japanese aggression in Manchuria.

In the meantime, Japan raided the Suiyuan province of China by sponsoring Mongolian troops for it. This incident made the anti-Japan feeling of the Chinese more acute and the Chinese Government broke off all talks with Japan regarding the acceptance of Japanese three-point programme. United States, Britain, and Russia also became suspicious of Japanese activities in China and raised their voice against such design. This pro-Chinese attitude of Western powers made Japan isolated and she entered into a friendly agreement with Germany. This agreement with Germany was made by Japan mainly to stop Russian design of extending help to China and spreading communism there for which this agreement was known as the "Anti-Commintern Pact".

With having security against Russian influence in China, Japan started to take more bold steps for establishing her hegemony over China. Japan looked for an opportunity to launch a full-scale attack on China. On July 7, 1937 Japanese troops reached the vicinity of Lukouchiao, a village on the outskirts of Peking. One of their soldiers was alleged to be missing and Japan demanded the search of the village Lukouchiao. China turned out this demand of Japan on which Japanese troops opened fire on the Chinese. In turn the Chinese troops retaliated and an exchange of fire took place.

This incident made a war with Japan inevitable for China and the Nationalist Government of China hence joined hands with their Communist rivals to solve the common problem of Japanese aggression. Japanese troops quickly occupied the Peking-Tientsin area. Gradually, Taiyuan, Shansi, Hopei, northern Shantung, Suiyuan, Chahar, Shanghai, and Nanking (the capital of the Nationalist Government) came under Japanese control. Japan established a provisional government for China at Peking on December 14, 1937. These victories virtually established the Japanese control over north China and lower Yangtze region.

Japan hoped that after the capture of Nanking, the Chinese Government would accept terms dictated by her to end the Sino-Japanese hostility. But, the Nationalist Government of China rejected the Japanese terms of peace and decided to continue the war from their new headquarter at Hankow. Meanwhile, Dr. Von Trautmann, German ambassador to China also carried on a peace negotiation with the Chinese Government at Hankow. The period of peace negotiation helped General Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Nationalist Government to reorganize the shattered Chinese troops as Japan stopped her attack on China for a while.

Dr. Von's peaceful negotiation ended in failure with Japan once again launching attack with the target of occupying Hankow. Japan initially tried to occupy Suchow in order to capture Hankow. But the Chinese troops under the leadership of General Li Tsung-ten inflicted a crushing defeat on the Japanese army in April, 1938 at Taierchuang, a town in the north-east of Suchow. This lone Chinese victory though created problem for Japan but could not prevent her from occupying Suchow and finally Hankow on October 25, 1938. Even port city of Canton came under the Japanese occupation.

From Hankow, the Nationalist Government shifted it's headquarter to Chungking. In June, 1940 Japanese captured Ichang, five hundred miles away from Chungking. The Japanese troops also started bombarding Chinese cities including Chungking. Except, western and north-western provinces, the remaining part of China came under the Japanese control. As such Japan decided to consolidate their position in the occupied Chinese territories by establish their indirect rule through puppet Chinese governments. Prominent among these puppet governments was the one established on March 30, 1940 at Nanking, the actual capital of the Nationalist Government of China.

The puppet government at Nanking was headed by Wang Ching-wei, an ex- member of the Kuomintang or Nationalist Party. As this puppet government was established at Nanking, Japan considered it as the Nationalist Government of China and decided to conclude a treaty with her to end the Sino-Japanese conflict. The Japanese Government appointed General Abe as ambassador to Nanking to negotiate peace with the newly established puppet Nationalist Government of China and made a declaration on June 3, 1940 that the Sino-Japanese conflict was settled through negotiation with Wang's Government.

Finally on November 30, 1940 a peace treaty was signed between Japan and Wang's Government. By this treaty both the government agreed to (i) respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as to take friendly measures in all respects; (ii) co-operate closely in creating healthy cultural atmosphere; (iii) take joint action against Communistic elements in China by stationing the required Japanese forces in Inner Mongolia and North China until the Communists were completely crushed; (iv) extend close co-operation to each other in respect of the promotion of trade and commerce and exploitation of mineral resources in North China and Inner Mongolia; and (v) abolish the extra-territorial rights possessed by Japan in China.



LET US KNOW

Answer the following questions:

Q.7: Name the new capital of the Nationalist Government of China.

.....

Q.8: Who headed the puppet government in China?

.....

Q.9: In which year Japan established a provisional government for China at Peking?

.....



5.7 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learnt-

- Japanese Emperor Mutsuhito after assuming power as well as rightful position promised to set up parliamentary institutions and a constitutional government which led to the rise of political parties in Japan. Several political parties like Risshiska, Jiyuto, Kaishinto, and Rikken Teiseito were formed in Japan. These political parties though represented widely divergent views, but they pressed for a popular and liberal constitution. However, the political parties very intensely presented their views in the public with bitter criticism of the governmental policies. This ultimately led to the banning of all political parties and subsequent formation of an Imperial Party to counter and eliminate the influence of the liberal and progressive political parties.
- The formation of political parties created an atmosphere for setting up a democratic system in Japan. But the military leaders and Zaibatsu tried to check the growth of political parties as it would undermine their power and position in Japanese political set up. This ultimately led to the failure of democratic system in post-Meiji Japan.
- From the time of Meiji Restoration, the military had a strong influence on Japanese society. At that time the Meiji government (1868-1911) viewed Japan as threatened by western imperialism. There existed disparity between Japan and Western Powers in the field of economy and military strength. As such the Meiji Government adopted the policy to strengthen the Japanese economy and military. Military reforms were initiated as per the suggestion of Prussian Chief of Staff Helmuth von Moltkesent Meckel who was invited to Japan for that purpose. The strengthening of military led to the rise and dominance of militarism in the Japanese political set up till the end of the Second World War.
- The rise of militarism in Japan with expansionist policies led to extensive Japanese interference in China. This Japanese interference

was not liked by the Nationalist Government of China eventually leading to the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937. The Chinese army fought bravely against the Japanese army, but was defeated in most encounters. Japan by 1940 occupied whole of China except the western and north-western provinces. Japan then consolidated their position in the occupied Chinese territories by establish their indirect rule through puppet Chinese governments. One such puppet government was established at Nanking, the actual capital of the Nationalist Government of China. This Nanking puppet government was considered by Japan as the Nationalist Government of China and the Second Sino-Japanese War was brought to end by concluding a treaty with her.



5.8 FURTHER READING

1. Singh, A. K., (1984), History of Far East in Modern Times, Delhi - 110007, Surjeet Publications.
2. Vinacke, H.M., (1982), A History of The Far East In Modern Times, New Delhi, Kalyani Publications.
3. David, M. D., History of Modern Japan, (First edition 1979), Bombay 400054, Himalaya Publishing House.



5.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the question no 1: Itagaki
Answer to the question no 2: Rikken Teiseito
Answer to the question no 3: 1882
Answer to the question no 4: Zaibatsu
Answer to the question no 5: 1931
Answer to the question no 6: 1937-1945
Answer to the question no 7: Chungkig
Answer to the question no 8: Wang Ching-Wei
Answer to the question no 9: Dec 14, 1937



5.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) VERY SHORT QUESTIONS (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: What do you mean by fukoku kyohei?

Q.2: Who was Meckel?

Q.3: What do you mean by 'Anti-Commintern Pact'?

Q.4: What was the main cause behind the Second Sino-Japanese War?

B) SHORT QUESTIONS (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: Write short notes on-

a) Rise of Political parties in Japan

b) Origin of the Second Sino-Japanese War

Q.2: Mention the provisions of the treaty signed between the Chinese Government and the Japanese Government in 1940.

C) LONG QUESTIONS (Answer the following questions in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss about the Second Sino-Japanese War.

Q.2: 'Militarism in Japan rests on the ideology that the strength of the military is equal to the strength of a nation'- Discuss.

* * * * *

UNIT 6 : THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (1921-1922)

UNIT STRUCTURE

6.1 Learning Objectives
6.2 Introduction
6.3 Background of the Conference
6.4 Objectives
6.5 Significance of the Conference
6.6 Let Us Sum Up
6.7 Further Reading
6.8 Answers to Check Your Progress
6.9 Model Questions

6.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Trace the background of the Washington Conference,
- Discuss the objectives of the Conference,
- Analyse the significance of the Conference.

6.2 INTRODUCTION

The Washington Conference convened on November 11, 1921, was chiefly the result of the growing suspicion between Japan and the United States of America. After the Russo-Japanese war circumstances combined to develop frictions between these two countries and as a result United States of America convened this conference to check the power of Japan in Far East. In this unit we shall discuss about this conference in detail.

6.3 BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE

With the defeat of Russia in the hands of Japan in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905, the Western powers started to think the rise of Japan seriously. The Russo-Japanese war weaked Russia in the Far-East for a time and, thereby encouraged Japan's aggressive policy in Manchuria (we have discussed in the unit no. 4). The Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 helped her to a great extent to consolidate her position in China.

The aggrandizing policy of Japan in the Far East, especially in the mainland of China drew the attention of the United States of America, who practically did not have any territorial ambition in the Far East. As an ally, England could not interfere with the activities of Japan in the Far East; hence it was the United States who was to take up unbelievable task of restraining Japanese activities in Manchuria. Thus a war like situation developed between these two powers. So, to save the situation the United States wanted to convene an international conference to deal with the Far Eastern affairs.

Along this tensed situation an armed race developed between Japan, United States and Britain who had scope to maintain peace in the Far East and in the world at large. But instead of proposing peace they developed an armed race, especially in the field of navy which developed suspicion among them.

The United States as they were not interested in to involve in the world war, wanted to maintain the 'balance of power' in the Far East by restoring the position of China. She had been exploited by Japan at different times. In the mean time the people of China gradually became conscious of their status. The May Fourth Movement in China was a clear testimony of the national consciousness of her people. The Washington Conference was to help to mobilize the opinions of the powers in favour of the Chinese interest.

Prior to the meeting of the Washington Conference in November, 1921, several attempts had been made by different people to convene a conference of that type to put an end to the dangerous and destructive race of armament. But due to various reasons these attempts were not succeeded. Secretary Hughes of the United States prepared a list of the nations to be invited to the proposed Washington conference and by August 11, 1921, that the formal invitations were sent to the individual powers. There were nine powers including United States of America, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, China, Belgium, Netherlands and Portugal. All these nine powers directly or indirectly had some interest in Far East and Pacific region. Russia was excluded from the conference due to the change of government in Russia. The Bolshevik government was not recognised by the capitalist countries. The business of the conference was mainly guided by the 'Big Three', i.e. the representatives of U.S.A, Great Britain and Japan.



LET US KNOW

The delegations were headed by some important personalities of the invited nations:

The American delegation was headed by Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes. British delegation was led by former prime minister and foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour. Japan was represented by Admiral Baron Cato Tomosaburo, would be Prime Minister of Japan. The French delegation was headed by Aristide Briand, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Rene Viviani.

6.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The Washington Conference was in session from November 11, 1921 to February 6, 1922. The conference concentrated mainly on two objectives. These were-

- Limitation of naval armaments and a resolution of conflicting interests of powers in the Pacific area.
- To solve the Anglo-Japanese conflicts and Sino-Japanese conflicts.

As many as six treaties were concluded and thirteen resolutions were adopted during the entire course of the conference. The most significant of all these treaties and resolutions were the Four- Power Pacific Treaty, the Five-Power Naval Pact, the Nine -Power Treaty, the Root Resolutions and the treaty concerning Shantung.

a) **The Four-Power Treaty** was signed by America, Britain, France and Japan on December 13, 1921. By this ten year treaty the signatories agreed -

   - To respect each other's rights in the regions of the Pacific in respect to their 'insular possessions and insular dominions'.
   - To meet in joint conference 'for consideration and adjustment of any controversy arising out of any Pacific question and involving their said rights which is not satisfactorily settled by diplomacy'.

- To communicate with one another fully if the rights of the contracting parties 'are threatened by the aggressive action of any other power.

b) **The Five-Power Treaty** was concluded on February 6, 1922, by the United States, Britain, France, Japan and Italy. It provided for the scrapping of several hundred thousand tons of capital ships and fixed the ratio of the navies of the signatories at 5:5:3:1.7:1.7 for the United States, Great Britain, Japan, France and Italy respectively. Thus there was to be naval parity between the United States and Great Britain. Japanese navy was to be 60 percent of either British or American navy. The strength of each of the French and the Italian navy was fixed at 35 percent of that of England and America. These limitations related only to the capital ships and not to light cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

c) **The Nine- Power Open Door Treaty** was signed on February 6, 1922 by all the nine participating States such as the United States, Great Britain, France, Japan, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and China. It was mainly design to respect and observe the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese Republic. The signatories further agreed to provide the fullest opportunity to China to develop and maintain for herself an effective and stable government. Under this treaty the neutrality of China in time of war was to be respected. It reaffirmed the principle of 'Open Door' and thus, opposed any agreement designed to create spheres of influence for individual powers at the cost of the general interest of the other powers in China.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Fill in the blanks:

Q.1: The Washington Conference was held on.....

Q.2: The Washington Conference was held to check the power of.....

Q.3: The Five -Power Treaty was concluded on.....

6.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Washington conference, in a sense, could not achieve anything tangible. It only ironed out the difference among the powers over the Far Eastern question and eased the tension for the time being in the Far East, notably between Japan and China, the United States and Japan, and Britain and United States. The settlement was mainly based upon the good faith of the signatories. Certain measures of the conference were no doubt, favourable and appreciable to the United States. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which had been a serious headache to her, was smoothly abrogated in this conference.

As regards China, the Washington Conference minimised obnoxious limitations imposed upon her sovereignty. She restored Shantung to her. On paper at least China was guaranteed by the powers the fullest opportunity to develop and maintain an effective government by herself. Thus the conference safeguarded China for the time being against further spoliation.

The Washington Conference put a check upon the growing power of Japan in the Far East to some extent. The restoration of Shantung to China was no doubt, a political recession for her in her Chinese policy. The Nine-Power Treaty which guaranteed the respect of all the nine powers to the sovereignty, independence and the territorial integrity of China, put a check upon the activities of Japan in the main land of China put a check upon the activities of Japan in the main land of China.

But above all, the Conference failed to achieve any lasting results. It could not remove the fundamental source of conflicts between the United States and Japan. The naval competition among the powers continued. Japan's policy of expansion in Chinese soil could not be checked by forcing her to submit Shantung to China. After the surrender of Shantung, Japan diverted her attention to Manchuria, another strategic place of China. The agreement of the powers for the non fortification of their Pacific islands gave her a predominant position in the area of her imperial interests. She proved herself the master in the vast Pacific area between Hawaii and Singapore. The Washington Conference in general revealed the growing feeling of distrust with which Japan was regarded by the powers. The Conference provided a breathing interval during which Japan prepared herself for further aggression. This is clear from the subsequent development of Japanese policy.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Choose the correct answer:

Q. 4: China restored Shantung/ Peking/ Shanghai by the terms of the Conferenece.

.....

Q. 5: After the Washington Conference, Japan diverted her attention towards Peking/ Manchuria/ Vietnam.

.....

Q.6: The Washington Conference tried to safeguard the interest of China/Japan/ U.S.A.

.....



6.6 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learnt-

- Circumstances leading to the Washington Conference. How the gradual increase of interest of Japan awakened the western powers in Far East.
- The objectives of the Conference.
- Different treaties to check the power of Japan in the Far Eastern region.
- the Conference failed to achieve any lasting results. It could not remove the fundamental source of conflicts between the United States and Japan. The naval competition among the powers continued.



6.7 FURTHER READING

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2. Vinacke, H.M., (1982), A History of The Far East In Modern Times, New Delhi, Kalyani Publications.
3. David, M. D., History of Modern Japan, (First edition 1979), Bombay 400054, Himalaya Publishing House.

6.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer no 1: 1921

Answer no 2: Japan

Answer no 3: February 6, 1922

Answer no 4: Shantung

Answer no 5: Manchuria

Answer no 6: China

6.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) VERY SHORT QUESTIONS (ANSWER EACH QUESTION WITHIN 50 WORDS)

Q.1: What was the need to convene the Washington Conference?

Q.2: Who headed the American delegation in the Washington Conferece?

Q.3: Mention one provision of the Nine Power Open Door Treaty.

Q.4: What were the objectives of the Washington Conference?

B) SHORT QUESTIONS (ANSWER EACH QUESTION WITHIN 150 WORDS)

Q.1: Write a short note on the Four-Power Treaty.

Q.2: Write a short note on the Five-Power Treaty.

C) LONG QUESTIONS (ANSWER EACH QUESTION WITHIN 300-500 WORDS)

Q.1: Trace the background of the Washington Conference

Q.2: Discuss the significance of the Washington Conference.

* * * * * * * * * * *

UNIT 7 : JAPAN IN THE TWO WORLD WARS

UNIT STRUCTURE

7.1. Learning Objectives

7.2. Introduction

7.3. Japan prior to the World Wars

7.4. Japan and World War I

7.5. Japan in World War II

7.6. Let us Sum up

7.7. Further Reading

7.8. Answers to check your progress

7.9. Model Questions

7.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Assess the condition in Japan prior to the World Wars
- Analyze the causes for its involvement in the two World Wars
- Situate Japan in World War I and World War II

7.2 INTRODUCTION

In this Unit, we will be looking into the rise and growth of Japan as a super power. The Unit will give an insight into the extent of Japanese involvement in the World Wars and the loss and gain to the country. Japan has become a formidable power that influences the whole political scenario today. Its contribution towards mammoth destruction in the World War II can never be erased from history and will forever remain a dark chapter in the history of the world. Imperialism took an ugly turn in the turn of the twentieth century which manifested in the ghastly wars.

7.3 UTILITARIANISM

Japan the land of the rising Sun consists of mainly four islands Honshu, Mainland, Hokkaidu Kyushu and Shikak and a number of other islands. The people of Japan belong to a mixed race and basically depend on agriculture. The religion of Japan was Shintoism "Way of the Gods" but the influence of China, led to the growth of Buddhism and Confucianism. Japan had a

monarchical set up from early period. From early times, Japan maintained a distance with foreign powers and hence there was no conflict and peace prevailed.

The Kangawa treaty (1854) and the Harris treaty opened the gates of the Far East to the western world. Japan which had for so long avoided foreign contact was now compelled to let go its inhibitions and embrace the coming times.

As soon as the Far East became accessible to the West, the countries in those regions underwent changes that soon changed the whole European set up. Japan was not to be left behind in the race towards modernity. The impact was felt on the society, economy, and political set up of Japan.

Against the backdrop of shadowing gloom due to the industrialization and the quest for stability amongst the nations, Japan has risen from a strong feudalism to a power to be reckoned with. The Meiji rule saw the unification of some odd 270 semi-autonomous feudal territories were unified into one single modern state. The Meiji rule had one strong principle which was followed very rigidly "to take its place among the nations of the world. This had been the ultimate goal driven at by the Japanese statesman since the 1850s when unequal treaties were imposed on japan. All these treaties were revoked and then began an age of imperialism. The Sino Japanese war and acquisition of the Taiwan and Pescadores Island in 1895 and the subsequent Russo Japanese war of 1905 which led to the occupation of Southern Sakhalin and Southern Manchuria and the influence over Korea had proved that Japan was on her way up the ladder of Imperialism.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. When was the Kangawa treaty signed?

.....

2. The Taiwan and the Pescadores islands were acquired during which war?

.....

3. When did the Russo-Japanese war occur?

.....

4. Why was the Meiji rule important in the history of Japan?

.....

7.4 JAPAN AND WORLD WAR I

The World War I broke out between the allies and the central powers. The allies were the Triple Entente of Britain, France and Russia and the central powers were the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria Hungary and Italy. It began on July 28, 1914 with the occupation of Sarajevo by Austria Hungary and ended with the treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.



LET US KNOW

Triple Entente: In response to the growing German hegemonic attitude, an alliance was formed between Russia, Britain and France by the Anglo Russian Treaty of 1907

Triple Alliance: It was a military alliance between the three powers Germany, Italy and Austria- Hungary which was initiated in 1882 and continued till the beginning of the World War I. By this alliance, the members promised mutual support in the event of war from other powers.

- **Cause for Japan's involvement in World War I:**

➢ Aggressive imperialism of Japan: Before the beginning of the World War I, Japan had been in war with Russia. Russia was defeated and by the treaty of Portsmouth, 1905; the war was brought to an end. With the victory of Japan, a new era begun. Japan soon became a rising power of the Far East and hence, soon started an interventionist policy. After driving away Russia from Korea, Japan soon was developing her own strategy around that place. In 1910, Japan occupied Korea under a pretense. Japan also started tightening her grip over Manchuria. Korea was annexed in 1910 and was renamed "Chosen". Japan had in the meantime proved her mettle and was now in a state of pause as to the next step. However, they were soon provided the cause for satisfying their aggressive thirst. Revolution broke out in China in 1911 and Japan was elated and hence welcomed it. It wanted to extend its influence in China but China accepted the British mediation.

- US hostility: In the meantime, strict laws on Japanese citizens in USA led to the development of hostile feelings between the nations. Immigration of Japanese citizens to US was checked strictly. In 1907 a gentlemen's agreement was signed between America and Japan for settling the issue. However, in 1913 the California legislature enacted a law by which the Japanese people were denied citizenship. This further made the situation tense. In1908 Japan entered into a five year arbitration treaty with the USA (Root-Takahira agreement) by which her rights over Korea and Manchuria was recognized and simultaneously America's position in Philippines, Hawaii and Alaska was assures. The treaty also agreed on the issue that open door policy and integrity of China should be maintained. On 4 July 1910, Japan and Russia entered into an agreement committed towards protecting their respective interest in Manchuria and in 1913; the treaty was further extended which strengthened her safety in regard to her rights.

- **Course of the War**

Japan entered the World War I by declaring war against Germany on August 23, 1914, even though it was not threatened. Japan considered to be safe in this decision of hers on the basis of the treaty signed in 1902, 1905 and 1911 with Britain by which it was stated that japan would go to war if Britain's possession in China (Hongkong and Weihaiwei was threatened. The main intention of Japan in doing so was to strengthen its hold on China which seemed an important asset to Japan and also a chance to prove itself as a major power. Hence, the Japanese foreign minister Kato Takaaki convinced the government that it was in the national interest of japan to declare war against Germany and hence very soon, Germany's colonies in the pacific were occupied. The Japanese cabinet decided on war with Germany on August 8. Japan seized german colonies in Mecronesia and German leasehold territory in the Shandong peninsula in china. Germany's possession in mainland China, the port of Tsingtao fell to an Anglo Japanese army (which consisted of 50,000 labourers and 2000 British Imperial force) in November, the same year.

Taking the advantage of the preoccupation of the western powers, japan in 1915 imposed a list of demands to china in order to extend her

influence over the country. These demands were known as "Twenty-one Demands" and Japan gave China a 48 hour ultimatum. The demands were aimed at regularizing the Japanese position in Shantung, strengthening Japan in Manchuria, giving economic rights to Japan in the Central Yangtze river, guaranteeing to Japan that China would not cede to any other power any harbor along the coast and to appoint Japanese advisors. They also demanded for Japanese rights in Fukien. By this ultimatum, Japan demanded economic hold over Manchuria and parts of Mongolia. China easily gave in to the demands.

The "Twenty-one Demands" had wide repercussions, as because it hurt the Chinese sentiments and alarmed the foreign powers specially US and Britain who could see through the designs of Japan. Soon their doubts were confirmed when Japan pressed the 21 demands on China. The colonialist agenda was thus put forward.



LET US KNOW

Monroe Doctrine of Asia:

The "Twenty-One Demands" has also become known as the Asiatic Monroe Doctrine. Because, in the demand laid down before the Chinese by Japan, the latter intended to close the doors of the former to US and other European powers, thus isolating China. The aim was to keep "Asia for the Asiatics" and thus pave the path for Japan's dominance in Far East Asia.

Meanwhile, the turmoil in Russia resulted in the victory of the Bolsheviks and the Communist Party. The European powers feared the rise of Russia. Therefore, the powers like Britain, France and Italy tried to appease Japan and agreed to support the country. But US declined to be a party to it as USA had interest in China. However, in order to avoid a German Japan alliance, the Lansing-Ishii agreement was signed on 1917 December. The US had to bow down because it was not prepared for a major rift with Japan due to the Anglo-Japanese treaty.

Sometime later, Japan taking the advantage of the internal revolt within Russia, it occupied Vladivostok, in April 1918. In retaliation to the murder of some Japanese men in Nicolai (a Siberian town), Japan occupied Sakhalin in 1920. She continued the Siberian expedition till1922 when she

was compelled to withdraw by US. Both US and Britain supported the Bolshevik Revolution and also helped Russia by supplying food and other amenities.

By the Paris peace conference, Japan's influence over Shantung and the Pacific islands were recognized. Japan was left unsatisfied by the Paris Peace agreement as her demand for racial equality was thwarted by the European powers. The Washington Conference also did not go well with the Japanese nation because. The Anglo-Japan treaty was scrapped and Japan had to restore Shantung to China and had to clarify her position in China. The Washington Conference resulted in bitter feelings between England and Japan. America had secured her mission of breaking the Anglo Japanese Alliance. The agreement was disgraceful to the prestige of Japan.



LET US KNOW

Washington Conference (1921): The Washington Conference was held in 1921 and attended by United States, Japan, China, France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Portugal. The primary aim of the Conference was to restrain Japan from any aggressive designs in China, scrap the Anglo Japanese treaty, and make a favourable naval ration with Japan. Britain was focused on maintaining her possessions intact, while Japan had her own intention of concluding a naval agreement with Britain and US.

It was basically a military conference where many nations had to surrender their military power. A ten year agreement was signed by which battleships were fixed at a ratio of 5:5:3 between US, Britain and Japan.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

Q. 5: When was the treaty of Portsmouth signed?

.....

Q. 6: When was the Root Takahira treaty signed and between whom?

.....

Q. 7: What was the Lanshing Ishii agreement mainly about?

……

Q. 8: Who gave the "Twenty One Demands" and to whom? What were the repercussions?

……

Q. 9: In which year was the Washington Conference signed and what was it meant to deal with?

……

7.5 JAPAN AND WORLD WAR II

Japan began her aggressive imperialist policy during the World War II when she attacked the Chinese army. In 1931, a bomb exploded at Mukden which caused a slight damage to South Manchuria railway line, owned by Japan. Holding the Chinese Government responsible for it, Japan at once attacked Manchuria and drove its Governor, Chang Hsueh-hang. Manchuria was overrun by the Japanese forces and a puppet government was set up in its place. In 1932, Manchukuo was officially announced an independent state. Though it got no recognition from other states, yet its administration was carried off by the Japanese officials.

As a protest against the forcible occupation of Manchukuo province from China by Japan, the former declared an economic blockade. Thus, all Japanese goods were boycotted in China. In response, Japan sent its troops in Shanghai and over powered the Chinese troops. China then appealed for invoking the Kellog-Briand pact, to which Japan was also a signatory. The League of Nations appointed the Lytton committee to analyze the Sino-Japanese relations. However, the recommendation offered by the committee was not acceptable for the Japanese counterpart, as Manchukuo was suggested to be made an autonomous province under the Chinese command. Japan totally threw away the suggestions to the wind and withdrew itself from the League of Nations.

Japan soon occupied Jehol and annexed it to Manchukuo. The Chinese Government then concluded the Tongku truce formally giving away Jehol to Manchuko and declaring it autonomous under Japanese protection in 1933. Thus, Japan could control China from the Northern belt. By the same truce, a demilitarized zone was created between the Great Wall and Peking-Tientsin Railway.

Japanese aggression soon became a rage and in 1934, the Tokyo Foreign office warned the western powers of bitter consequence if they embezzled in their China affair. They were equally vocal that China should accept no help from outside. In the meantime it continued its policy of aggression in China by attempting to detach the northern portion from mainland China. Thus, the East Hopei Autonomous Council was set up in 1935. Similarly, the remaining portion of Hopei was joined with Chahar under the Hopei Chahar Political Council. The reason for such aggression and strategic interest in running an autonomous regime in Northern china was two-fold: to create a buffer state against the attack of Russia and financial gain, of transforming China as a market or consumer rather than producer of goods.

As a result, Japan earned a lot of enemies. China and the western powers were totally disillusioned with Japan over her activity in Manchuria. Russo-Japan relation was strained due to Japan's policy in Manchuria, a territory of interest of Russia. Hence, Japan turned to Italy and Germany in order to save her possession in Manchuria and the anti-comintern Pact was signed between them in 1936. The League of Nations failed to bring peace. The treaty of Washington and the Kellog Briand pact failed desperately to facilitate collective security.



LET US KNOW

Kellog-Briand Pact:Named after its authors, Frank B. Kellogg, US Secretary of State and French foreign minister Aristide Briand, the pact was signed on August 27, 1928, by the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Weimar Germany and a number of other countries, was an agreement to renounce war and prohibiting the use of war as an instrument of national policy.

The pact was, in its original form, was a renunciation of war between only France and the United States, but Frank B. Kellogg, the U.S. Secretary of State proposed for a multilateral pact against war open for all nations to become signatories.

On December 7, 1941 Japan declared war and the next big thing was the bombing of the Pearl Harbor. The next day, Britain, US declared their offensive position against Japan. They were soon joined by China, the

Dominions and the Netherland Government. In the meantime she had been exerting pressure on the French base in Indo-China and thus the European powers believed that Japan would be the first to strike in order to make her claims over the territories.

On the day prior to the attack on the Pearl Harbour, a Japanese fleet arrived in the Gulf of Siam and poured troops in the French Indo-China. The attack on Pearl Harbour signaled the immediate attacks on Manila, Singapore, Burma, and Hong Kong etc. Three days after the Pearl Harbour attack, Italy and Germany honoring their tripartite agreement declared a full-fledged war against the US and its allies.



LET US KNOW

Tripartite Agreement: The tripartite agreement is also known as the Axis pact was signed in Berlin, Germany between representatives from Italy (Mussolini), Germany (Hitler) and Japan (Saburo Kurusu). The three member countries thus came to be known as the Axis powers during the Second World War. The three nations agreed to cooperate for the next ten years and recognize their territorial positions.

Soon, the Axis powers got the support of Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Croatia.

On December 10, Britain counter attacked the Japanese force by sending her battleship (Prince of Wales) and battle cruiser (Repulse) but it received a heavy blow from the enemy. On February 15, the Singapore garrison was forced to surrender to the Japanese might.By May, all Burma was under the Japanese control and even the Burma Road (supply route from Burma to China). Bali, Java, Sumatra, Phillipines too fell easily to the hands of Japan.

However, soon the tide turned in the favor of the European powers. With the victories in the Coral Sea and off Midway in 1942 causing Japan to lose her aircraft carriers, it led to the rounding off the latter's territorial possessions. However, it was not until 1944 that the European powers could accumulate enough wealth and resources to take on a serious battle in the Pacific, as the Pacific extends over a large area. The weapons mostly used were the aircraft carriers and warships.

By the end of 1943, New Guinea had been recaptured. In November 1943, the American forces attacked Tarawa, and then it took on Marshalls, Marianas and Carolines. The greatest naval battle was fought on 19 October, 1944 in Leyte. By 1945 Philippines was won over. America and her allies now closed on towards Japan and took Iwo Jima and Okinawa under continuous air bombings.

Burma too became a battle ground as the Burma Road was closed down by Japan and it proved a disaster for China as all supplies coming from the west was blocked. Thus in 1943, a South East Asia Command (SEAC) was formed. Accordingly, Burma was ravaged and in 1945, 22 January the Burma Road was declared Reopened. Rangoon fell at the hands of the western powers in May the same year.

Japan now had no other choice but to give up her fight and the need became more urgent due to the atomic attack. Before the nuclear attack, in July Soviet declared war against Japan. On 6 August 1945 a bomb was dropped at Hiroshima and on 9 August another at Nagasaki. This double attack was more than enough and Japan accepted for an "unconditional surrender" on 14 August. On September 2, the agreement for an unconditional surrender was signed on board the "Missouri" in Tokyo Bay. The war in Pacific lasted for four months.

- Impact of the Second World War

The impact of the Second World War on the East Asian countries was rich with consequences. As most of the nations were reeling under the colonial pressure, these nations now started asserting their independence. Nationalism ran high in places like India, Burma, Malaya, etc. India and Pakistan became independent in 1947. So also Burma, Vietnam, Indonesia, Israel. Communist regime started in China.

In Japan nearly more than two million soldiers died, million more died in their hands, many more perished. The results of the atomic war can still be seen till today. Those who had to bear the brunt of the nuclear attack live today with serious health diseases. Their lives have been shattered. The physical and emotional strain caused by the war was immeasurable.

The Allies under USA soon set up the recovery process for Japan. They (Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers under Douglas MacArthur) came to Japan and set up a dual system of Government. MacArthur and

his administration played the role of legislature, setting up policies while, the Japanese Government executed all this policies. The latter was ready to cooperate due to the war exhaustion.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 10: What led to the signing of the Tongku truce?

.....

Q. 11: The Anti-Commintern pact was signed when and between whom?

.....

Q. 12: Name the lead member nations who signed the Kellog-Briand pact?

.....

Q. 13: When did Japan finally declare war?

.....

Q. 14: On which day was the Pearl Harbour bombed?

.....

Q. 15: Name the lead Axis Powers?

.....



7.6 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit, you have learnt-

- The emergence of Japan from a feudal land to an imperialist state which took over the entire world by storm is an amazing history. The wars brought devastations, sufferings and miserable plights to millions of people around the globe. The bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Pearl Harbour was an act of wanton aggression. Japans dominating role in Far East Asia was totally responsible in bringing the war to its devastating conclusion.
- Nonetheless, the European nations and their colonial agenda cannot be ignored. The war was uncalled for and it raised serious questions-questions of peace, of control in weapons of mass destruction, etc. The League of Nations had utterly failed in mellowing down the aggressive spirit of the powerful nations, thus resulting in its being a mere shadow. On its ruins were raised the United Nations Organization that aimed at bringing home peace.



7.7 FURTHER READING

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5. Japan in World History by James L. Huffman
6. Europe since Napoleon by David Thomson



7.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to the question no.1: 1854

Answer to the question no.2: Sino Japanese War

Answer to the question no.3: 1905

Answer to the question no.4: Rise of a modern State

Answer to the question no.5: 1905

Answer to the question no.6: 1908

Answer to the question no.7: To normalize the bitter relation between Japan and USA

Answer to the question no.8: Japan sent the "Twenty One Demands" to China. The result was the multiplication of Japan's enemies

Answer to the question no.9: 1921. It was meant to be an armistice between nations on the matter related to control of arms and weapons of war.

Answer to the question no.10: Japans aggressive agenda in the occupation of Northern China and the immediate occupation of Jehol and merging it with Manchukuo

Answer to the question no.11: 1936. The pact was signed between Japan, Italy and Germany

Answer to the question no.12: The lead nations were United States, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Weimar Germany

Answer to the question no.13: 1941

Answer to the question no.14: December 7, 1941

Answer to the question no.15: Japan, Italy and Germany



7.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions (Answer each question within 50 words)

Q.1: When did Japan join the World War I?

Q.2: When did nuclear bomb was dropped on Japan?

Q.3: What was the common interest of Russo-Japanese agreement?

Q.4: What is known as Asiatic Monroe Doctrine?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: What were the causes of Japan's joining of the World War I?

Q.2: Japanese aggression was the precursor of the Second World War? How far is it true?

Q.3: Write a short note on the impact of the Second World War on Japan.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in between 300-500 words)

Q.1: Draw a picture of the League of Nations during the two World Wars?

Q.2: Analyze the role played by the European stakeholders in Far East Asia and the resulting War?

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