

## **DBQ 14: JAPAN'S MODERNIZATION**

### Historical Context

In the early 1600s, Japan had closed itself to almost all contacts with the outside world. In the mid-1800s, Japan was faced with a challenge to its policy of isolation. As a result, Japan started to modernize. It emerged in the twentieth century as a major world power.

■ **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and the author's point of view. Be sure to do each of the following steps:

1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
2. Read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions that follow each document before moving on to the next document.
3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the document-based question.
4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. You should present your essay logically. Include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge beyond the documents.

**Question: How did Japan emerge as a world power, going from isolation to modernization to imperialism? What were the results—positive and negative—of Japan's modernization?**

### **PART A**

The following documents deal with developments in Japan from the 1600s to the 1900s. Examine each document carefully. In the space provided, answer the question or questions that follow each document.

(continued)

**DBQ 14: JAPAN'S MODERNIZATION****Document 1**

The following time line outlines important dates in Japan's history.

- 1603—Tokugawa shogunate begins.
- 1635—Closed Country Edict cuts Japan off from rest of world.
- 1639—Portuguese are expelled; Dutch and Chinese are permitted to trade at Nagasaki.
- 1853–54—U.S. Commodore Perry visits Japan.
- 1867—Meiji Restoration; the emperor takes over power.
- 1889—Meiji Constitution is adopted.
- 1894–95—Sino-Japanese War; Japan gains Taiwan and domination of Korea.
- 1904–05—Russo-Japanese War; Japan acquires Port Arthur and Russia's position in Manchuria.
- 1910—Japan annexes Korea.
- 1931—Japan invades Manchuria and sets up a puppet state.
- 1937—Japan invades China.
- 1940—"Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" plan is recommended.
- 1941—Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and sets out to conquer the Pacific region.
- 1945—End of World War II; Japan surrenders.

Write two events from the list above under each heading below.

**Relative Isolation**

- 1.
- 2.

**Modernization**

- 1.
- 2.

**Imperialism**

- 1.
- 2.

(continued)

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### Document 2

This excerpt is adapted from Japan's Closed Country Edict of 1635.

Japanese ships may absolutely not leave for foreign countries.

No Japanese person is allowed to go abroad. Anyone who tries to do so will be put to death.

All Japanese persons who live abroad will be put to death when they return home. . . . Samurai [paid warriors] may not purchase goods from foreign ships directly from foreign merchants in Nagasaki.

What policy did the Closed Country Edict establish? \_\_\_\_\_

How did this edict affect Japanese traders? \_\_\_\_\_

### Document 3

This excerpt is adapted from a letter sent by U.S. Commodore Perry to the Emperor of Japan on July 7, 1853.

The government of the United States desires to obtain from . . . Japan some positive assurances that persons who may be shipwrecked on the coast of Japan, or driven by stress of weather into her ports, shall be treated with humanity. . . . Therefore, as the United States and Japan are becoming every day nearer and nearer to each other, the President desires to live in peace and friendship with your imperial majesty, but no friendship can long exist, unless Japan ceases to act toward Americans as if they were her enemies. . . .

Many of the large ships-of-war destined to visit Japan have not yet arrived in these seas, though they are hourly expected; and the undersigned, as an evidence of his friendly intentions, has brought but four of the smaller ones, designing, should it become necessary, to return to Yedo [Tokyo] in the ensuing spring with a much larger force. . . .

M.C. Perry

*(continued)*

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What reason did Perry give for his visit to Japan?

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### **Document 4**

The following excerpts are adapted from an agreement signed between the United States and Japan on March 31, 1854.

The United States of America and the Empire of Japan . . . have resolved to fix . . . the rules which shall in future be mutually observed. . . .

Article II. The port[s] of Simoda and of Hakodade . . . are granted by the Japanese as ports for the reception of American ships, where they can be supplied with wood, water, provisions, and coal. . . .

Article III. Whenever ships of the United States are thrown or wrecked on the coast of Japan, the Japanese vessels will assist them. . . .

Article VII. It is agreed that ships of the United States . . . [in] the ports open to them shall be permitted to [trade]. . . .

What was Japan giving to the United States in this agreement?

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Was this evidence of a lessening of Japanese isolation? Explain.

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### **Document 5**

A temporary constitution giving power to the emperor had been adopted in 1868. This ended the power of the Tokugawa shogun. The Meiji Constitution of 1889 was regarded as the permanent constitution of Japan. Here are some excerpts from it.

Article I. The Empire of Japan shall be reigned over and governed by a line of Emperors unbroken for ages eternal.

Article III. The Emperor is sacred and inviolable.

Article XI. The Emperor has supreme command of the Army and Navy.

Article XLV. When the House of Representatives has been ordered to dissolve, Members shall be caused by Imperial Order to be newly elected.

Source: Alfred Stead, editor, *Japan by the Japanese*, William Heinemann, 1904  
(adapted)

How did this governmental structure strengthen the central government?

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### **Document 6**

This excerpt, attained from the full powers given to Lord Iwakura and the other ambassadors, describes the mission of a group sent to Europe and the United States by the Japanese emperor in 1871.

The time for the revision of the existing treaties will arrive in less than a year, and we wish to revise them considerably so as to place Japan on the footing of equality with the civilized nations. . . . We do not intend to undertake the revision at once. We will first study the institutions of the civilized nations, adopt those most suited to Japan, and gradually reform our government and manners, so as to attain the status equal to that of the civilized nations.

Source: Alfred Stead, editor, *Japan by the Japanese*, William Heinemann, 1904  
(adapted)

(continued)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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What did the emperor plan to do, and why?

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### **Document 7**

In this excerpt, Baron Kentaro Kaneko, the Japanese minister of commerce and agriculture, expressed his opinion for modernization.

Japan . . . occupies a small amount of land and has a large population, with little material out of which to manufacture, hence has to rely upon the material imported from other countries. We have coal, but not sufficient iron, and almost no gold. Hence, in my opinion, Japan must stand as an industrial country. . . . An agricultural policy is not bad. It was satisfactory in the feudal period—that is, for so long as we were not pressed by the Russians, [the] English, and the Americans from all sides. But the conditions are otherwise today. The Pacific is becoming the center of the struggle in which we are called to compete with much stronger foes. Japan as an agricultural country cannot stand against Russia, Australia, Canada, or America. Hence we must try other means for the struggle—that is, we must obtain raw materials from them and manufacture them for the Asiatic markets.

Source: Alfred Stead, editor, *Japan by the Japanese*, William Heinemann, 1904  
(adapted)

What economic changes did the Japanese minister recommend, and why?

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How would Japan get the materials it needed?

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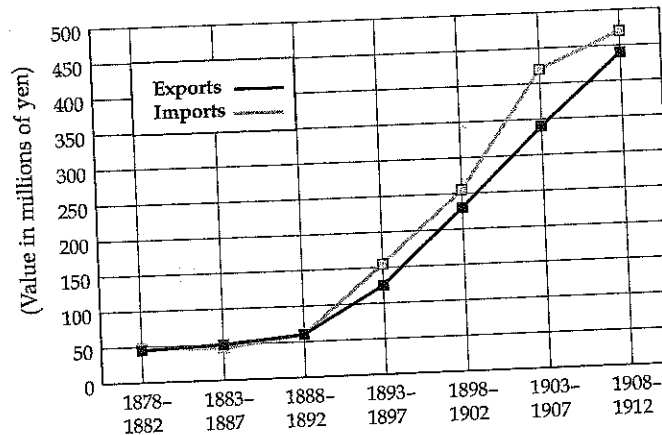
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### Document 8

This graph illustrates imports and exports in Japan during the Meiji Rule from 1868 to 1912.



Source: New York Regents Exam, 2002 (adapted)

According to this graph, what economic change occurred during the period of Meiji rule?

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### Document 9

Japan declared war on Russia on February 10, 1904. This is an excerpt from Japan's declaration.

We hereby declare war against Russia. . . . The integrity of Korea is a matter of constant concern to this Empire, not only because of our traditional relations with that country, but because the separate existence of Korea is essential to the safety of our realm. Nevertheless Russia . . . is still in occupation of Manchuria, has consolidated and strengthened her hold upon those provinces, and is bent upon their final annexation. . . [T]he safety of Korea is in danger; the vital interests of our Empire are menaced. The guarantees for the future which we have failed to secure by peaceful negotiations we can now only seek by our appeal to arms.

Source: Alfred Stead, editor, *Japan by the Japanese*, William Heinemann, 1904 (adapted)

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What reasons did Japan give for declaring war on Russia?

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### Document 10

This map details the valuable natural resources found in Korea and Manchuria in 1934.



Source: Elisabeth Gaynor Ellis and Anthony Esler, *World History Connections to Today: The Modern Era*, Prentice Hall, 2002 (adapted)

Based on the map, why would Japan want to acquire Korea and Manchuria?

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**DBQ 14: JAPAN'S MODERNIZATION****Document 11**

In 1940, the Japanese Total War Research Institute produced the following plan for the establishment of a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere."

The Japanese empire is a manifestation of morality, and its special characteristic is the propagation of the Imperial Way. . . . It is necessary . . . to cause East Asia to return to its original form of independence and co-prosperity by shaking off the yoke of Europe and America. . . . In the Union of East Asia, the Japanese empire is at once the stabilizing power and the leading influence. . . . [A basic step will be] the construction of a new China in tune with the rapid construction of the Inner Sphere. Aggressive American and British influences in East Asia shall be driven out of the area of Indo-China and the South Seas, and this area shall be brought into our defense sphere. The war with Britain and America shall be prosecuted for that purpose. . . . [T]he Japanese empire is the center . . . of Oriental moral and cultural reconstruction.

According to this document, what was the ultimate goal of the Japanese empire?

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**PART  
B**

How did Japan emerge as a world power, going from isolation to modernization to imperialism? What were the results—positive and negative—of Japan's modernization?

2-3  
paragraph  
response