

# The Meiji Restoration



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# Photograph Interpretation / Compare and Contrast

**AIM:** To understand the transition from feudal to modern Japan.

**Do Now:** Explain how these images show a change in Japanese society.



Figure A



Figure B

# Photograph Interpretation / Compare and Contrast

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# ***Let's Go Back In Time...***

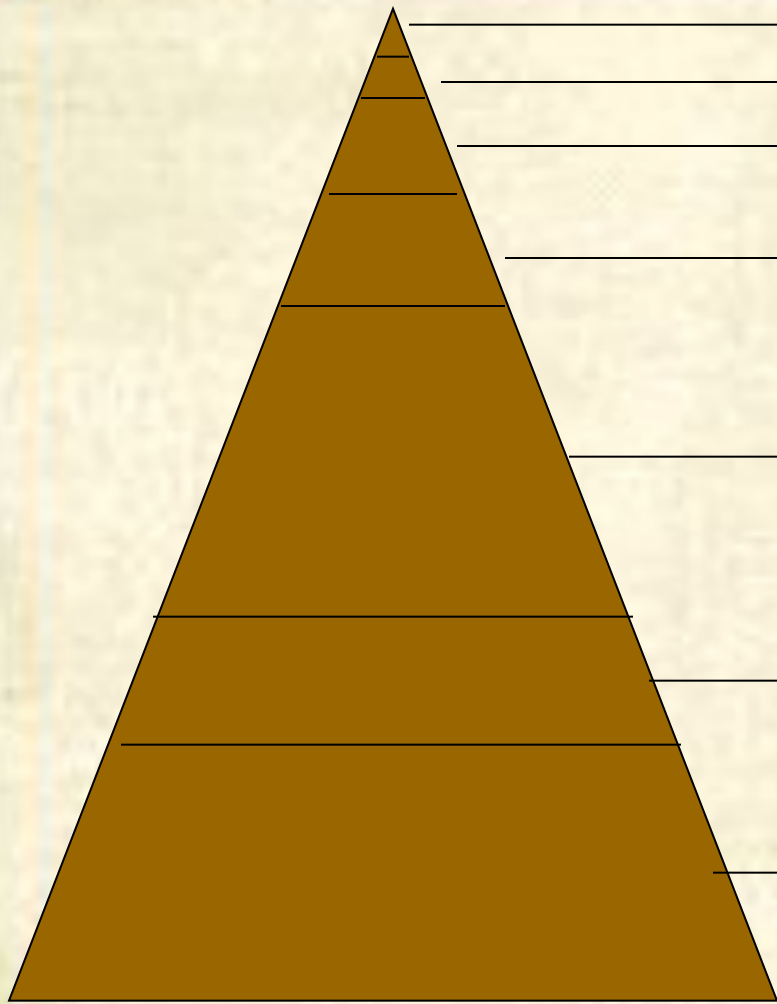
## **Tokugawa Period (1600-1868)**



**Himeji Castle: Built in 1600s**

- **Centralized feudalism**
- Ruled by Shogun
- Capital City of Edo (Tokyo)
- **Rigid Social Structure**
- **Belief Systems**
  - Shintoism
  - Zen Buddhism
  - Prohibited Christianity

# Japanese Social Structure



Emperor

Shogun

Daimyo

Samurai

Farmers

Artisans

Merchants



# Geography of Japan



What geographic features enabled Japan to pursue a policy of isolationism?

What are some positives and negatives of the geography of Japan?

# Fall of Tokugawa Shogunate

## Reasons for the fall:

- Western civilization had arrived and was threatening to gain power there.
- Samurai upset at “surrendering” to Westerners.
- Tokugawa Shogunate seen as weak for ending 250 years of isolation.
- Some Daimyo saw this as an opportunity to change the social structure.



*The Last Shogun, Tokugawa Yoshinobu*

# If Not The Shogun, Then Who?

The presence of the West triggered nationalist unrest. Who will most of the people in Japan turn to for leadership? Why?

*Need a hint?*

*Think back to the traditional social structure in Japan.*

People of all classes appealed to the emperor for support.

They used the slogan *sonno joi* “Revere the emperor, expel the barbarians.”



**Emperor Mutsuhito,  
*Meiji.***



# Compare These Two Figures



1. What are the similarities and differences between the two men?
2. What adjectives would you use to describe each ruler?

# Emergence of the Emperor

➤ The Shogunate was defeated and a new emperor named Mutshhito was proclaimed.

➤ This period is known as the **Meiji Restoration**– Meiji meaning enlightened rule

➤ Over the next generation the whole society and its institutions were transformed to serve the needs of modernization.

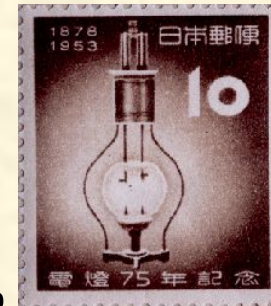


**Emperor Mutshhito,  
*Meiji.***

# Changes During The Meiji Restoration

## Major Changes:

- ✓ Abolished feudalism
- ✓ Eliminated samurai armies
- ✓ Reformed education
- ✓ Created a centralized gov't and encouraged loyalty to the emperor
- ✓ Japan's 1<sup>st</sup> Western-style constitution (1889), followed by the country's first elected Diet.
- ✓ Adopted Western technology
- ✓ Opened up trade (ended isolation)



# Hiking Through The West, 1870



**How does this image show a change in the way the Japanese view the West?**

# Strains of Modernization

## Problems:

- Poor living standards existed in crowded cities
- Political differences led to instability and frequent assassinations of leaders

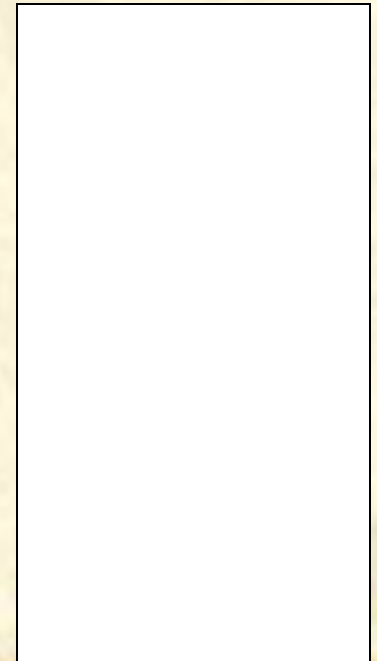
• Constant questioning and debate about \_\_\_\_\_

**Samurai**

• Disgruntled \_\_\_\_\_ class

• Need for raw materials

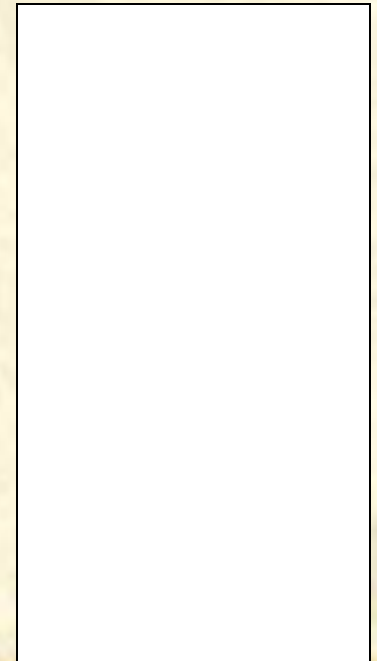
**Westernization**



# Strains of Modernization

## Solutions:

- Urged loyalty to the Emperor as a center of national identity
- Sino-Japanese War 1894-1895
- Russo-Japanese War 1904
- Imperialism of Korea: Annexed in 1910



# Final Thoughts

Western technology was adopted which allowed the Japanese to fully industrialize in less than 50 years. By the end of the Meiji Restoration, the Japanese no longer feared that they would be imperialized. Rather, they set out to practice imperialism themselves to obtain power and natural resources. Japan was quickly emerging as a world-class power using western technology and methods while still maintaining its traditional cultural values.

This period was known as the Meiji Restoration.