

JAPAN AFTER WWI

Militarism & Building an Empire

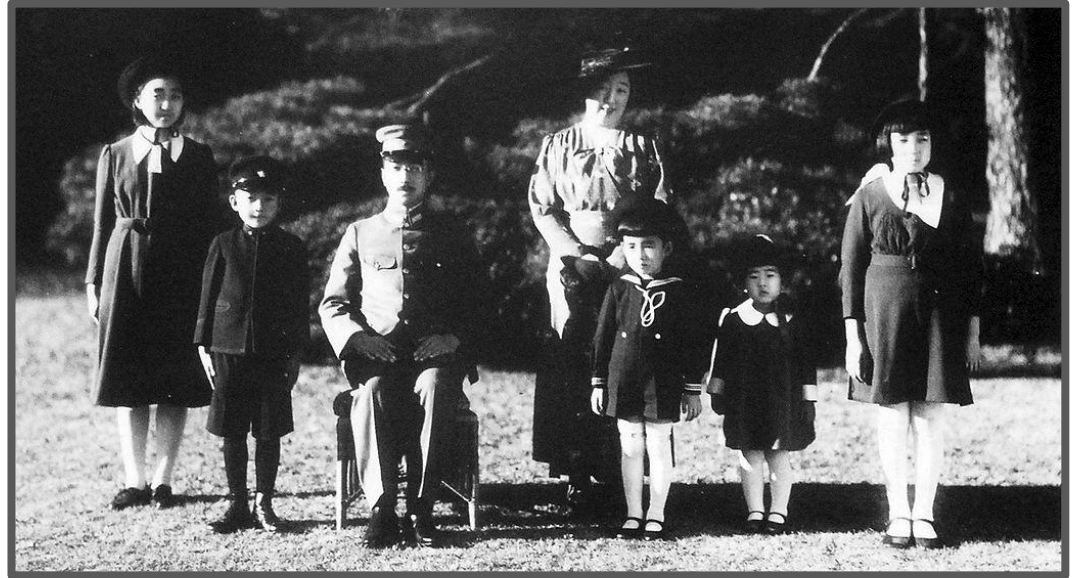
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Situation 1



Emperor Meiji died in 1912 and was succeeded by his son Yoshihito. He took the name 'Taisho' (Great Righteousness)

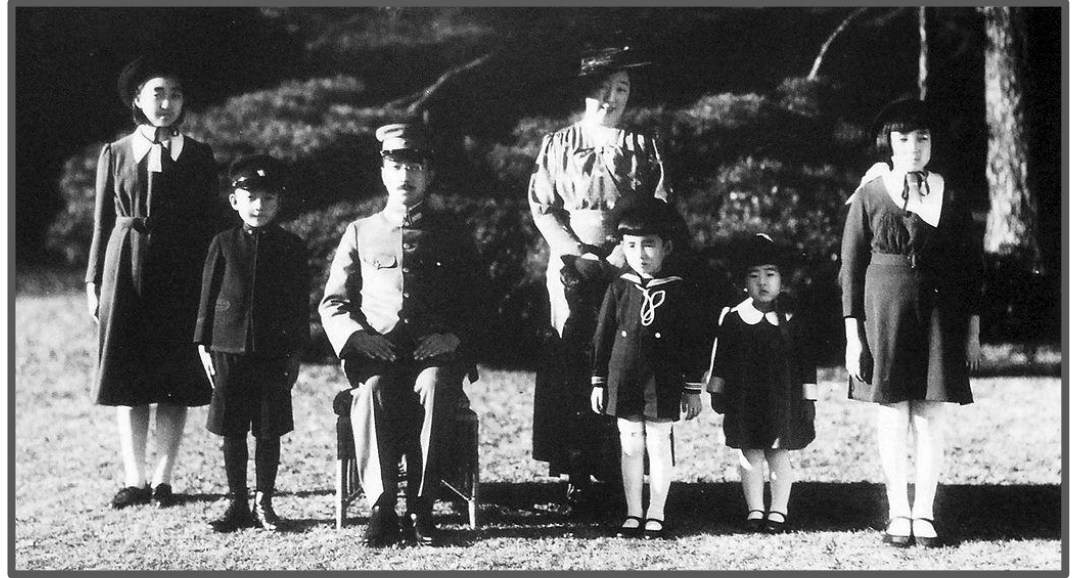
He was weak, inexperienced and had poor health.



Emperor Taisho and the Imperial Family

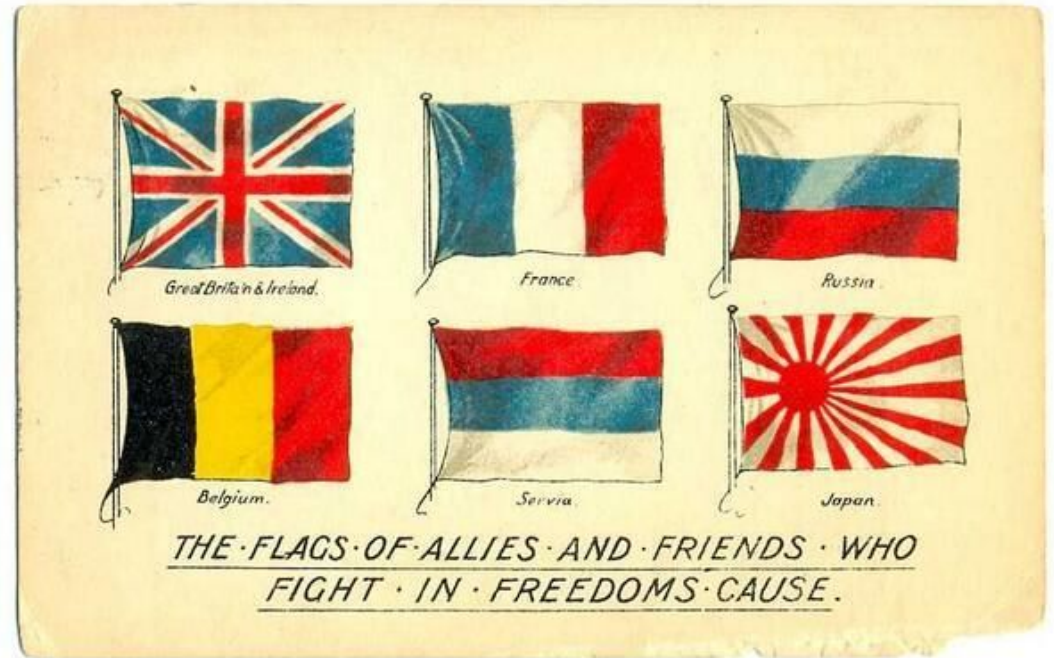
What really happened?

The military and right wing Nationalists became more prominent in driving government policy. The influence of the Emperor reduced as he became more of a figurehead.



Situation 2

World War One broke out and Britain asked Japan to support the Allies against Germany and its colonies in East Asia.



What really happened?

Immediately, Japan invaded territory Germany had leased from China, in Shandong province. Japan also:

- took over German ports in Shandong, China
- expanded Japan's sphere of influence over the railways, coasts and major cities of the Shandong province (map on next slide)
- expanded into southern Manchuria and eastern Inner Mongolia to access to raw materials





CHINA

JAPAN

DPRK

ROK

Dongying

Zibo

Jinan

Weifang

Qingdao

Rizhao

Weihai
Yantai

SHANDONG

Situation 3 - The 1920's



Japan was humiliated by the Treaty of Versailles, as the western powers refused to recognise 'racial equality'. After WW1 international competition hurt Japanese companies.

- Unemployment grew worse
- Imports were expensive
- Trade balance was uneven in the 1920s
- The Great Earthquake in 1923 made things worse
- Japanese leaders wanted more living space for a growing population.
Important for natural resources (coal and iron deposits)
- Nearby Manchuria can provide both

What really happened?

Japan Invaded the Chinese Province of Manchuria in 1931

- Why? Japanese leaders wanted more living space for a growing population. Important for natural resources (coal and iron deposits)
- The Manchurian Incident saw the Japanese military officers deliberately bomb their section of the South Manchurian Railway, and then blaming it on the Chinese - creating an excuse to invade China



Japan Invades Manchuria, 1931

-  Japanese territory as of 1928
-  Manchuria





Inspecting the Railroad - little damage done.



Japanese Invasion of Manchuria



The Manchurian Incident - 1931 (YouTube)

Situation 4

There was a clash between Japanese and Chinese troops near the Marco Polo Bridge.



What really happened?

1937 – Japan invades China

- The “**Marco Polo Bridge Incident**” led to a full Japanese invasion of China
- In the summer of 1937, the Chinese army put up a stiff resistance against the Japanese at the industrial center, Shanghai
- Japanese eventually defeat the Chinese in Shanghai and move on to Nanking in December, 1937



Situation 5

1940 - tensions between the US and Japan over Japanese expansion were rising. The US was preoccupied with helping Britain and France defeat Hitler in Europe. Making an alliance with Hitler was proposed to scare the Americans from attacking Japan.



What really happened?

Tripartite Pact (1940)

- Creation of a loose alliance between Japan, Germany, and Italy effectively extending the “axis” into the Pacific (Asia)
- Pact was aimed at keeping the U.S. out of the war. Under the treaty, each Axis nation agreed to come to the defense of the others in case of attack. Would be a military nightmare for the U.S.- a two-ocean war, with fighting in both the Atlantic and the Pacific



1940 Tripartite Pact: Germany, Italy & Japan

Situation 6

Aug 1st, 1941 - With continued Japanese expansion, the US cut off materials such as steel and oil (both of which Japan bought almost entirely from America). Japan's army and industry will grind to a halt without oil

General Tojo becomes prime minister in October 1941



The Attack on Pearl Harbour is a Catalyst to War



Japan and the United States at War

Historical debate:

