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Teacher Overview

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SQ 10. Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period? How did industrialization affect Japan?



Unit Essential Question(s): Do the benefits of innovation outweigh the costs? For whom?
[Link to Unit](#)



Supporting Question(s):

- Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period? How did industrialization affect Japan?

Objective(s):

- **Explain** the social, political, and economic impacts of industrialization on Japan during the Meiji Restoration.

Vocabulary

The following words appear in this lesson. Reference the unit vocabulary tracker for more information. [Click here](#) for the New Visions Global History glossary.

Word/Phrase	Definition
bicameral	having two legislative chambers or branches
Commodore Matthew Perry	(1794- 1858) a commodore in the United States navy who forced the Japanese to open their country to western merchants in 1853
constitution	the set of basic laws and principles by which a nation, state, or other organization is governed
detain	to stop or keep from moving
economic	related to the use a country or region's wealth and resources
electorate	those who can participate in an election; qualified voters
enlighten	to give information or knowledge to
feudal system	a decentralized system of power in which land owned by a powerful person is divided up and

(feudalism)	given to others in exchange for work and a promise to fight for the interests of the land owner
formidable	exceptionally difficult; daunting
imitation	a copy of something else
imperial	having to do with an empire or an emperor
industrial	related to turning raw materials into manufactured goods
industrialize	to make something industrial
intellectual	of or having to do with the ideas
isolate	to set apart in order to make alone
Japan	a country in eastern Asia made up of islands in the Pacific Ocean
locomotive	an engine that moves a train
Meiji Restoration	(1868-1912) a period of industrialization and modernization in Japan in reaction to European imperialism that to Japan's imperial period
merchant	a person who is involved in trade
modernize	to bring up to date
parliament	a part of a government that makes laws; the legislative branch of government; referred to as Parliament in Great Britain and many other countries, but can have different names like Congress in the United States of America
permit	allow
political	having to do with government
shogun	one of the chief military commanders of Japan from the eighth to the twelfth century, who governed in the name of the emperor.
slogan	a short phrase used to state a principle or political message or to advertise a product
social	having to do with society, people living together in large groups
suffrage	the right to vote
telegraph	a system by which messages may be sent by electronic means. The telegraph puts messages in code and sends them along wires.
Tokugawa Shogunate	the last feudal Japanese military government who ruled from 1603 to 1868; the Tokugawa shoguns (governors) united Japan and ruled from the capital named Edo
Tokyo	the capital city of Japan
Treaty of Kanagawa	(1854) treaty between Japan and the United States that opened Japanese ports to western merchants

Formative Assessment Possible Responses

These responses represent possible answers to the formative assessment tasks in this lesson. They are not the only correct answers. Create your own list of possible responses before using this resource with students to anticipate student misconceptions and adjust your instruction.

Task 1. Describe **one** cause of industrialization in Japan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

The Japanese, faced with American naval forces, wanted to modernize their country so they could compete with other industrialized nations.



Task 2. Describe **two** social, political, and/or economic effects of industrialization on Japan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

1. The Japanese industrialized their nation by using European and American models for factories to make goods in Japan.
2. The Japanese borrowed some political ideas like democracy from western governments as seen in their constitution and form of government.

NYS Social Studies Framework

Key Idea	Conceptual Understandings	Content Specifications
10.3 CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: Innovations in agriculture, production, and transportation led to the Industrial Revolution, which originated in Western Europe and spread over time to Japan and other regions. This led to major population shifts and transformed economic and social systems. (Standard: 2, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, SOC, ECO, TECH)	10.3d Social and political reform, as well as new ideologies, developed in response to industrial growth.	Students will investigate the social, political, and economic impacts of industrialization in Victorian England and Meiji Japan and compare and contrast them.

Social Studies Practices

NYS Social Studies Practices	New Visions Student Social Studies Practices
Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence (A2, A5, A7) Comparison and Contextualization (B2)	 Contextualize
	 Connect Cause and Effect

NYS Common Core Learning Standards

Reading	Writing	Speaking and Listening
Craft and Structure: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science..	Text Types & Purposes: CCLS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1: Write arguments focused on <i>discipline-specific content</i> .	Comprehension and Collaboration: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Associated Classroom Posters

[Student Social Studies Practices Poster](#)
[New Visions Enduring Issues Tips and List](#)

Note: Students should have learned about the Tokugawa Shogunate before completing this lesson. [Click here for a lesson on the Tokugawa Shogunate.](#)

Objective: **Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period? How did industrialization affect Japan?**

- **Explain** the social, political, and economic impacts of industrialization on Japan during the Meiji Restoration.

Introduction: Review

➡ **Directions:** Read the document below then respond to the questions that follow to review the Tokugawa Shogunate.

The Tokugawa Shogunate was the government that ruled Japan from 1600 to 1868.

Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634

- Japanese ships shall not be sent abroad.
- No Japanese shall be sent abroad. Anyone breaking this law shall suffer the penalty of death...
- The arrival of foreign ships must be reported to Edo (Tokyo) and a watch kept over them.
- The samurai shall not buy goods on board foreign ships.

Source: January 2002 Global History and Geography Regents Exam.

1. Based on the Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634 what was the Tokugawa Shogunate’s point of view concerning people outside of Japan?

2. Review: Explain the historical context for the issuing of the Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634.

3. What effects do you think the Tokugawa Shogunate’s policies had on Japan?



Contextualize

Why did Japan end its isolation? Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period?

➡ **Directions:** Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.



Landing of Commodore Perry, officers & men of the squadron, to meet the Imperial commissioners at Yoku-Hama July 14th 1853. Lithograph by Sarony & Co., 1855, after W. Heine. [Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain

The Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1867) isolated the island nation of Japan from the rest of the world for more than 200 years. During this period, the emperors ruled in name only. The real political power was in the hands of the shoguns all of whom were from the Tokugawa family. The Tokugawa maintained a feudal system in Japan that gave them, and wealthy landowners called daimyo, power and control. After negative experiences with Europeans in the 1600s, the shoguns were extremely resistant to trade because they viewed outsiders as a threat to their power.

Japan's isolation came to an end in 1853 when **Commodore Matthew Perry** of the United States Navy, commanding two steamships and two sailing vessels, sailed into Tokyo harbor. He forced Japan to end their isolation and open their ports to trade with U.S merchant ships. At the time, many industrialized nations in Europe and the United States were seeking to open new markets where they could sell their manufactured goods, as well as new countries to supply raw materials for industry. The Japanese, because of their years of isolation, had no navy with which to defend themselves, so they agreed to the demands of the United States. In 1854, the Treaty of Kanagawa was signed which permitted trade and opened Japanese ports to merchant ships.

Commodore Matthew Perry's actions showed that Japan's ruling Shogunate was weak and unable to defend the nation against a threat from the Western powers. Convinced that modernization depended on abolishing [getting rid of] the Shogunate and the feudal order, a group of middle-ranking samurai overthrew the military government of the Shogun in 1868 and set to modernize and industrialize the country. The period of industrialization in Japan starting with the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate is known as the **Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)**.

Sources: Adapted from Asia for Educators, "Japan: History." http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/tops/1750_jp.htm#edo

1. Before 1867, what was the political structure of Japan like? Who had the power?

2. Why did the Tokugawa government distrust foreigners?

3. Why did Commodore Matthew Perry enter the Tokyo harbor with military ships?

4. What were the effects of Commodore Matthew Perry's demands?



Contextualize

Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period? How did industrialization affect Japan?

➡ Directions: Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

The Meiji Restoration (1868-1912): Japan Industrializes and Modernizes



A sketched portrait of the Emperor Meiji, 1888.
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain

The arrival of warships from the United States and European nations, their advanced and formidable technology, and their ability to force the Japanese to agree to trade terms that were unfavorable for Japan sparked a period of rapid industrialization and modernization called the Meiji Restoration. This reaction was called the Meiji Restoration because *Meiji* (meaning “enlightened rule”) was the name taken by the emperor, and during this period he was “restored” as the leader of the nation, but like in monarchs of England or France at the time, he had very little real power. Under the slogan of "National Wealth and Military Strength," the Meiji government adopted a number of ideas from European countries and the United States relating to government, and technologies to bolster industry, communication, and transportation that greatly impacted Japanese and global history.

Directions: As you examine the following documents related to the Meiji Restoration, fill in the graphic organizer below with evidence of the effects of industrialization on Japan during this period.

Social Effects	Political Effects	Economic Effects

Document Set 1

The Constitution of the Empire of Japan: The Meiji Constitution (1890-1947)



Illustration of the public acceptance of the Meiji Constitution (1889)

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain

During the Meiji Restoration, Japan's leaders sought to create a constitution that would define Japan as a capable, modern nation deserving of Western respect while preserving their own power. The resultant document was influenced by European style governments and included a bicameral parliament (the Diet) with an elected lower house and a prime minister and cabinet appointed by the emperor. The emperor was granted supreme control of the army and navy. A small council of powerful leaders who helped overthrow the Tokugawa Shogunate advised the emperor and had actual power. Voting restrictions, which limited the electorate to about 5 percent of the adult male population, were loosened over the next 25 years, resulting in universal male suffrage.

Source: Adapted from *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Meiji Constitution", accessed December 08, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Meiji-Constitution>.

Excerpts from the Meiji Constitution (1889)

CHAPTER II.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF SUBJECTS

Article 20. Japanese subjects are amenable [open] to service in the Army or Navy, according to the provisions of law.

Article 23. No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried or punished, unless according to law.

Article 27. The right of property of every Japanese subject shall remain inviolate [untouchable].

Article 29. Japanese subjects shall, within the limits of law, enjoy the liberty of speech, writing, publication, public meetings and associations.

CHAPTER III.

THE IMPERIAL DIET

Article 33. The Imperial Diet shall consist of two Houses, a House of Peers and a House of Representatives.

Article 34. The House of Peers shall, in accordance with the ordinance concerning the House of Peers, be composed of the members of the Imperial Family, of the orders of nobility, and of those who have been nominated thereto by the Emperor.

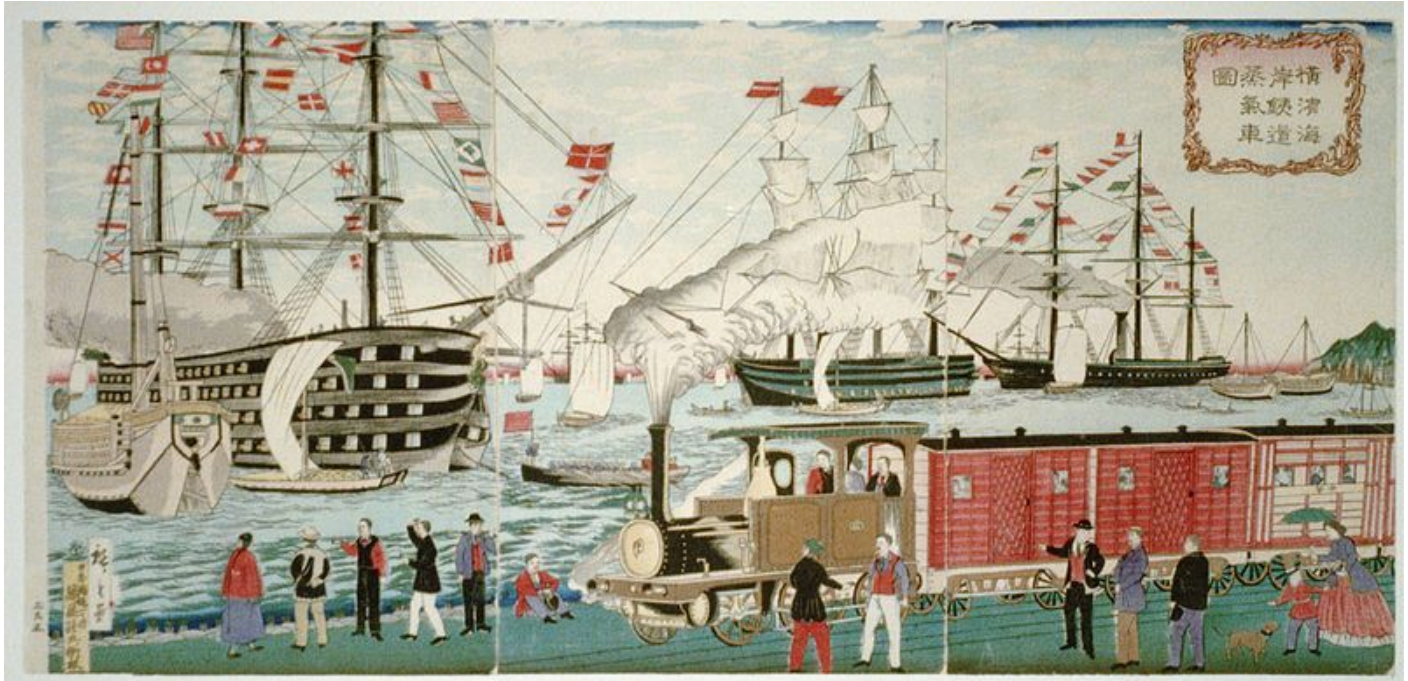
Article 35. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected by the people, according to the provisions of the law of Election.

Source: Hirobumi Ito, *Commentaries on the constitution of the empire of Japan*, trans. Miyoji Ito (Tokyo: Igrisu-horitsu gakko, 22nd year of Meiji, 1889). [Hanover Historical Texts Project](https://history.hanover.edu/texts/1889con.html) Scanned by Jonathan Dresner, Harvard University. <https://history.hanover.edu/texts/1889con.html>

Document Set 2

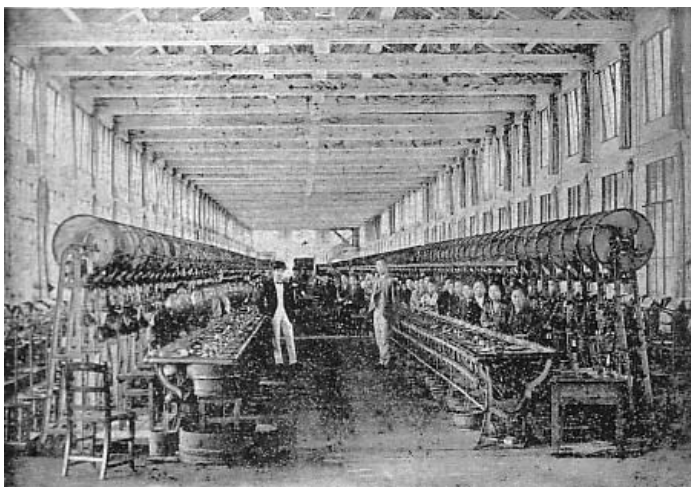
In addition to political changes, Japan changed economically and socially during the Meiji Restoration. The economy remained dependent on agriculture, but the government directed the development of strategic industries, transportation and communication. The first railroad was completed in 1872, and by 1890 there were more than 1,400 miles (2,250 kilometers) of railroad. All major cities were linked by telegraph by 1880. The government gave financial support to private companies and instituted a European-style banking system in 1882.

Source: Adapted from "Meiji Restoration." Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Meiji-Restoration>



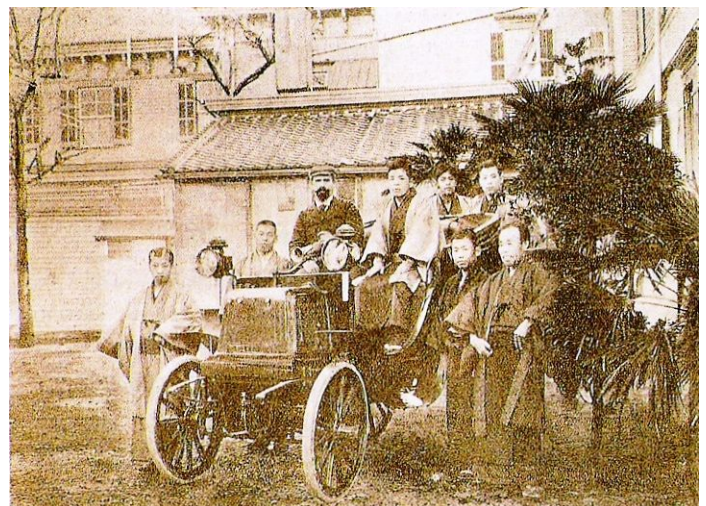
The picture of the steam locomotive railway at Yokohama seaside, drawn by Utagawa Hiroshige III, 1874.

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain



Photography of a Japanese silk factory in the early 1900s. The first factory of its kind was the Tomioka Silk Mill established in 1872 by the government to introduce modern machine silk reeling from France and spread its technology in Japan.

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain.

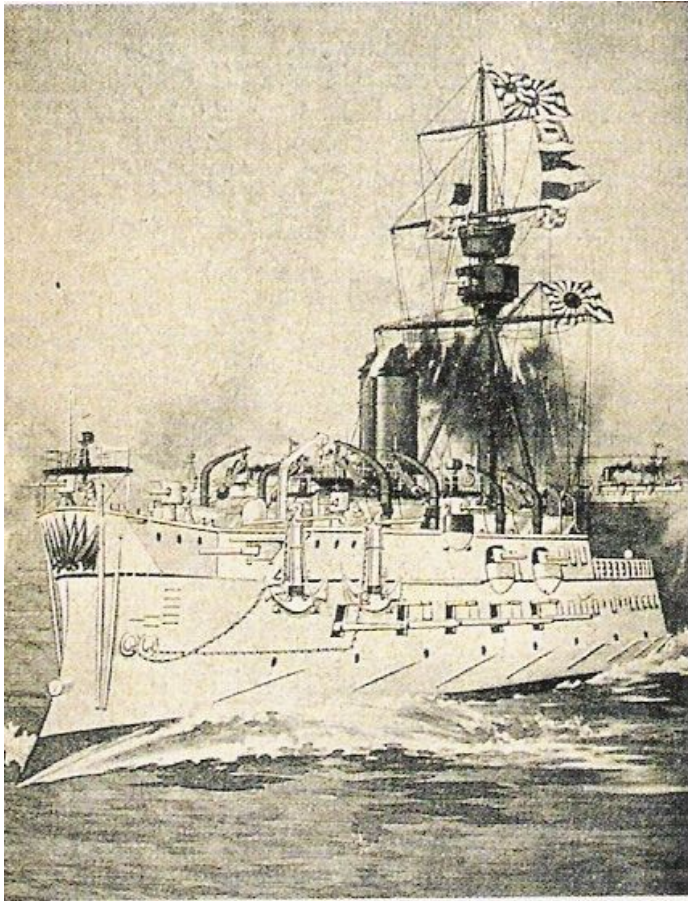


Photograph of the first automobile introduced to the Japanese in 1898 by the French.

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain.

Document Set 3

Their inability to defend themselves from Western nations inspired the Meiji Government to invest heavily in modernizing the country's military.



The Matsushima (pictured above), a Japanese warship built in 1885, was an example of the new Japanese fleet. Japan's new navy was built by Japanese engineers and architects who were trained by French naval experts.

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain.



The Japanese asked several Western governments to help them modernize their military. The first country to do so was France. Above, is an image of a Japanese infantryman painted by one of the French men who trained the soldiers.

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain.

Document Set 4

Western science and technology were imported, and a program of “Civilization and Enlightenment” (bunmei kaika) promoted Western culture, clothing, architecture and intellectual trends. In the 1880s, a renewed appreciation of traditional Japanese values slowed this trend. An educational system was developed which, though it made use of Western theory and practice, stressed traditional samurai loyalty and social harmony. Art and literature turned from outright imitation of the West to a synthesis of Japanese and Western influences.

Source: Adapted from “Meiji Restoration.” Encyclopedia Britannica http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Meiji_Restoration



Woodblock print of Emperor Meiji and his family on a walk in a park , 1890.
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain

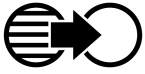


Photograph of a family from 1939 demonstrating the mix of Western influence and traditional Japanese dress that started during the Meiji Restoration.

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is in the public domain

FA

SQ 10. Why did Japan industrialize during the Meiji Period? How did industrialization affect Japan?



Connect Cause
and Effect

➡ **Directions:** Complete the task below using the information you learned in this lesson and your knowledge of social studies.

Task 1. Describe *one* cause of industrialization in Japan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

Task 2. Describe *two* social, political, and/or economic effects of industrialization on Japan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries