

Occupied Japan

The Emperor's Surrender Radio Broadcast

- Hardly any of the millions of people who listened to the surrender announcement had ever heard their sovereign's voice.
- For 8 years the people continued to sacrifice in the name of the emperor for the sake of a victory over the "British and American Devils."
- In the ambiguous language, the emperor was telling that the war was over and Japan was defeated.
- He ended the announcement by urging his subjects to "endure the unendurable, bear the unbearable."

Demilitarization and Democratization

- These are the two agenda for the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP)
- SCAP dissolved the army and the navy.
- More than 10% of Japanese citizens were overseas, and demobilization and repatriation were completed in 1948.
- The Special Higher Police (“thought police”) was disbanded.
- The SCAP purged over 200,000 men from government and business world, since they were judged responsible for leading the war effort.

International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo Trial)

- 28 men were charged not only with conventional war crimes but also with the newly minted crime of engaging in conspiracy to wage war.
- All were found guilty, and Tojo and six others were executed.

Tojo Hideki

- He was an army general and the prime minister when Japan declared war against US.
- (Tokyo Trial Controversy)
Today some Japanese authors claimed that Tojo and others should not have been charged with such a new crime as *conspiracy to wage war*.



The Postwar Constitution

- The new constitution was drafted by a committee of occupation officials, ratified in the Diet, promulgated in November 1946, and took effect in May 1947.
- It downgraded the emperor from absolute monarch to a “symbol of the state and of the unity of the people.”
- It granted to the people an array of “fundamental human rights.”

Article 9

- It committed Japanese people to “forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation, and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.”

Other Reforms

- SCAP took away corporate ownership and control held by zaibatsu families, encouraged labor unions, and expropriated the holdings of landlords, gave them to former tenants.
- SCAP forced Ministry of Education to replace military lessons and royalty to state with teachings of peace and democracy.
- SCAP sought to implement an American-style of local school boards and local control.

General Douglas MacArthur

- The picture taken in MacArthur's headquarter, not in the palace, is one of the most political photographs in Japanese or world history, conveying the subordinate position of the Japanese state and people.
- He became a decisive supporter of the emperor, and protected him against international pressure to let him stand trial for war crimes.



Zaibatsu Dissolution

- The Americans convinced that zaibatsu bore major responsibility for war expansionism.
- But at the same time, they saw collaboration between state bureaucrats and big business as the best strategy for economic recovery.
- Therefore the zaibatsu dissolution process was very slow.

Diet Politics

- The major prewar political parties regrouped under new names: Liberal Party and Democratic Party.
- The former socialists, supporting the war time government with great enthusiasm, formed the Japan Socialist Party.
- The communists had a consistent record opposing the imperialism and expansionism, and gained much moral support when they functioned legally for the first time after the war.

Yoshida Shigeru

- The first post-war election in 1946 gave the LP the government, led by the Yoshida Shigeru.
- He was a former diplomat and kept some distance from the military during the war, which gave him postwar legitimacy.



The Reverse Course

- Winston Churchill gave his famous speech about the Iron Curtain in 1946.
- US State Secretary George Marshal announced his famous economic plan to promote European Recovery in 1947.
- The Nationalists in China were losing ground to the Communists by 1947.
- In Japan the Socialist Party was gaining ground.

Too Much Reform

- Some Japan experts in US were shifting the emphasis from democratization to economic recovery.
- They argued that too much reform would move Japan to a dangerous socially based democracy of the masses.
- They advocated handing power back to the “responsible elements” of the prewar elite.
- SCAP encouraged the government to revise labor laws to outlaw strikes by public employees and weaken protective labor standards.
- Japanese government launched the so-called Red Purge with SCAP encouragement.

Inflation and Recovery

- From 1945 to 1949, inflation was out of control, due to destruction of production capacity and strong reconstruction demand.
- In 1949 US sent a special financial adviser Joseph Dodge. His proposal, the Dodge line, adopted by SCAP, imposed a harsh medicine in three doses:
 - A balanced budget
 - Suspension of state loans to industry
 - Abolition of state subsidies
- It indeed halted inflation.
- The Korean War (1950) brought great fortune to Japan, through a surge of American military demand to Japanese industries.

San Francisco Peace Treaty

- Some of America's wartime allies were reluctant to sign a treaty to finish occupation.
- They wanted a harsh peace with reparations.
- But US State Secretary Dulles negotiated vigorously to hasten a settlement.
- In 1951, 48 nations signed a treaty to formally announce the end of the state of war with Japan.
- US troops remained in Okinawa, which made the Soviet Union angry and walk out of the conference.

US-Japan Security Treaty

- It granted US the right to keep bases and troops in Japan.
- In reality, the function of American troops was to contain Japan as much as to protect it.
- The security treaty faced much opposition in Japan.
- Conservatives scorned Yoshida for accepting a “subordinate independence.”