

Empire and Domestic Order

Korea

- In 1876 Japan employed gunboat diplomacy to force the Treaty of Kanghwa on Korea.
- Since then Japan became Korea's largest trade partner.
- Japan exported manufacturing goods and imported rice and soybeans.

Political Relations

- In 1881, Japan sent military advisors to help modernize the army of the Korean court,
- but they soon faced powerful conservative and anti-foreign opposition.
- Japan supported the reformist “independence” faction in Korea.
- The reformist group wanted greater independence from China as well as Japan.
- But they were interested in Japanese funding and assistance.

Coup d'etat

- In 1884 a reformer Kim Ok-kyun, who were influenced by Fukuzawa Yukichi, led a coup d'etat with secret promises of support from Japan.
- Kim's rebel force killed conservative ministers and seized the king.
- Korean crowds angry at the Japanese role hidden behind the affair, killed more than 40 Japanese in Korea.
- After this affair China and Russia increased influence on the Korean court.

The Pattern

- The incidents of 1881 through 1885 established a pattern that would repeat itself several times as Japan carved out a colonial empire in Asia.
 - The Japanese press would put forth a rhetoric of Asia-wide solidarity on behalf of Korean independence from China or Asian equality with the West.
 - The Japanese government intervened in other nations' political conflicts, which further developed a forceful new nationalism against China, Russia, Britain, and Japan.

The Tonghak Rebellion

- In 1890s, Korean people's anger at economic distress and the foreign presence erupted in the Tonghak Rebellion.
- The Korean government asked China to send troops to put down the uprising.
- In 1894, in the name of "protecting Japanese residents," Japan sent 8 thousand troops, seized the control of the Korean royal court, and forced it to declare war against China.

The Sino-Japanese War

- The battle between Japan and China ended in a Japan's victory by 1895.
- In the Shimonoseki Peace Treaty, Japan won control of
 - Taiwan, the Liaodong peninsula, and
 - railroad building rights in southern Manchuria.
- (The Tripartite Intervention) Russia worked with France and Germany to force Japan to return the Liaotung Peninsula.

The Impact

- The Western powers had expected China to prevail, but she lost.
- Japan emerged as the model modernizer of the non-Western world.
- Japan finally achieved its long-sought goal of treaty revision (abolishment of extraterritoriality in 1899, and tariff autonomy in 1911).
- Japan invested the extraordinary indemnity of 360 million yen from China in the military expansion and heavy industries such as Yahata steel mill.

Recognition of Military Power as the Source of International Prestige

- Tokutomi Soho wrote, “*The retrocession of Liaotong dominated the rest of my life. After hearing about it, I became almost a different person psychologically. Say what you will, it happened because we were not strong enough. What it came down to was that sincerity and justice did not amount to a thing if you were not strong enough....Japan’s progress...would ultimately depend upon military strength.*”

Japan's Increasing Presence

- Japan tried to control the Korean government by stationing advisors in Seoul to administer Meiji-style reforms.
- But Korean leaders were unhappy with Japanese control and turning to Russia for help.
- Japan joined the multinational force to put down the Boxer Rebellion in Peking in 1901.

Japanese-British Alliance (1902)

- The Japanese and British formalized their cooperative ties with an alliance in 1902.
- Each nation pledged to aid the other if Russia and a forth party attacked either one.
- Russia were insistent on maintaining its presence in Korea.

The Russo-Japanese War

- In 1904 Japan declared war against Russia.
- The war was a risky endeavor for Japan.
- The military results were mixed.
 - The army prevailed in the Liaotung Peninsula.
 - The navy destroyed the Russian fleet off the coast of Korea.
 - But Japan could not put away the Russian forces completely.
- The Russians feared the revolutionary movements back home.

The Portsmouth Treaty

- The US president Roosevelt mediated the war.
- Japan gained:
 - Control on the Russian railroads in southern Manchuria.
 - Leases of two Manchurian ports.
 - Recognition of Japan's exclusive rights in Korea.
 - Control of inhabited southern half of Sakhalin island.
 - No financial compensation.
- Public opinion was furious about this outcome.

International Reputation

- Japan annexed Korea as a colony in 1910.
- The Koreans and Chinese deeply resented.
- American hostility to Japanese immigration grew sharply in early 1900s.
- But there is a broad range of foreign opinion to admire Japan's great achievements.
- Beatrice Web said, "The Japanese shame our administrative capacity, our inventiveness, and our leadership."

Intellectual Impacts

- Right-wing nationalists claimed that Japan should have a special place in Asia and could deny the political autonomy of other people.
- The Meiji rulers decided that Japan had no choice but to secure its independence by emulating the imperialists.

Passing of the Era

- In 1912, the Meiji emperor died, succeeded by the Taisho emperor.
- Novelist Natsume Soseki has left the most memorable evocation of the emperor's death as a symbol of the passing of an era in his famous novel of 1914, *Kokoro*.
 - “I felt as though the spirit of the Meiji era had begun with the emperor and had ended with him.”
- General Nogi Maresuke committed suicide.
 - Nogi became a military hero, but his leadership in key battles was disastrous, leading to huge casualties.
 - His suicide appeared to be an act of atonement for his failure.

Diet Politics

- The election law limited both suffrage and office to men of substantial property.
- The Diet consists of two houses: the House of Representatives and the House of Peers.
- The first men elected to the HR in 1889 were primarily landlords.
- Members of the HP were appointed by the emperor. They were former bureaucrats, former daimyo, and wealthiest men in the nation.

Party Politics

- The Seiyukai emerged as the only effective party in the diet for 1900-1912.
- Even after years had passed since the constitution was made, the government was still under the control of the oligarch, which consists of former Satsuma and Choshu samurai.
- There were conflicts between the oligarch and the elected politicians.

Hara kei

- He became the (effective) leader of the Seiyukai Party in 1904.
- He was called a master of “the politics of compromise.”
- He traded his party’s support of the government budget for a few political goods such as cabinet positions and public spending (“pork-barel” politics).



Movement to Protect Constitutional Government

- The movement protested against the bureaucrats under the oligarch as well as the military's *de facto veto over cabinet formation*.
- In 1912, Prime Minister Saionji was forced to resign when he wanted to cut military budget, because the army minister resigned and the military did not supply a replacement.
- Katsura, a former military, succeeded Saionji.
- The movement requested Katsura to resign, and major riots broke out in Hibiya Park.

Hara's Concession

- Katsura finally resigned in 1913. The oligarch appointed a navy man as a prime minister.
- The movement wanted Hara to acquire complete party control of the new cabinet.
- But Hara accepted three cabinet positions, which disappointed the movement leaders.
- The new cabinet weakened the veto power of the army and navy.
- It became clear that political rulers could no longer ignore the power of elected representatives in the Diet.

The Era of Popular Protest

- The first 20 years of the 20th century were a time of chronic public riots.
- The first major riot came in 1905. People furious at the Portsmouth Treaty attacked public offices around the Hibiya Park.
- There were uprising movements of socialists and feminists.