Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Tokugawa Shogun

The Tokugawa Shogunate was a feudal military dictatorship in Japan that lasted for almost three hundred years, from 1603 to 1868. The period in Japanese history in which the Tokugawa Shogunate held power is called the Edo period, after the capital of Japan during the Shogunate. The Tokugawa Shogunate marks the period in Japanese history when the caste system was most rigid, leading eventually to social unrest, culminating in an overthrow of the Shogunate and the installation of Emperor Meiji.

The Tokugawa family rose to power in 1603, after a period of warring states and political intrigues destabilized Japan. The family ruled from Edo castle and based its source of power on a very rigid social hierarchy with minimal mobility between classes. The warrior samurai held the most power, followed by farmers, artisans, and traders. Land was controlled by *daimyo*, or feudal lords, who collected taxes and military service from their peasant vassals. This ultimately contributed to the collapse of the Tokugawa Shogunate, because most taxes were fixed and did not take inflation into account, leading to poverty and bitter battles among the ruling classes.

The Tokugawa Shogunate held ultimate power over land and could dispense, annex, or transform lands held by the daimyo at will. The daimyo families were expected to split themselves between managing their *han*, or land holdings, and spending time in Edo with the Shogunate. Daimyo were expected to have absolute loyalty to the Tokugawa Shogunate and could be severely punished if they were suspected of plotting against the military government.

The Emperor was considered the official leader of Japan, and the Tokugawa Shogunate merely his administrative arm. In practice, however, the Shogunate controlled Japanese social, political, economic, and environmental policies with an iron fist. During the Meiji Restoration, the Emperor's powers were returned as part of the terms of the new government.

The Tokugawa Shogunate also controlled all foreign trade, invoking heavy penalties on those who attempted to trade outside the Shogunate. Until 1635, when seclusion laws were introduced, Japan traded widely across the Pacific with numerous ships. After 1635, leaving Japan was severely punished, and only inbound Dutch and Chinese ships were permitted. The Dutch used this trade monopoly to their advantage in Europe. The Tokugawa Shogunate had a very rigid system of class and political power, marked by strict rules of social and political conduct, and a complex

hierarchy of officials. The Japanese studied Western technology through books and materials brought on board Dutch ships, and Japanese refinements of many Western inventions appeared during the Tokugawa Shogunate, including clocks and astronomical devices.

Culturally and artistically, the rule of the Shogunate marks a period of advancement in Japan, when leisure arts began to be valued. The Tokugawa Shogunate saw an explosion of woodblock prints such as those created by Hokusai, a flowering of geisha culture, and many advancements in the arts and letters. The Shogunate prized many Confucian values and integrated them into Japanese culture to create graceful and contemplative works of art, literature, and theatre.

The Tokugawa Shogunate lost power when Japan was forced to open to the West, as the foreign intrusion proved too much for the delicate balance of Edo society. Attempts to reconcile the commercial and capitalized society that the West brought with the military society of the Tokugawa Shogunate were ultimately unsuccessful, and the Shogunate lost power in favor of more democratic and flexible methods of government.



Japan, much like China preferred to be

_____

as opposed to dealing and trading with the West.

1) What is a shogun?

2) What was the social structure of life under the Tokugawa shogunate?

3) Why was their limited social mobility?

4) Why was Japan's foreign policy under the Tokugawa Shogunate?



Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan

Background

On March 31 1854 representatives of Japan and the United States signed a historic treaty. A United States naval officer, Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, negotiated tirelessly for several months with Japanese officials to achieve the goal of opening the doors of trade with Japan.

For two centuries, Japanese ports were closed to all but a few Dutch and Chinese traders. The United States hoped Japan would agree to open certain ports so American vessels could begin to trade with the mysterious island kingdom. In addition to interest in the Japanese market, America needed Japanese ports to replenish coal and supplies for the commercial whaling fleet.

On July 8,1853 four black ships led by USS *Powhatan* and commanded by Commodore Matthew Perry, anchored at Edo (Tokyo) Bay. Never before had the Japanese seen ships steaming with smoke. They thought the ships were "giant dragons puffing smoke." They did not know that steamboats existed and were shocked by the number and size of the guns on board the ships.

At age 60, Matthew Perry had a long and distinguished naval career. He knew that the mission to Japan would be his most significant accomplishment. He brought a letter from the President of the United States, Millard Fillmore, to the Emperor of Japan. He waited with his armed ships and refused to see any of the lesser dignitaries sent by the Japanese, insisting on dealing only with the highest emissaries of the Emperor.

The Japanese government realized that their country was in no position to defend itself against a foreign power, and Japan could not retain its isolation policy without risking war. On March 31, 1854, after weeks of long and tiresome talks, Perry received what he had so dearly worked for--a treaty with Japan. The treaty provided for:

- Peace and friendship between the United States and Japan.
- Opening of two ports to American ships at Shimoda and Hakodate
- Help for any American ships wrecked on the Japanese coast and protection for shipwrecked persons
- Permission for American ships to buy supplies, coal, water, and other necessary provisions in Japanese ports.

After the signing of the treaty, the Japanese invited the Americans to a feast. The Americans admired the courtesy and politeness of their hosts, and thought very highly of the rich Japanese culture. Commodore Perry broke down barriers that separated Japan from the rest of the world. Today the Japanese celebrate his expedition with annual black ship festivals. Perry lived in Newport, Rhode Island, which also celebrates a Black Ship festival in July. In Perry's honor, Newport has become Shimoda's sister city.



Why did Commodore Perry visit Japan?

Why did Japan allow Perry to do this?



Meiji Restoration

Revolution in Japan, which toppled the Tokugawa shogunate, "restored" imperial rule, and transformed the country from a feudal into a modern state. The opening of Japan's ports to Western colonial fleets, coerced by Matthew Calbraith Perry and others from 1853 onwards, exposed the weakness of the Tokugawa shoguns, and triggered nationalist unrest, under the slogan *sonno joi* ("revere the emperor, expel the barbarians"). Radicals inspired by the ideas of Motoori Norinaga saw a solution in the revival of imperial "direct rule"-especially young samurai from the western daimyo fiefs of Choshu and Satsuma, which had never embraced Tokugawa sovereignty. By the 1860s shogunate and daimyo were importing Western technology and proposing new governmental structures to meet the foreign threat.

In 1867 pro-imperial daimyo suggested that shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu should step down and acknowledge imperial authority. Yoshinobu agreed in principle in November 1867, but mistrustful Satsuma radicals seized the imperial palace in Kyoto on January 3, 1868, and proclaimed a restoration under the young Emperor Meiji. Yoshinobu's forces were thrown back from Kyoto, and an "imperial army" of Choshu, Satsuma, and Tosa clan forces secured peaceful surrender of the shogunal capital Edo. Most daimyo stayed neutral, and the civil war ended in 1869. Yoshinobu retired and left government to Saigo Takamori, Okubo Toshimichi, Kido Takayoshi, and other restoration leaders. Confiscated Tokugawa estates comprising some 25 per cent of Japan's arable land were put under their control, providing a springboard for broader policies. In 1869 the emperor moved to Edo, renamed Tokyo ("Eastern Capital"), the new imperial capital. The new government as a focus of national loyalty and the sanction for the revolutionary changes they introduced used the emperor.

By 1871 the daimyo domains had been surrendered to the throne and standardized into prefectures, and the daimyo pensioned off as members of new nobility. Mass education and military conscription were introduced, and curbs on Buddhism inspired by the regime's pro-imperial Shinto ideology produced iconoclastic outbreaks. Western experts were imported to create new railways, armies, fleets, and industries, building on pre-Restoration efforts. Samurai discontented with the abolition of their privilege of wearing swords and the taxing of their stipends rebelled, especially in the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877, which was defeated by the new conscript forces. The Bank of Japan was established, fiscal policy reformed, and civic unrest firmly suppressed. An authoritarian constitution, drafted by Ito Hirobumi and others, was promulgated in 1889, establishing the Diet, but for most of the Meiji an informal Choshu and Satsuma oligarchy outside constitutional controls exercised era power. Through the Sino-Japanese War and Russo-Japanese War, Meiji Japan won the right to be treated on a level with the Western imperialist powers. Despite an astonishingly fast and successful modernization, the ambiguous constitutional structure, military orientation, and nationalist ideology bequeathed by the Meiji Restoration led Japan to the disastrous imperialist adventures of the 1930s and 1940s

1) What did the Meiji Restoration do?

2) What was its purpose?

3) How will these changes influence Japan's future history?

4) How was Chinese Imperialism different than Japanese Imperialism?

Imperialism in the Far East: China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan

Like the countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa, the nations of the Far East (east Asia) faced a growing challenge from the military superiority of the West in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The Tokugawa shogunate had ruled Japan for two centuries and implemented an isolationist foreign policy to cut off the island nation to foreigners. Below is a painting that depicts the landing of American **Commodore Matthew Perry** in Edo (now Tokyo) Bay at Yokahama in 1854. The Japanese soon agreed to the **Treaty of Kanagawa**, which opened two ports to American trade. Similar trade agreements were soon signed by Japan with several European nations. Analyze the painting and explain why Perry's landing had the impact that it did. Be sure to point out as much as you can about the image. Finally, write a creative title for the piece.



Many in Japan resented the government's new foreign policies. In fact, they supported the overthrow of the government in 1868 and brought to power **Emperor Mutsuhito** who called his reign the ***Meiji* (Enlightened) *Restoration***. It was during his reign that Japan was transformed into a modern industrial and military power. The Japanese came to realize that the Western powers had acquired colonies with sources of raw materials, inexpensive labor and markets for manufactured goods. To compete, Japan would have to expand, as well.

Japan soon forced Korea to open its ports to trade, causing tension with China, which had long controlled Korea. In the resulting **Sino-Japanese War** of 1894, Japan proved victorious. As a result, China **ceded Taiwan** to Japan. Japan's activity in Korea also infuriated the Russians. Ultimately, the two nations also went to war. Japan humiliated Russia in the **Russo-Japanese War** (1904-1905), proving it had become one of the great powers. Although suspicious of Japan, the U.S. allowed Japan to **annex Korea** in 1910, in return for recognition of U.S. authority in the Philippines.

How do you believe the Japanese justified their imperialism in Korea, Taiwan and China?

What event above is being depicted in the cartoon to the right? Explain.



Jap the Giant-Killer.



Study the cartoon to the left. Where did Japan go next in its search for colonies? Explain the meaning of the cartoon in your answer to this question.

Like Japan, China had restricted European merchants' ability to trade in their country, limiting them to one port. Needless to say, Europeans did not like this arrangement. For example, the British imported more goods from China (mainly tea, silk and porcelain) than they exported (mainly cotton), creating an **unfavorable balance of trade**. Britain soon began trading highly addictive opium, grown in India, with the Chinese. As a result, the British gained the upper hand in trade with China. The Chinese government outlawed the opium trade, tried to appeal to **Queen Victoria** and blockaded ships carrying the drug. In the resulting **Opium War**, the **Qing Dynasty** was no match for the British navy and was forced to ask for peace. The **Treaty of Nanjing (1842)** opened five Chinese ports to British trade and China gave Britain the island of **Hong Kong**, among other concessions. Other European countries and the United States were soon given the same trade rights as Britain, opening China to Western influence.

The competing nations of Japan, Britain, France, Russia and Germany soon developed **"spheres of influence"** in China or areas where each imperial power had exclusive trading rights. As a result, in 1900, many in China (known as "boxers" because of their exercise of shadowboxing or boxing an imaginary opponent) began to resent foreign influence in their country and began to attack and kill foreigners. **The Boxer Rebellion** was eventually stopped by British, French, German, Russian, American and Japanese troops.

Use what you just read about China above to explain the cartoon to the right. Be sure to include who you think each of the people represent in the piece and label them.



What would make a good title for the cartoon and why?

1.) Why did Japan industrialize?

2.) How were Japan's industrialization and imperialism linked?

3.) Why was Japan able to colonize Korea, Taiwan and parts of China?

4.) Which nations "got a slice" of China and why did this happen?