

Transformations Around the Globe**Lesson 2**

Modernization in Japan

Key Terms and People

Treaty of Kanagawa treaty between the United States and Japan opening trade between the two nations

Meiji era period of rule by Emperor Mutsuhito from 1867 to 1912

Russo–Japanese War war between Russia and Japan fought in 1904

annexation addition of territory

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about foreign influence in China.

In this lesson, you will learn about the steps taken by Japan to modernize.

As You Read

Use a timeline to answer questions about steps Japan took toward modernization and its growth as an imperialistic power.

JAPAN ENDS ITS ISOLATION

How did isolation end in Japan?

From the early 1600s to the mid-1800s, Japan traded with China and the Dutch and had diplomatic contact with Korea. But beyond that, Japan was largely isolated. British, French, Russian, and American officials tried to convince the Japanese to open up. But the Japanese repeatedly refused.

That situation changed in 1853 when American steamships with cannons entered Japanese waters. The next year, Japan and the United States signed the **Treaty of Kanagawa**. It agreed to open Japan to trade with America. Soon afterwards, Japan made similar deals with European nations.

Many Japanese were upset with the shogun, the military dictator, who had

agreed to these new treaties. The Emperor Mutsuhito got their support and managed to overthrow the shogun. For the first time in centuries, the emperor ruled Japan directly. He reigned for 45 years, from 1867 to 1912. This period is called the **Meiji era**. The name Meiji means “enlightened rule.”

The emperor wanted to modernize Japan. He sent government officials to Europe and the United States. From what they saw, they shaped a new Japan. They modeled the government after the strong central government of Germany. They patterned the army after Germany’s and the navy after Britain’s. They adapted the American system of schooling for all children.

The emperor also supported changes to Japan’s economy. The country mined

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coal and built railroads and factories. In just a few years, Japan's economy was as modern as any in the world.

1. What steps did Emperor Mutsuhito take to modernize Japan?

IMPERIAL JAPAN

How did Japan increase its influence in Asia?

By 1890, Japan had the strongest military in Asia. It asked foreigners to give up their special rights in Japan. The European nations agreed. Japan felt equal to the Western nations.

Japan became more imperialistic as its power grew. When China broke an agreement not to send armies into Korea, Japan went to war. It drove China out of Korea and gained Taiwan and some other islands as new colonies. In 1904, Japan and Russia fought the **Russo-Japanese War** over China's Manchurian territory. Japan surprised

the world by defeating a larger power that was supposed to be stronger.

The next year, Japan attacked Korea. Japan made Korea a protectorate. Japanese officials took more and more power away from the Korean government. The Korean king was unable to get help for his government from other countries. By 1910, Japan achieved **annexation** of Korea.

The Japanese were harsh rulers. They shut down Korean newspapers. They allowed only Japanese history and language to be taught. They took land from Korean farmers and gave it to Japanese settlers. They built factories run by Japanese only. Koreans were not allowed to start new businesses. Koreans resented these actions. They began a nationalist movement and protested against Japanese rule.

2. How did Japan expand its empire to Korea?

Lesson 2, *continued*

As you read about the modernization of Japan, answer the questions about the timeline.

1853	Matthew Perry arrives in Tokyo harbor.	→	1. What was the American motive in sending the fleet?
1854	Japan signs the Treaty of Kanagawa.	→	2. How did the United States benefit from the terms of the treaty?
1867	Mutshito establishes a new government.	→	3. What steps did the Meiji take to modernize Japan?
1885	Japan and China pledge not to send armies into Korea.	→	4. Why were both countries interested in Korea?
1894	Sino–Japanese war begins.	→	5. How did the war begin?
		→	6. What consequences did the war have?
1904	Russia and Japan go to war over Manchuria.	→	7. What was the cause of this war?
		→	8. What were some consequences?
1910	Japan annexes Korea.	→	9. How did the Japanese rule Korea?