

JAPAN IN THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM

REVIEW:

- ❖ The **Tokugawa Shogunate**, which began in the 17th century (1600's,) set up a centralized feudal system and started an isolationist policy (**with the exception of some trade with the Dutch.**)
- ❖ By the 19th century, the Tokugawa Shogunate was in decline due to weak leadership, corruption, financial crisis, and social discontent.
- ❖ The Tokugawa government responded to problems with reactionary policies that enforced traditional values and traditional business and political practices.

THE 19TH CENTURY:

- ❖ In 1853, a well armed U.S. ship arrived in Tokyo Bay with a letter demanding that Japan open ports to diplomatic and commercial exchange.
- ❖ The Tokugawa leadership, realizing the advantage the U.S. had due to superior weaponry, **accepted a series of unequal treaties.** This caused even more social unrest and resentment among the Japanese people.
- ❖ In 1867, in a revolt led by upper class daimyo and samurai, **the shogun was overthrown and an emperor was placed on the throne in the new capital city of Tokyo (formerly Edo.)**
- ❖ This marks the beginning of the period known as the **Meiji Restoration.**

THE MEIJI REFORMS:

- ❖ Meiji leaders sent delegations to Europe to study European models of government and economics. The Japanese government adopted a system similar to that of the Germans.
 - The emperor was given total control, though mainly for appearances
 - a two house legislature was created
 - voting rights were limited
 - a bureaucracy was created to oversee finance, military, education, etc.
 - a banking system was created
 - samurai privileges were ended
 - railroads and factories were built
 - the zaibatsu dominated banking and industry
 - telegraph and postal systems were created to improve communication
 - industry and military became the two main focuses
- ❖ Japan modernized and industrialized rapidly. By the 1890's, Japan was strong enough to force western powers to revise the unequal treaties accepted in the 1850's.
- ❖ Japan then began to build an empire in East Asia.
 - 1894: Sino-Japanese War (gained Taiwan and a few Chinese port cities)
 - 1904: Russo-Japanese War (gained Korea and parts of Manchuria)
 - 1910: annexed Korea, which led to the rise of Korean nationalism

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- ❖ **Mainly the British, French, and Dutch controlled Southeast Asia, with Portugal, the U.S. and Germany also taking a few territories.**
- ❖ **Often, local rivalries were used, as well as superior military technology, to secure control.**
- ❖ **The Dutch East India Co. controlled Indonesia, while the British, expanding eastward from India, took control of Burma (Myanmar), Malaya, and Singapore.**
- ❖ **The French took control of Indochina.**
- ❖ **The U.S. took Hawaii, annexing it in 1889.**
- ❖ **In each of these areas, violent clashes took place between local peoples and European or American forces.**
- ❖ **The only S.E. Asian nation (besides Japan) to avoid colonization was Siam (Thailand.)**
 - In part due to the strong leadership of King **Mongkut** and his son King **Chulalongkorn**
 - Rapid military and economic modernization strengthened the Siamese position
 - Siam became a buffer between English and French colonies in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ **The Spanish American War:**
 - Broke out over the issue of **Cuba's independence from Spain.**
 - The United States and Filipino nationalists worked together to defeat Spain (the Filipinos wanted independence from Spanish rule, and saw this as their opportunity.)
 - After defeating the Spanish, **the U.S. took control of the Philippines**
 - **Nationalists then revolted against the U.S.** in a bloody war that lasted almost three years. The U.S. eventually crushed the rebellion, promising self-rule some time in the future.
- ❖ **Australia and New Zealand:**
 - Unique in that large numbers of white settlers quickly outnumbered and overran relatively small indigenous populations.
 - ***The Kooris of Australia**
 - ***The Maoris of New Zealand**