

History of International Politics (East Asia focus) – [E]

“Japan and the USA become Colonial Powers”

Class Discussion Questions from “Japan Emerges from Isolation (from the 1850s and 1895)” Lecture.

1. What was Japan’s ‘sakoku’ (closed country) policy?
2. How did Commodore Matthew Perry and the USA convince Japan to end its ‘sakoku’ (closed country) policy?
3. What was the Harris Treaty?
4. Who was Ii Naosuke? Why was he assassinated?
5. What does ‘sonno joi’ mean?
6. What was the Tokugawa shogunate?
7. Describe the reasons for domestic tensions inside Japan after 1854. Provide examples of some of these tensions.
8. What was the Satcho Alliance?
9. What was the Boshin War (1868-69)?

10. What was the Meiji Restoration (1868 - 1912)? What were its characteristics? Provide examples of Japan's modernization during the Meiji Restoration.

11. Why, in your opinion, did Japan succeed in its reform program when compared to Qing China in the same period?

12. Why were some of the samurai class in Japan and other conservatives unhappy with some of the Meiji reforms? Provide specific examples of the reasons for their discontent.

13. How did Okinawa become a Japanese prefecture?

14. What was the Satsuma Rebellion (1877)?

15. What was early Meiji Japan's attitude towards Korea and Russia? Provide examples of Japan's actions to check Russian influence in northeast Asia.