

Chapter 31 Notes: Societies at Crossroads

Chapter Outline

I. Introduction: Ottoman empire, Russia, China, and Japan

- A. Common problems
 - 1. Military weakness, vulnerability to foreign threats
 - 2. Internal weakness due to economic problems, financial difficulties, and corruption
- B. Reform efforts
 - 1. Attempts at political and educational reform and at industrialization
 - 2. Turned to western models
- C. Different results of reforms
 - 1. Ottoman empire, Russia, and China unsuccessful; societies on the verge of collapse
 - 2. Reform in Japan was more thorough; Japan emerged as an industrial power

II. The Ottoman empire in decline

- A. The nature of decline
 - 1. Military decline since the late seventeenth century
 - a. Ottoman forces behind European armies in strategy, tactics, weaponry, training
 - b. Janissary corps politically corrupt, undisciplined
 - c. Provincial governors gained power, private armies
 - 2. Extensive territorial losses in nineteenth century
 - a. Lost Caucasus and central Asia to Russia; western frontiers to Austria; Balkan provinces to Greece and Serbia
 - b. Egypt gained autonomy after Napoleon's failed campaign in 1798
 - (a) Egyptian general Muhammad Ali built a powerful, modern army
 - (b) Ali's army threatened Ottomans, made Egypt an autonomous province
 - 3. Economic difficulties began in seventeenth century
 - a. Less trade through empire as Europeans shifted to the Atlantic Ocean basin
 - b. Exported raw materials, imported European manufactured goods
 - c. Heavily depended on foreign loans, half of the revenues paid to loan interest
 - d. Foreigners began to administer the debts of the Ottoman state by 1882
 - 4. The "capitulations": European domination of Ottoman economy
 - a. Extraterritoriality: Europeans exempt from Ottoman law within the empire
 - b. Could operate tax-free, levy their own duties in Ottoman ports
 - c. Deprived empire of desperately needed income
- B. Reform and reorganization
 - 1. Attempt to reform military led to violent Janissary revolt (1807-1808)
 - 2. Reformer Mahmud II (1808-1839) became sultan after revolt
 - a. When Janissaries resisted, Mahmud had them killed; cleared the way for reforms
 - b. He built an European-style army, academies, schools, roads, and telegraph
 - 3. Legal and educational reforms of the Tanzimat ("reorganization") era (1839-1876)
 - a. Ruling class sought sweeping restructuring to strengthen state
 - b. Broad legal reforms, modeled after Napoleon's civic code
 - c. State reform of education (1846), free and compulsory primary education (1869)
 - d. Undermined authority of the *ulama*, enhanced the state authority

4. Opposition to Tanzimat reforms
 - a. Religious conservatives critical of attack on Islamic law and tradition
 - b. Legal equality for minorities resented by some, even a few minority leaders
 - c. Young Ottomans wanted more reform: freedom, autonomy, decentralization
 - d. High-level bureaucrats wanted more power, checks on the sultan's power
- C. The Young Turk era
 1. Cycles of reform and repression
 - a. 1876, coup staged by bureaucrats who demanded a constitutional government
 - b. New sultan Abd al-Hamid II (1876-1909) proved an autocrat: suspended constitution, dissolved parliament, and punished liberals
 - c. Reformed army and administration: became source of the new opposition
 2. The Young Turks, after 1889, an active body of opposition
 - a. Called for universal suffrage, equality, freedom, secularization, women's rights
 - b. Forced Abd al-Hamid to restore constitution, dethroned him (1909)
 - c. Nationalistic: favored Turkish dominance within empire, led to Arab resistance
 - d. The empire survived only because of distrust among European powers

III. The Russian empire under pressure

- A. Military defeat and social reform
 1. The Crimean War (1853-1856)
 - a. Nineteenth-century Russia expanded from Manchuria, across Asia to Baltic Sea
 - b. Sought access to Mediterranean Sea, moved on Balkans controlled by Ottomans
 - c. European coalition supported Ottomans against Russia in Crimea
 - d. Crushing defeat forced tsars to take radical steps to modernize army, industry
 2. Emancipation of serfs in 1861 by Alexander II
 - a. Serfdom supported landed nobility, an obstacle to economic development
 - b. Serfs gained right to land, but no political rights; had to pay a redemption tax
 - c. Emancipation did not increase agricultural production
 3. Political and legal reforms followed
 - a. 1864, creation of *zemstvos*, local assemblies with representatives from all classes
 - b. A weak system: nobles dominated, tsar held veto power
 - c. Legal reform more successful: juries, independent judges, professional attorneys
- B. Industrialization
 1. The Witte system: developed by Sergei Witte, minister of finance, 1892-1903
 - a. Railway construction stimulated other industries; trans-Siberian railway
 - b. Remodeled the state bank, protected infant industries, secured foreign loans
 - c. Top-down industrialization effective; steel, coal, and oil industries grew
 2. Industrial discontent intensified
 - a. Rapid industrialization fell hardest on working classes
 - b. Government outlawed unions, strikes; workers increasingly radical
 - c. Business class supported autocracy, not reform

C. Repression and revolution

1. Cycles of protest and repression
 - a. Peasants landless, no political power, frustrated by lack of meaningful reform
 - b. Antigovernment protest and revolutionary activity increased in 1870s
 - c. Intelligentsia advocated socialism and anarchism, recruited in countryside
 - d. Repression by tsarist authorities: secret police, censorship
 - e. Russification: sparked ethnic nationalism, attacks on Jews tolerated
2. Terrorism emerges as a tool of opposition
 - a. Alexander II, the reforming tsar, assassinated by a bomb in 1881
 - b. Nicholas II (1894-1917), more oppressive, conservative ruler
3. Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05: Russian expansion to east leads to conflict with Japan
4. Revolution of 1905: triggered by costly Russian defeat by Japan
 - a. Bloody Sunday massacre: unarmed workers shot down by government troops
 - b. Peasants seized landlords' property; workers formed soviets
 - c. Tsar forced to accept elected legislature, the Duma; did not end conflict

IV. The Chinese empire under siege

- A. The Opium War and the unequal treaties
 1. Opium trade a serious threat to Qing dynasty by nineteenth century
 - a. Chinese *cohong* system restricted foreign merchants to one port city
 - b. China had much to offer, but little demand for European products
 - c. East India Company cultivated opium to exchange for Chinese goods
 - d. About forty thousand chests of opium shipped to China yearly by 1838
 2. The Opium War (1839-1842)
 - a. Commissioner Lin Zexu directed to stop opium trade
 - b. British refused; Lin confiscated and destroyed twenty thousand chests of opium
 - c. British retaliated, easily crushed Chinese forces, destroyed Grand Canal
 3. Unequal treaties forced trade concessions from Qing dynasty
 - a. Treaty of Nanjing, 1842: Britain gained right to opium trade, most-favored-nation status, Hong Kong, open trade ports, exemptions from Chinese laws
 - b. Similar unequal treaties made to other western countries and Japan
 - c. By 1900, China lost control of economy, ninety ports to foreign powers
- B. The Taiping rebellion
 1. Internal turmoil in China in the later nineteenth century
 - a. Population grew by 50 percent; land and food more slowly; poverty strained resources
 - b. Other problems: official corruption, drug addiction
 - c. Four major rebellions in 1850s and 1860s; the most dangerous was the Taiping
 2. The Taiping ("Great Peace") program proposed by Hong Xiuquan
 - a. Called for end of Qing dynasty; resented Manchu rule
 - b. Radical social change: no private property, footbinding, concubinage
 - c. Popular in southeast China; seized Nanjing (1853), moved on Beijing
 3. Taiping defeat by combined Qing and foreign troops
 - a. Gentry sided with government; regional armies had European weapons
 - b. Taipings defeated in 1864; the war claimed twenty to thirty million lives

C. Reform frustrated

1. The Self-Strengthening Movement (1860-1895)
 - a. Sought to blend Chinese cultural traditions with European industrial technology
 - b. Built shipyards, railroads, weapon industries, steel foundries, academies
 - c. Not enough industry to make a significant change
 - d. Powerful empress dowager Cixi opposed changes
2. Spheres of influence eroded Chinese power
 - a. Foreign powers seized Chinese tribute states of Vietnam, Burma, Korea, Taiwan
 - b. 1898, they carved China into spheres of economic influence, each a different province
3. The hundred-days reforms (1898)
 - a. Two Confucian scholars advised radical changes in imperial system
 - b. Young emperor Guangxu inspired to launch wide-range reforms
 - c. Movement crushed by Cixi and supporters; emperor imprisoned; reformers killed
4. The Boxer rebellion (the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists), 1899-1900
 - a. Local militia attacked foreigners, Chinese Christians
 - b. Crushed by European and Japanese troops
 - c. Collapse of Qing dynasty in 1912

V. The Transformation of Japan

A. From Tokugawa to Meiji

1. Crisis and reform in early nineteenth century
 - a. Crisis: crop failure, high taxes, rising rice prices all led to protests and rebellions
 - b. Tokugawa *bakufu* tried conservative reforms, met with resistance
2. Foreign pressure for Japan to reverse long-standing closed door policy
 - a. 1844 requests by British, French, and United States for the right of entry rebuffed
 - b. 1853, U.S. Commodore Perry sailed U.S. fleet to Tokyo Bay, demanded entry
 - c. Japan forced to accept unequal treaties with United States and other western countries
3. The end of Tokugawa rule followed these humiliations
 - a. Widespread opposition to shogun rule, especially in provinces
 - b. Dissidents rallied around emperor in Kyoto
4. The Meiji restoration, 1868
 - a. After brief civil war, Tokugawa armies defeated by dissident militia
 - b. The boy emperor Mutsuhito, or Meiji, regained authority
 - c. End of almost seven centuries of military rule in Japan

B. Meiji reforms

1. Meiji government welcomed foreign expertise
 - a. Fukuzawa Yukichi studied western constitutions and education
 - b. Ito Hirobumi helped build Japanese constitutional government
2. Abolition of the feudal order essential to new government
 - a. Daimyo and samurai lost status and privileges
 - b. Districts reorganized to break up old feudal domains
 - c. New conscript army ended power of samurai; rebelled in 1877 but lost

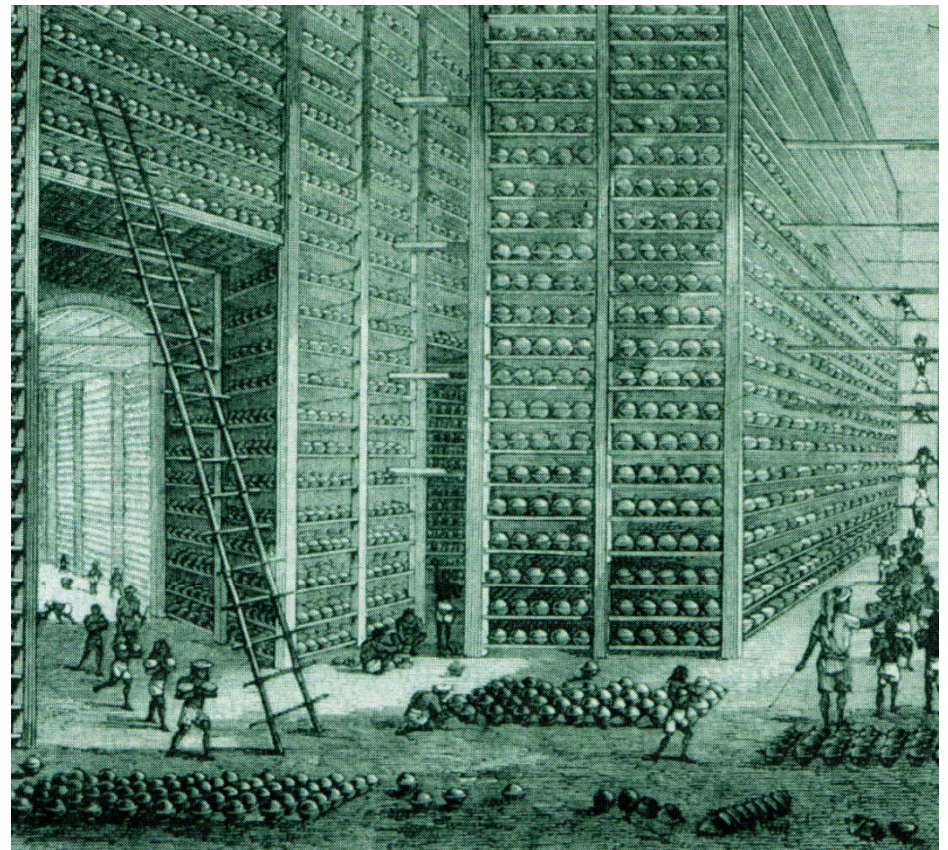
3. Revamping tax system
 - a. Converted grain taxes to a fixed money tax: more reliable income for state
 - b. Assessed taxes on potential productivity of arable land
4. Constitutional government, the emperor's "gift" to the people in 1889
 - a. Emperor remained supreme, limited the rights of the people
 - b. Less than 5 percent of adult males could vote
 - c. Legislature, the Diet, was an opportunity for debate and dissent
5. Remodeling the economy and infrastructure
 - a. Transportation: railroads, telegraph, steamships
 - b. Education: universal primary and secondary; competitive universities
 - c. Industry: privately owned, government controlled arms industry
 - d. *Zaibatsu*: powerful financial cliques
6. Costs of economic development borne by Japanese people
 - a. Land tax cost peasants 40 percent to 50 percent of crop yield, provided 90 percent of state revenue
 - b. Peasant uprisings crushed; little done to alleviate suffering
 - c. Labor movement also crushed; Meiji law treated unions and strikes as criminal
7. Japan became an industrial power in a single generation
 - a. Ended unequal treaties in 1899
 - b. Defeated China in 1895 and Russia in 1904

China's Ethnocentrism is its Downfall

- Manchus were the ruling dynasty of China
- Considered themselves superior to all other nations
 - Refused to negotiate trading rights with Europeans
 - Since 1759, European commercial presence limited to port of Guangzhou
 - China would not buy anything from the Europeans
 - They would only take silver bullion for Chinese goods
 - Britain responded by smuggling opium into China from India and Turkey

The Opium Wars

- Due to Opium trade, by 1830, the balance of trade was in the favor of the British
- In 1839 Chinese officials confiscated British Opium and burned it
- The British responded by occupying China
- Treaty of Nanking
 - Hong Kong went to Britain
 - Britain got better trading rights
- A second Opium War was fought in 1856
 - Foreigners got passports
 - Christians could spread their religion
 - Extraterritoriality





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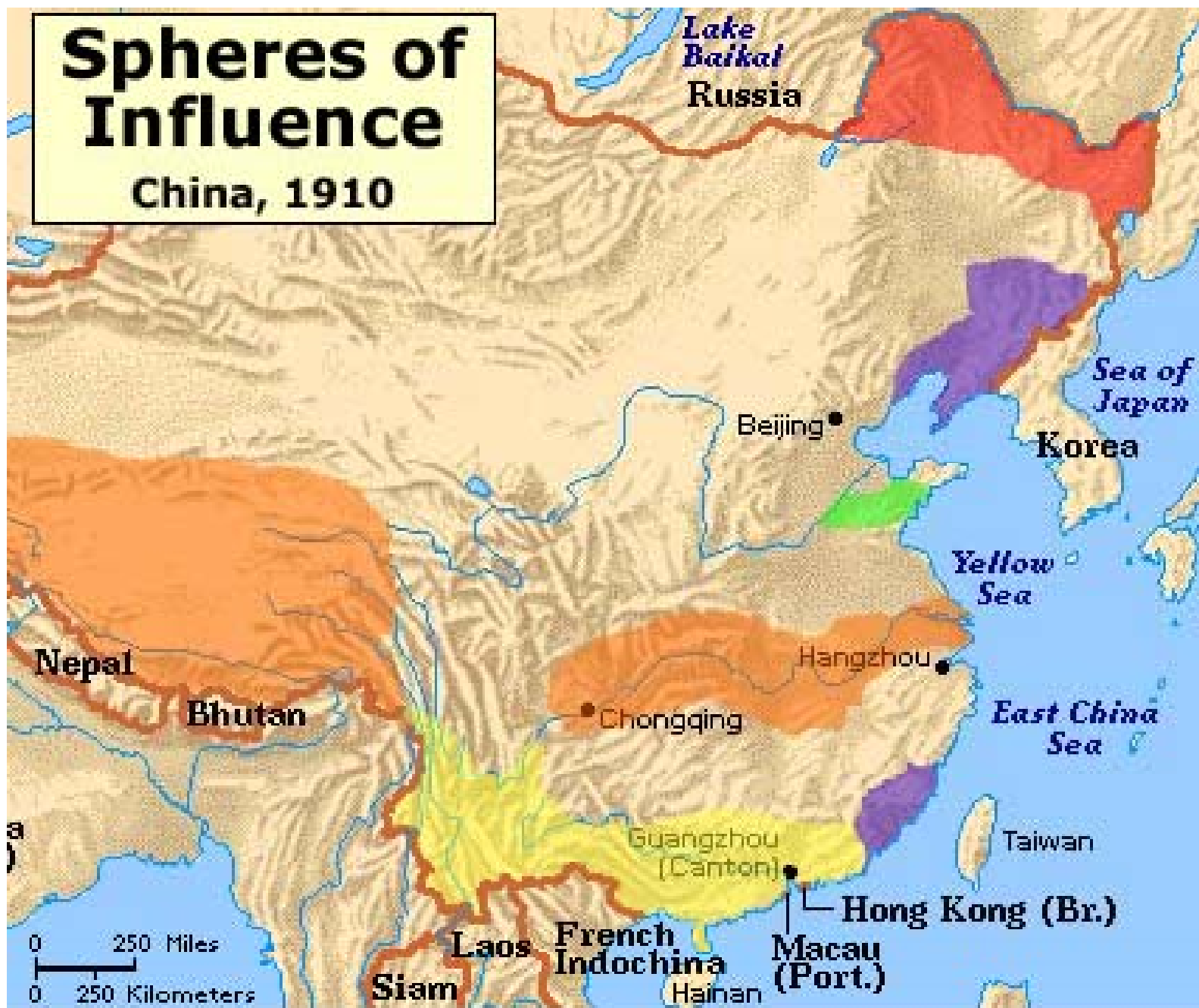
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THE REAL TROUBLE WILL COME WITH THE "WAKE."

Illustration by Puck, N.Y.

Spheres of Influence

China, 1910



France

Britain

Germany

Japan

Russia

China's Response

- Dowager Empress Cixi could do very little to stop the foreigners
- Chinese who wanted change started the Taiping Rebellion
- Empress killed 20 to 30 million people to end it



Carving Up China

- The Sino-Japanese war was a humiliating defeat for the Chinese
 - Korea got independence and Taiwan went to Japan
- America wanted to trade with China
 - Open Door Policy in 1900
 - Allowed equal trade in China
- China got sick of foreign devils
 - Boxer Rebellion killed many foreigners in China
 - European army crushed the revolt

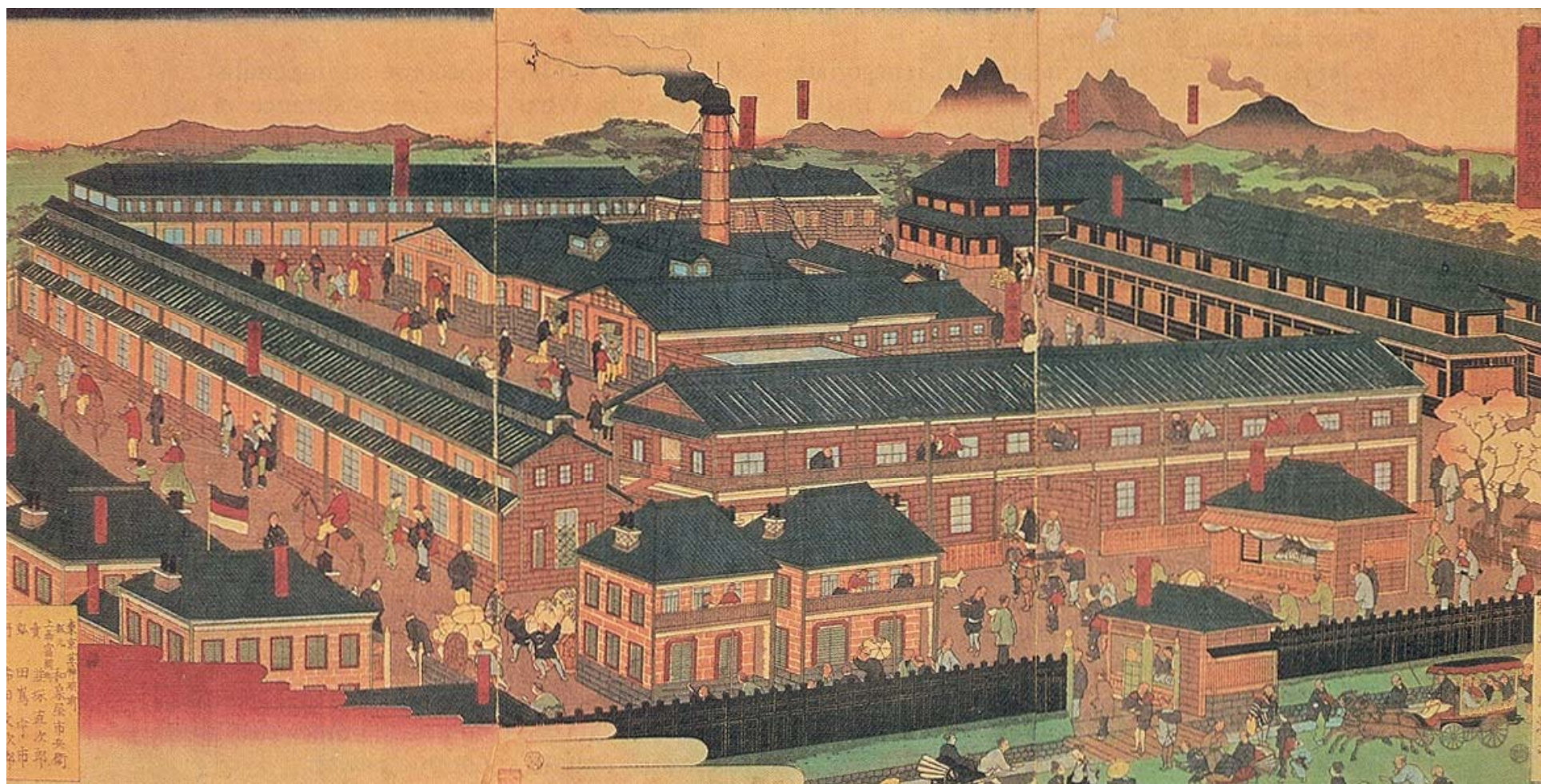


Japan starts off as just another non-western country

- From 1605 to the 1800s Japan was ruled by the Tokugawa Shoguns
 - They tried a policy of isolationism
- In 1853 Matthew Perry sailed to Japan to ask them to open up ports to the U.S.
 - Was told to use force as a last resort
 - Delivered message and left, saying he would return in 1 year
- Fearing the Russians or French might get Japanese treaty sooner, Perry returned 8 months later
 - Signed the Treaty of Kanagawa
 - Treaties with other European nations soon followed
 - Western visitors got extraterritoriality

The Meiji Restoration

- Tokugawa Shogunate no longer had an effective government
- Emperor took back power, moved capital to Tokyo
 - From 1868 to 1912 his rule was known as the Meiji
 - Enlightened Government
 - Japan's only defense against the west was to become like the west
 - For thousands of years Japan had borrowed from Chinese culture, now it borrowed from European culture
 - Government based on Germany
 - Industry based on Britain and U.S.
 - Navy trained by British officers
 - Army trained by German and French officers
 - Calendar changed to western dates



Japan Becomes a World Power

- Government completely dominated people
- Military life was seen as the most honorable living
 - The noblest death was to die on the battlefield
- Japanese gained prestige after its victory in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895
- Japan became the first non-western power to defeat a European nation in 1905
 - Japan defeated Russia in the Russo-Japanese war
- In 1910 it began its policy of imperialism by annexing Korea

