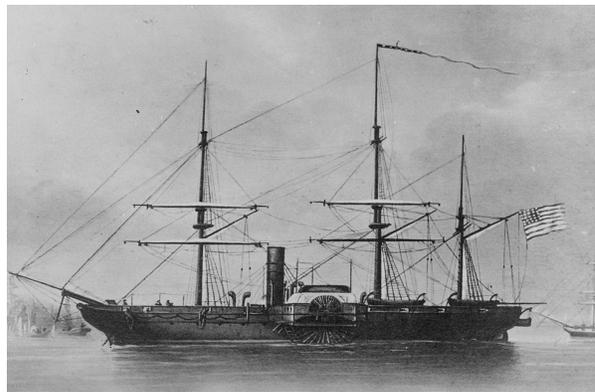


F. The Shock of Modernity (1853-4)

1. How did the isolated island nation of the Yamato dynasty become the imperial culture of Japan in World War II?
2. The answer lies in the fact that Japan was forced to open itself to the world around the same time China was being forced to do so.
3. In Japan's case, it was the arrival of an American expedition under the command of Commodore Perry in 1853 that broke Japan's isolation.
4. Perry was charged by the American president of that time, Millard Fillmore, with establishing diplomatic contact with Japan and securing the right to use Japanese ports to resupply American ships who were trading primarily with China.
5. American ships need coal for fuel, and was as food and water.
6. Americans were sometimes shipwrecked while navigating around Japan as well, and the United States wished to insure the humane treatment of its sailors in those circumstances. (Normally, the laws of Japan would lead to the execution of foreigners without any formal or legal process.)
7. The Japanese did not want this form of contact, but Perry's appearance in his infamous "black ships" with powerful steam engines and advanced weapons were a clear indication that American would not take "no" for an answer. (This aggressive posture is known as "gunboat diplomacy," in which powerful countries like those of Europe and America often behaved in an overbearing manner to obtain concessions or impose certain rules of international trade and law on others.)
8. Perry sailed to China, and returned the next year with an even larger fleet. The Japanese could not see a way to deny the American demands. They agreed to the Treaty of Kanagawa of 1854, which allowed American ships to use two ports that had never been opened to foreigners before.



A Japanese depiction (left) of the monstrous "black ships" of Commodore Perry, belching black smoke, shows how the Japanese felt about the kinds of powerful new ships (like the USS Powhatan, right) that were used in "gunboat diplomacy" to force Japan into having more contact with the world.

G. A Summary of Japanese History By Cardinal Anchor Facts

1. The key elements of the story of Japan can be summarized from the anchor facts we have so far.
 - a) First, the isolated culture of Japan became established c.660 BC with the rule of Jimmu (according to Japan's unique Shinto belief).
 - b) That original culture continued until it was disrupted by the arrival of Commodore Perry, who broke Japan's isolation in 1853 and forced Japan to have a treaty relationship with the United States in 1854 .
 - c) Forced to be connected to a world that it did not wish to have any significant contact with, Japan responded to trying to achieve control over its contact with others by becoming an empire, leading to *World War II in Asia* (1937-45).
 - d) Having been defeated in that war, Japan became the *post-imperial* culture that it is today.
2. As a way of diagramming this progression of Japanese history in the most succinct way possible, here is a simplified representation:

