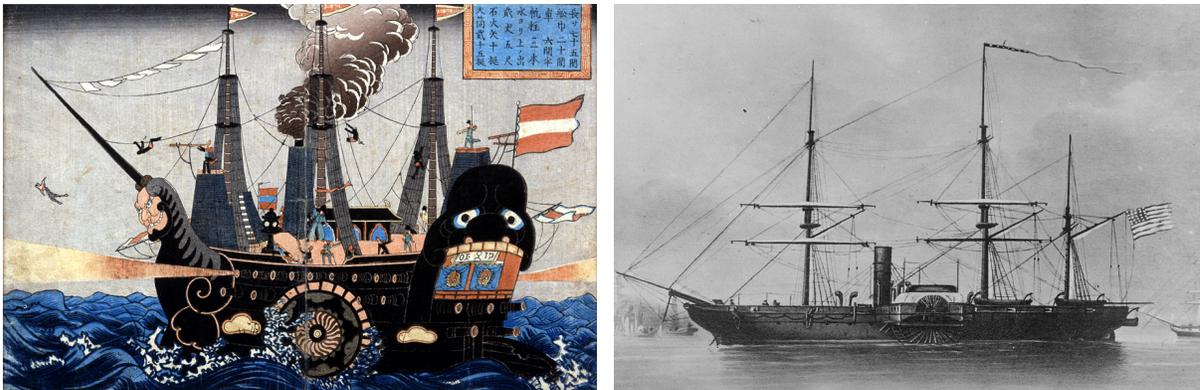


## F. The Shock of Modernity (1853-4)

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 by the American navy commander Commodore Perry in 1853.
3. Perry's job was to get the Japanese to agree to resupply American ships in Asia. (American ships need coal for fuel, and was as food and water) and to return shipwrecked sailors.
4. The Japanese did not want this form of contact, but Perry's appeared in powerful "black ships" with steam engines and advanced weapons, and he would not take "no" for an answer. (This aggressive way of acting it called "gunboat diplomacy.")
5. 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 story of Japan can be summarized from the anchor facts we have so far.
  - a) First, the isolated culture of Japan began **≈c.660 BC** with the rule of Jimmu (according to Japan's unique Shinto belief).
  - b) Japan's isolation was ended by the arrival of Commodore Perry, who forced Japan to have a treaty relationship with the United States in **≈1853/4**.
  - 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. Here is the simplest way to show this story in a diagram of Japan's history all by itself:

