

H. Japan's Isolation: A Closer Look

1. The culture of isolated Japan stayed the same for many centuries.
2. The Japanese learned writing from China, how to organize their government according to the ideas of Confucius, and they also accepted Buddhism (a religion from India).
3. Apart from this, Japan remained isolated.
4. It was only with the arrival of Europeans, that Japan encountered a serious problem in relating to other cultures.
5. European merchants first arrived in Japan in **1534**, and the missionary Francis Xavier soon followed in **1549**, wanting to teach Christianity to the Japanese.
6. The Japanese emperor could not tolerate Christianity, which denied the Japanese gods and him (as a descendant of the gods).
7. The emperor's generals, the *Shoguns*, banned foreigners from entering Japan in what is known as the "sakoku" policy. ("Sakoku" means isolation in Japanese.) It lasted until the arrival of Commodore Perry

I. Japan's Empire: A Closer Look

1. Once Japan was forced to open itself to the world, it tried to make itself into a powerful empire, like the countries of Europe.
2. It used its newly powerful navy in "gunboat diplomacy" with Korea in the same way that the United States had used its power on Japan.
3. This created a conflict China, still the "Middle Kingdom" of East Asia, resulting in the **Sino-Japanese War (1894-5)**. Japan defeated China, and controlled Korea after that.
4. The Japanese ruled Korea outright starting in 1910, which continued all the way until 1945, when Japan was defeated by the United States.

J: Post-Imperialism: A Closer Look at Japan Today

1. After the United States defeated Japan, it occupied the country from **1945 to 1952**.
 - a) Japan's empire was transformed into a modern democracy by General Douglas MacArthur, the American military ruler of Japan.
 - b) MacArthur was responsible for creating Japan's new constitution (the one that says Japan will never again go to war).
 - c) In addition, an American business genius named William Deming arrived in Japan to teach its business leaders how to conduct their industrial production more efficiently.
 - d) His teachings were so helpful in boosting Japan's level of technology and wealth that Deming remains a hero to the Japanese to this day. The *Deming Prize* is the most important award for a Japanese company to win for creating great products to this day.

K. A More Advanced Final Summary of Japanese History (“Level 2”)

1. The isolated culture of Japan became established c.660 BC with the rule of Jimmu (according to Japan’s unique Shinto belief), and continued until the arrival of the Europeans, **1543/9** challenged the Japanese to impose the almost total “sakoku” ban on foreigners.
2. The ban was broken by Commodore Perry, who broke Japan’s isolation in c.1853/4 .
3. Japan responded by building an empire. It started by taking control of Korea away from China in the *Sino-Japanese War (1894-5)*, leading to its rule of Korea all the way from 1910 through to *World War II in Asia (c.1937-45)*.
4. Having been defeated in that war, Japan became the *post-imperial* culture that it is today because of the American occupation of Japan (**1945-52**) during which time Douglas MacArthur imposed a new constitution on the country, and William Deming helped Japanese industries to advance.
5. As a way of diagramming this more detailed version of Japanese history, here is the final model of the three periods of Japan’s history:

