

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) 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. As a way of diagramming this progression of Japanese history in the most succinct way possible, here is a simplified representation:



