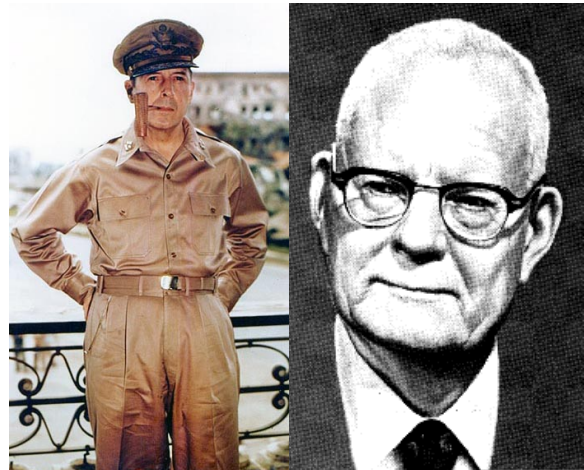


## L: Post-Imperialism: A Closer Look at Japan Today

1. Japan's evolution into the insular but peaceful country that it is today begins with its defeat in **World War II in Asia (1937-45)**. Although this fact is *necessary* to explain Japan's benign modern culture, it is not *sufficient*. There is one other historical key to Japan's unique modern self.
2. After the United States defeated Japan, it occupied the country from **1945 to 1952**. During this occupation, American officials made so many positive contributions to life in Japan that it was lifted out of its miserable post-war situation into a life of modern political freedom of a kind its people had never known, as well as amazing industrial prosperity.
  - 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 retains the emperor as a symbol, but repudiates imperial power and war).
  - c) Under American supervision, Japan began its transition towards a modern form of political freedom, including democratic elections and the protection of rights.
  - d) 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, using methods he had helped develop, known as "Total Quality Management."
  - e) 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 awarded annually by the Japanese society of scientists and engineers as the most prestigious industrial award in Japan to honor the most innovative company of the year.
3. Because Japan has kept its promises since **World War II**, it has earned the right to develop one of the world's strongest military forces again, which operates as a peace-keeping or "self-defense" force, and its security is guaranteed by an alliance with the United States, the world's police power.



General Douglas MacArthur (left) and American business expert William Deming (right) made invaluable contributions to Japanese political freedom and economic progress respectively, helping Japan to get on the right path after **World War II**.