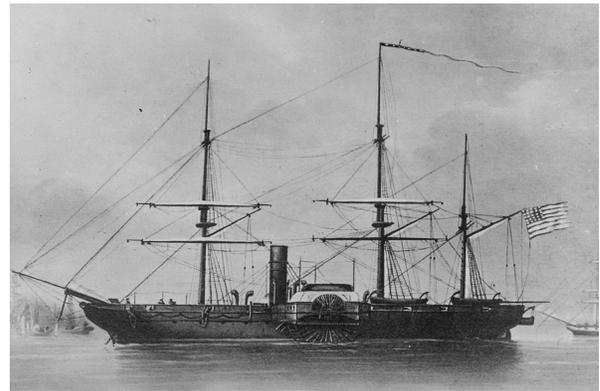


J. The End of Sakoku (1853-4)

1. Japan's sakoku policy lasted until the arrival of an **American expedition under the command of Commodore Perry in 1853.**
2. Americans wanted to trade with Japan and were sometimes shipwrecked while navigating around Japan as well. The United States told Japan it could not execute American sailors and that it needed to respect the people of other countries.
3. The Japanese did not want this form of contact, but Perry's powerful "black ships" with powerful steam engines and advanced weapons showed Japan they couldn't say "no." (This aggressive way of acting is known as "gunboat diplomacy," in which powerful countries like those of Europe and America often behaved in order to impose certain rules of international trade and law on others.)
4. Because they could not see an alternative, Japan agreed to the **Treaty of Kanagawa of 1854**, which allowed American ships to use two ports for trade.



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.

K. Reactionary Imperialism

1. Once Japan was forced to open itself to the world, it responded by getting as much technology as fast as possible, and building an empire.
2. Japan's leaders decided the best place to start with Korea, where the leaders had not modernized and could not stop Japan's new powerful military.
3. Japan did have to fight China in the **Sino-Japanese War (1894-5)** in order to become the new "Middle Kingdom."
4. The final step in building the Japanese empire before **World War II** was the complete takeover of Korea, starting in **1910**. The Japanese tried to force the Koreans into becoming Japanese, by only being allowed to speak Japanese and use Japanese names. If Japan had not attacked the United States, Korea would almost certainly not exist today.
5. As we have already seen, however, **World War II** brought Japan's imperial phase to an end.