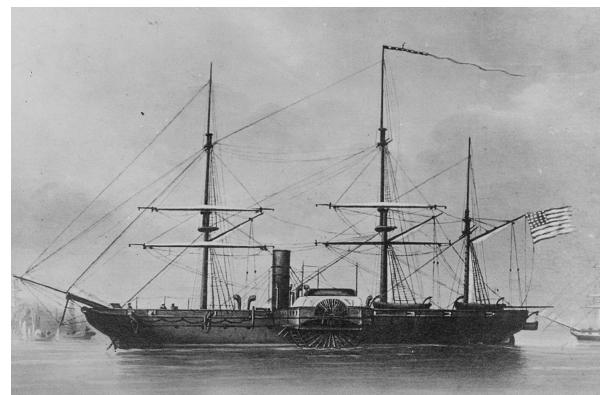


### J. Involuntary Globalization (1853-4)

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 around the same time China was being forced to do so.
3. In Japan's case, it was the arrival of an **American expedition under the command of Commodore Perry in 1853** that broke Japan's isolation.
4. Americans wanted to trade with Japan and were sometimes shipwrecked while navigating around Japan as well. The United States wished to insure the humane treatment of its sailors in those circumstances. (Normally, the laws of Japan would lead to the execution of foreigners without any formal or legal process.)
5. The Japanese did not want this form of contact, but Perry's appearance in his infamous "black ships" with powerful steam engines and advanced weapons were a clear indication that America would not take "no" for an answer. (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.)
6. 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 a rapid process of industrialization and militarization.
2. Seeking to copy the world's great powers in order to achieve the same degree of control over the world for itself, Japan also began to build an empire.

3. 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. A Japanese expedition to the coast of Korea was fired upon by Korea, which practiced its own form of “sakoku,” and the Japanese used this violence as an excuse to show off the power of their new military and force Korea to accept a “treaty of friendship” with Japan in **1876**.
4. China was worried about Japan becoming the new “Middle Kingdom,” and tried to force the Japanese out of Korea, but Japan defeated China in the **Sino-Japanese War (1894-5)**.
5. Russia also tried to force Japan out of Korea, but ten years later Japan then defeated Russia in the **Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)**.
6. 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.
7. As we have already seen, however, **World War II** brought Japan’s imperial phase to an end.