

# 日本の現代化と轉變

## Modernization and Transformation of Japan

YUEN LONG MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION SECONDARY  
SCHOOL

By CHUNG WAI CHING

# Modernization and Transformation of Japan

- **Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the early 20th century**
- **The rise of militarism and its consequences**
- **Reconstruction and growth after WWII**
- **Relations with other Asian Countries**

**Overview of the political, social,  
economic and cultural conditions  
in the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Current Syllabus

- **Political conditions**
- **Social conditions**
- **Economic conditions**
- **Cultural conditions**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## NSS Syllabus

- **Political conditions**
- **Social conditions**
- **Economic conditions**
- **Cultural conditions**

**Assess the extent to which Japan was modernized**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Meiji Period**  
[1868-1912]

**Taisho Period**  
[ 1912-1926]

**Showa Period**  
[1926-1989 ]

# Overview of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan

## **Political conditions**

# Political Conditions

## 2. Rise of Political Parties and Liberal Twenties



# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## 1. Constitutional Monarchy

- Meiji Constitution
- Rise of political parties, e.g. **Seiyukai (政友會) & Minseito (民政黨)**

# Political Conditions

## 2. Rise of Political Parties and Liberal Twenties

# Political Conditions

## 3. Political Instability

Crowd assembled before the House of Representatives gate, February 5, 1913

# Political Conditions

## 4. Foreign Relations

- **1900-01: Eight-Power Expedition**
- **1902: Anglo-Japanese Alliance**
- **1904-05: Russo-Japanese War**
- **1914-18: WWI**
- **1921-22: Washington Conference**
- **1924-27 & 29-31: Shidehara Diplomacy**
- **1931: Shenyang Incident**

# Overview of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan

## **Economic conditions**

# Economic Conditions

## Economic Ups and Downs

### **Economic boom:**

- **E.g. Russo-Japanese War**
- **E.g. WWI**

### **Economic bust:**

- **E.g. 1923: Great Tokyo Earthquake**
- **E.g. 1927: Bank Crisis**
- **E.g. 1929: Great Depression**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Economic Ups and Downs

□ Economic boom:

□ Economic bust:

- 1923: Great

Tokyo

Earthquake

- 1927: Bank Crisis

- 1929: Great

Depression

# Economic Conditions

## Industrialization

- **As a world industrial power, esp. in WWI**
- **Focus: From light industries to heavy/military industries**



# Economic Conditions

## Agriculture

- **Crucial source of state tax revenues**
- **Land tax: 80% of government income**
- **By 1920: supported the growing population with increased output**

# Economic Conditions

## Domination of Zaibatsu

Mitsubishi  
(三菱)

Mitsui (三井)

Sumitomo  
(住友)

Yasuda  
(安田)

- **Monopolized capitalism**
- **Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Yasuda**

# Overview of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan

## **Social conditions**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Urbanization

- Rapid growth of population in cities, esp. Tokyo, Osaka, etc.
- gas, modern water supply system, electronic cars and public transport routes/system
- Increasing number of department stores, shopping streets, entertainment centres

Shopping street in the early Showa period

Department store in the Taisho period

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Widening gaps between different social classes

- Urban areas: life of workers
- -long working hours...
- Rural areas: life of peasants
- -maintenance of tenancy
- -still living in poverty
- Rice Riot in 1918

Burnt-out remains of Suzuki  
Store in Kobe, August 12, 1918

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Unions, strikes, demonstrations

- Basic human rights under the Meiji Constitution
- Many labour organizations , e.g. 1912: Friendly Society
- Labour Movements 1925:
- Peace Preservation Law

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## High degree of freedom?

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Women's status

- Basic human rights (Meiji Constitution) + free education
- 1911: Bluestocking Society (青鞜社) & a magazine 'Bluestocking'
- 1920: New Women's Association



# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

The women's class of the  
Iwate Teachers' School.,  
1914

# Overview of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan

## **Cultural conditions**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Tradition preserved

- Shintoism (state religion)
- Confucianism

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Popularity of Western Culture

- western hairstyles, wearing suits, eating beefs and drinking milk
- publication of monthly magazines, weekly magazines
- Western and Japanese movies, drama

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Westernized? Traditional?

- Social equality: abolition of class divisions
- Western style of living: e.g. food, clothing, ceremony, western movies,

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Distinctive literature

- Incorporating Western ideas into the Japanese literature
- e.g. Mori Ogai's novels and critiques

# **Factors for the Rise of Militarism and its Impact**

Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Current Syllabus

**Analyse the factors leading to the rise of militarism and assess its impact on Japan and Asia as a whole**



# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## NSS Syllabus

**Analyse the factors leading to the rise of militarism and assess its impact on Japan and Asia as a whole**



**Analyze the ways in which such conditions led to the rise of militarism**

# Factors for the Rise of Militarism & its Impact

**Militaristic Tradition**

## Weaknesses of the Party Government

- Corruption of the Parties
- Lack of Mass Support
- Economic Crises

# Factors for the Rise of Militarism & its Impact

- **Rise of domestic needs**

A Japanese poster recruiting youngsters to join the army to invade Manchuria

A Japanese poster promoting emigration to Korea and Manchuria in the 1930s

## **Inglorious Foreign Policy**

**Japan in Washington Conference**

**Japan in London Naval  
Conference of 1930**

## Western Discrimination

**Rise of Extreme Nationalistic Ideas**



## Factors for the Rise of Militarism

- **Militaristic Tradition**
- **Weaknesses of the Party Government**
- **Western discrimination against Japan**
- **Inglorious Foreign Policy**
- **Growing domestic needs**
- **Rise of Extreme Nationalistic Ideas**
- **International Situation**

• **RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS FACTORS/CONDITIONS ?**

# What Conditions were favourable to the Rise of Militarism?

## Characteristics

- **Emphasis on the use of force**
- **Stress on absolute loyalty and obedience**
- **Promotion of foreign expansion**
- **Pan-Asianism**
- **Anti-communism**

# **Consequences of Militarism for Asia**

# **Consequences of Militarism for Asia**

# **Consequences of Militarism for Japan**

# Factors for the Rise of Militarism & its Impact

# **Reconstruction and growth after WWII**



# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

## Current Syllabus

**Explain why and how Japan's economy recovered and grew in the post WWII period**

# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

## NSS Syllabus

**Explain why and how Japan's economy recovered and grew in the post WWII period**



**Trace and explain Japan's economic recovery and growth as well as political and social developments in the post WWII period**

# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

## Postwar Economic Situation

Hiroshima after WWII

Nagasaki after WWII

# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

## Postwar Economic Situation

百年物語 disk2

# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

- **Economic Reconstruction (1945 – 1952)**
- **Economic ‘Miracle’ (1952 – 73)**
- **Oil Crisis (1973 - 75)**
- **Thriving Through the Oil Crisis (1975-89)**
- **Economic Slowdown (1990s onwards)**

# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

- **Reasons for each period???**
- **Common Factors???**

# Factors for Postwar Economic Growth

## Common Factors

- **Role of the US: SCAP & Post-SCAP Policies**
- **Active Role of the Japanese Government**
- **National Characters of the Japanese**
- **Favourable International Circumstances**

**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE?**

# **Relationship between Economic Development and Foreign Relations?**



# **Relationship between Economic Development and Foreign Relations?**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Demilitarization (SCAP Period)

- **SCAP dissolved the army and navy immediately**
- **Americans disbanded the oppressive Special Higher Police ('thought police')**
- **Tried some 6000 military men for conventional war crimes, such as abuse of prisoners**
- **International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Tokyo Trial**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Democracy (SCAP Period)

- **SCAP Declaration:**
- **Postwar constitution: Pacifist Constitution** 平和憲法
  - **Human rights**
  - **Against Discrimination**
  - **Article 9**

# Driving Force of Democracy?

# Foreign Relations?

# Postwar Political Developments

## Party Development (SCAP Period)

- **2 major prewar parties regrouped: Seiyukai --Liberal Party (Jiyuto) & Minseito-- Democratic Party (Minshuto)**
- **Non-communist Party gained support**
- **Japan Communist Party: functioned for the first time and gained support**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Party Development (SCAP Period)

- **Japan Socialist Party: won a plurality in the 1947 election**
- **BUT: old guard parties returned to power**
  - **Liberal and Democratic Parties**
  - **Red Purge**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Party Development (Post SCAP Period)

- **Struggle between conservatives and progressives**
- **Japan Communist Party (JCP) declined disastrously**
- **Liberal and Democratic Parties joined to form Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**



# Postwar Social Developments

## Poor living condition in early postwar period

- **Black Market**
- **Starvation**
- **1946: poor harvests and a paralyzed rationing system—urban food crisis**
- **Average height and weight of elementary school children decreased until 1948**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Demographic Development

- **Early postwar period: dramatic baby boom**
- **Migration of rural population to cities--urbanization**
- **Birth control: New Life Program**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Urbanization

- **1950-60s: 1 million people left the countryside for cities each year**
- **Tokyo and Osaka continued to sprawl**
- **Decrease in number of full time farmers; but expanded part-time farmers**
- **Diminishing the gap between people in living styles in rural and urban areas**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Infrastructure

- **Increased paved roads**
- **High speed 'bullet train' began service between Osaka and Tokyo in 1964**
- **New trunk line, 'shinkansen'**

# Postwar Social Developments

## Education (SCAP Period):

- **Wartime textbooks were rewritten**
- **Replace lessons for war and loyalty to the state with teachings of peace and democracy**
- **Imperial label was removed**
- **1947: compulsory education was extended through 9 grade**
- **1947: Women were granted access to private and public universities**

# Postwar Social Developments

## Education (Post SCAP)

- **Hierarchical system remained: middle school, high school, college or university**
- **Increasing number of youths advanced to high school**
- **Educated-based hierarchy**

# Postwar Political Developments

## Women's Status (SCAP period)

- **Recruiting women to work as prostitutes in 'Recreation and Amusement Centers**
- **Extended civil and political rights to women**
- **First post-war elections: 39 women were elected to the Diet, 10% of the seats**
- **But the dominant position of males in the family and in society at large was not overturned by constitutional reform**

# Postwar Social Developments

## Women's Status (Post SCAP period)

- **Shifted from working in textile companies to electronic companies**
- **Living in company housing and enjoying very constraining benefits of paternalistic management policies**



# Postwar Social Developments

## Gender Inequality

- **Male graduates: entered managerial positions**
- **Female graduates: faced tremendous barriers**
- **Schooling for female: courses in home economics, health—learned the skills of good wives and mothers**

# Postwar Social Developments

## Family Pattern

- **Nuclear families & extended families: co-existed**
- 
- **Single family homes of middle-classes**
- **Extended family pattern changed**
- **Arranged marriage to 'love marriage'**

# Postwar Social Developments

## Cultural and leisure activities/Living Style

- **Mass media continued to play a key role**
- **Provided powerful sense of belongings**
- **TV broadcasting-NHK**
- **Change in social consciousness**

# **Relations with other Asian countries**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Current Syllabus

**Cite elements indicating change and continuity in Japan's political, economic and cultural relations with other Asian countries**

# Overview of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## NSS Syllabus

**Cite examples to illustrate both change and continuity in Japan's political, economic and cultural relations with other Asian countries**

# Relations with Other Asian Countries

- Political Relations
- Economic Relations
- Cultural Relations

# Relations with Other Asian Countries





## Chronological approach

□ 1950s

□ 1960s 1960s

□ 1970s

□ 1980s and after

- PROBLEM: CONFINED TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

# Relations with Other Asian Countries

## Thematic approach

- Political: improving relations with Asian countries

### Obstacles:

- Denials of Aggression
- Official visits to Yasukuni Shrine
- Denials to Asian people's Quest for War Compensation
- Territorial Disputes with China

Change and continuity??

## Relations with Other Asian Countries

### **Thematic approach**

- Economic: From limited economic contact to strengthening economic relations with Asian countries

Change and continuity??

# Relations with Other Asian Countries

## **Thematic approach**

Cultural: increasing cultural influences of Japan in Asian countries

•Change and continuity??

# Economic and Cultural Influence of Japan?

**Thank You**