

JAPAN'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE

Japan After World War II

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Dropping of the Atomic Bomb

Hiroshima & Nagasaki

- ▶ The Japanese had to admit defeat.
- ▶ ✓ September 2, 1945
- ▶ Official surrender signed in Tokyo Harbor.
- ▶ Japan was under the control of the U.S. Army.
- ▶ General Douglas MacArthur led the occupation.



U.S. MILITARY OCCUPATION

1945-1955

- ▶ General Douglas MacArthur pushes new Constitution.
- ▶ The U.S. reorganized Japan's government as a constitutional monarchy.
- ▶ Land reform eliminates large landowners, makes Japanese farmers middle class.
- ▶ The emperor remained in power, but had no political power and no longer considered a god.
- ▶ U.S. troops and bases stationed in Japan.

Douglas MacArthur with Hirohito - who urged Japanese people to cooperate with occupation.



WAR CRIMES TRIALS PUNISHED JAPANESE WARTIME MILITARY LEADERS

- ▶ Over 20,000 Japanese officers and soldiers accused of war crimes against civilians.
- ▶ Over 900 executed in trials throughout Asia after war.
- ▶ US tribunal in Tokyo tried the highest leaders.
- ▶ US didn't seek publicity or put Hirohito on trial. *not*
We needed his cooperation.



✓ JAPAN'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE

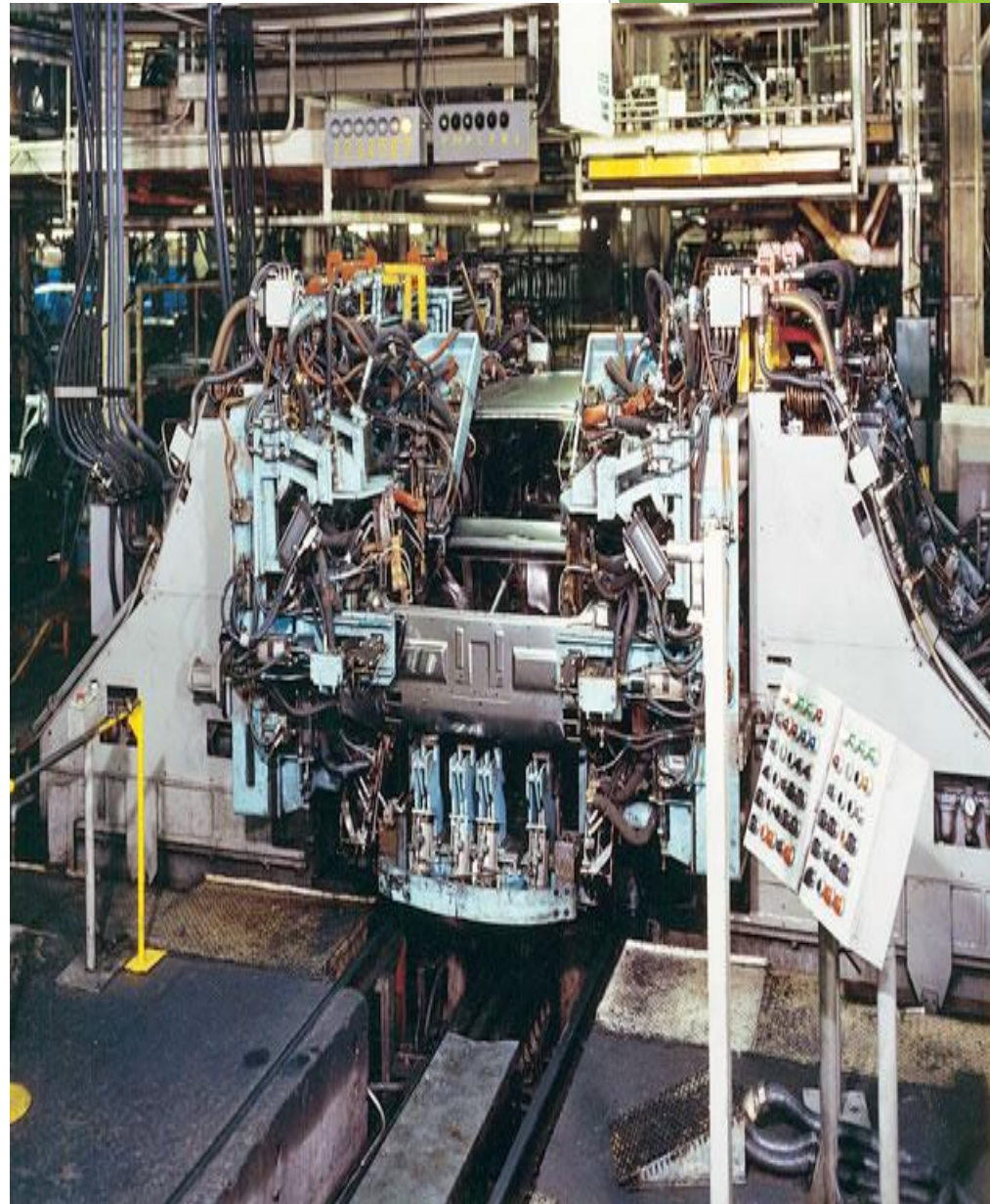
- ▶ JAPAN'S ECONOMIC GROWTH was the HIGHEST IN the WORLD DURING the 1950s and '60s.
- ▶ BY 1970s, JAPAN Had the THIRD LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD.
- ▶ Japan BECAME THE MODEL FOR OTHER EAST ASIAN ECONOMIES.
- ▶ FULFILLS US GOAL as an alternative to TO COMMUNISM IN EAST ASIA.

ELEMENTS OF JAPANESE MIRACLE

- Partnership between government and private corporations.
- Slow down population growth; frees up capital to invest.
- Economy is based initially on exports, and eventually turns to consumer goods for domestic market
- Government and companies agree to focus on certain areas of industry: electronics, automobiles and other vehicles, cameras, shipbuilding
- Emphasis on quality through team approach; job security for those in good corporations

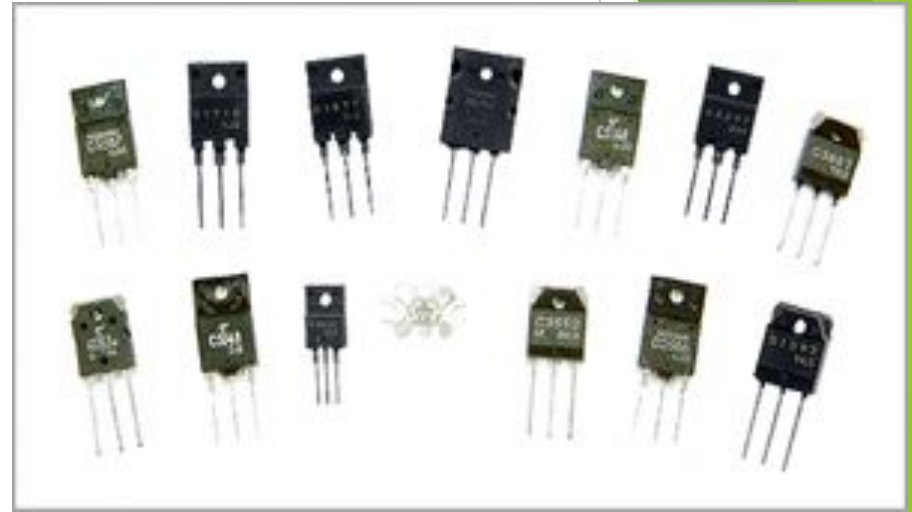
AUTOMATION

- ▶ Japan became first major user of industrial robots in manufacturing.
- ▶ These were first developed in Connecticut
- ▶ Honda's first robots (right)



MINIATURIZATION

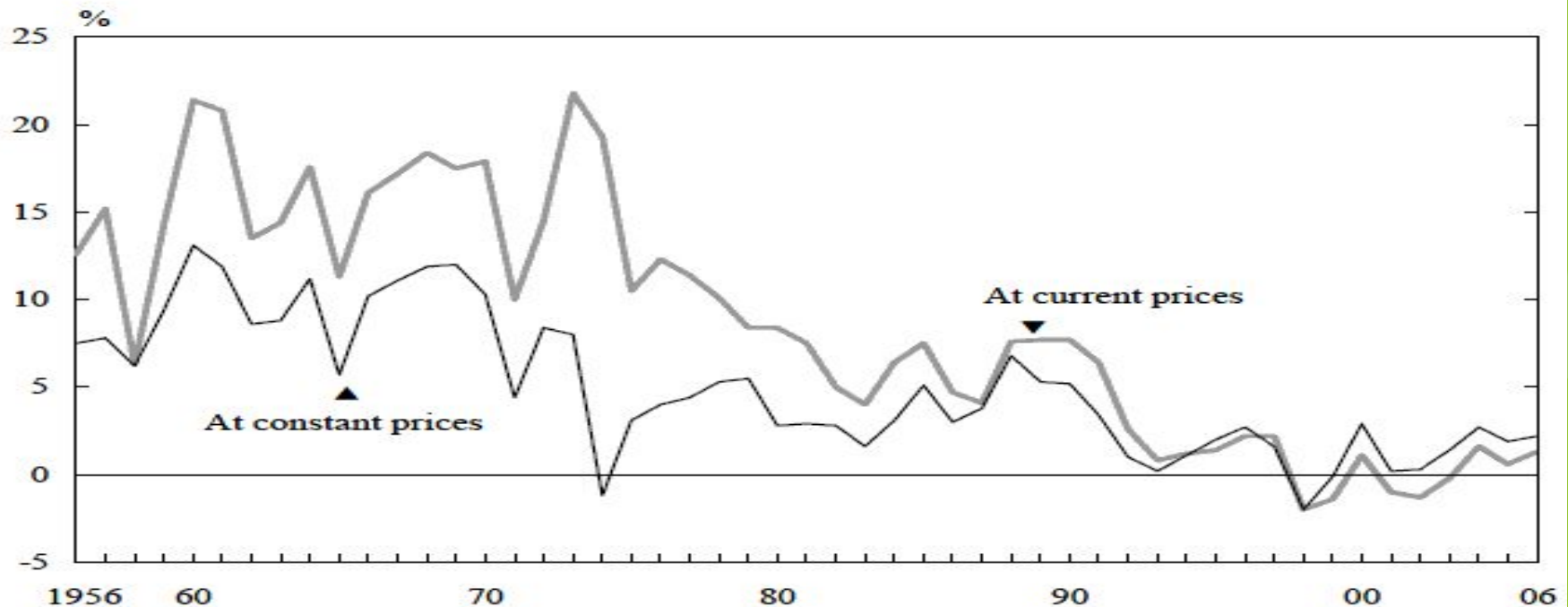
- Japanese take new American technology like transistors and can manufacture more cheaply



SLOWDOWN

- ▶ JAPAN'S ECONOMY SLOWS IN THE 1990s
- ▶ PROBLEMS OF INFLATION, HIGH OIL PRICES, "CRONY CAPITALISM."

Figure 3.1
Economic Growth Rates ¹⁾



PLUSES OF PACIFIC RIM DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Successful alternative to communism
- ▶ Better way of life for huge part of earth's population
- ▶ More trading partners for the US and Western world