

Japanese Expansion

As a result of the Meiji Restoration, Japan became the most industrialized nation in the East. Japanese society became more Westernized both internally and externally. Industrialization now meant a need for access to resources in order to keep producing goods. The Japanese were now facing the same problems that many Western nations faced years earlier.



The Case for Japanese Expansion

During their age of imperialism, the Japanese gave many reasons to justify their expansion. Read each explanation and explain it in your own words.

Explanation by Japanese	Explain the Japanese reason for expansion in your own words
<p><i>“Geographically the region (Manchuria) consists of great fertile land. The land produces the staple grain, millet, soybeans, vegetables of high nutrient and vitamins, which can also be used in the creation for paint and many other industrial products. Untouched forests on the east also surround this land. It has valuable deposits of gold, iron, coal, and other minerals. Japan could greatly benefit from these raw materials.”</i></p>	
<p><i>Manchuria is Japan’s lifeline. If the problem cannot be solved by diplomatic (political) means, then we have no other alternative but to resort to arms... Asia for Asians is our belief. However, Japan is an island country and we cannot support our population within its borders of our tiny island. Therefore, we have no alternative but to expand into Manchuria or elsewhere.”</i></p>	
<p><i>“Expansion is the only answer. We have every right to create an empire. The European nations all have empires. The West ignores us, if it does give any attention to Japan’s problems it’s only to criticize us for doing the same thing that Britain, France, Germany, and the U.S. are doing. They want Japan to limit its navy, and interests in China while they place high taxes on Japanese goods.”</i></p>	

Japanese Natural Resources 1875-1906

Coal (in tons)	
1875	600,000
1905	13,000,000

Iron (in tons)	
1896	26,000
1906	145,000

Steel (in tons)	
1896	1,000
1906	69,000

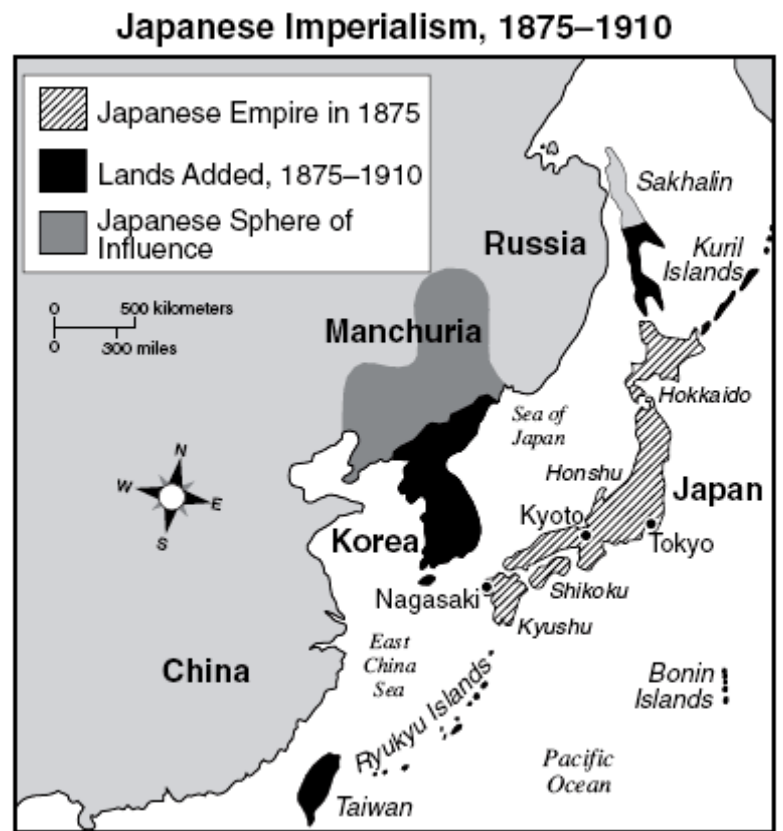
How did expansion affect Japan’s raw materials between 1875 and 1906?

Timeline of Japanese Imperialism

* China had a long history of influence in Korea. In 1894 the Chinese military entered Korea to help keep down rebellions there. China's interference in Korea broke an 1885 agreement with Japan that called for both countries to keep their "hands off" Korea. In 1894, Japan invaded Korea to drive out the Chinese. This was known as the **First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)**. Since Japan won the war and defeated the Chinese military, they were able to take the Chinese territory of Taiwan and the Pescadores Islands (*islands near Taiwan*) in 1895. These became Japan's first colonies.

* In 1903 Japan offered to recognize Russia's rights in Manchuria if the Russians offered to stay out of Korea. Russia refused and in 1904 Japan launched a surprise attack on Russia. The Japanese navy destroyed two thirds of the Russian fleet and drove any remaining Russian ground troops out of Korea. This became known as the **Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)**. With all Russian and Chinese forces gone, Japan was able to annex (*take control of*) Korea by 1910.

* Control of Korea gave the Japanese a strong sphere of influence in the south of Manchuria. By 1931, Japan would invade Manchuria and eventually move even further into China.



Source: Henry Brun et al., *Reviewing Global History and Geography*, AMSCO (adapted)

TASK: Work with a partner to create a timeline of Japanese imperialism based on the information above. Try to identify the five major (most important) events and list them on your timeline. Each event must include the year and a brief description of what happened.

TIMELINE OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

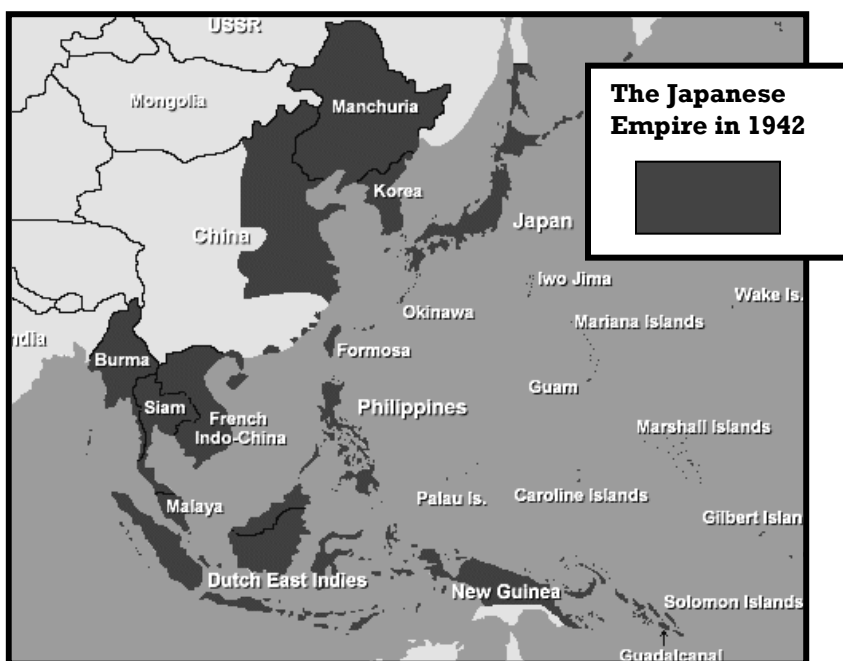
Watch the video clip and answer the questions below:

1. How did the Russians view the Japanese?

2. Why did the Japanese invade Manchuria?

3. How did they treat the Chinese natives?

Examine the map to the right. Describe the changes that have occurred to Japanese territory after the Meiji Restoration. (*Dark areas of the map represent Japanese territory*)



Was Japanese imperialism upon other nations inevitable?

“We cannot believe it, the Middle Kingdom has been defeated by the people of Wa 和 (Japan). The Japanese have been challenging our authority over the island of Formosa (Taiwan) for some time. I always believed them to be a nuisance who could easily be dealt with if they overstepped their

bounds. But somehow they have learned all the technology of the western barbarians and used it against us. How can such a thing happen?"

-Chung Wa, Qing Dynasty Government Official, 1895

"Ever since Japan defeated China in the Sino-Japanese war they have been competing with Russia more and more and more... They have been acting as if they have the right to control these areas and even more nerve to declare war on us! The war has been exhausting but Russia, the greatest Christian empire, will defeat these heathen yellow men and keep them from expanding in Asia at the same time."

-Vladimir Andronov, Russian Naval officer, 1905

Aim: Does Industrialization lead to imperialism?
Was Japan forced to become an imperial nation?

Objectives – SWBAT:

- (1) ID/Define: Sino-Japanese War, Russo-Japanese War
- (2) Explain the causes of Japanese imperialism
- (3) Identify on a map the land taken over by Japan.
- (4) Evaluate the statement "Japan chose to be a victor, rather than a victim of imperialism."

Motivation: Quote: "Mother nature has been rather cheap with Japan. The Japanese islands have some coal, but have few other riches in great quantity." –Edwin Reischauer

- (1) Describe the meaning of this quote.
- (2) How could a lack of natural resources hinder (hurt) Japan's industrial development?
- (3) How did European nations get access to raw materials? IMPERIALISM
- (4) Are there alternatives to imperialism to seek raw materials?

Procedure:

Read Document A:

- (1) Who fought in the Sino-Japanese War?
- (2) Why did they fight?
- (3) Describe the results.
- (4) How do the Chinese people feel about the Japanese?
- (5) Why do they feel this way?
- (6) ID Japan and colonies – Pescadores Islands & Taiwan

Read Document B:

- (1) Who fought in the Russo-Japanese war?
- (2) Why did they fight?
- (3) Describe the results.
- (4) How do the Russian people feel about the Japanese?
- (5) Why do they feel this way?
- (6) ID new area of control – Manchuria & Korea

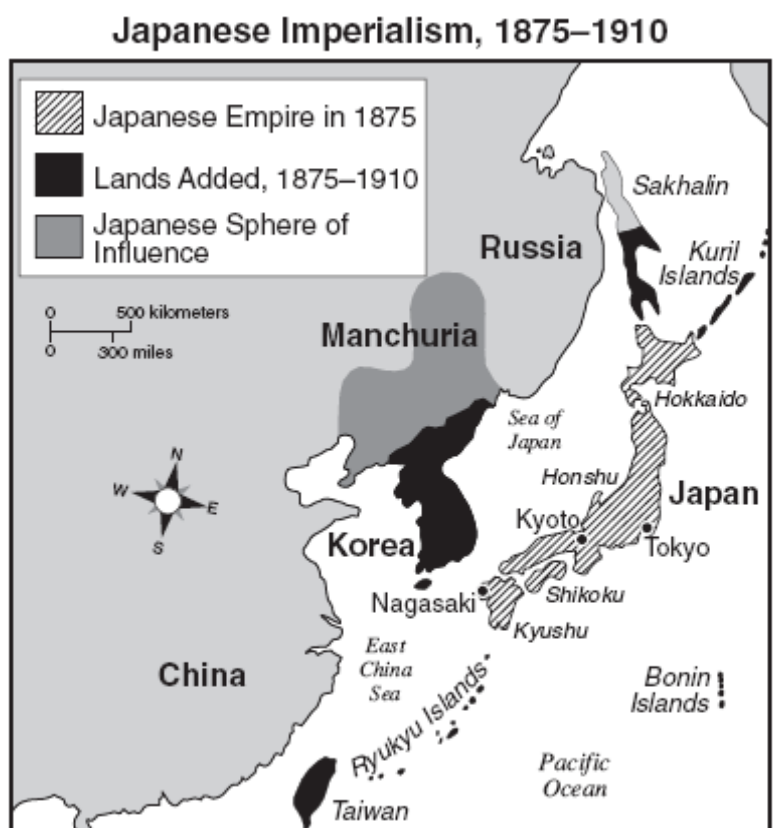
Read Document C - Underline causes for imperialism.

- (1) Describe & list causes for Imperialism
- (2) How do the Japanese **justify** (give excuses for) imperialism?
 - Asia for Asians
 - Need fertile land for food
 - Resources: coal, iron, gold, etc
 - Right to create an empire

Application: "Japan chose to be a victor, rather than a victim of imperialism."

Was Japan forced to become an imperial nation?

Write one paragraph answering the aim and providing reasons.



Source: Henry Brun et al., *Reviewing Global History and Geography*, AMSCO (adapted)