Chapter 27

Russia and Japan: Industrialization Outside the West

(1800–1914)
“Western civilization, which was the fruit of Christianity and of the scientific progress of the 19th century, seemed a marvel of marvels to them. But soon wonder gave place to admiration, which, in its turn, became a desire to import this civilization into their own country. As a reaction from their former pride, they now passed to the other extreme, namely, a sense of humiliation, and they became keenly anxious to take in everything Western.”

- Why do you think Count Okuma stresses both Christianity and science in his definition of Western civilization?

- What do you think Count Okuma means by “a sense of humiliation”? Why do you think this made the Japanese “anxious to take in everything Western” rather than reject Western influences?
By the 1800s, czars saw the need to modernize but resisted reforms that would undermine their absolute rule. While czars wavered, Russia fell further behind Western Europe in economic and social developments.

The rigid social structure was an obstacle to progress:

- Landowning nobles dominated society and rejected any change that would threaten their privileges.
- The majority of Russians were serfs.

Serfdom was inefficient and caused Russia’s economy to remain backward.
Russian Absolutism

- **Alexander I** inherited the throne in 1801 and initiated liberal reforms.
- He eased censorship and promoted education.
- He talked about freeing the serfs, but by 1812, when Napoleon invaded Russia, he had stopped the reforms for fear of losing the support of the nobles.
- At the Congress of Vienna he joined the conservative power in opposing liberal and nationalist movements in Europe.
- When he died in 1825, a group of army officers led the Decembrist Revolt demanding a constitution and other reforms.

*Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias, King of Poland; Grand Duke of Finland; Grand Duke of Lithuania*
Decembrists at the Senate Square
Revolt and Repression

- The new czar, Nicholas I, suppressed the revolt and cracked down on all dissent, by using police spies to hunt out critics.
- He banded books from Western Europe that might spread liberal ideas.
- Only approved textbooks were allowed in schools and universities.
- Many Russians with liberal or revolutionary ideas were judged insane and shut up in mental hospitals and 150,000 others were exiled to Siberia.
- He did try to limit the power of the nobles over the serfs, but realized there was no way to change the system without angering the nobles and weakening the power of the czar.

Czar Nicholas I, Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russians; King of Poland; Grand Duke of Finland
The Crimean War

- Alexander II came to the throne in 1855 during the Crimean War, which started after Russia tried to seize Ottoman lands along the Danube.

- Britain and France came to the aid of the Turks.

- Russia lost revealing its backwardness with few railroads and an inefficient military bureaucracy.
Reforms of Alexander II

- In 1861, Alexander II issued a decree to emancipate, or free the serfs.
- Former serfs had to buy the land they had lived on for years. Many couldn’t afford it, forcing them to move to the cities. Other bought farms too small to support their families.
- He also set up a system of local government using zemstvos, elected assemblies, responsible for local issues, such as road repairs, education, and agriculture.
- He introduced trial by jury, eased censorship, and tried to reform the military.
- But peasants had freedom, but not land.
- In the 1870s, young educated Socialists tried to incite the peasant to riot unsuccessfully, so some radicals, calling themselves “People’s Will,” turned to violence.
- In March 1881, terrorists threw bombs at the czar’s carriage killing him.
- Czar Alexander III responded to his father’s assassination by returning to the harsh methods of Nicholas I.
Crisis and Revolution

- War broke out between Russia and Japan.
- The Russians suffered repeated military defeats.
- News of the military disasters unleashed pent-up discontent created by years of oppression.
- The czar’s troops fired on protesters on “Bloody Sunday,” destroying the people’s trust and faith in the czar.
- Discontent and revolution spread throughout Russia.
- Czar Nicholas was forced to announce sweeping reforms. In the October Manifesto, he agreed to summon a Duma, or elected national legislature.
Results of the Revolution

- The **October Manifesto** won over moderates, leaving socialists isolated.

- In 1906, the first Duma met, but the czar dissolved it when leaders criticized the government.

- Czar Nicholas appointed a conservative prime minister, Peter Stolypin, who instituted arrests, **pogroms** (violent mob attacks on Jews), and executions.

- Stolypin later instituted limited reforms which did not meet the broad needs of most Russians.

- By 1914, Russia was still an autocracy, simmering with unrest.
Problems of Industrialization

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Russia finally entered the industrial age.

- The drive to industrialization increased political and social problems. Nobles and peasants opposed economic growth, fearing the changes brought by the new ways.

- Industrialization created social ills as peasants flocked to the cities to work in factories.

- Radicals preached revolutionary ideas among the new industrial workers.
Section 2
Bell Work

Science and Faith in the 19th Century

Primary Source Documents 1 & 2

Document 1

The Granger Collection, New York

Document 2

This will be done at the same time with the application for his letter-patent. It is believed by those most conversant with Mr. Keely's work that in a few months he will succeed in securing a commercial engine, since all that remains to be done by him is to equal the speed of the engine. The "liberator," which is suggested to weigh less than 150 pounds, while the inventor has in process of construction the fourth and last one, which "is a perfect machine of its kind," weighing less than seventy-five pounds, with which he expects to produce a greater force than has ever before been shown. Some idea of the wide experimental
Events Leading Up to the Meiji Restoration

By the 1800s, discontent simmered throughout Japan.

The government responded by trying to revive old ways.

The United States forced Japan to grant trading rights and forced unequal treaties on Japan.

Some Japanese strongly criticized the shogun for not taking a strong stand against the foreigners. Foreign pressure deepened the social & economic unrest.

Discontented daimyo and samurai overthrew the shogun and “restored” the emperor to power. The Meiji restoration, which lasted from 1868 to 1912, was a major turning point in Japanese history.
Reforms Under the Meiji

The Meiji reformers wanted to replace the rigid feudal order with a completely new political and social system and to build a modern industrial economy.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GOVERNMENT</th>
<th>ECONOMIC REFORMS</th>
<th>SOCIAL CHANGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Adopted the German model of government</td>
<td>▪ Encouraged Japan’s business class to adopt western methods</td>
<td>▪ Ended legal distinctions between classes</td>
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<td>▪ Set forth the principle that all people were equal under the law</td>
<td>▪ Built factories and sold them to wealthy business families, known as zaibatsu</td>
<td>▪ Set up schools and a university</td>
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<td>▪ Established a western-style bureaucracy</td>
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<td>▪ Hired westerners to teach the new generation modern technology</td>
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<td>▪ Used western technology to strengthen the military</td>
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<td>▪ Ended the special privilege of samurai</td>
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Edo Period in Japan

Terakoya, private educational school for girls.

Kaitai Shinsho, Japan's first treatise on Western anatomy, published in 1774.

Wadokei, Japanese-made clockwatch, 18th century.

Tokugawa Yoshinobu, the last Shogun, in French military uniform, c. 1867.
Military Advancements

- The Imperial Japanese Navy was modeled after the British Royal Navy, which at the time was the foremost naval power in the world.

- British advisors were sent to Japan to train, advise and educate the naval establishment; while students were in turn sent to the United Kingdom to study and observe the Royal Navy.

- The Meiji era government at first modeled the army on the French Army.

- In 1886 Japan turned toward the German Army, specifically the Prussian model as the basis for its army.

The French-built *Matsushima*, flagship of the Imperial Japanese Navy during the Sino-Japanese conflict. (Inset) Ito Sukeyuki was the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet.
Why was Japan able to modernize so rapidly?

- Japan was a **homogeneous society** — that is, it had a common culture and language that gave it a strong sense of identity.

- Economic growth during the Tokugawa times had set Japan on the road to development.

- The Japanese had experience learning from foreign nations, such as China.

- The Japanese were determined to resist foreign rule.
Japanese Imperialism

As with western industrial powers, Japan’s economic needs fed its imperialist desires.

- In 1894, competition between Japan and China led to the first **Sino-Japanese War**.
- Japan wanted to eliminate Chinese influence over Korea, which was seen as a threat to their security.
- Also Korea contained large deposits of coal and iron ore which would be beneficial to Japan’s industrialization.

First Sino-Japanese War, major battles and troop movements
The First Sino-Japanese War

- On February 27, 1876, Japan forced Korea to open itself to Japanese and foreign trade and to proclaim its independence from China in its foreign relations.

- As Japan asserted its authority over Korea, China sent troops to support the Korean emperor.

- China had more natural resources, but Japan had benefited from modernization.

- Japan won easily and gained treaty ports in China and control over the island of Taiwan.

Japanese troops during the Sino-Japanese war
Satirical drawing in Punch Magazine (29 September 1894), showing the victory of "small" Japan over "large" China.
In 1904, Japan successfully challenged Russia in Korea and Manchuria in the Russo-Japanese War.

Japan’s armies defeated Russian troops in Manchuria, and its navy destroyed almost an entire Russian fleet.

In 1905, the treaty of Portsmouth gave Japan control of Korea and rights in parts of Manchuria.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, absorbing the kingdom into the Japanese empire and ruling it for 35 years.

A Japanese propaganda of the war: woodcut print showing Tsar Nicholas II waking from a nightmare of the battered and wounded Russian forces returning from battle. Artist Kobayashi Kiyochika, 1904 or 1905.
The Russo-Japanese War

Greater Manchuria, Russian (outer) Manchuria is the lighter red region to the upper right.
Imperialism in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, 1900

Section 3
Colonization of Southeast Asia

In their relentless race for raw materials, new markets, and Christian converts, western industrial powers gobbled up Southeast Asia.

By the 1890s, Europeans controlled most of Southeast Asia. They:

- introduced modern technology
- expanded commerce and industry
- set up new enterprises to mine tin and harvest rubber
- brought in new crops of corn and cassava
- built harbors and railroads

These changes benefited Europeans far more than the people of Southeast Asia.
How did Siam maintain its independence?

- King Mongkut, who ruled from 1851 to 1868, set Siam on the road to modernization.

- Siam was forced to accept some unequal treaties but escaped becoming a European colony.

- Both Britain and France saw the advantage of making Siam a buffer, or neutral zone, between them.

- In the early 1900s, Britain and France guaranteed Siam its independence.
Imperial Powers in the Pacific

- In the 1800s, the industrial powers began to take an interest in the islands of the Pacific.

- In 1878, the United States secured an unequal treaty from Samoa. Later, the United States, Germany, and Britain agreed to a triple protectorate over Samoa.

- From the mid-1800s, American sugar growers pressed for power in Hawaii.

- When Hawaiian queen Liliuokalani tried to reduce foreign influence, American planters overthrew her in 1893. Then in 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, before Britain or Japan could do so.

Ship's landing force at the time of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, January 1893.
Imperial Powers in the Pacific

- In 1898, war broke out between the United States and Spain over the independence of Cuba. The U.S. destroyed the Spanish fleet stationed in the Philippines, causing the Filipinos to declare their independence from Spain and support American troops.

- At the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, the Philippines was placed under American control, causing a Filipino rebellion from 1899 to 1901, led by Emilio Aguinaldo. The rebellion was eventually put down and the United States promised Filipinos self-rule some time in the future.

- The U.S. then modernized the Philippines through education, improved health care, economic reform, and the construction of dams, roads, railways, and ports.

The cover of *Puck* from April 6, 1901. Caricaturizes an Easter bonnet made out of a warship that alludes to the gains of the Spanish-American War.
Impact of Imperialism: New Economic Patterns

- A truly global economy emerged, dominated by the United States, Britain, France, and Germany.

- Colonial rulers introduced a money economy that replaced the old barter system.

- Mass-produced goods from the industrialized world further disrupted traditional economies.

- Local economies that had once been self-sufficient became dependent on the industrial powers.

- Western culture changed, as people now drank coffee from Brazil, tea from Sri Lanka, ate bananas from Honduras and pineapple from Hawaii.
Cultural Impact

- As westerners conquered other lands, they pressed subject people to accept “modern” ways. By this, they meant western ideas, government, technology, and culture.

- Many non-westerners, especially in conquered lands, came to accept a belief in western superiority.

- The overwhelming successes of the western imperialist nations sapped people’s confidence in their own leaders and cultures.

- Western culture spread around the world.

- Missionaries spread Western culture by building schools and hospitals. They taught children basic literacy and trained young men for jobs in colonial governments.

- Imperialism enabled missionaries to spread their Christian faith across the globe.

- The pressure to westernize forced colonized people to reevaluate their traditions. While people were proud of their ancient civilizations, they did work to discourage some traditions, such as sati in India or footbinding in China, which they now saw as harmful.

- As archeologists and historians unearthed evidence about ancient civilizations previously unknown in the West, Westerners realized they had things to learn from other cultures.
New Political Tensions

- By the early 1900s, western-educated elites in Africa and Asia were organizing nationalist movements to end colonial rule.
- The competition for imperial power was fueling tensions among western nations.
- In the Sudan in 1898, British forces expanding south from Egypt and French forces pushing east from West Africa met at Fashoda. An armed clash was barely avoided.
- In central Asia, the British and Russians competed for influence.
- Germany, Britain, France, and Russia tried to thwart one another’s ambitions in Ottoman lands.
- Germany and France teetered on the brink of war over Morocco in North Africa, more than once.
- Imperialist ambitions contributed to devastating world wars in 1914 and again in 1939.