



REBUILDING JAPAN (SS7H3C)

Rise of Japan

In the early 1900's **Japan** built an empire with a large **military** force.

Due to Japan's imperialism, Japan invaded many Asian countries including **China**, Taiwan, and Korea.

Imperialism is the process of a stronger country taking over **weaker** countries.

By acquiring more land, resources were acquired as well as a sense of **superiority**.

Rise of Japan

Japanese imperialism was not simply about increasing the nation's territory. It was also fueled by a strong ideological sense of mission and racial superiority similar to Nazism.



Fall of Japan

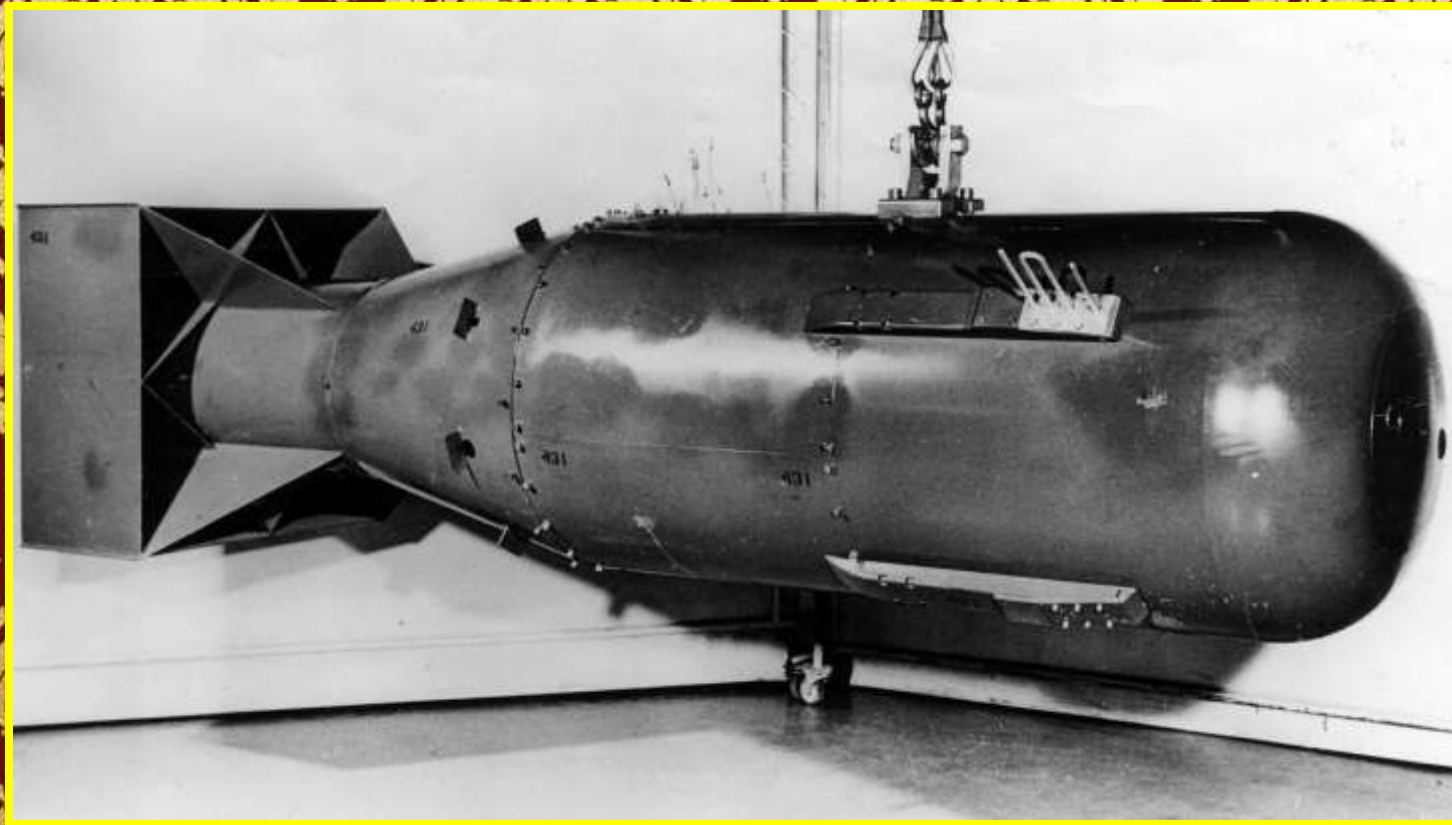
Toward the end of WWII, Japan was the only **Axis** power that had not surrendered.

Rather than dragging out the war and sacrificing thousands of U.S. soldiers, President **Harry** Truman chose to use atomic **weapons** to end the war.

The cities of **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** were obliterated.

Within days of the bombing, Japan surrendered.

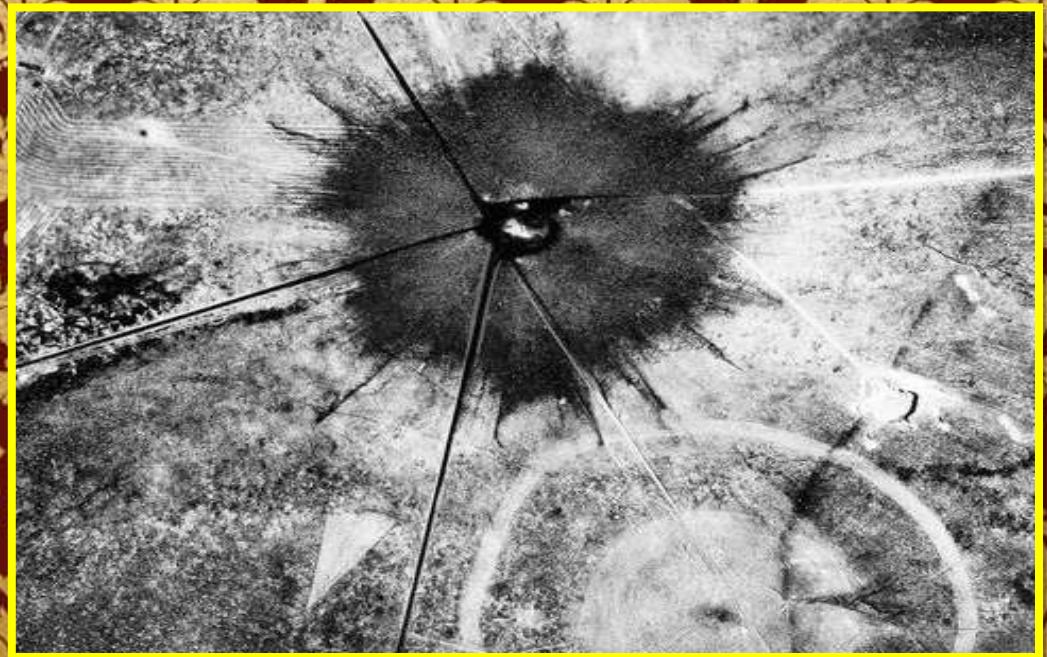
Fall of Japan



The Manhattan project was a research and development project that created the first nuclear bomb during WWII. This secret group of scientist were in charge of creating a bomb so powerful it would cripple an enemy into instant surrender.

Fall of Japan

President Harry Truman ordered bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9. Around a third to two-thirds of the 330,000 Hiroshima residents and 80,000 of the 250,000 Nagasaki residents died by December 1945. There were 3,000 U.S. citizens in Hiroshima on that day.



Fall of Japan



Deaths occurred from the brute force, burns, radiation sickness, and cancer. In 2007, at least 226,000 survivors of the bombing were still alive in Japan. Most of these citizens suffered from radiation-related illness.

U.S. Occupation of Japan

United States became concerned that the economic crisis in Japan could lead to poor citizens turning to **communism**.

Some U.S. leaders felt an **obligation** to help rebuild Japan because of the **nuclear** weapons used against Japan.

United States knew they would gain a valuable **trading** partner going forward but would require transforming Japan into a **westernized** society.

U.S. Occupation of Japan

The US Occupation Of Japan After WWII



After suffering devastating casualties at each others' hands during World War II, the U.S. and Japan were able to forge a strong postwar diplomatic alliance. The U.S. State Department still refers to the American-Japanese relationship as "the cornerstone of U.S. security interests in Asia and . . . fundamental to regional stability and prosperity."

Containment

Fear of the spread of **communism** led the U.S. to adopt a **containment** policy after WWII.

Containment was the geopolitical strategy of stopping the expansion of the spread of **communism** around the World.

The U.S. wanted a **democratic** government in Japan to counteract the **spread** of **communism**.

Containment

The US decided to set up camp in Japan after World War II as an ally, and it included military **personnel** and civilians to try and slow down the **Soviet** Union's influence in the **Pacific**.

SCAP

Between 1945 and 1952, the U.S. occupying forces, led by General **Douglas A. MacArthur**, enacted widespread **military**, political, economic, **education** and social reforms.

MacArthur took control of the **Supreme** Command of Allied Powers (**SCAP**) which was in charge of rebuilding Japan.

Military

SCAP dismantled and banned former military officers from taking roles of political leadership.

The new constitution placed the nation's **military** firmly under civilian control.

Japan was also forbidden to ever lead a **war** again or to maintain an **army**.

Military



Japan has a long military tradition with extensive militarism. Had Japan not attacked the U.S. at Pearl Harbor, the U.S. would not have entered the war till much later. Experts suggest had the U.S. entered later, the outcome would have been beneficial to the Axis powers.

Political

SCAP took the **emperors** political and military power, and was solely made the **symbol** of the **state**.

A constitutional **monarchy** was implemented.

A constitutional **monarchy** is a system of government in which a country has a **king** or queen whose powers are limited by a **constitution**.

This type of government is democratic and granted citizens many of the same rights as **Americans**.

Political

The Emperor of Japan Hirohito was the head of the Imperial Family and the head of state of Japan. Under the 1947 constitution, he was defined as "the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people."

Hirohito basically became a figurehead with no political power.



Economic

The U.S. invested 2.2 **billion** dollars in rebuilding Japan.

SCAP introduced land reform, designed to benefit the majority tenant **farmers** and reduce the power of rich landowners.

Transformed economy into a **free market** capitalist system.

Economic

The Japanese economic miracle is known as Japan's record period of economic growth between the post-World War II era to the end of the **Cold War** with the help from **SCAP**.

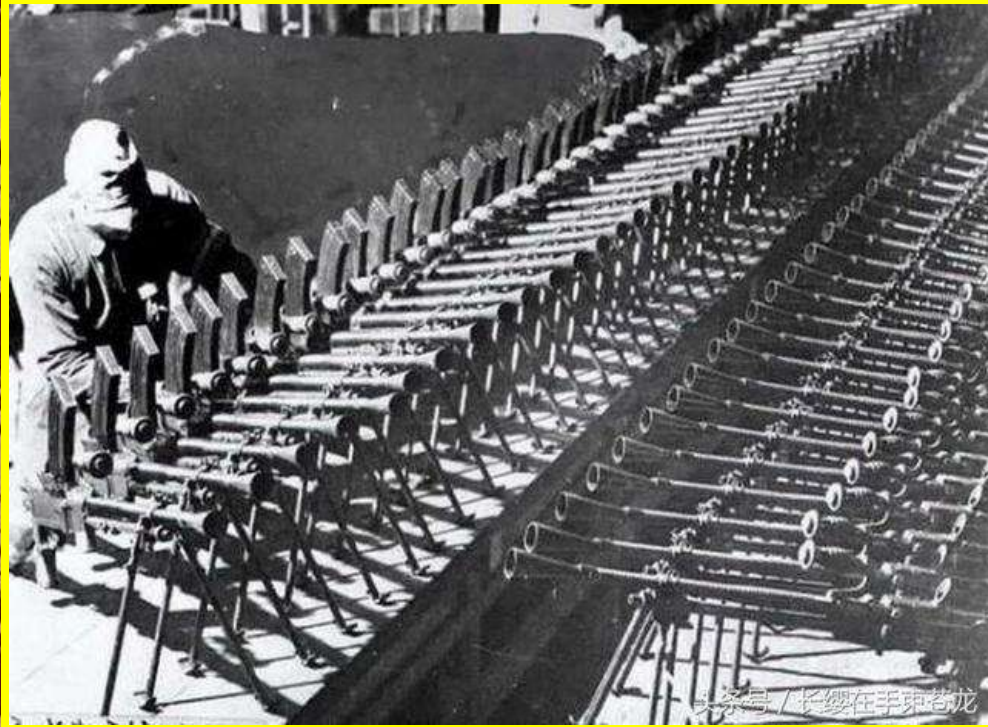
During the economic **miracle** period, suppliers, manufacturers, **distributors**, and banks decided to work together forming groups called **Keiretsu**.

Economic



SCAD converted many of the wartime companies and much of the technology used during the war into peaceful economic development companies which became very lucrative in the economy.

Economic



Nationalism and the desire to catch up with the West persisted after WWII, but now the efforts were focused on economic and industrial goals. For example, machine gun factories were converted to make sewing machines; optical weapons factories now produced cameras and binoculars.

Economic

Note the Economic Growth in Japan from 1950 – 1975.

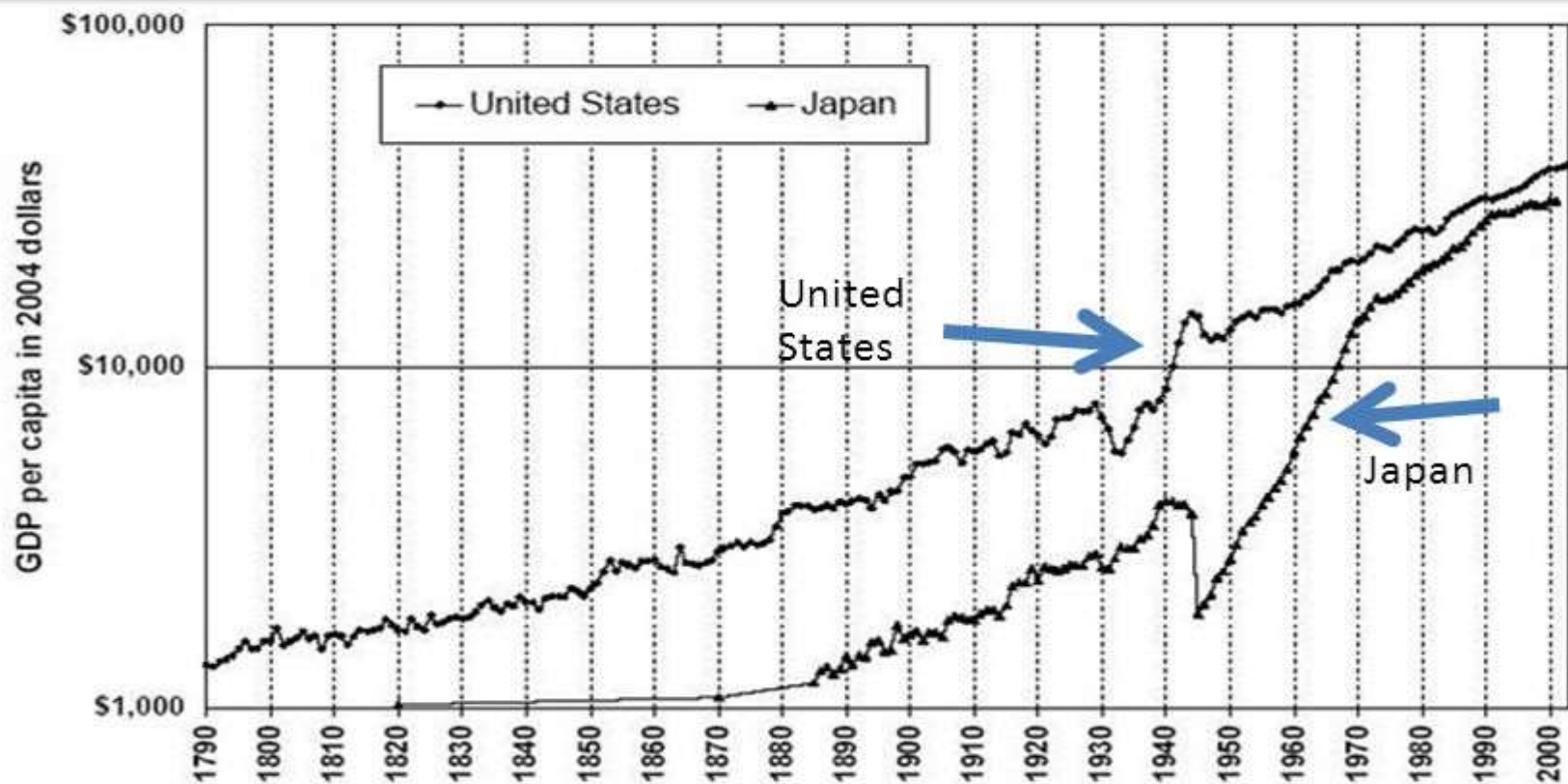


FIGURE A
Historical real GDP per capita growth in Japan and the U.S.

Source: United States is Louis Johnston and Samuel H. Williamson (2004) compilation of previous historical estimates and National Accounts. Japan is Maddison series up to 1994 and National Accounts since 1994.

Education

SCAP purged all **militaristic** teachers/textbooks were blackened out, and suspended courses on **ethics**, history, and geography, which had taught ultra-nationalism and imperialistic doctrine.

Western style education systems were implemented.

Literacy rates improved to **highest** levels.

Social Reforms

The Japanese **Constitution**, drafted by the US and adopted in the post-war era, provided a legal framework favorable to the advancement of women's equality in **Japan**.

Women were given the right to **vote** in 1946.

This allowed them greater **freedom**, equality to men, and a **higher** status within Japanese **society**.

Social Reforms



Prior to WWII, Japanese women were treated as second class citizens with little rights. Post-WWII Japanese citizens strived to become westernized which brought forth human rights and universal suffrage.

Japan Today

Today, the economy of Japan is a highly developed **free-market** economy.

It is the third-largest in the world by nominal **GDP** and is the world's **second** largest developed **economy**.

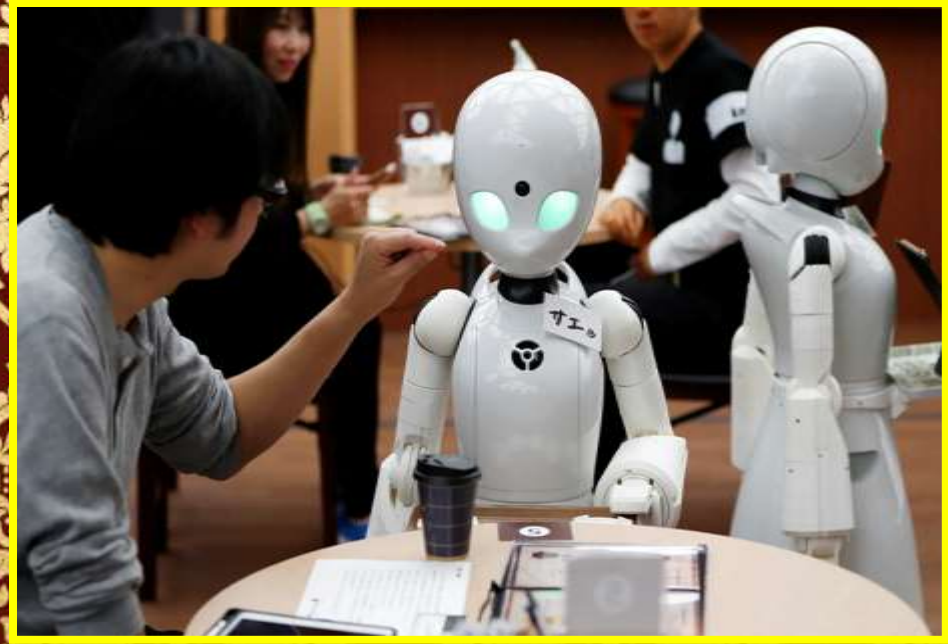
Most **technologically** advanced country on Earth.

Japan Today

The source of Japan's technological advancement is undoubtedly from the youth of Japan. Statistics show that among 34 OECD countries Japanese students performance levels rank second in mathematics and first in science. Japan spends around 3.59% of GDP in public spending on education.



Japan Today



Japan Today

Japanese citizens enjoy broad personal autonomy in their choices of residence, **profession**, and education.

Property rights are generally respected.

People are free to establish **private** businesses.

Has **oldest** average age for **citizens** and a shrinking population.

Japan Today

Japan is the oldest country in the world, as measured by both the median age of the population (46.3 years) and the share of the population aged 65 years or more (26 percent). That compares to just 40.4 years and 17 percent, respectively, among all high-income countries. And Japan's birthrate and inward immigration rate are low—as a result, the population is not only aging, but shrinking.

