

Lesson 2

Modernization in Japan



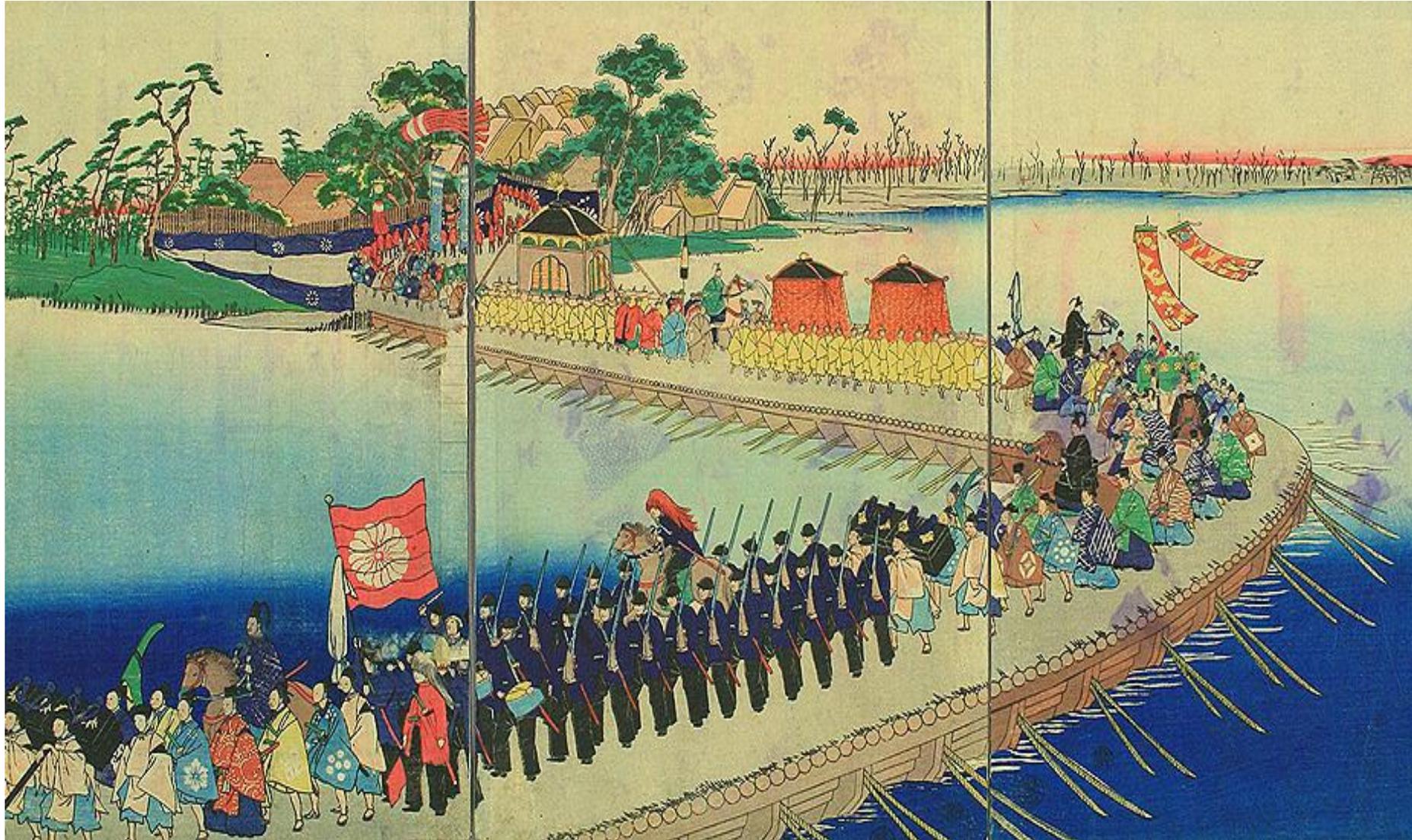
Setting the Stage

- ▶ In the early 17th century, Japan had shut itself off from almost all contact with other nations. Under the rule of the Tokugawa shoguns, Japanese society was very tightly ordered. The shogun parceled out land to the *daimyo*, or lords. The peasants worked for and lived under the protection of their *daimyo* and his small army of *samurai*, or warriors. This rigid feudal system kept the country free of civil war. Peace and relative prosperity reigned in Japan for two centuries.

Japan Ends Its Isolation

- Japan had almost no contact with the industrialized world during this time of isolation.
- The demand for foreign trade began in the early 19th century when Westerners tried to convince Japan to open their ports to trade.
- In 1853, U.S. Commodore **Matthew Perry** took four modern steam ships into Tokyo Harbor. Equipped with large cannons, the **Tokugawa shogun** had no choice but to receive Perry, who also brought a letter from **President Millard Fillmore**.
- President Fillmore's letter demanded free trade between the U.S. and Japan.
- One year later the **Treaty of Kanagawa** (1854) allowed the U.S. access to two Japanese ports and supplies.
- The Japanese were angry that the shogun gave in to foreign demands. He stepped down from power, as Japan turned to the young emperor **Mutsuhito**, or the **Meiji**.

The *Meiji* Restoration



Meiji Reform and Modernization

- Emperor Meiji realized to protect Japan from imperialism they had to rapidly modernize and industrialize every aspect of Japan.
- The Japanese used Germany's strong centralized government as an example to create a new constitution.
- The Japanese created a similar military of Germany and Britain and adopted the American system of universal public education.
- The emperor supported industrialization, and by the early 20th century, the Japanese economy had become as modern as any in the world.
- By 1914, Japan had more than 7,000 miles of railroad, while coal production skyrocketed, thousands of factories were built, and traditional Japanese industries such as tea and silk were exported across the world.
- Japanese society and culture changed as many people adopted Western cultural trends, such as fashion and baseball.



Emperor Mutsuhito, *Meiji*



Shogun Tokugawa

Japanese Nationalism

- As Japan modernized, it fostered a national identity in the people.
- The new mandatory education system taught loyalty to the government and to the emperor.
- Literacy skyrocketed in Japan.
- The end of feudalism and its legal class distinctions, along with universal military service for all men, also unified the Japanese people.
- People now shared more commonalities and were united under the Emperor Mutsuhito, *Meiji*.

#3 As you read about Japan, answer the questions about the timeline.

1853	Matthew Perry arrives in Tokyo Harbor.	1. What was the American motive in sending the fleet?
1854	Japan signs the Treaty of Kanagawa.	2. How did the U.S. benefit from the terms of the treaty?
1867	Mutsuhito establishes new government.	3. What steps did Meiji take to modernize Japan?
1885	Japan and China pledge not to send armies to Korea.	4. Why were both countries interested in Korea?
1894	Sino-Japanese war begins.	5. How did the war begin? 6. What consequences did the war have?
1904	Russia and Japan go to war over Manchuria.	7. What was the cause of this war? 8. What were the consequences?
1910	Japan annexes Korea.	9. How did the Japanese rule Korea?