

Eyes

He sees the possible threat of Russia trying to invade Korea, a weak nation at the time, which China happened to have control of. Japan fought a war against China and won, which shocked the world and made many European powers concerned. Japan gained control of Korea and also gained Taiwan as a colony.

Hands

Emperor Meiji worked hard to modernize Japan. Under his reign, Japan started to become an industrial and naval power. The feudal system was abolished, public schools were created, the Gregorian calendar was introduced, and a constitution was written.

Feet

The people seldom saw the emperor, yet they were to carry out his orders without question, in honor to him and to the unity of the Japanese people, which he represented. He also stood for the modernization of Japan, for the equality of all people, and for just the betterment of his country.

Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito)



Brain

The Emperor believed that people should be equal and should have freedom to do what they want. By abolishing the feudal system, everyone was equal and people could now choose to do whatever they wanted.

Mouth

The motto of the era was "Enrich the Country and Strengthen the Military." The philosophy of "Civilization and Enlightenment" impacted social policy throughout Japan and sought to westernize the country, yet still retain its original culture and its roots. For example, the Emperor wore Western-style military clothing, styled his hair in a Western manner, and grew a kaiser mustache.

Back

In the Meiji Restoration, power was restored to the Emperor, but he did not rule directly, but rather with the help of a group of young men from the lower ranks of the samurai that had overthrown the shōgun. They exercised political control, that devised and carried out the reform program in the name of the emperor. The division of power was supported and necessary to ensure the Emperor does not become corrupt.

Sources

Flantzer, Susan. "Emperor Meiji of Japan (Mutsuhito)." Unofficial Royalty, 16 April 2019, <http://www.unofficialroyalty.com/emperor-meiji-of-japan-mutsuhito/>.

"Meiji Period in Japan." Facing History and Ourselves, <https://www.facinghistory.org/nanjing-atrocities/nation-building/meiji-period-japan>.

"The Meiji Restoration and Modernization." Asia for Educators, Columbia University, http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan_1750_meiji.htm.