

Japan

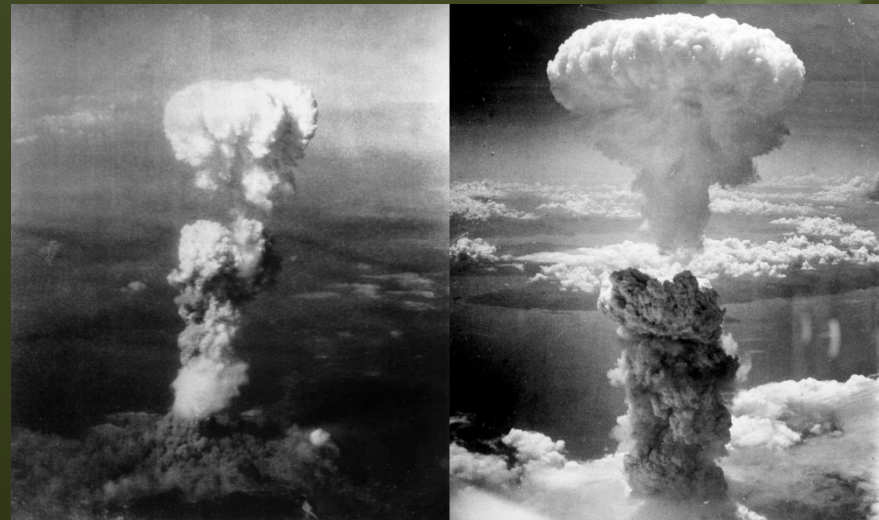


Key Concept

- The United States was influential in setting the tone for a postwar Japan.
- Sovereignty-
 - The authority of a state to govern itself or another state
- What is the role of an emperor?

Japan & WWII

- Japan invaded China in 1931
- Japan joined the Axis powers in 1940
- Japan attacked Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941
 - United States declares war on Japan
- August 6, 1945 United States Drops Atomic Bombs
 - Hiroshima- killed 80,000
 - Nagasaki- 40,000 people



Japanese Surrender

- Japan surrendered to Allies on August 14, 1945
 - Potsdam Declaration
- U.S. President Harry Truman appointed General Douglas MacArthur as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers
- Soviet Union was given no control of Japan



American Occupation of Japan

- 1945-1952
- Only time Japan has been occupied by a foreign power
- U.S. Initial Post-Surrender Policy for Japan
 - 1) eliminate Japan's war potential
 - 2) turn Japan into a western style nation with pro-American orientation



American Occupation of Japan

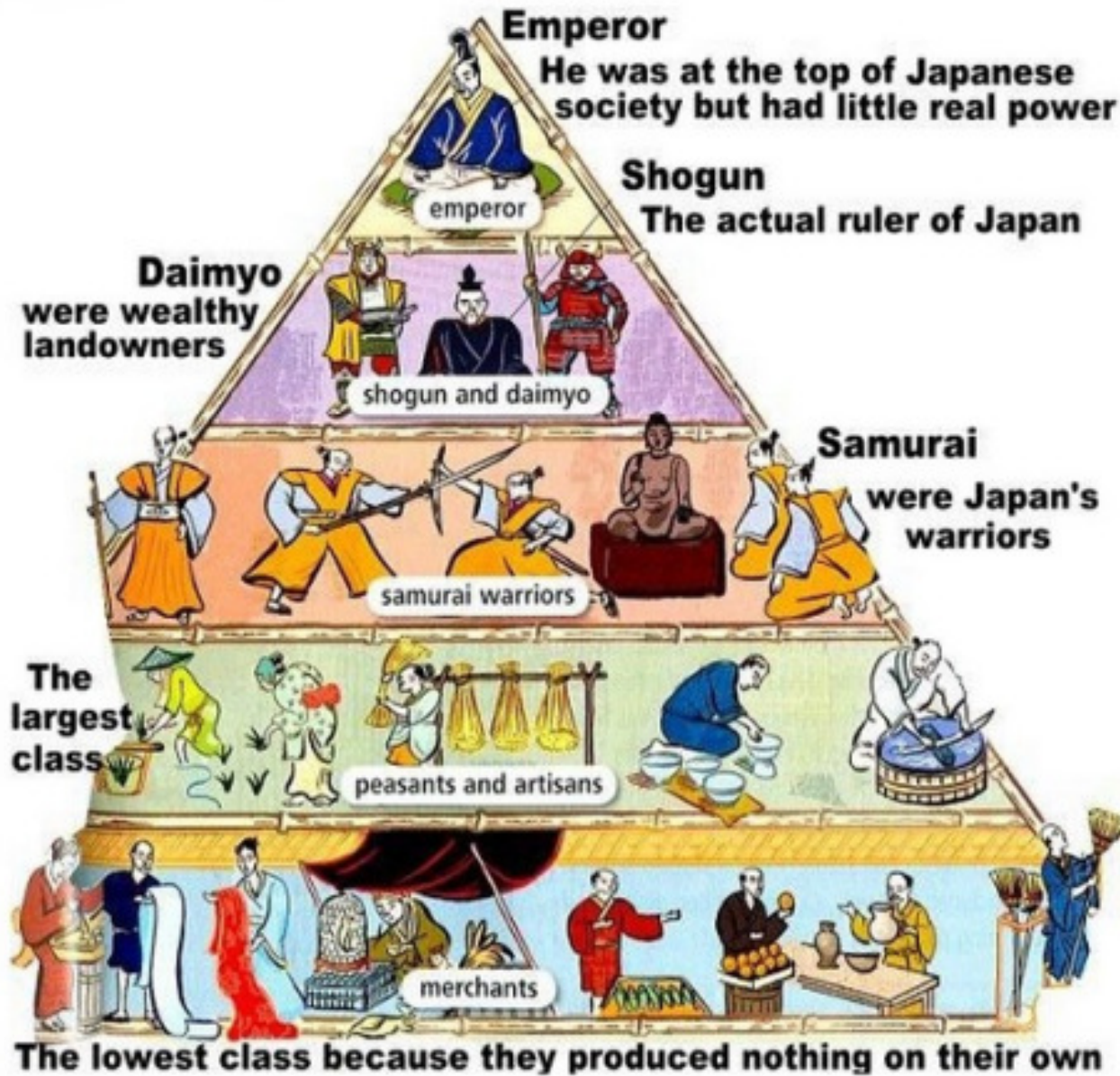
- Emperor Hirohito stayed in power and was not tried as a war criminal
- Political decision by MacArthur
- Japan would be easier to govern
- Public Approval
- Became powerless figurehead of the state



Japan's New Constitution



- Meiji Constitution 1889
 - Constitutional monarchy
 - Suspended when Japan surrendered to Allied powers
- Constitution of Japan 1947
 - Written by American officials, presented to the Japanese government for translation and enactment
 - Praised for progressive guarantees of rights and freedoms
 - Has not been amended in 60 years

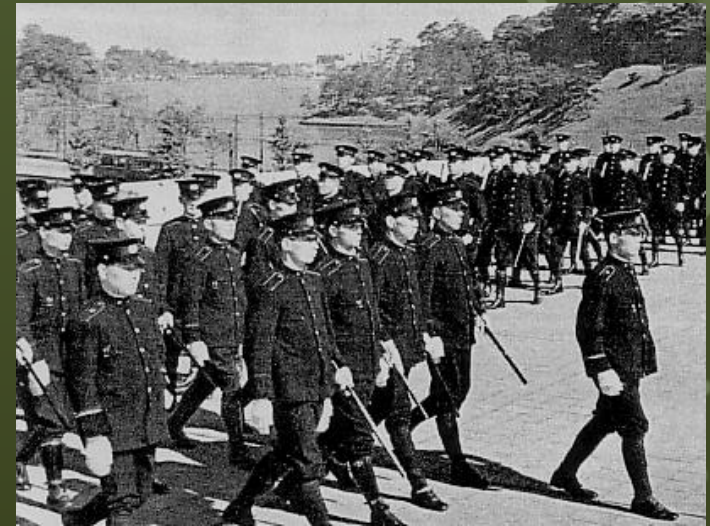


Disarmament

- “Peace Clause” – banned Japan from maintaining forces
- Rise of Communism in Southeast Asia
 - U.S. pressured Japan to rebuild army
- 1954 Japan Self Defense Forces founded
- Today: 1% of gross national product spent on military

Liberalization

- Relaxation of government restrictions. Socially, politically, and economically.
- MacArthur issued The Removal of Restrictions on Political, Civil, and Religious Liberties
- Repealed 15 laws (example: Thought Control Law, Peace Preservation Law)



Emphasis on stability and economic growth

- Abolished Zaibatsu- family controlled monopolies. Financial business conglomerates. (Example: Mitsubishi)
- Land Reform/Abolishment of Feudal Landholdings
 - 1947-1949 approximately 5,800,000 acres of land was purchased from landlords and resold at low prices
 - By 1950 3 million peasants had acquired land





Democratization

- New Constitution of Japan
 - Transfer sovereignty from Emperor to people
 - Women's right to vote
 - Guaranteed human rights
 - Decentralized the police and local government
- 1946 First Free Election- Prime Minister

Other results of the Occupation

- Labor Standards Act-govern working conditions
- Education reform-similar to U.S. school model
- Release of Political Prisoners from past regime



Discussion

- Why was America so willing to rebuild Japan?
- Do you think that the occupation can be seen as a peaceful collaboration between former enemies or as self serving tactics by the victor?
- What are the present day effects of the Occupation?
How does America benefit from Japan today?

Compare and discuss the Meiji Constitution and the 1947 constitution

- Look over the documents with your group. Answer the following questions on a piece of paper, you will turn this in.
- How do the documents differ? How are they the same? (find 2+ examples)
- Where is sovereignty vested?
- What is the role of the emperor?
- What are the rights and responsibilities of the Japanese people?
- What is the position of women under law?

Individual Response/Possible Test Questions (10pts)

- How did the American occupation reform Japan?
- 1947 Constitution- Who wrote it? What does it contain? What are the implications now?
- Why was Emperor Hirohito kept on the throne?
- Imagine you were in General MacArthur's position. Would you keep Hirohito on the throne? What do you think the consequences would have been if he had not been kept on the throne.
- Do you think Japan should be able to build an army? Why or why not? Should Japan be allowed to 'reinterpret' the constitution or do you think they need to amend/change it before they can build an army?