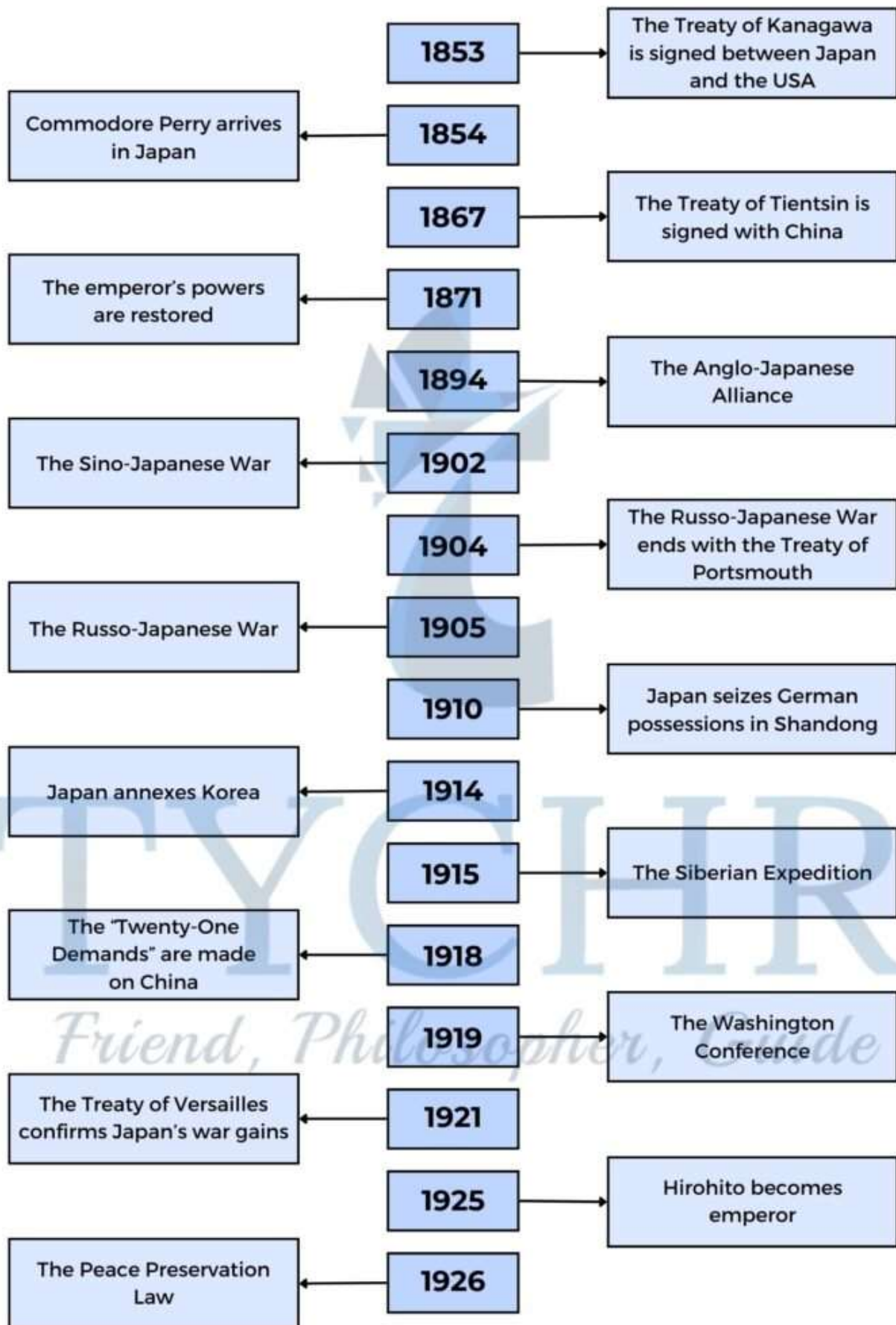




**The impact of nationalism  
and militarism on Japan's  
foreign policy: the origins,  
1853–1930**



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# Origins Of Japanese Nationalism And Militarism

- **Growth of Japanese nationalism:**
- Determination to transform into a **Western style power**
- Belief in it's destiny as a **leader** of Asia
- To stay ahead of other countries in **securing markets** in East Asia
- The need for **strategic security**
- The actions of **Western powers**
- Support for **militarism and expansionism**
- Nationalism became linked with militarism in Japan because its expansion was **dependent on the military's actions** and political decisions.



Commodore Mathew Perry

Fact:

The **Shogun** had isolated Japan from the world in order to protect the people from Christianity. Therefore nationalism began in the second half of the 19th century.

- **Commodore Mathew Perry (in picture)** arrived in Japan in 1853 with a fleet of “Black Ships”.
- **Tokugawa Yoshinobu** signed the Treaty of Kanagawa with the USA in 1854.



Fact:

The Treaty is also called Perry convention (March 31, 1854), Japan's first Treaty with a Western Nation.

**Impacts of this treaty:**

- Political power returned to the **Meiji or "enlightened" emperor**.
- Modernisation of Japan and dismantling of the feudal system.
- Major reforms took place in industry, education, fashion and German military tactics were adopted.
- A **new navy** was established with the help of the British.
- Promotion of **national unity** and **patriotism**. (Popular slogan "rich country, strong military")
- **Japan defeated China in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95:**
- The **Treaty of Shimonoseki** gave the Pescadores Islands, Formosa and **Liaodong Peninsula** to Japan.
- A commercial treaty was also negotiated with China, who was forced to open up more ports.

Fact:

The treaty is also known as the Treaty of Bank in China, signed on April 17, 1895.

## The Effects Of The First Sino-Japanese War On Nationalists And Militarism

- **The Triple Intervention** takes place and Japan is forced to give up the Liaodong Peninsula by Germany, Russia and France.
- Russia took the Peninsula for itself.
- Germany secured control over Shandong Province.
- France and Great Britain took advantage of the weakened China and seized port cities.
- **Military success and frustration of giving** in to Western power encouraged nationalism.
- Japanese military expanded in 1895 and 1905.
- Ministerial representatives of the army and navy were drawn from the upper ranks of the armed forces.

- **The Amur River Society** was set up to promote Japanese expansion on the mainland.

## Japan After 1900



Admiral Togo

- Japan signed the first military alliance known as the **Anglo Japanese Alliance** in 1902.
- **Japan attacked Russia in 1904** due to clashing interests over Korea and Manchuria.
- The Russian fleet of ships was defeated by **Admiral Togo**.

**Fact:** Togo made a maneuver called “crossing the enemy’s T” i.e., he turned his column across the Russian line of advance and destroyed 33 out of the 35 Russian ships.

- **Manchuria’s importance to Japan:**
- **Area of China closest to Japan** and four times larger than Japanese islands
- Agriculturally rich with mineral resources improved opportunities
- Living space for Japanese population
- Russians were forced to accept the **Treaty of Portsmouth**.
- **Japan gained control of Korea and South Manchuria**, along with railway rights.

Fact:

The Treaty of Portsmouth was a peace settlement signed at Kittery, Maine, in the U.S.

## Benefits Of The First World War For Japan

**Japan declared war on Germany** and seized its military bases on the Shandong Peninsula in 1914.

- Japan issued China with the **“Twenty One Demands”**.
- Economically, Japan supplied goods to the Allies and to Asian markets where the Allies failed.
- **Japan became more self-sufficient** by developing industries for goods previously imported.
- **The Bolshevik Revolution** happened in Russia in 1917.
- Japan sent 70,000 men to support the Whites in the Russian Civil War against the Red Army of the Bolsheviks.
- Japan was defeated and faced inside opposition for losing Japan’s prestige.

## Results Of The First World War For Japan

- **Japan secured the German Pacific islands.**
- It established itself as an economic power over the Asian mainland and main naval power in the Western Pacific.
- However, **it failed to get racial equality clauses** included in the Charter of the League of Nations.

Fact:

The 1924 Immigration Act discriminated against Japan by making it the only country not to be allowed any quota of immigrants into the USA.

## Japan In The 1920s

- Japan changed to a foreign **policy of internationalism** influenced by **Shidehara Kijuro. (in picture)**
- Americans insisted that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 be replaced by a **Four Power Treaty.**



Shidehara Kijuro

- **A Nine Power Treaty** was signed between China, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Britain, Japan, USA and France.
- Japan returned the German concessions in Shandong.
- **Five Power Naval Treaty** restricted competition by setting a ratio of 5:5:3 for Britain, the USA and Japan respectively.
- The above **three treaties** were named **the Washington Treaty System**.
- **Taisho democracy was established under emperor Taisho's reign:**
- The **prime minister** was from **one of the two political parties** that controlled the Diet.
- The electorate was extended until, in 1925, **all adult males were given the vote**.
- Society became more open and mass media more influential.
- **Prime Minister Hara's government lasted till 1921** and led Japan into the League of Nations.

## Problems Faced By Japan In The 1920s

- **A fragile democracy:**
- **Financial scandals**, election law violations eroded public support
- Links of parties with landlords and big businesses (zaibatsu) led to more suspicions
- There was a fear of left-wing radicalism
- **The Peace Preservation Law was established in 1920**, it was aimed at the Communist Party.



Emperor Hirohito

- **Opposition to Shidehara's internationalism and the growing influence of the military on foreign policy:**
- Conservative groups questioned Shidehara's international approach
- **USA passed a bill limiting immigration and specifically excluding "Asiatics", offending Japan**
- After Emperor Taisho died, **Emperor Hirohito (in picture)** was celebrated as the **living god**
- **A growing economic crisis:**
- **Unemployment** and industrial unrest developed in 1921
- Japan's docks were paralyzed by a strike
- There was a **large divide between cities and rural areas**
- Farmers suffered from **the falling price of rice**
- Political worker's organizations were suppressed by the police
- **The real economic crisis came after the global depression**



# Role Of Political Instability In China In Encouraging Japanese Nationalism Before The 1930s



King Jiaqing of the Manchu dynasty

- China had been forcibly opened up for trade by the West.
- China became a **semi-colonial country**.
- It faced **defeat by the British in the Opium Wars** (1839-42 and 1856-60).
- European powers gained economic and military privileges over Chinese soil.
- China was at the mercy of other powers backed up by “gunboat diplomacy” or armies.
- **Christian missionaries flooded China.**
- A revolution in China **ended the Manchu dynasty**. King Jiaqing of the Manchu dynasty. (in picture)
- The main political force in China was the Guomindang Nationalist Party led by General Jiang Jieshi.
- There was rivalry between them and the Communist Party of China which was set up in 1921.
- Japan thought that the power of the European nations on China would threaten its’ security.
- Japan wished to achieve equality with the West and that meant acquiring more colonies.

# Acronym Sheet For Revision

Some important points can be retained easily with the help of these short forms.

**Origins of Japanese nationalism and militarism**

**WWSSDM**

**W-Transform into Western style power W-**

**Actions of Western power**

**S-Strategic security S-Securing markets D-**

**Destiny as leader**

**M-Support for militarism**

**Japan in the 1920s**

**(4+5=9) – Washington Treaty System**

**4= Four Power Treaty**

**5= Five Power Naval Treaty 9=**

**Nine Power Treaty**

**SPY**

**S-Shogun isolation of Japan**

**P-Commodore Mathew Perry arrives**

**Y-Tokugawa Yoshinobu signs Kanagawa treaty**

**The effects of the First Sino-Japanese War on nationalists and militarism**

**GRTF**

**G-Germany took Shandong Province R-**

**Russia took Peninsula**

**T-Triple Intervention**

**F-France captured Chinese ports**

**Problems faced by Japan in 1920s**

**FUZPIE**

**F-Financial scandals**

**U-Unemployment and US's**

**Z-Zaibatsu (relation with big business)**

**P-Peace Preservation Law against CPP**

**I-Industrial unrest**

**E-Economic crisis**

**Japan after 1900**

**RAT**

**R-Russia attacked by Japan**

**A-Anglo-Japanese Alliance is signed**

**T-Admiral Togo defeats Russian ships**

**JAM**

**J-Japanese need living space**

**A-area closest to Japan**

**M-Manchuria is important**

**Role of political instability in China in encouraging Japanese nationalism before the 1920s**

**SEMO**

**S-semi colonial country**

**E-European power on China**

**M-Manchu dynasty ended**

**O-defeat by British in Opium Wars**



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