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On 18 September the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, which had decided upon a policy of localizing the incident, communicated its decision to the Kwantung Army command. This effectively secured control of Liaoning and Kirin provinces and the main line of rail communications to Korea. Tokyo was shocked by the news of the Army acting without orders from the central government. Without their support, the government would collapse. Secession movements[edit] After the Liaoning Provincial government fled Mukden, it was replaced by a "Peoples Preservation Committee" which declared the secession of Liaoning province from the Republic of China. In early October, at Taonan in northwest Liaoning province, General Zhang Haipeng declared his district independent of China, in return for a shipment of a large quantity of military supplies by the Japanese Army. Some elements in the city offered to peacefully surrender the old walled town, and Chang advanced cautiously to accept. During this fight the Nenjiang railroad bridge was dynamited by troops loyal to General Ma Zhanshan to prevent its use. Resistance to the Japanese invasion[edit] Main articles: Resistance at Nenjiang Bridge and Jiangqiao Campaign Using the repair of the Nen River Bridge as the pretext, the Japanese sent a repair party in early November under the protection of Japanese troops. Despite his failure to hold the bridge, General Ma Zhanshan became a national hero in China for his resistance at Nenjiang Bridge, which was widely reported in the Chinese and international press. The publicity inspired more volunteers to enlist in the Anti-Japanese Volunteer Armies. The repaired bridge made possible the further advance of Japanese forces and their armored trains. Additional troops from Japan, notably the 4th Mixed Brigade from the 8th Division, were sent in November. On 15 November, despite having lost more than men and left wounded since 5 November, General Ma declined a Japanese ultimatum to surrender Tsitsihar. Operations in Southern Northeast China[edit] Main article: However, the two sides failed to reach a lasting agreement. The Wakatsuki government soon fell and was replaced by a new cabinet led by Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi. Further negotiations with the Kuomintang government failed, the Japanese government authorized the reinforcement of troops in Manchuria. The total strength of the Kwantung Army was thus increased to around 60, men. With this stronger force the Japanese Army announced on 21 December the beginning of large scale anti-bandit operations in Manchuria to quell a growing resistance movement by the local Chinese population in Liaoning and Kirin provinces. On 28 December, a new government was formed in China after all members of the old Nanjing government resigned. The following day the Japanese occupied Shanhaiguan completing their military takeover of southern Manchuria. Occupation of northeast China[edit] Main article: Defense of Harbin With southern Manchuria secure, the Japanese turned north to complete the occupation of Manchuria. Japanese forces took Harbin on 4 February By the end of February Ma had sought terms and joined the newly formed Manchukuo government as governor of Heilongjiang province and Minister of War. On 27 February, Ting offered to cease hostilities, ending official Chinese resistance in Manchuria, although combat by guerrilla and irregular forces continued as Japan spent many years in their campaign to pacify Manchukuo. Home front, Japan[edit] The conquest of Manchuria, a land rich in natural resources, was widely seen as an economic "lifeline" to save Japan from the effects of the Great Depression, generating much public support. As critics had predicted, the League was powerless if a strong nation decided to pursue an aggressive policy against other countries, allowing a country such as Japan to commit blatant aggression without serious consequences.

Chapter 2 : BBC - History - World Wars: Japan's Quest for Empire

The Second Sino-Japanese War was a military conflict fought primarily between the Republic of China and the Empire of Japan from July 7, 1937, to September 2, 1945. It began with the Marco Polo Bridge Incident in which a dispute between Japanese and Chinese troops escalated into a battle.

Dai "Great" Tei "Imperial" -koku "State" or "Nation" This meaning is significant in terms of geography, encompassing Japan and its surrounding areas. Due to its name in Kanji characters and its flag, it was also called the Empire of the Sun. Meiji Restoration Main articles: After two centuries, the seclusion policy, or Sakoku, under the shoguns of the Edo period came to an end when the country was forced open to trade by the Convention of Kanagawa in 1854. The following years saw increased foreign trade and interaction; commercial treaties between the Tokugawa Shogunate and Western countries were signed. Although the Shogunate had no intention of enforcing the order, it nevertheless inspired attacks against the Shogunate itself and against foreigners in Japan. The British demanded reparations and responded by bombarding the port of Kagoshima in 1853. In early 1868, Emperor Komei died of smallpox and was replaced by his son Mutsuhito Meiji. On November 9, 1868, Tokugawa Yoshinobu resigned from his post and authorities to the emperor, agreeing to "be the instrument for carrying out" imperial orders. This decision was prompted by his learning of a series of arson attacks in Edo, starting with the burning of the outworks of Edo Castle, the main Tokugawa residence. Boshin War Main article: Boshin War Campaign map of the Boshin War "The alliance of samurai from southern and western domains and court officials had now secured the cooperation of the young Emperor Meiji, who ordered the dissolution of the two-hundred-year-old Tokugawa Shogunate. However, the tide rapidly turned in favor of the smaller but relatively modernized imperial faction and resulted in defections of many daimyo to the Imperial side. A series of battles were then fought in pursuit of supporters of the Shogunate; Edo surrendered to the Imperial forces and afterwards Yoshinobu personally surrendered. An expeditionary force was dispatched by the new government and the Ezo Republic forces were overwhelmed. The siege of Hakodate came to an end in May and the remaining forces surrendered. Five Charter Oath Main article: Its five provisions consisted of: Establishment of deliberative assemblies. Involvement of all classes in carrying out state affairs. The revocation of sumptuary laws and class restrictions on employment. Replacement of "evil customs" with the "just laws of nature". An international search for knowledge to strengthen the foundations of imperial rule. Meiji era "The mission traveled the world in order to renegotiate the unequal treaties with the United States and European countries that Japan had been forced into during the Tokugawa shogunate, and to gather information on western social and economic systems, in order to effect the modernization of Japan. Renegotiation of the unequal treaties was universally unsuccessful, but close observation of the American and European systems inspired members on their return to bring about modernization initiatives in Japan. Japan made territorial delimitation treaty with Russia in 1855, gaining all the Kuril islands in exchange for Sakhalin island. One such writer was Fukuzawa Yukichi, whose works included "Conditions in the West," "Leaving Asia", and "An Outline of a Theory of Civilization," which detailed Western society and his own philosophies. In the Meiji Restoration period, military and economic power was well emphasized. Military strength became the means for national development and stability. Imperial Japan became the only non-Western world power and a major force in east and southeast Asia in about 40 years as a result of industrialization and economic development. The mighty empires of antiquity, the major political institutions of the Middle Ages and the early modern era, the Spanish Empire, the British Empire, all needed centuries to achieve their full strength. After only 80 years, it is one of the few great powers that determine the fate of the world. The Japanese government sent students to Western countries to observe and learn their practices, and also paid "foreign advisors" in a variety of fields to come to Japan to educate the populace. For instance, the judicial system and constitution were largely modeled on those of Germany. This would later bring the Meiji government into conflict with the Samurai.

Chapter 3 : Second Sino-Japanese War - Wikipedia

The First Sino-Japanese War: The History and Legacy of the Conflict that Doomed the Chinese Empire and Led to the Rise of Imperial Japan - Kindle edition by Charles River Editors.

Imperial Oath Sworn in the Sanctuary in the Imperial Palace Tsuge-bumi We, the Successor to the prosperous Throne of Our Predecessors, do humbly and solemnly swear to the Imperial Founder of Our House and to Our other Imperial Ancestors that, in pursuance of a great policy co-extensive with the Heavens and with the Earth, We shall maintain and secure from decline the ancient form of government. In consideration of the progressive tendency of the course of human affairs and in parallel with the advance of civilization, We deem it expedient, in order to give clearness and distinctness to the instructions bequeathed by the Imperial Founder of Our House and by Our other Imperial Ancestors, to establish fundamental laws formulated into express provisions of law, so that, on the one hand, Our Imperial posterity may possess an express guide for the course they are to follow, and that, on the other, Our subjects shall thereby be enabled to enjoy a wider range of action in giving Us their support, and that the observance of Our laws shall continue to the remotest ages of time. We will thereby to give greater firmness to the stability of Our country and to promote the welfare of all the people within the boundaries of Our dominions; and We now establish the Imperial House Law and the Constitution. These Laws come to only an exposition of grand precepts for the conduct of the government, bequeathed by the Imperial Founder of Our House and by Our other Imperial Ancestors. That we have been so fortunate in Our reign, in keeping with the tendency of the times, as to accomplish this work, We owe to the glorious Spirits of the Imperial Founder of Our House and of Our other Imperial Ancestors. We now reverently make Our prayer to Them and to Our Illustrious Father, and implore the help of Their Sacred Spirits, and make to Them solemn oath never at this time nor in the future to fail to be an example to our subjects in the observance of the Laws hereby established. May the heavenly Spirits witness this Our solemn Oath. Imperial Rescript on the Promulgation of the Constitution Whereas We make it the joy and glory of Our heart to behold the prosperity of Our country, and the welfare of Our subjects, We do hereby, in virtue of the Supreme power We inherit from Our Imperial Ancestors, promulgate the present immutable fundamental law, for the sake of Our present subjects and their descendants. The Imperial Founder of Our House and Our other Imperial ancestors, by the help and support of the forefathers of Our subjects, laid the foundation of Our Empire upon a basis, which is to last forever. That this brilliant achievement embellishes the annals of Our country, is due to the glorious virtues of Our Sacred Imperial ancestors, and to the loyalty and bravery of Our subjects, their love of their country and their public spirit. Considering that Our subjects are the descendants of the loyal and good subjects of Our Imperial Ancestors, We doubt not but that Our subjects will be guided by Our views, and will sympathize with all Our endeavors, and that, harmoniously cooperating together, they will share with Us Our hope of making manifest the glory of Our country, both at home and abroad, and of securing forever the stability of the work bequeathed to Us by Our Imperial Ancestors. Preamble [or Edict Joyu Having, by virtue of the glories of Our Ancestors, ascended the throne of a lineal succession unbroken for ages eternal; desiring to promote the welfare of, and to give development to the moral and intellectual faculties of Our beloved subjects, the very same that have been favored with the benevolent care and affectionate vigilance of Our Ancestors; and hoping to maintain the prosperity of the State, in concert with Our people and with their support, We hereby promulgate, in pursuance of Our Imperial Rescript of the 12th day of the 10th month of the 14th year of Meiji, a fundamental law of the State, to exhibit the principles, by which We are guided in Our conduct, and to point out to what Our descendants and Our subjects and their descendants are forever to conform. The right of sovereignty of the State, We have inherited from Our Ancestors, and We shall bequeath them to Our descendants. Neither We nor they shall in the future fail to wield them, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution hereby granted. We now declare to respect and protect the security of the rights and of the property of Our people, and to secure to them the complete enjoyment of the same, within the extent of the provisions of the present Constitution and of the law. The Imperial Diet shall first be convoked for the 23rd year of Meiji and the time of its opening shall be the date, when the present Constitution comes

into force. When in the future it may become necessary to amend any of the provisions of the present Constitution, We or Our successors shall assume the initiative right, and submit a project for the same to the Imperial Diet. The Imperial Diet shall pass its vote upon it, according to the conditions imposed by the present Constitution, and in no otherwise shall Our descendants or Our subjects be permitted to attempt any alteration thereof. Our Ministers of State, on Our behalf, shall be held responsible for the carrying out of the present Constitution, and Our present and future subjects shall forever assume the duty of allegiance to the present Constitution. The Empire of Japan shall be reigned over and governed by a line of Emperors unbroken for ages eternal. The Imperial Throne shall be succeeded to by Imperial male descendants, according to the provisions of the Imperial House Law. The Emperor is sacred and inviolable. The Emperor is the head of the Empire, combining in Himself the rights of sovereignty, and exercises them, according to the provisions of the present Constitution. The Emperor exercises the legislative power with the consent of the Imperial Diet. The Emperor gives sanction to laws, and orders them to be promulgated and executed. The Emperor convokes the Imperial Diet, opens, closes, and prorogues it, and dissolves the House of Representatives. The Emperor, in consequence of an urgent necessity to maintain public safety or to avert public calamities, issues, when the Imperial Diet is not sitting, Imperial ordinances in the place of law. The Emperor issues or causes to be issued, the Ordinances necessary for the carrying out of the laws, or for the maintenance of the public peace and order, and for the promotion of the welfare of the subjects. But no Ordinance shall in any way alter any of the existing laws. The Emperor determines the organization of the different branches of the administration, and salaries of all civil and military officers, and appoints and dismisses the same. Exceptions especially provided for in the present Constitution or in other laws, shall be in accordance with the respective provisions bearing thereon. The Emperor has the supreme command of the Army and Navy. The Emperor determines the organization and peace standing of the Army and Navy. The Emperor declares war, makes peace, and concludes treaties. The Emperor declares a state of siege. The Emperor confers titles of nobility, rank, orders and other marks of honor. The Emperor orders amnesty, pardon, commutation of punishments and rehabilitation. A Regency shall be instituted in conformity with the provisions of the Imperial House Law. The conditions necessary for being a Japanese subject shall be determined by law. Japanese subjects may, according to qualifications determined in laws or ordinances, be appointed to civil or military or any other public offices equally. Japanese subjects are amenable to service in the Army or Navy, according to the provisions of law. Japanese subjects are amenable to the duty of paying taxes, according to the provisions of law. Japanese subjects shall have the liberty of abode and of changing the same within the limits of the law. No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried or punished, unless according to law. No Japanese subject shall be deprived of his right of being tried by the judges determined by law. Except in the cases provided for in the law, the house of no Japanese subject shall be entered or searched without his consent. Except in the cases mentioned in the law, the secrecy of the letters of every Japanese subject shall remain inviolate. The right of property of every Japanese subject shall remain inviolate. Japanese subjects shall, within limits not prejudicial to peace and order, and not antagonistic to their duties as subjects, enjoy freedom of religious belief. Japanese subjects shall, within the limits of law, enjoy the liberty of speech, writing, publication, public meetings and associations. Japanese subjects may present petitions, by observing the proper forms of respect, and by complying with the rules specially provided for the same. The provisions contained in the present Chapter shall not affect the exercises of the powers appertaining to the Emperor, in times of war or in cases of a national emergency. Each and every one of the provisions contained in the preceding Articles of the present Chapter, that are not in conflict with the laws or the rules and discipline of the Army and Navy, shall apply to the officers and men of the Army and of the Navy. The House of Peers shall, in accordance with the ordinance concerning the House of Peers, be composed of the members of the Imperial Family, of the orders of nobility, and of those who have been nominated thereto by the Emperor. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected by the people, according to the provisions of the law of Election. No one can at one and the same time be a Member of both Houses. Every law requires the consent of the Imperial Diet. Both Houses shall vote upon projects of law submitted to it by the Government, and may respectively initiate projects of law. A Bill, which has been rejected by either the one or the other of

the two Houses, shall not be brought in again during the same session. Both Houses can make representations to the Government, as to laws or upon any other subject. When, however, such representations are not accepted, they cannot be made a second time during the same session. The Imperial Diet shall be convoked every year. A session of the Imperial Diet shall last during three months. In case of necessity, the duration of a session may be prolonged by the Imperial Order. When urgent necessity arises, an extraordinary session may be convoked in addition to the ordinary one. The opening, closing, prolongation of session and prorogation of the Imperial Diet, shall be effected simultaneously for both Houses. When the House of Representatives has been ordered to dissolve, Members shall be caused by Imperial Order to be newly elected, and the new House shall be convoked within five months from the day of dissolution. No debate can be opened and no vote can be taken in either House of the Imperial Diet, unless not less than one-third of the whole number of Members thereof is present. Votes shall be taken in both Houses by absolute majority. In the case of a tie vote, the President shall have the casting vote. The deliberations of both Houses shall be held in public. The deliberations may, however, upon demand of the Government or by resolution of the House, be held in secret sitting. Both Houses of the Imperial Diet may respectively present addresses to the Emperor. Both Houses may receive petitions presented by subjects. Both Houses may enact, besides what is provided for in the present Constitution and in the Law of the Houses, rules necessary for the management of their internal affairs. No Member of either House shall be held responsible outside the respective Houses, for any opinion uttered or for any vote given in the House. When, however, a Member himself has given publicity to his opinions by public speech, by documents in print or in writing, or by any other similar means, he shall, in the matter, be amenable to the general law. The Members of both Houses shall, during the session, be free from arrest, unless with the consent of the House, except in cases of flagrant delicts, or of offenses connected with a state of internal commotion or with a foreign trouble. The Ministers of State and the Delegates of the Government may, at any time, take seats and speak in either House. The respective Ministers of State shall give their advice to the Emperor, and be responsible for it. The Privy Councillors shall, in accordance with the provisions for the organization of the Privy Council, deliberate upon important matters of State when they have been consulted by the Emperor. The Judicature shall be exercised by the Courts of Law according to law, in the name of the Emperor. The judges shall be appointed from among those, who possess proper qualifications according to law. Trials and judgments of a Court shall be conducted publicly. When, however, there exists any fear, that such publicity may be prejudicial to peace and order, or to the maintenance of public morality, the public trial may be suspended by provisions of law or by the decision of the Court of Law. All matters that fall within the competency of a special Court, shall be specially provided for by law. No suit at law, which relates to rights alleged to have been infringed by the illegal measures of the administrative authorities, and which shall come within the competency of the Court of Administrative Litigation specially established by law, shall be taken cognizance of by Court of Law. The imposition of a new tax or the modification of the rates of an existing one shall be determined by law. The taxes levied at present shall, in so far as they are not remodelled by a new law, be collected according to the old system. The expenditure and revenue of the State require the consent of the Imperial Diet by means of an annual Budget. The Budget shall be first laid before the House of Representatives. The expenditures of the Imperial House shall be defrayed every year out of the National Treasury, according to the present fixed amount for the same, and shall not require the consent thereto of the Imperial Diet, except in case an increase thereof is found necessary. Those already fixed expenditures based by the Constitution upon the powers appertaining to the Emperor, and such expenditures as may have arisen by the effect of law, or that appertain to the legal obligations of the Government, shall be neither rejected nor reduced by the Imperial Diet, without the concurrence of the Government. In order to meet special requirements, the Government may ask the consent of the Imperial Diet to a certain amount as a Continuing Expenditure Fund, for a previously fixed number of years. In order to supply deficiencies, which are unavoidable, in the Budget, and to meet requirements unprovided for in the same, a Reserve Fund shall be provided in the Budget. When the Imperial Diet cannot be convoked, owing to the external or internal condition of the country, in case of urgent need for the maintenance of public safety, the Government may take all necessary financial measures, by means of an Imperial Ordinance. When the Imperial Diet has not

voted on the Budget, or when the Budget has not been brought into actual existence, the Government shall carry out the Budget of the preceding year. The final account of the expenditures and revenues of the State shall be verified and confirmed by the Board of Audit, and it shall be submitted by the Government to the Imperial Diet, together with the report of verification of the said board. When it has become necessary in future to amend the provisions of the present Constitution, a project to the effect shall be submitted to the Imperial Diet by Imperial Order.

Chapter 4 : The power of words in wartime and 'peace'

Get this from a library! Japan: a concise history. [Milton Walter Meyer] -- The emergence of Japan as a political and economic global power has been one of the most remarkable success stories of modern history.

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Unleashing force When the Japanese Kwantung Army also known as the Guandong Army contrived to invade Manchuria on 18 September , it unleashed military and political forces which led ultimately to the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December By this time, however, the Japanese had successfully detached Manchuria from the rest of China, creating the puppet state of Manchukuo under the deposed Qing emperor Pu Yi. Then in a minor engagement between Chinese and Japanese troops at the Marco-Polo Bridge, near Peking, led to undeclared war between the two nations. What were the forces that had pushed Japan down this road of military conquest in the east, leading ultimately to war with the west and catastrophic defeat? Top Chasing power Massive changes were unleashed in Japan by the Meiji restoration - a period of radical modernisation - in , and out of these emerged the desire for wealth, power and prestige as a way of redressing the imposition of unequal treaties that had been placed upon Japan by western powers in the past. The Treaty of Portsmouth, which ended the war, allowed Japan to dominate Korea The Treaty of Portsmouth, which ended the war, allowed Japan to dominate Korea and secure a new sphere of influence in south Manchuria. Maintaining and strengthening this position became a fundamental national commitment. But during World War One there were an influential few, engaged in business or military concerns - especially the navy - who advocated a southwards advance [nanshin] rather than the advance northwards [hokushin] favoured by the army. They made it clear that if Japan moved into the South Pacific and south-east Asia, abundant natural resources would become available. The territories consisted of Tsingtao, on the Chinese Shantung Peninsula, and the formerly German-held islands in Micronesia. Talk of further expansion died away. Top Deadlock Until the late s Japanese leaders generally supported the ideal, if not the practice, of economic liberalism. Their attempts to integrate the Japanese economy into a liberal world order, however, became frustrated in the early s when the depressed western economies placed barriers on Japanese trade to protect their own colonial markets. Moreover, the west had acted hypocritically by blocking Japanese emigration through anti-Asian immigration laws in the s. Three factors creating this deadlock loomed large - the shortage of raw materials in Japan, the rapidly expanding Japanese population, and the division of the world into economic blocs. The last party prime minister, Inukai Tsuyoshi, was assassinated in May by right-wing extremists. Then crucially, in May of that year, a rule that only serving officers could become military ministers was reinstated. This gave the military a veto over the cabinet, and the power to topple governments. After the aristocrat Fumimaro Konoe became prime minister for a second time, in , his brain-child, the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, failed to deliver a popular civilian government capable of checking the military. And when General Hideki Tojo came to power in October he presided over what was effectively a military-bureaucratic regime. Many embraced moderate politico-economic reform, as well as restorationist monarchical principles that had no parallel in fascist ideologies. None of these groups ever seized power. However, the climate of assassination, intimidation and propaganda undoubtedly contributed to the breakdown of party government and the disappearance of international liberalism from public discourse. The mix of international events and domestic politics was to prove a lethal cocktail. Germany The conclusion of the Nazi-Soviet pact in August was a great shock to pro-German groups in the Japanese government, who regarded the Russians as dangerous. And after German forces overran France and the rest of western Europe in the spring and summer of , the Japanese began to fear that Germany would also seek political control of French Indochina and the Netherlands East Indies. The Japanese thus felt obliged to strengthen their own position further south, and embarked on a southward advance into French Indochina. This gained in intensity on 22 September , after the German-influenced Vichy government in France gave its agreement to the policy. The Japanese also began negotiations with the Netherlands East Indies to increase the quota of oil exports to Japan in case oil exports from the US ceased. They reached their lowest ebb when Japanese and Soviet forces clashed in the Nomonhan sector of the Manchurian-Mongolian border in To defuse the threat of war with Russia, on 13 April ,

discretion proved the better part of valour, and Japan signed a neutrality pact with the Soviets. When Japan occupied southern Indochina that same month, the United States imposed a de facto oil embargo. On that day the Japanese fleet sailed for Pearl Harbor. The tripartite pact between Japan, Germany and Italy of September was also a major stumbling block to good relations between the US and Japan. On the US side, there was prejudice and misconception, but the Japanese government was also misled by military factions, who had learned the wrong lessons from their two short imperial wars with China and Russia. They believed that Allied weakness in south east Asia and American isolationist sentiment would mean another short war. This, however, was not to be. What the Japanese had done was to awaken the fury of America, and to set in train a war that would end in their total defeat. Her monograph on the philosopher Miki Kiyoshi, the architect of the philosophical principles of the New Order in Asia, is to be published soon.

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An Outline of the Period Modern Japanese history can be divided into four periods: This period saw growing urbanization, the spread of popular education and the rise of the merchant class. The early Meiji period; rapid modernization and dramatic change of political, social, and economic institutions; meeting the challenge of the West by following its model. Imperial Japan; constitutional policy with the emperor as reigning monarch; industrialization, urbanization, and an increasingly mobile society; drive for international status and world power, including imperialism in Asia and finally war with the United States. Contemporary Japan; democratic reform under Allied occupation; stable political democracy, high economic growth in the sixties and seventies followed by political instability and recession in the early nineties. This threat materialized in with the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry and a squadron of the U. Navy demanding that Japan open commerce with the West. The result was a series of "unequal" treaties in which Japan was forced to concede special economic and legal privileges to the Western powers. Beside Japan lay China "weak and humiliated, an example of what could befall a great Asian nation unable to defend itself against Western imperialism. Carried out in the name of restoring rule to the emperor, who then took the reign name "Meiji" meaning "enlightened rule," the Meiji Restoration was in many ways a profound revolution. The Meiji Restoration and Modernization The new leaders studied the political, economic, and social institutions of the Western powers and selectively adopted those suited to their purpose. In a constitution was promulgated which established a parliamentary government but left it accountable to the emperor rather than to the people. Administrative power was centralized in a national bureaucracy which also ruled in the name of the emperor. The classes were declared equal, so that samurai and their lords lost their feudal privileges, while the role of merchants "formerly despised as profit hungry" began to be respected. The enthusiastic adoption of new Western technologies caused an explosion of industrial productivity and diversification. A national military and universal conscription were established. Compulsory public education was introduced both to teach the skills needed for the new nation and to inculcate values of citizenship in all Japanese. Industrialization and Expansion This period was a time of social and economic change within the constitutional monarchy established in As the original architects of the Restoration died, the various branches of the government began competing for power. Japanese industry expanded, both in light export industries like textiles, which were necessary to pay for the raw materials needed from abroad, and also in heavy industries like steel and shipbuilding. Cities grew, as more Japanese moved from farming into jobs in factories and offices. In the countryside larger landlords came to own more and more land, and the number of poor tenants increased. Always dependent on foreign trade, Japan was hard hit by the world depression that began in The farmers who had grown the silk that was exported to the United States found no market for their product once the roaring twenties and the craze for silk stockings collapsed with the stock market crash. In , more than forty years after Commodore Perry pried Japan open to the outside world, Japan finally succeeded in revising the unequal treaties so that it regained its legal parity with the Western powers. In , Japan signed an alliance with Great Britain, which signified a dramatic increase in international status, and in , Japan won a war against Russia, one of the major Western powers. In the process Japan expanded its empire, annexing Korea in Japan was allied with the United States and Britain in World War I, and expected territorial gains at the Versailles peace conference in Instead Japan met with strong opposition from the United States, and again learned the lesson that the West regarded imperialism very differently if it was the imperialism of an Asian rather than a European power. The failure of the Japanese to get a clause on racial equality inserted into the covenant of the League of Nations was an insult that was compounded in when the United States barred all Japanese from immigration. The setbacks and insults from abroad, against a background of economic depression, sowed public frustration with the political leadership at home. The military-industrial machine went into high gear, pulling Japan out of its depression as it continued to expand Japanese hegemony across the Far East. Japanese troops invaded China in , and French Indochina in

, setting up puppet governments to administer areas too vast to be controlled by the Japanese armies. In the context of rapidly worsening relations, Japan decided to make a daring surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in August 1941, where 90 percent of the U.S. Navy's fleet was based. The preemptive strike bought Japan time — it took the United States, many times its superior in industrial strength, a full year to gain the offensive on Japan. When the United States recovered its forces lost in Pearl Harbor, its navy and army were able to conduct an "island-hopping strategy" of cutting off the Japanese commands one by one from their supply routes. By 1945, the U.S. cities devastated by fire bombing, its economy barely functioning and its people on the brink of starvation, the Japanese government still held out hope that with the assistance of the Russians, Swiss, or Swedes they would be able to negotiate an end to the war. Unaware of the secret agreement among Allies at Yalta, Japan was shocked when Russia too entered the war against Japan. Two days earlier, the United States had dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, a medium-size industrial city. The day after the Russian declaration of war, the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the port city where Japan had first opened itself to Westerners. Japan agreed to unconditional surrender and the emperor himself went on the radio to make the announcement of surrender to the Japanese people. Postwar Japan For the next seven years, Allied powers occupied Japan. To that end, in a new constitution was adopted with two key provisions: Under land reform, tenant farmers were given the land they worked and industrial workers were allowed to form trade unions. Democracy was popularized in the media and schools, and the "moral training" that had fostered extreme nationalism was abolished. Most of the reforms made under the Occupation have been retained by Japan. The United States changed some of the more liberal provisions it had encouraged early in the Occupation as it grew more fearful of Communism in the Cold War. With American support, Japan rebuilt many of its wartime industries to supply U.S. In 1952, the U.S. Occupation of Japan ended and by the Japanese economy had regained its highest prewar production levels. From the sixties through the mid-eighties domestic politics were stable; the Liberal Democratic Party maintained a solid majority in the Diet parliament and emphasized close relations with the United States. Japan also achieved record economic growth — averaging 10 percent a year until the seventies. Its economy grew from one less productive than Italy to the third largest in the world, behind only the United States and the Soviet Union. Growth was especially strong in heavy industry, such as steel, chemicals and machinery, and in advanced technology. Almost totally dependent on imports for food and energy, Japan began to face increasing protectionism abroad and serious pollution problems at home. Although Japan has brought pollution under control, trade frictions continued. As one of the most advanced post industrial societies in the world, the Japanese people enjoyed prosperity and the benefits of a thriving middle-class society. The death of the emperor, who had come to the throne in 1926, meant the end in Japan of the long era that had included the war, the transwar, and the postwar as well. And the close of the Cold War in the West meant the end of the global geopolitical system that had provided Japan international shelter within the American imperium. Two years later the economic "bubble" burst, and Japan went into a lengthy recession. Another two years passed, and the Liberal Democratic Party "fell," much the way the Shogunate had collapsed so many years ago, without a revolution. Six prime ministers held office between 1992 and 1996, an orderly turnover that was nonetheless routinely described as political "chaos. Even more shocking to some was the increasing number of younger urban women who were refusing to marry or choosing not to bear children. The years following will one day be viewed, no doubt, as another historical conjuncture of global import, not simply because the Cold War ended, but because so many other things were happening at the same time. A Guide for Teaching, eds. Embree and Carol Gluck, Armonk: After completing the chart, discuss with another student what is important about each of these events.

Chapter 6 : Empire of Japan | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

The Japanese invasion of Manchuria began on September 19, when the Kwantung Army of the Empire of Japan invaded Manchuria immediately following the Mukden Incident. Following the war, the Japanese established the puppet state of Manchukuo, and their occupation lasted until Soviet Union and Mongolia launched the Manchurian Strategic.

The Other Wiki has a page on it. These figures have been abused for propaganda purposes by both sides. Japanese nationalists have tried to revise direct kills downward to try and "prove" that the IJA was more innocent than it seemed, while anti-Japanese Asian nationalists have emphasized direct kills upward to try and "prove" that all Japanese themselves are irredeemably evil. While the Japanese Empire went into the conflicts with the confidence of their victory in the Russo-Japanese War, the relatively well-equipped Red Army of the USSR would prove to be a much tougher nut to crack. This conflict showed clearly how badly outdated and outclassed the Imperial Japanese Army was in terms of unit-organisation and equipment – especially when it came to armoured vehicles. The Soviets would later break the pact and invade Japanese-held Manchuria on August 9, 1945, less than a week before the Japanese surrender. Ironically, Imperial Japan actually managed to achieve one of its goals of the war because it effectively ended European domination over Asia. This excuses neither the atrocities committed by Imperial Japan nor its true intention, which was to supplant European imperialism with its own. It was at this point that the Empire adopted the term "Greater East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere" to collectively refer to those nations thus "freed" albeit free in name only and run by puppet governments. To prevent a second Treaty of Versailles, and because Japan was needed as an ally against the emerging communist regimes in Asia, America was very soft on Japan after the surrender. Japan has also paid over billion Yen in war reparations to the nation-states it occupied, with some formal apologies to former POWs by a few Japanese ambassadors. It should be noted that despite its horrific war crimes and allying with a genocidal regime, Japan was ironically one of the safe havens for Jews during World War II. This is mainly because unlike many European countries, Japan never had a history of fervent anti-Semitism due to their history of resisting the influence of Christianity in their lands. While Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda did make its way into Japan, and the Nazi regime did pressure Japan to extradite or implement the Nazi racial policies throughout their empire, Japan refused to do so for three main reasons: Because anti-Semitism never became mainstream in Japan, many Jews fleeing from the Holocaust did manage to flee there and integrate into Japanese society. There was even a Japanese diplomat, Chiune Sugihara, who risked his career to save thousands of Jewish lives, and the Imperial Japanese government relocated many Jews in various parts of their empire one of which is the Shanghai Ghetto. All this has led to lingering resentments against Japan, particularly in China and Korea. Note that Japan is the only country that still has an Emperor but importantly, Japan itself post is no longer an empire; unlike the remaining European monarchs, the Emperor officially has no powers, and takes no role in government at all. Below are described the important figures of Showa Period Imperial Japan up to Hirohito was the Emperor of Japan during the Showa Period. Hirohito chose hardlined General Hideki Tojo to prepare a policy review. Tojo along with the chiefs of staff for the Army and Navy convinced Hirohito to opt for war. He has his own page. He spent almost a decade studying in America in the late 19th Century and later joined the Japanese foreign ministry department. Admiral Yamamoto was one of the few moderate military leaders in the Japanese junta during World War 2. He was a brilliant strategist best known for his blitzkrieg bluff conquest of Malaya and Singapore and causing the biggest British capitulation in history. Hideki Tojo saw him as a rival for power and had him relocated to Manchuria. He was one of the nicer members of the Japanese high command and on one occasion after a hospital full of Allied personnel massacre he had the instigators executed and personally apologized. Imperial Japan in popular media: Frog is largely a satire of Imperial Japan. His portrayal of the government and the general public aside from our heroes, of course is less than sympathetic. He was also planning to do a Phoenix story set during this period that involved the Imperial army searching for the titular bird in conquered China, but sadly, it was never completed. Grave of the Fireflies is another WWII story that takes place in Japan, showing in heartbreaking detail what the civilians had to put up with as the war ground down to its last bloody

days. Barefoot Gen largely takes place during the last days of the Empire. Kurogane Pukapuka Tai is a much less serious work than the above, but it is set on an Imperial Japanese Navy cruiser in Crewed almost entirely by women. Les Yay comedy ensues. The fact that the king is a completely batshit insane warlord only furthers the effect. Millennium Actress begins with the titular heroine being sent to Manchuria to make propaganda films during the second Sino-Japanese war and goes on to depict the general devastation of Japan as the war progresses. Also hints at the role of that the Kempetei military police played in suppressing dissent during the war years. Rail of the Star tells the story of the trials and tribulations of a Japanese family desperately trying to escape North Korea after the surrender. Notably glosses over why Japanese civilians would be so desperate to escape Korea after the war. Zipang has a modern-day Japanese warship sent back in time to World War II , where the Values Dissonance between the pacifistic modern-era crew and their Imperial military counterparts is explored. It is even more evident if one compares the original manga with its anime adaptation. The anime is much more reconciliatory in tone and largely centers on Kadomatsu, ironically without removing his indecisiveness or giving him a stronger conviction in his ideals. This comes to a head in the final installation of the original storyline, Mobile Suit Gundam Unicorn , where the Zeon remnants claim at least in rhetoric to establish a " Side Co-Prosperity Sphere " despite causing misery amongst the colonies themselves. They both also feature secret government labs where mad doctors conduct sick experiments, although they seem to do this mostly to their own soldiers as opposed to captured enemies. Rurouni Kenshin is a historical fiction set in the early years of the Meiji Era. He seeks to repent for his crimes of killing and vows never to take another life. Makoto Shishio, one of the major Big Bads of the series can be considered as an embodiment of all that was evil about WWII-era Japan with his cruel Social Darwinist beliefs that those who are strong have the right to kill and oppress the weak in their quest for power and the desire to make Japan a great and powerful nation at the cost of throwing away any kind of morality. In fact, the manga outright states it. Kenshin is largely modeled after a famous Real Life assassin Kawakami Gensai, who was so feared for his effectiveness and principled stance that he was arrested and hanged in on trumped-up charges, because the very same unscrupulous politicians who were using him to get rid of their enemies feared that he would turn on them. His fighting style is also created by unit A flashback in the manga shows Shiro himself demonstrated a technique on a POW to a group of Japanese soldiers, killing him brutally, then told the soldiers to practice on other POW. Sayonara, Zetsubou-Sensei contains a few references to the period and its effect on modern Japan. One episode has the characters putting on glasses from earlier eras and expressing reactionary views. The owner of the glasses store indicates a pair from the s to and cautions against putting them on because bad things happen from that viewpoint. Another episode centers on a character who Apologizes a Lot and the protagonist asserts that people in Japan are expected to be deferential and apologetic because of their militarism during the earlier period, and this general idea that modern Japan is a defanged Butt-Monkey compared to the past is raised in several episodes. Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is a guro manga with surprisingly little Gorn , however it does follow the titular concept and ends with it being a roaring success. Essentially a humiliation comic, a meteorite that makes only females grow to giant size hits Japan. Rather than follow standard obvious logic and merely have giant busty samurai ladies wield giant mile-long-firing bows, they do some Much much much MUCH weirder than it sounds. The most insane part has to be pages where there are actually worked out schematics for how the tankwomen function and a little afterwards when they discuss how to get the tanks shells to fire As to Imperial Japan content, lets just say if the nudity and humiliation were removed and it aired, Japan would quickly find themselves under attack by the rest of the Pacific nations. This is just one very strange manga from beginning to end. His Soviet-themed manga Dance! Including the Russian Roulette being played with a tank. With six-barreled rotary cannon. The Kurosagi Corpse Delivery Service references both Unit and the Rape of Nanking, big taboos in Japanese media, and several of the skeletons in the closet the service exhume sometimes literally are connected to Imperial Japan or its fall. Yuu Watase has three mangas set in this era: The Fushigi Yuugi prequel Fushigi Yuugi: Genbu Kaiden is from a similar timeframe, taking place in The other Fushigi Yuugi prequel, Fushigi Yuugi: This is admitted outright in the manga but toned down in the anime. Night Raid is set in China and provides a surprisingly clear-eyed view of the early Showa era, including depictions of the sheer desperation the Great Depression caused in both China and Japan.

Notably includes an unvarnished depiction of the notorious "Mukden Incident" in which rogue Imperial Japanese Army officers pretending to be Chinese soldiers blew up the Manchurian warlord Zhang Zuolin in his railway carriage to provide a pretext for the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. Then again, China and Japan are portrayed as still being friends at the time despite the Sino-Japanese war of and the subsequent souring of relations as Japan became increasingly belligerent in defending her business interests in the country. It harshly criticizes the Japanese war effort and graphically portrays the war as a futile and pointless campaign, depicting the horrific conditions Japanese soldiers endured, the unsympathetic commanding officers, and questioning the original intent of the war. In fact, the discomfort many Japanese viewers felt at the time upon seeing such a brutal critique of the past is considered to be one of the reasons the show was Cut Short. Ironically enough, the series has the Japanese themselves in the receiving end of all this aka Area Especially prevalent this is in the original manga and Arise! The seinen manga Tsubasa by Ayumi Tachihara is from the POV of Daisuke Shibusawa, a young man who is a member of a kamikaze squad, and follows him through his last days. The characters are fictional, but the grotesque moments are based on the actual war crimes. Empire of the Sun by J. Ballard, later adapted into a movie by Steven Spielberg. Lost Memories , is an Alternate History film that features a Korea that is still dominated by Imperial Japan in the early 21st century. Paradise Road about a Japanese prison camp for female European colonists in Sumatra. City of Life and Death: Film of the Nanjing Pleasantry, made by a Chinese-Japanese team. It comes off fairly neutral, speaking from an Anglospheric POV. A Page of Madness is set in an insane asylum sometime in the early 20th century. Twenty-Four Eyes is about a schoolteacher in Japan before and during World War II, struggling to educate her students as the government gradually grows more repressive and warlike. Yamato is about the famous battleship and its suicidal final voyage in Scenes in the prison camp, as well as an establishing scene of the mass-execution of American POWs at another camp in the Philippines, depict the severity of Japanese treatment of prisoners of war. Additional screen time is spent in Manila, where the Japanese treatment of Filipino civilians including the summary execution of doctors, nurses and orderlies on accusation of providing medical supplies to the various resistance cells is shown. In a case of Reality Is Unrealistic , some reviewers criticized the Japanese atrocities for being too "over-the-top" in brutality, even racist, even though the atrocities shown were much more toned down than what the Imperial Japanese military did in real life. Wolverine is shown as a POW held in a camp across the bay, and both he and a Japanese soldier survive but everyone else in the camp kicks it, including some military leaders who choose seppuku over dying in the explosion. My Way which tells the story of a Korean subject who is sentenced to serve in the Imperial Japanese Army for starting a riot after he was disqualified in favor of a Japanese Olympic hopeful. They serve in the same unit and are stationed in the northern Manchurian frontier, where they are captured by the Soviets and are later forced to fight against the Germans in the Eastern Front, where they are captured and forced to defend the Normandy beaches during D-Day, and are ultimately captured by American G.

Chapter 7 : Japanese Constitution

The Second Sino-Japanese War (or simply Japanese-Chinese War) was a military conflict fought between the Republic of China and the Empire of Japan between and Japans use different names for this war since they consider the war as liberating their zones.

Samurai remain among the most recognisable aspects of Japanese culture and often feature in film, television, literature, and art. Furthermore, there was no widely-accepted samurai ethic in pre-modern Japan and the word bushido was largely unknown until the 20th century. Germany, Italy and Japan. After the Meiji Revolution that put the country back under imperial rule in , the new government needed to convince the Japanese people to identify with their new nation-state. Knighthood and chivalry were popular cultural themes and many public and private buildings imitated the appearance of medieval castles. These trends inspired some Japanese thinkers around to search for equivalents in their own traditions. They compared samurai with European knights and proposed bushido as a Japanese counterpart to chivalry and gentlemanliness. Samurai with sword, c. Before the war, bushido was invoked as a potential equivalent to Western ideals and after the war, the mood in Japan became more nationalistic and militaristic, and bushido came to reflect these sentiments. The bushido boom that took place after also coincided with a dramatic shift in Sino-Japanese relations. They had little reason to question these teachings, as the evidence was seemingly all around. Instead, influential Chinese reformers such as Liang Qichao searched for their own bushido tradition that could help strengthen China. Chiang Kai-shek Jiang Jieshi , who later go on to become president of the Republic of China, was a cadet at a Japanese military academy at the time. Chiang was deeply impressed by bushido and sought to instil a similar martial spirit in China after his return. Loose ends The imperial bushido ideology was used to indoctrinate the Japanese servicemen who invaded China in the s and attacked Pearl Harbour in After World War II, bushido was comprehensively rejected as a dangerous ideology. This new bushido generally stresses loyalty, virtue, honesty and self-sacrifice, while rejecting overtly militaristic elements. A vocal minority on the right is attempting to revive more extreme wartime ideals , taking historical revisionism to sometimes radical extremes but for now at least, these nationalists remain a political minority. In China, meanwhile, Japanese bushido is understood in a way much closer to its wartime imperial meaning in part a reflection of just how unresolved the history of World War II still is in East Asia. The events of the 20th century are a heavy burden on Sino-Japanese relations to this day. Dealing with these issues is further complicated by some of the lingering ideas of national identity, and bushido in particular, which create distance and undermine trust on both sides.

Chapter 8 : Imperial Japan | History TV

The emergence of Japan as a political and economic global power has been one of the most remarkable success stories of modern history. Though small in geographic area, the archipelago is the tenth most populous country, with million inhabitants crowded into an area the size of Montana.

For centuries Japan had been ruled by an Emperor, thought to be the living descendant of their God, and the nobles. Japan was isolated from western contact by the Pacific Ocean and the broad expanse of the Asian Continent. The country was ruled by traditional values and a conservative social structure. Yet, the modern world would catch up with the Samurai and Traditional Japanese lifestyle. Under the Tokugawa shogunate , fiefs controlled directly by the Tokugawa family, or controlled indirectly through related or allied daimyo feudal lords , formed the basis of government. Less trustworthy daimyo were left in outlying fiefs and were closely watched. Each daimyo was free to govern the family fief but could be deposed by the shogun and had to attend him every second year in Edo modern Tokyo. The Tokugawa shogunate gave Japan peace and stability for more than years, until the Meiji Restoration brought it to an end. The map below depicts the areas under control of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Tokugawa Japan was a stable agrarian based society. However, the pressures of the western Industrial world began to encroach upon the seas that surround the Islands of Japan. The Japanese were confronted with a dilemma - do they stick to the traditinal agriculturally based society and shun the forces of capitalism and industrialization or do they embrace those forces and sacrifice certain elelements of traditional Japanese life. The Tokugawa Shogunate collapsed under the pressures of change. The Samurai and traditional Japanese culture were replaced with the quest to become the next modern world power. The keys to this goal were: Follow the instructions on the website to complete the assignment. Make sure to enter your full name in the Student Code Center. The student code for this assignments is: Once you get to the assignment page: Another page will load with the information for the video: Thank you and enjoy.

Chapter 9 : Imperial Japan saw itself as a 'warrior nation' and the idea lingers today

Japan signs the Treaty of Peace with the U.S. and 48 other nations, officially ending WWII. The USSR, Czechoslovakia and Poland did not sign the treaty. Japan relinquishes all overseas territories.

Japan campaign Allied landings in the Pacific Theatre of operations, August to August By , the Japanese had suffered a string of defeats for nearly two years in the South West Pacific , the Marianas campaign , and the Philippines campaign. The Allies captured the nearby islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the first half of With few natural resources, Japan was dependent on raw materials, particularly oil, imported from Manchuria and other parts of the East Asian mainland, and from the conquered territory in the Dutch East Indies. Production of coal, iron, steel, rubber, and other vital supplies was only a fraction of that before the war. As a result of the losses it had suffered, the Imperial Japanese Navy IJN had ceased to be an effective fighting force. Following a series of raids on the Japanese shipyard at Kure , the only major warships in fighting order were six aircraft carriers, four cruisers, and one battleship, none of which could be fueled adequately. We can no longer direct the war with any hope of success. Instead, everything was staked on the beachhead; more than 3, kamikazes would be sent to attack the amphibious transports before troops and cargo were disembarked on the beach. In the event of invasion, these caves, the Matsushiro Underground Imperial Headquarters , were to be used by the Army to direct the war and to house the Emperor and his family. General Korechika Anami Minister of the Navy: Nevertheless, from the Japanese Army and Navy held, effectively, a legal right to nominate or refuse to nominate their respective ministers, in addition to the effective right to order their respective ministers to resign their posts. Thus, the Army and Navy could prevent the formation of undesirable governments, or by resignation bring about the collapse of an existing government. For the Japanese, surrender was unthinkable"Japan had never been successfully invaded or lost a war in its history. Although Suzuki might indeed have seen peace as a distant goal, he had no design to achieve it within any immediate time span or on terms acceptable to the Allies. His own comments at the conference of senior statesmen gave no hint that he favored any early cessation of the war They cite the Japanese concept of haragei "the art of hidden and invisible technique"to justify the dissonance between their public actions and alleged behind-the-scenes work. However, many historians reject this. While this judgment does not accord with the much-lauded character of Admiral Suzuki, the fact remains that from the moment he became Premier until the day he resigned no one could ever be quite sure of what Suzuki would do or say next. Their prewar planning expected a rapid expansion and consolidation, an eventual conflict with the United States, and finally a settlement in which they would be able to retain at least some new territory they had conquered. There were two camps: In February , Prince Fumimaro Konoe gave Emperor Hirohito a memorandum analyzing the situation, and told him that if the war continued, the imperial family might be in greater danger from an internal revolution than from defeat. At the Yalta Conference in February , the United States had made substantial concessions to the Soviets to secure a promise that they would declare war on Japan within three months of the surrender of Germany. Although the five-year Neutrality Pact did not expire until April 5, , the announcement caused the Japanese great concern, because Japan had amassed its forces in the South to repel the inevitable US attack, thus leaving its Northern islands vulnerable to Soviet invasion. Because anyone openly supporting Japanese surrender risked assassination by zealous army officers, the meetings were closed to anyone except the Big Six, the Emperor, and the Privy Seal"no second- or third-echelon officers could attend. This policy was adopted by the Big Six on June 6. It should be clearly made known to Russia that she owes her victory over Germany to Japan, since we remained neutral, and that it would be to the advantage of the Soviets to help Japan maintain her international position, since they have the United States as an enemy in the future. We cannot be sure we will not share the fate of Germany and be reduced to adverse circumstances under which we will not attain even our supreme object of safeguarding the Imperial Household and preserving the national polity. Finally, Kido proposed that Japan disarm provided this not occur under Allied supervision and that Japan for a time be "content with minimum defense. Suzuki and Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai , the Navy minister , were both cautiously supportive; each wondered what the other thought. The

Battle of Okinawa was lost, and he learned of the weakness of the Japanese army in China, of the Kwantung Army in Manchuria, of the navy, and of the army defending the Home Islands. The Emperor received a report by Prince Higashikuni from which he concluded that "it was not just the coast defense; the divisions reserved to engage in the decisive battle also did not have sufficient numbers of weapons. I was told that the iron from bomb fragments dropped by the enemy was being used to make shovels. This confirmed my opinion that we were no longer in a position to continue the war. Unusually, he spoke first: The Japanese hoped that the Soviet Union could be persuaded to act as an agent for Japan in negotiations with the United States and Britain. His Majesty the Emperor, mindful of the fact that the present war daily brings greater evil and sacrifice upon the peoples of all the belligerent powers, desires from his heart that it may be quickly terminated. But so long as England and the United States insist upon unconditional surrender, the Japanese Empire has no alternative but to fight on with all its strength for the honor and existence of the Motherland. Although the directing powers, and the government as well, are convinced that our war strength still can deliver considerable blows to the enemy, we are unable to feel absolutely secure peace of mind. It goes without saying that in my earlier message calling for unconditional surrender or closely equivalent terms, I made an exception of the question of preserving [the imperial family]. With regard to unconditional surrender we are unable to consent to it under any circumstances whatever. It is in order to avoid such a state of affairs that we are seeking a peace. The year-round ice-free areas of the Soviet Pacific coastline— Vladivostok in particular—could be blockaded by air and sea from Sakhalin island and the Kurile Islands. Acquiring these territories, thus guaranteeing free access to the Soya Strait, was their primary objective. The Japanese would have to surrender unconditionally to all the Allies. To prolong the war, the Soviets opposed any attempt to weaken this requirement. Roosevelt warning him that the Germans might be researching the development of atomic weaponry and that it was necessary that the United States fund research and development of its own such project. Roosevelt agreed, [59] and the result was the Manhattan Project—a top-secret research program administered by Major General Leslie R. However, by this time it was increasingly obvious that Germany would be defeated before any bombs would be ready for use. Groves formed a committee that met in April and May to draw up a list of targets. One of the primary criteria was that the target cities must not have been damaged by conventional bombing. This would allow for an accurate assessment of the damage done by the atomic bomb. Stimson, who had visited the city on his honeymoon and knew of its cultural and historical significance. Wallace had been involved in the Manhattan Project since the beginning, [67] his successor, Harry S. Byrnes, George L. In a June 21 meeting, it reaffirmed that there was no alternative.