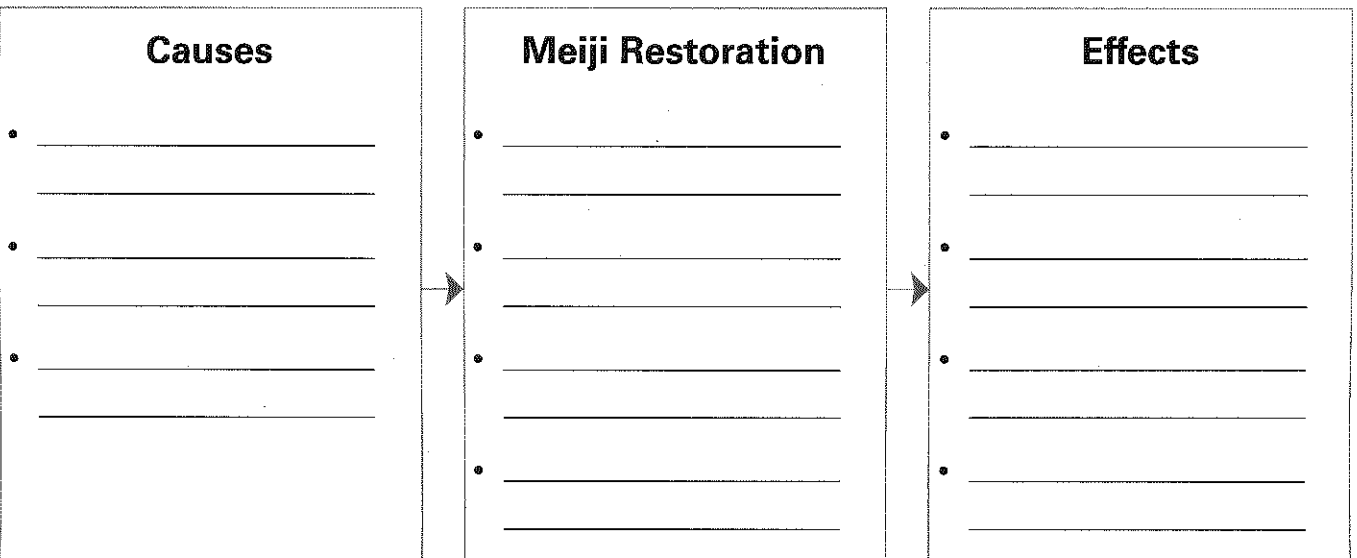


CHAPTER
25
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide
JAPAN MODERNIZES

Focus Question: How did Japan become a modern industrial power, and what did it do with its new strength?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the chart below to identify causes and effects of the Meiji Restoration.



CHAPTER
25
SECTION 1

Section Summary

JAPAN MODERNIZES

In 1603, the Tokugawa shoguns seized power in Japan and closed it to foreigners. For more than 200 years, Japan was isolated from other nations. Over time, unrest grew among many Japanese as they suffered financial hardship and lack of political power. The government responded by trying to revive old ways, emphasizing farming over commerce. These efforts had little success, and the shoguns' power weakened.

Then, in 1853, a fleet of well-armed U.S. ships led by Commodore **Matthew Perry** arrived. He demanded that Japan open its ports. Unable to defend itself, Japan was forced to sign treaties giving the United States trading and other rights. Humiliated by the terms of these unequal treaties, discontented daimyo and samurai led a revolt that unseated the shogun and placed the emperor Mutsuhito in power. Mutsuhito moved to the shogun's palace in the city of Edo, which was renamed **Tokyo**, and began a long reign known as the **Meiji Restoration**. This was a turning point in Japan's history.

The Meiji reformers wanted to create a new political and social system and build a modern industrial economy. The Meiji constitution gave all citizens equality before the law. A legislature, or **Diet**, was formed, but the emperor held absolute power. With government support, powerful banking and industrial families, known as **zaibatsu**, soon ruled over industrial empires. By the 1890s, industry was booming. Japan, a **homogeneous society**, modernized with amazing speed, partly due to its strong sense of identity.

As a small island nation, Japan lacked many resources essential for industry. Spurred by the need for natural resources and a strong ambition to equal the western imperial nations, Japan sought to build an empire. In 1876, Japan forced Korea to open its ports to Japanese trade. In 1894, competition between Japan and China in Korea led to the **First Sino-Japanese War**, which Japan easily won. Japan gained ports in China, won control over Taiwan, and joined the West in the race for empire. Ten years later, Japan successfully fought Russia in the **Russo-Japanese War**. By the early 1900s, Japan was the strongest power in Asia.

Review Questions

1. How did the Japanese respond to the unequal treaties signed with the United States?

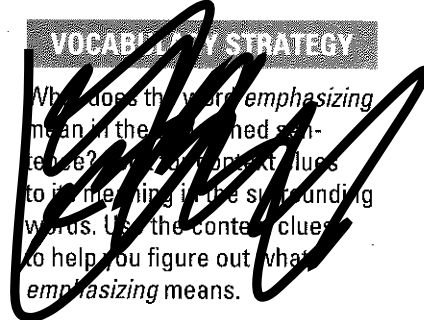
2. How did the Meiji reformers try to modernize Japan?

READING CHECK

What helped to create a strong sense of identity in Japanese society?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *emphasizing* mean in the underlined sentence? Use context clues to its meaning in the surrounding words. Use the context clues to help you figure out what *emphasizing* means.



READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects

What were the causes and effects of the Meiji Restoration?
