

Meiji Restoration  
of Japan



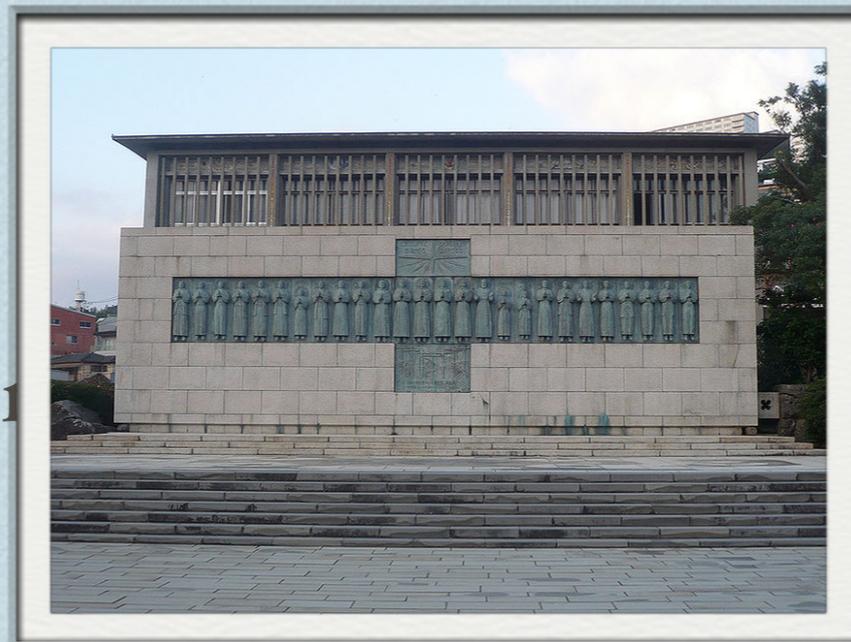
- ❖ 1543: Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in Japan
- ❖ brought missionaries
- ❖ converted and baptized around 300,000
- ❖ St. Francis Xavier was a famous Jesuit missionary to Japan



- ❖ 1600: Tokugawa Shogunate came to power
- ❖ moved the capital from Heian to Edo (Tokyo)
- ❖ 1600-1868: the Edo Period in Japanese History
- ❖ Tokugawa closed Japan to Europeans
  - ❖ with the exception of the Dutch who were allowed to trade on the island of Dejima which was off the coast of Nagasaki



- ❖ Christianity was banned in Japan
- ❖ Japanese Christians were martyred.
  - ❖ In one case, 36,000 Christians defended themselves inside a fortress but only 105 survived.
  - ❖ Others were crucified or thrown into volcanoes.

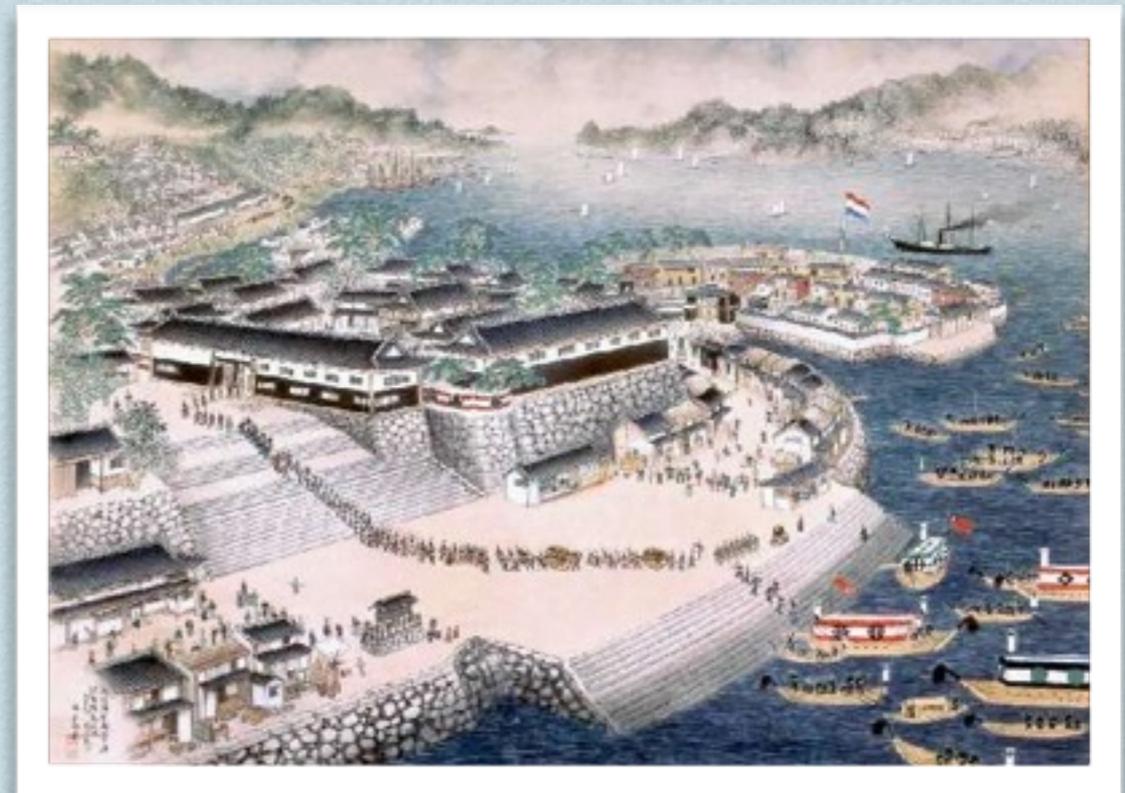


- ❖ During the Edo Period, the emperor had little power and the emperor had

- ❖ For 200 years, Japan had very little contact with the industrialized countries of the world.
- ❖ 1853: Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Edo Harbor with 4 American steam-powered warships.
  - ❖ He requested a trade treaty between the USA & Japan.
  - ❖ Japanese considered Europeans & Americans as barbarians.



- ❖ 1854: Fearing what had happened in China (division of the country by European powers), Japan signed a trade treaty with the USA.
- ❖ By 1860: Japan gave trading rights to Britain, France, Russia, and the Netherlands.
- ❖ Japanese believed these treaties were unequal and favored the Americans & Europeans.





❖ 1868: a group of samurai rebelled and put a new emperor in power.

❖ Emperor Mutsuhito

❖ called *Meiji* (enlightened one)

❖ Meiji Restoration

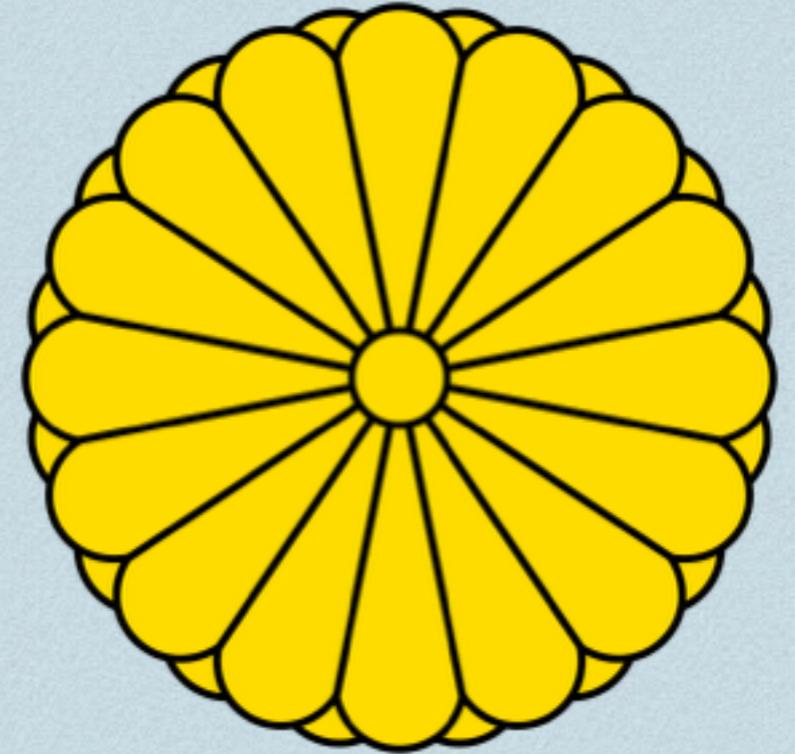
❖ In theory, this returned power back to the emperor.





Emperor Meiji

# Meiji Rule



- ❖ power returned to the emperor
- ❖ feudalism ended
- ❖ parliamentary government was installed
- ❖ strengthened the military
  - ❖ based their army on the German model
  - ❖ based their navy on the British model
- ❖ built up their industry
- ❖ created a modern currency

# Meiji Rule

- ❖ created railroad, postal, and telegraph networks
- ❖ built up their ports
- ❖ sent Japanese students to study in America and Europe to learn about Western technology and culture.



Grand Hotel - Tokyo



German Club - Yokohama



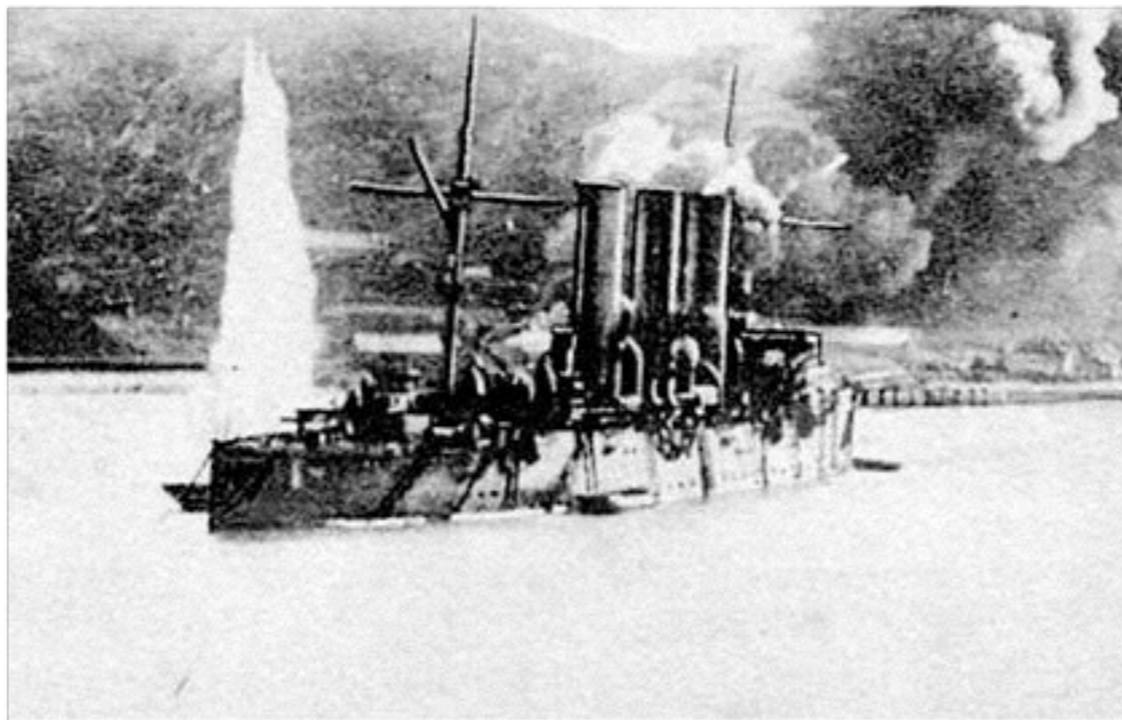
# Japanese Imperialism

- ❖ 1894: Sino-Japanese War
  - ❖ Koreans revolted against Chinese rule
  - ❖ Japan steps in and defeats the Chinese
  - ❖ Korea becomes “independent”
  - ❖ Japan had special trading rights in Korea
- ❖ Later the Japanese officially invade Korea and Manchuria.
  - ❖ Russians were not happy, they wanted to control this area.

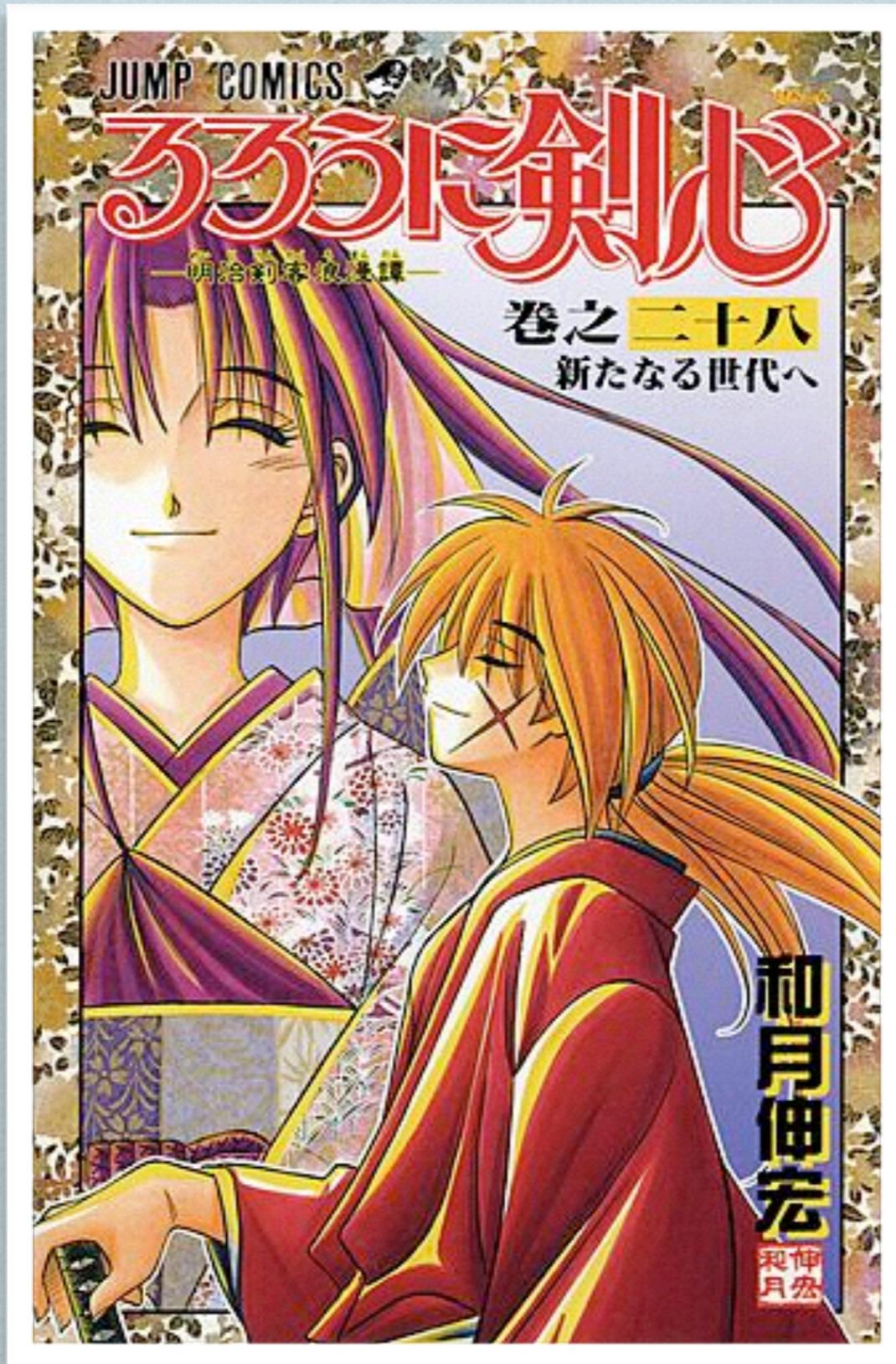


# Russia-Japanese War

- ❖ 1904: Japan attacked the Russian port of Port Arthur on the Chinese coast.
- ❖ Most Europeans expected the Russians to win easily.
- ❖ Japan sunk 38 of 40 warships in Russia's Far Eastern Fleet.
- ❖ 1905: Treaty of San Francisco
  - ❖ Japan won
  - ❖ Japan officially got control of Korea
    - ❖ Korea became an official Japanese colony in 1910.
    - ❖ Southern Manchuria became part of the Japanese sphere of influence.



**BY 1914, JAPAN WAS  
A WORLD POWER. IT  
WAS THE ONLY ASIAN  
NATION THAT THE  
EUROPEANS AND  
AMERICANS DEALT WITH  
AS AN EQUAL.**



# Rurouni Kenshin

Historical Manga Series  
set during the Meiji Era

