SETTING: 1830s

THE MEIJI RESTORATION

-Perry arrives in Japan 1853, forces it open to the West with unequal treaties.

-There is a revolution, and the Meiji Restoration of 1868 installs a government determined to modernize Japan.

 -Study tours to the U.S. and Europe

 -De-feudalization

 -Constitutional Monarchy (1889)

 -Industrialization

THE OPIUM WARS; IMPERIALISM

-Britain instigates the Opium Wars starting in 1836; China loses and is forced to sign unequal treaties.

-Western powers continue to demand concessions from China; economic exploitation and missionary activity increase throughout the 19th Century.

-The Boxer Rebellion of 1900-1901 failed to expel foreigners, and led to a humiliating defeat by Western forces.

CHINA & JAPAN: INDEPENDENT, ISOLATED, & PRE-INDUSTRIAL

-China is a vast Empire thousands of years old. It retains its independence and sells luxury goods to the West, but is a mostly rural pre-modern society.

-Japan is an island feudal kingdom that has deliberately isolated itself from the outside world. It forbids foreign trade and travel, and is a pre-modern mostly rural society without industry.

WAR V. CHINA & RUSSIA

-Japan won an easy victory over China in 1894-95, taking control of the Korean peninsula and other areas. This brought Japan into conflict with Russia in Manchuria.

-Russia wanted a warm water port and refused to recognize Japan’s imperial conquests in China & Korea; war 1904-5.

-Japan wins easily, and is now recognized as a modern military power.

CHINA: WEAK & STRUGGLING WITH CIVIL WAR; JAPAN: MODERN AND DEFEATED IN WAR

-China remains weak and pre-industrial, and is in the midst of civil war.

-Japan it is a powerful modern industrial nation-state, just defeated by the U.S. in World War II.

-U.S. policy after 1945 is to create a prosperous and democratic Japan.

THE PACIFIC WAR

-Japan’s militarist leaders set out to create an empire from Manchuria to Australia. 1931 invasion of Manchuria; by 1940 successful conquest of Eastern China, Indochina.

-U.S. & Europe try to limit Japan; Japan joins the axis in 1940, bombs Pearl Harbor in 1941 to knock U.S. out.

-U.S. responds with total war; Island hopping is successful; atomic bombs in 1945. >Japan surrenders.

OUTCOME: 1945

SETTING:

OUTCOME: