



Korea under Japanese rule (1905-1945)

Colonization or
occupation?



The Japanese point of view:

The integration of two states with deep affinities

Economic modernization

Free circulation of men and idea

Common fate in the face of Western imperialism



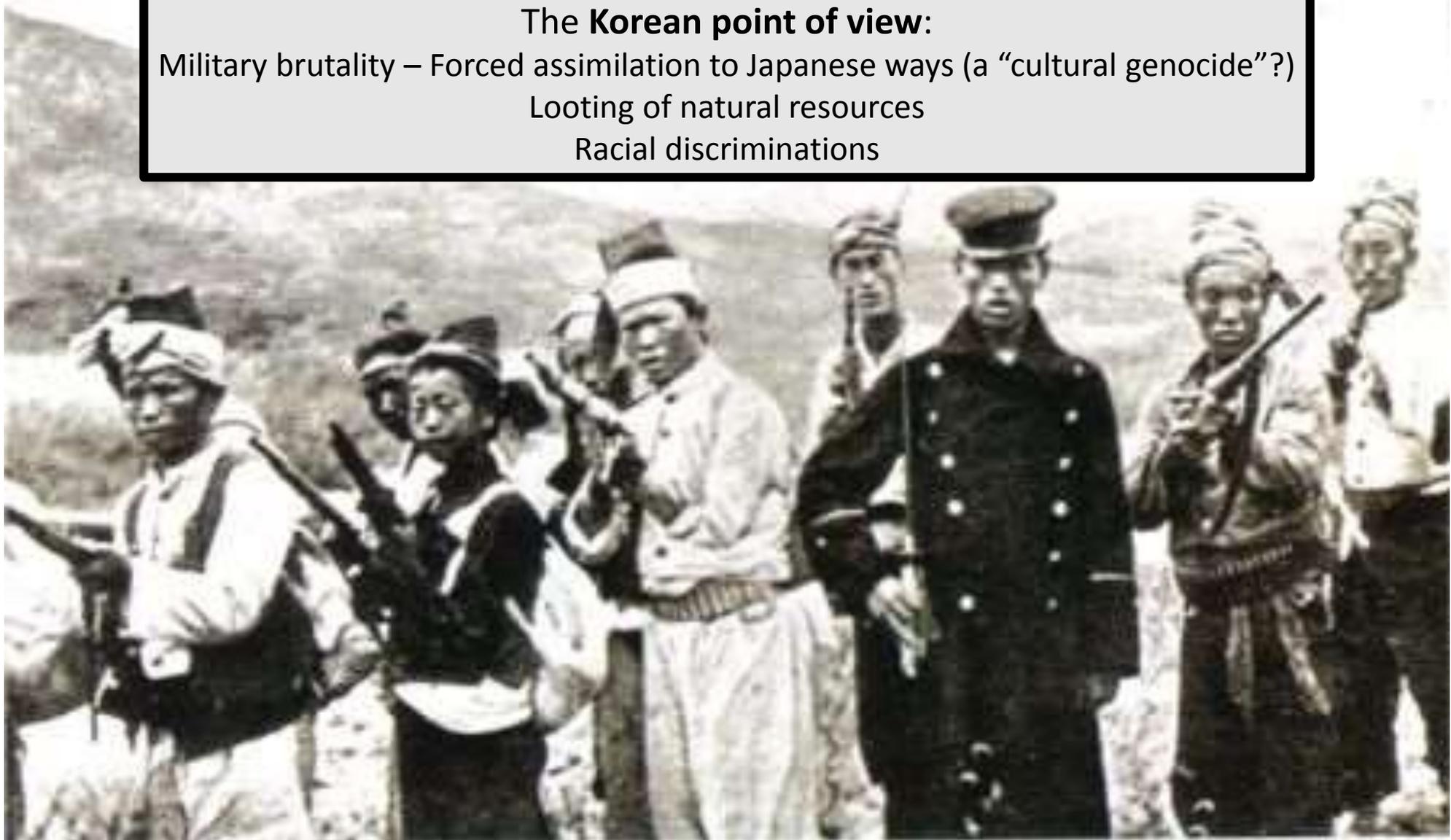
Japan-Korea. Teamwork and Unity. Champions of the World. – The notion of racial and imperial unity of Korea and Japan

The **Korean point of view:**

Military brutality – Forced assimilation to Japanese ways (a “cultural genocide”?)

Looting of natural resources

Racial discriminations





Some Korean historians prefer **occupation** over
colonization

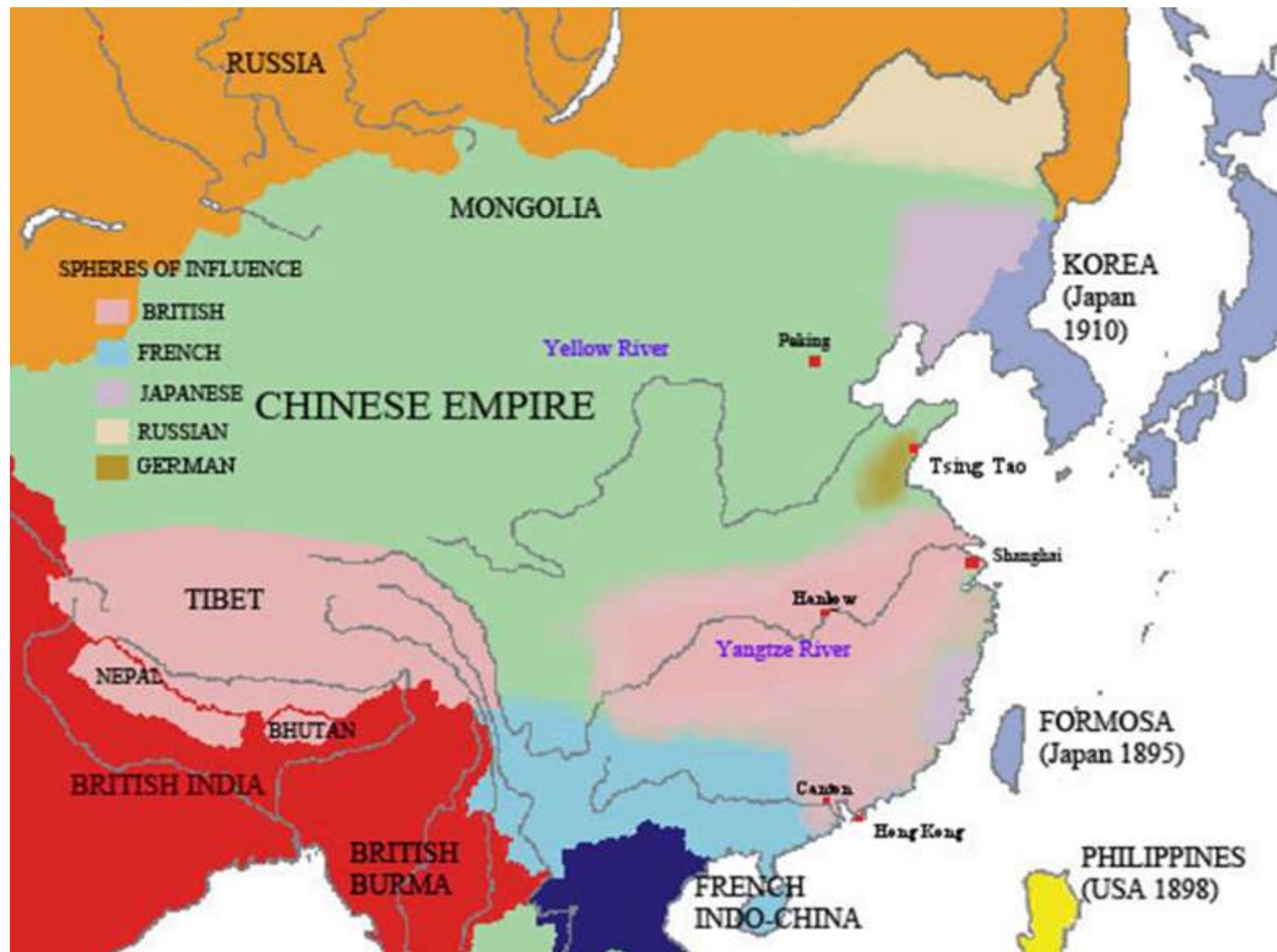
Pre-WWII Japanese Empire reluctant to using
"colonies" (*shokuminchi*)

Korea was a colony

Colonialization

The process associated with the **occupation** of a foreign land, its **economic exploitation** and in some cases the settling of colonists



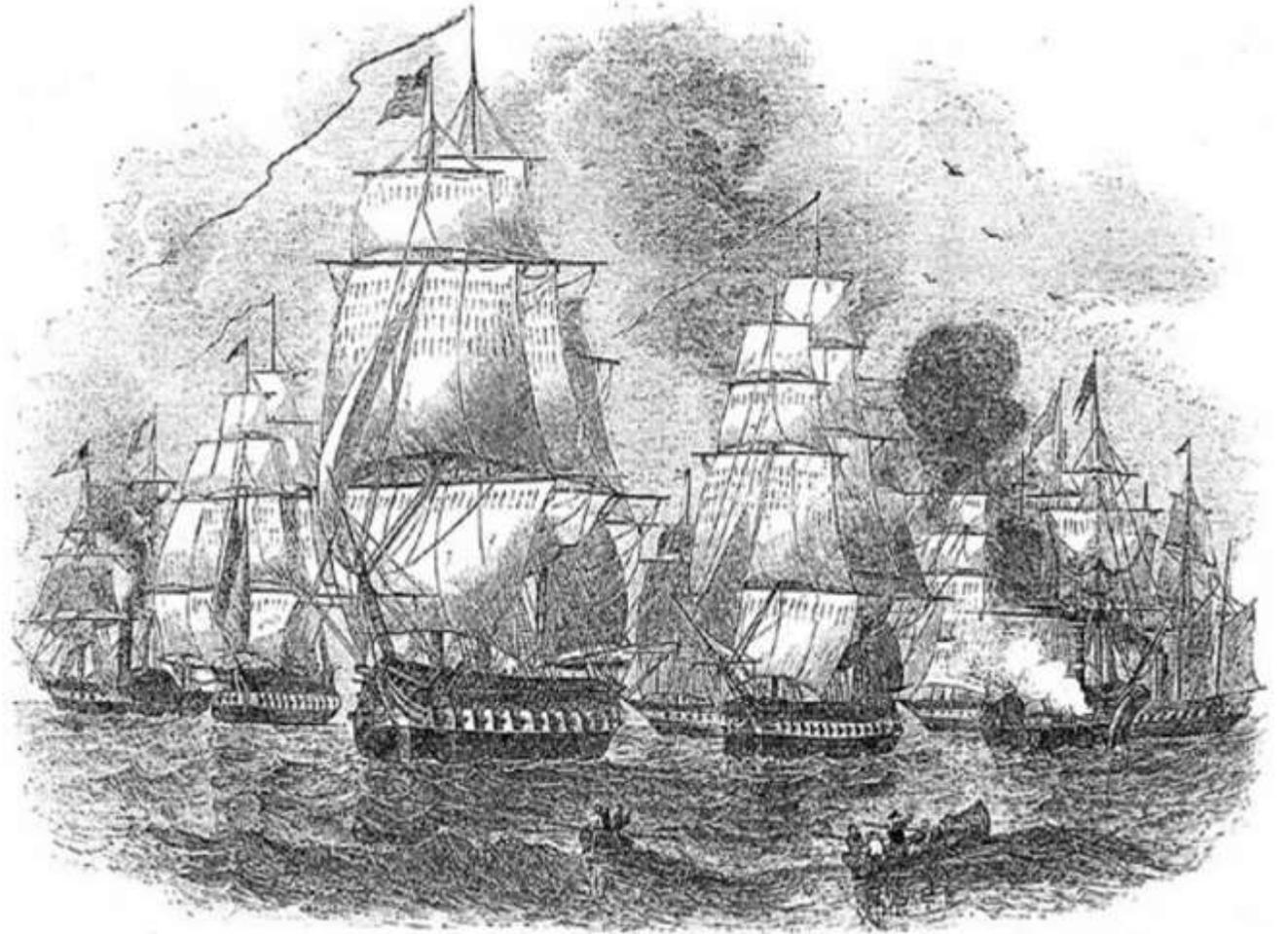


Korea at the junction of three empires (China, Russia & Japan) 1876-1905

Growing Western influence
in the Far-East

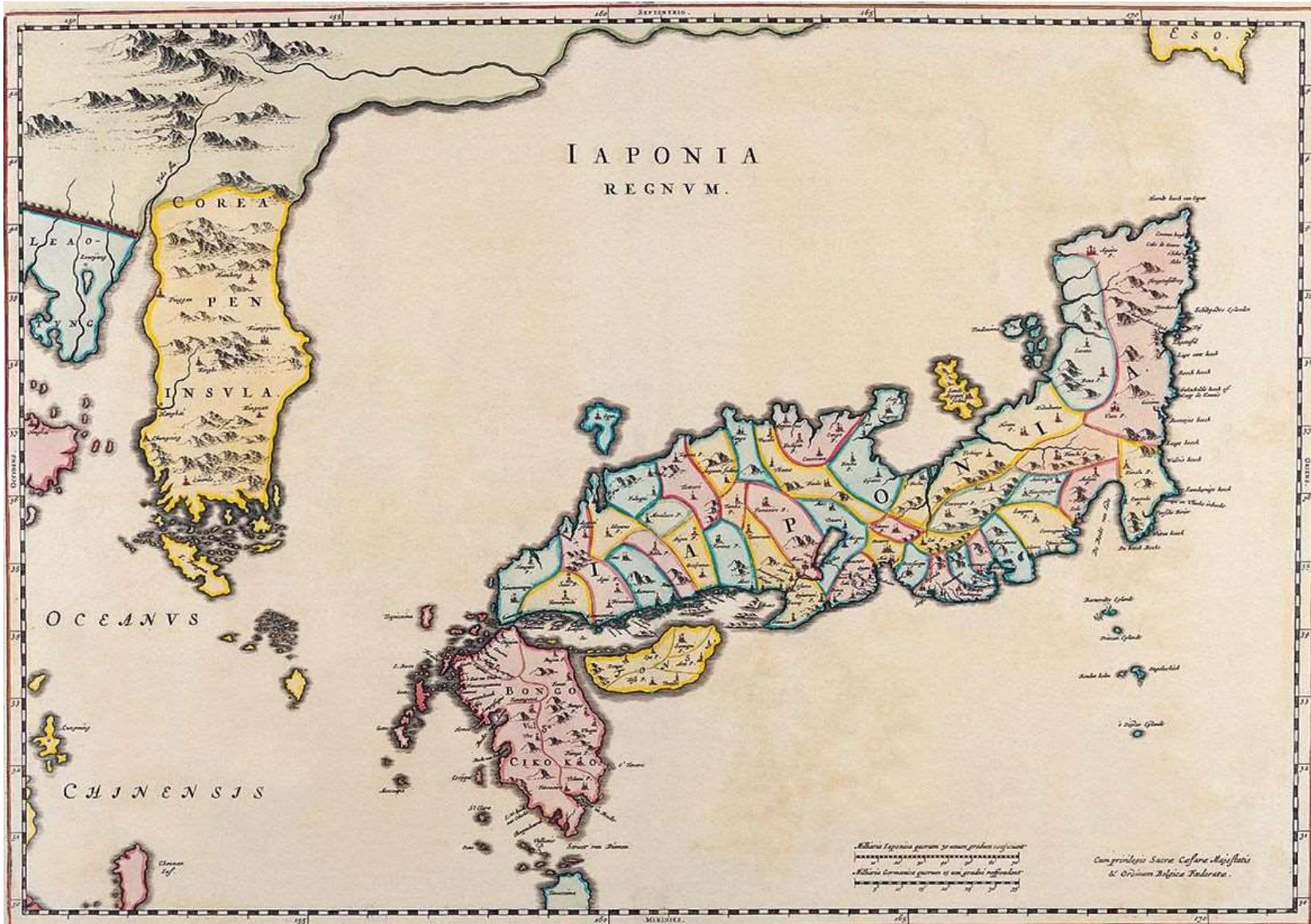
“Gunboat diplomacy”

Western **military superiority**
opens a new era in
international relations in Asia



The First Opium War (1839-1842)





Japan in 1853: no official relations with the outside world since the 17th century

The expedition of **Commodore Perry** in
Japan (1853)



1854: **treaty of peace and friendship** signed with the U.S.

Treaties of commerce with the U.S., Russia and the other European powers after 1858

Unequal treaties: Japan, a semi-colony

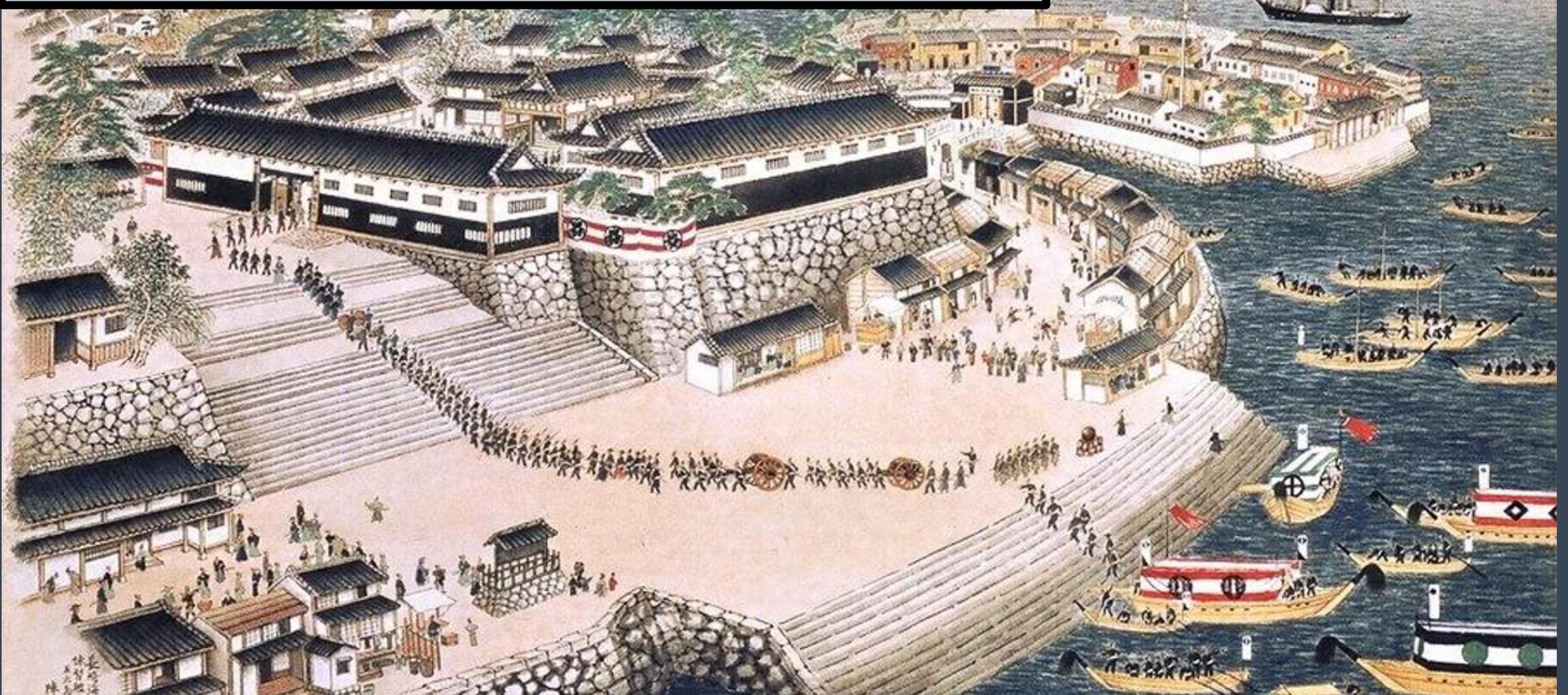
The end of 2 centuries of isolation

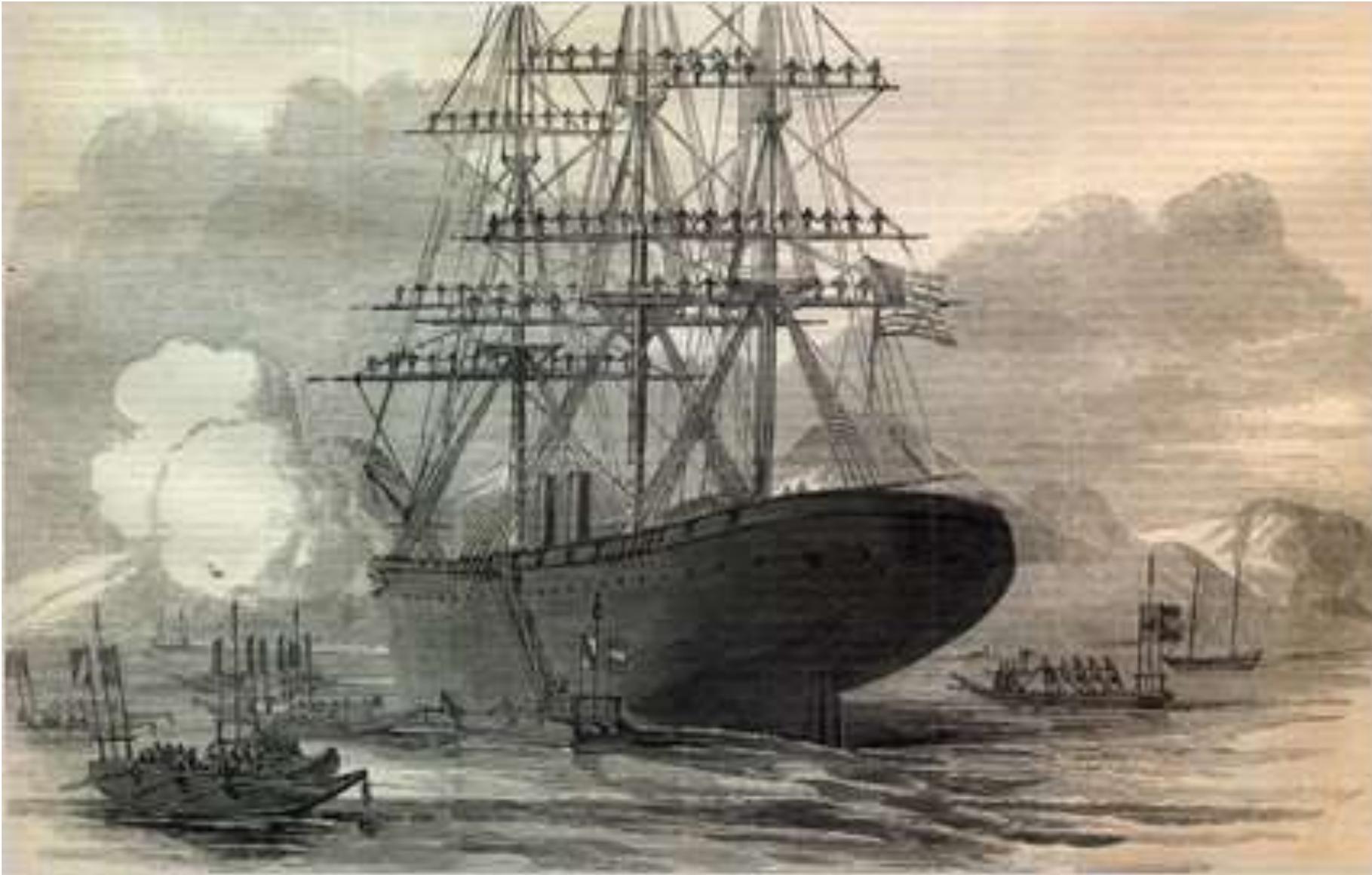


Japan's initial strategy: to avoid a military conflict at all cost
Loss of independence: "China first, Japan next"



The common goal: to preserve **Japan's independence**
1856: a naval military training centre in Nagasaki (Dutch instructors)





1860: Japan's
**first modern
vessel** sails to San
Francisco



An "Institute for the Study of Barbarian Books" charged with the translation and study of selected foreign books

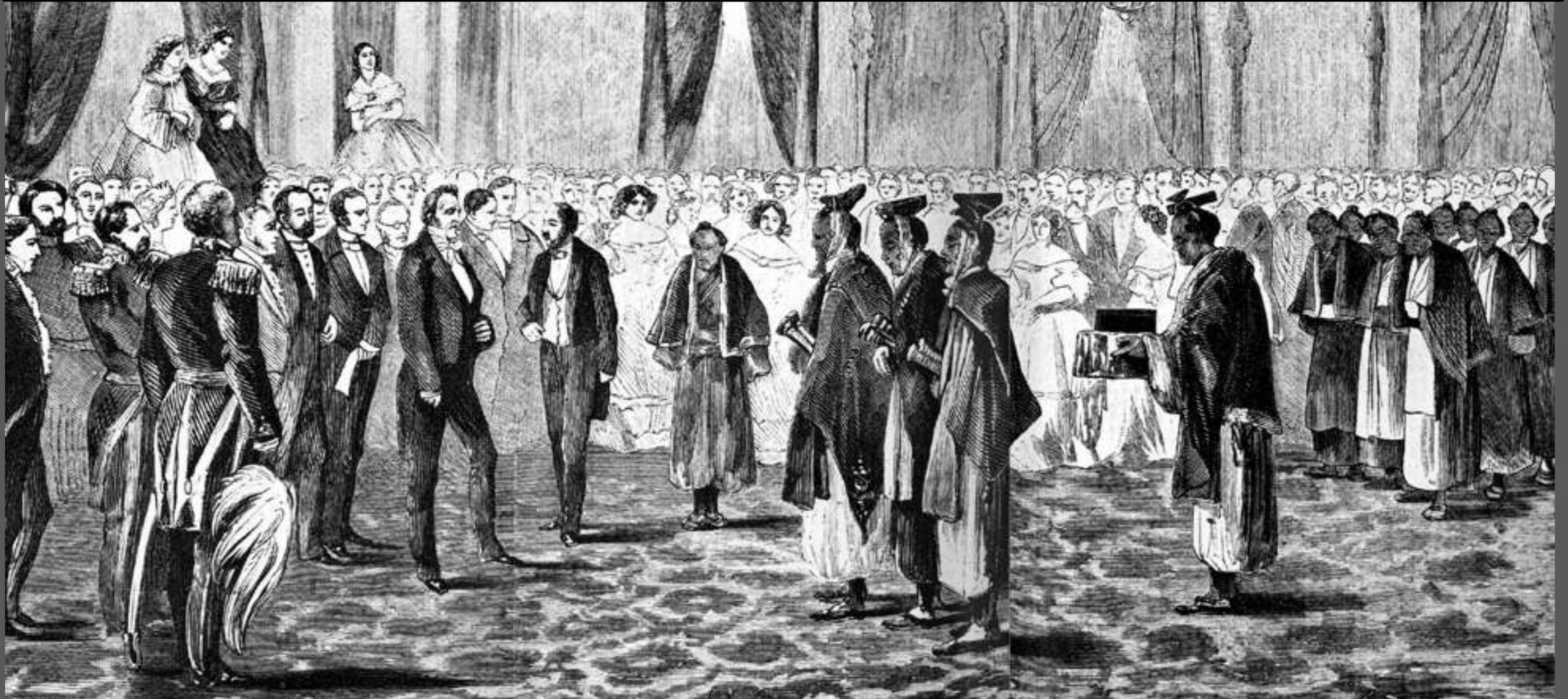
Young specialists to learn foreign languages



Dutch initially used as the language
of choice

Fukuzawa Yukichi: *“English is
commonly used around the world
and I did not know it!”*

The nature of **western style international relations** to be studied: a Japanese embassy to the U.S. (1860)
Diplomatic missions to Europe



The **Samurais**: leading the way to reforms

A new political regime for Japan

The **official policy**: to open up Japan to the world





The end of the **Shogunate**

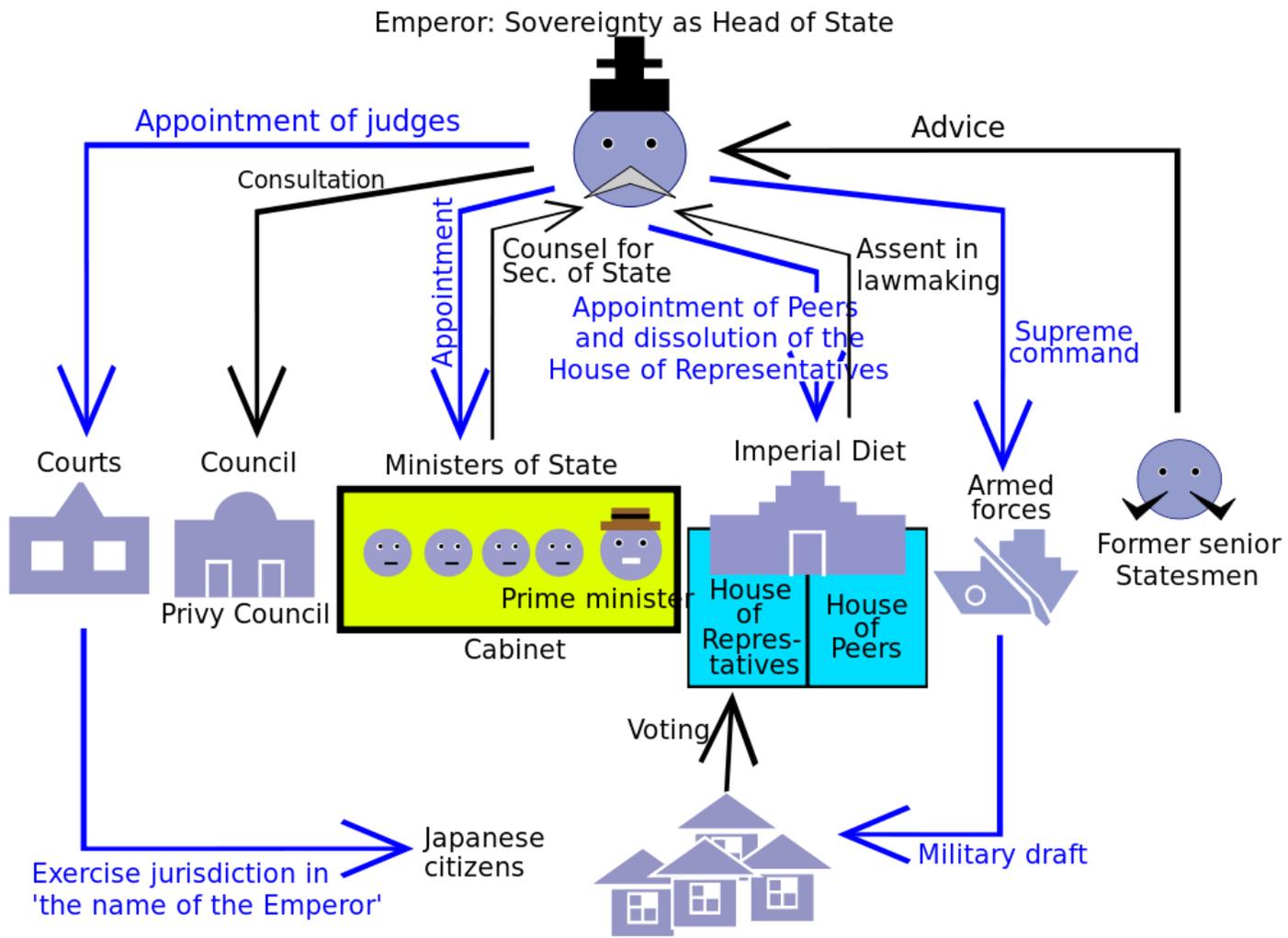
The regime criticized for capitulating to the Western powers

Political power transferred to the **emperor**: the **Meiji (“enlightened government”) restoration (1868)**



1889: Japan's first Constitution promulgated





A mix of constitutional and absolute monarchy

Extreme separation of powers:
the growing influence of the Army
in the 1930s

1947: a new Constitution for Japan

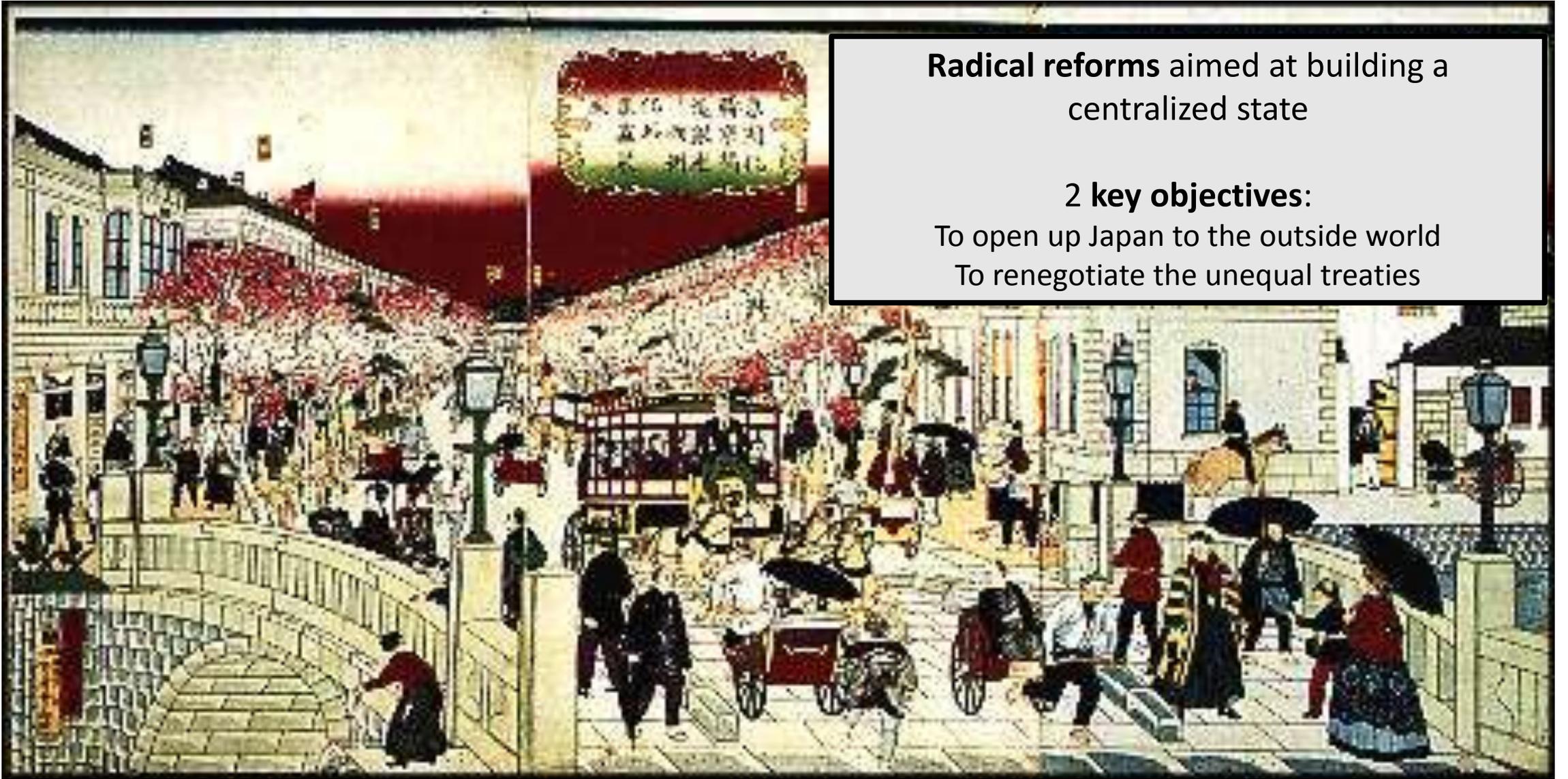
The **war flag** of the
Japanese imperial army
(1868-1945)

16 rays of sunshine setting the
rectangle of the world ablaze
(the “land of the rising sun”)

The symbol of Japanese
expansionism

The Pacific War against the
U.S.





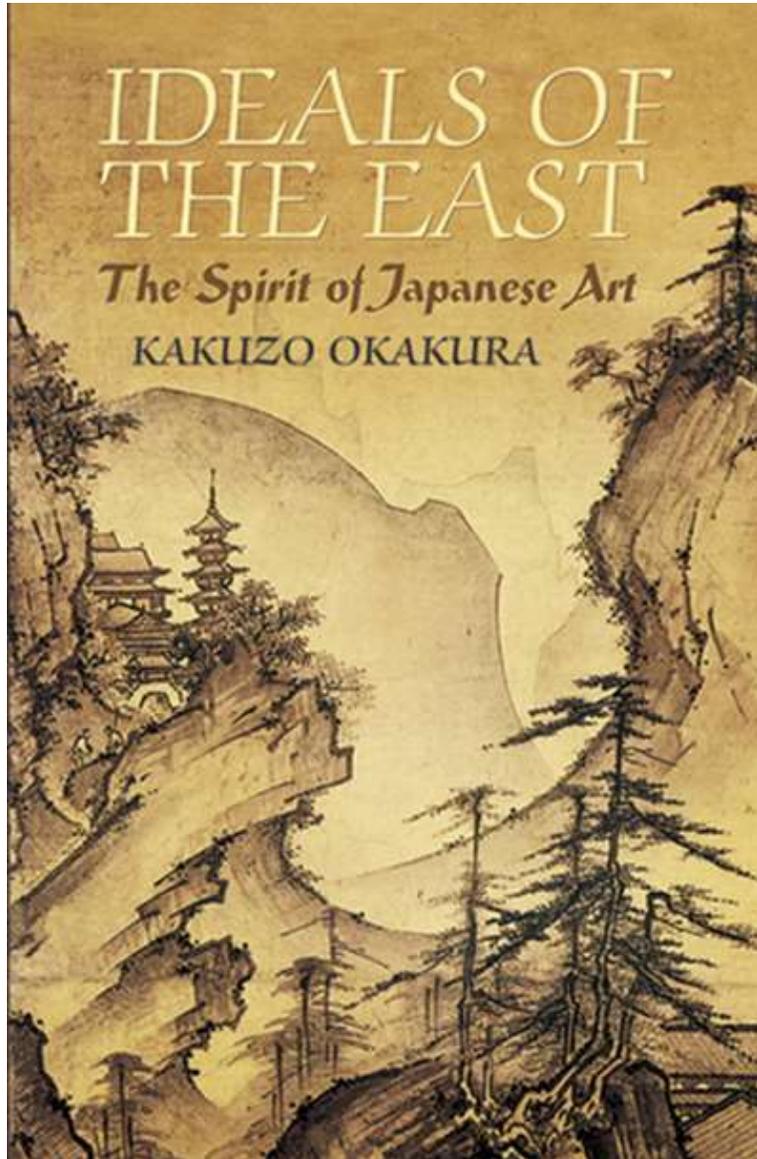
Radical reforms aimed at building a centralized state

2 key objectives:

To open up Japan to the outside world
To renegotiate the unequal treaties



How to best resist efficiently Western intrusions in the future?
A powerful army



To **unite Asia** under Japan's watch: a **strategic necessity**

The rise of Japan as a modern nation

=

The creation of a **colonial empire**

1930s slogan: "*Naissen ittai!*" ("Japan-Korea, one single body")



The idea that the great powers should exercise
control over weaker countries

“Colonize or be colonized”

Conquests: **security** and **prestige**

Japanese convinced of their **moral superiority**

Colonial conquests: buffer zones against the threat of China, then the U.S. & Russia



Phase 2 (1931-1945): 35 million km²/500 million people
The search for a **stable and coherent** empire





Korea: the pearl of the empire
Vital strategic importance

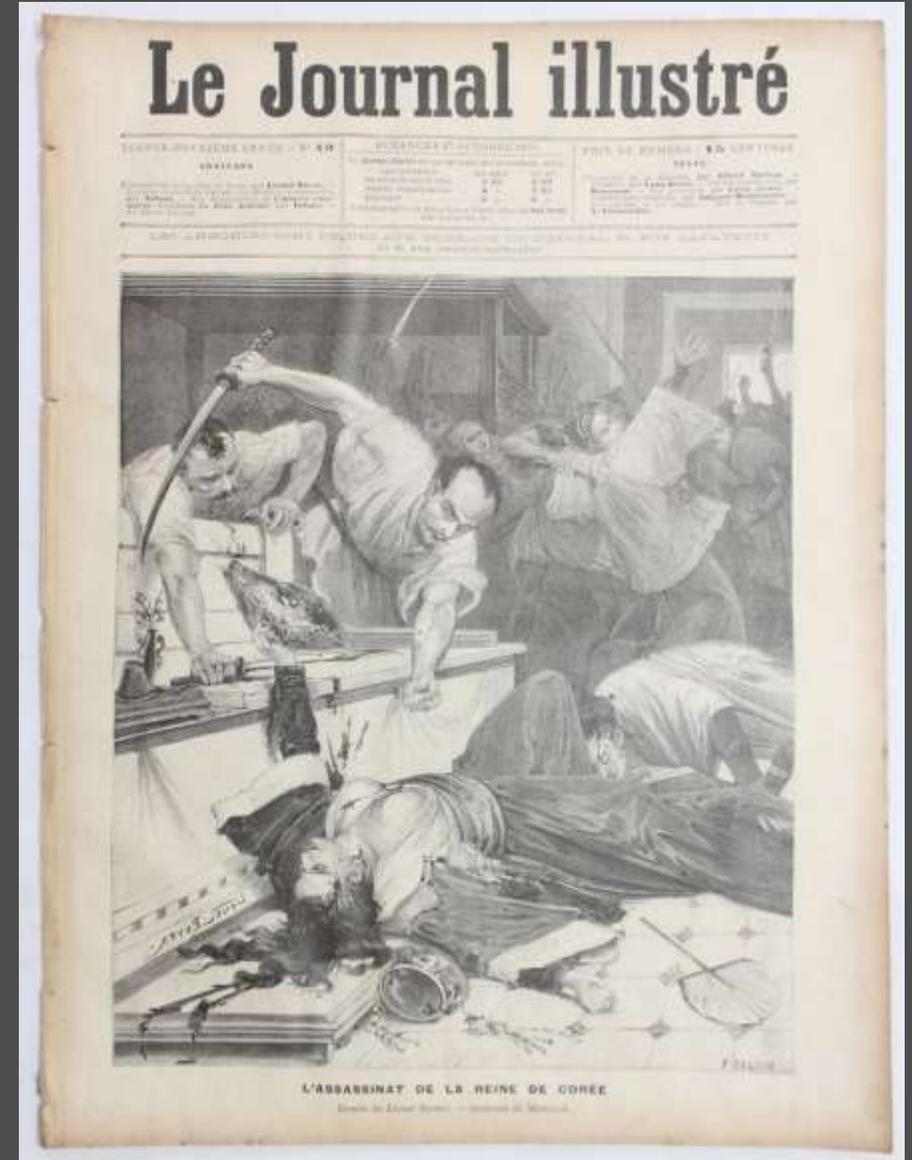
1876: Treaty of Kanghwa – Unequal treaty imposed on... Korea!

**3 Korean ports open to Japanese trade
Military threats – Political interference**





1895: the assassination
of Queen Min
(An advocate of closer
relations with Russia)



Sino-Japanese war (1894-1895)

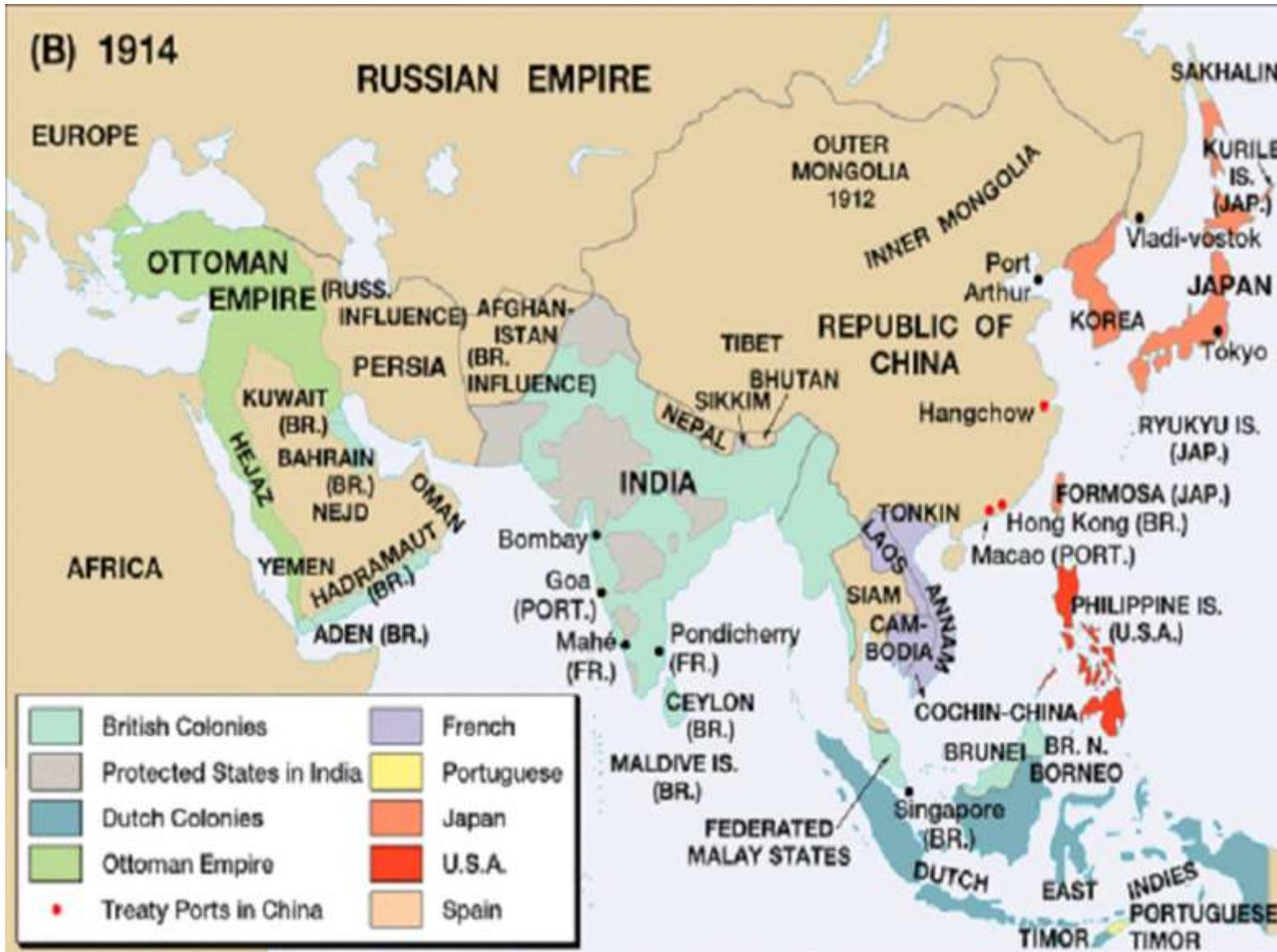


The Russo-Japanese War
(1904-1905)



Political advantage to Japan – **First economic penetration**
The introduction of Japanese manufactured goods for Korean rice
First wave of **Japanese migration** to Korea





November 1905: Korea becomes a Japanese protectorate in the name of commonality between the two peoples and promises of modernization

The beginning of a cycle of violence

The end of the Korean state (1910)

Japanese colonial management of Korea: **brutality, discrimination & bureaucracy**





A policy of
assimilation

Korea's population in
1945: 20 million
**Japanese colonial
community: 900 000**

March 1st Movement (peaceful uprising against Japanese rule) – 2 million Koreans in the streets
“Korea is an independent state and Koreans are a self-governing people”



EXCLUSIVE TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY OF UNITED PRESS NEWS ASSN. TABLOID FOR BUSY PEOPLE

SAN LUIS OBISPO DAILY TELEGRAM



17TH YEAR—No. 183.

Vol. 4 month after Aug. 1914. Bound month in
Pay 25 by the year and save 25c.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1918.

There may be a better climate than San
Luis Obispo—see our ads.

PRICE 5 CENTS

GERMANY ASKS PEACE EXTRA EXTRA ON WILSON'S 14 POINTS

Thousands Gather for Celebration When News of Peace Move Comes

Several thousand people gathered at the ringing of the fire bell and blowing of the whistles which open receipt of information of the wonderful news Saturday night.

The Municipal Band, the Elks Band and Honor Guard square assembled and while a few streets a number of the parade was held. And a teacher covered street parked the streets of this city.

Greatly it is rather difficult to get many people to walk in a parade, most of them preferring to stand on the sidewalks and play the part of spectators. But on last night, hundreds of men and women of all ages fell to behind the Home Guard and marched. Others followed the Elks' Band which headed a second section of the parade. All cheered and sang as the long line passed through the streets.

There was little or no attempt to have the line but every one was able to find a place in it.

Telegram Dispatches End.

...to be made in conformity with President Wilson's terms. Some most discarded citizens forgot their duty and a bunch of college boys at a speaker's conference would have led walking on them.

After the reading of the dispatches the Municipal Band played "America" and thousands of voices joined in singing the old song as they to. Young people.

The big crowd was asked, "Who do you want to speak to first?" and without a drawing voted the starkest name, "Habitak." So "Habitak" it was who delivered one of those rapid fire, satirical, heart-thrilling speeches such as only Sen. J. H. Habitak can give.

Habitak Thrills the Crowd.

The speaker said in part: "You have heard the news and the statement that it has been confirmed from more than one source. It is an such statement and we are fully justified in accepting it."

"This is a time for rejoicing because it looks like the beginning of the end for there is perhaps in the mind of each of us the question, 'Is it possible that Germany is not playing for time?' It is not before us. I think she is about through. But this must not be allowed to cause us to slow up on the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign. If Germany is not in accord her principal reason for making such an announcement is not that she would be so well liked here. There must be no let-up. We must raise every dollar of our quota and the country must take every bond offered."

"We must show Germany that we make business and that if she is not ready to come to our terms she must fight. Our hope is that, more we ready to go and we will fight to the death in support of the principles outlined by our great president."

"Again let me repeat: Buy bonds and take up more bonds as they appear and when you have sold them you may be better off."

WILSON THE MAN OF HOUR

Fourteen Terms of Peace to Go Down in History as a Second Declaration of Independence, Say Diplomats.



Portrait from speech in the House. WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—"I regret it, why not now?" apparently is the

NO PEACE TALK UNTIL GERMAN TROOPS LEAVE FRANCE, BELGIUM, RUSSIA

By HAROLD CLIFFER, United Press Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—There will be no peace talk until German troops leave Belgium, France and Russia. This is the answer that officials and diplomats make today to reports that Germany is sending a request for peace negotiations.

That Prince Max would propose a cessation of hostilities was expected, and ask for a discussion of war aims raised by President Wilson.

Germany's greatest peace offensive is on the way, according to all views here. Seeing her doom in the field of battle she is now entering into a string of clever peace maneuvers in the hope that she can slave off the fate that is ahead of her.

Military officials warn against any feeling that the end of the war is at hand.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 6.—Prince Maximilian of Baden, the new German chancellor, announced in the Reichstag that he is communicating his request for peace negotiations to President Wilson through Switzerland, according to dispatches received here today.

By ED L. BEEK, United Press Correspondent.

LONDON, Oct. 6.—What newspaper comment has been heard so far regarding the latest peace move by the Central Powers is a flat declaration to even consider the proposal. Dispatches reaching here show that Germany has offered to negotiate peace on a basis of President Wilson's terms laid down in his speeches, but has failed to make any concession that would prove acceptable to the allies.

Woodrow Wilson and the principle of national self-determination

Korea "to follow the model of the advanced democratic nations that are based on justice and freedom"

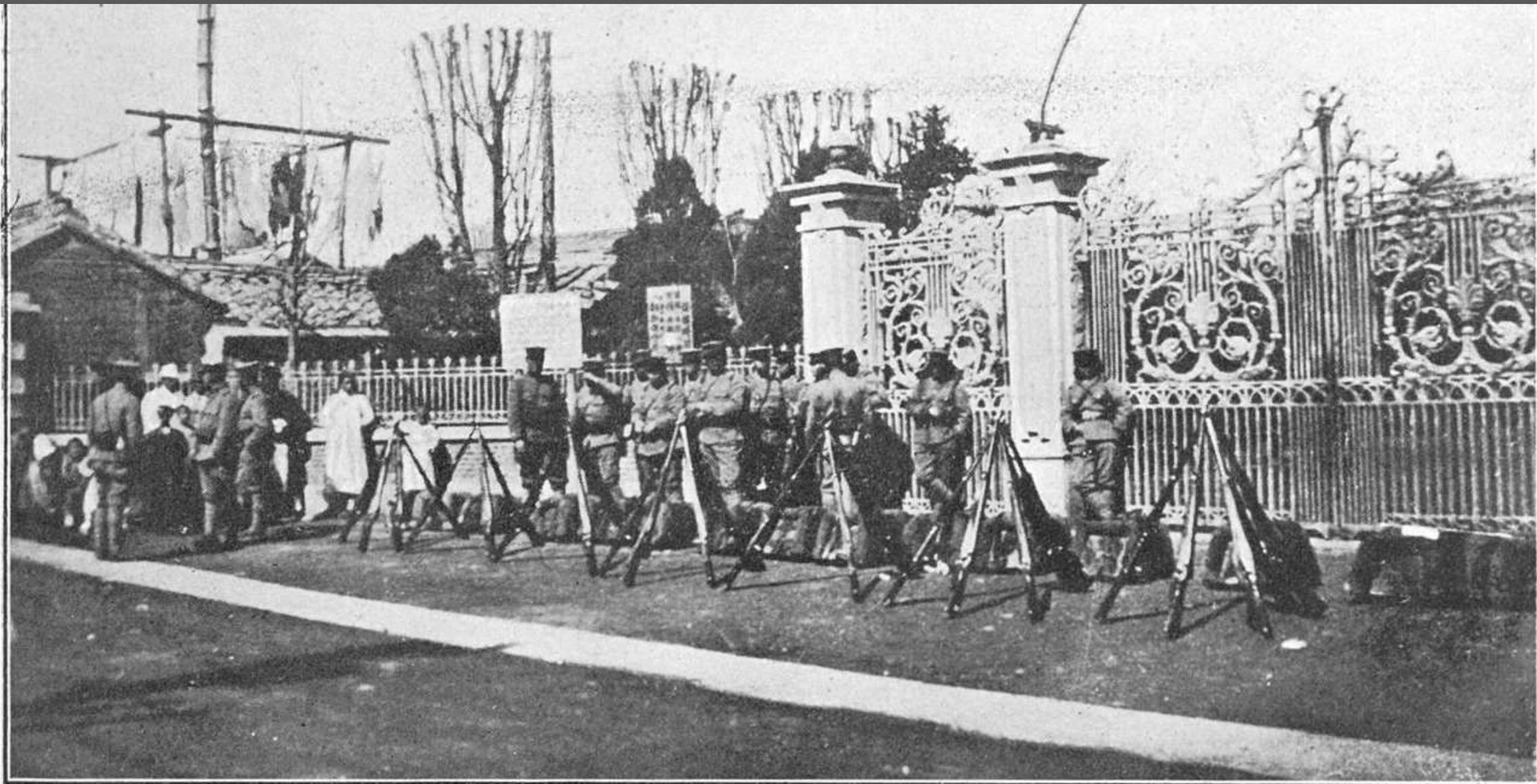
(February 8 declaration)



The Independence Arch in Seoul (1897) following the First Sino-Japanese War to inspire a **spirit of independence**

The colonial security forces caught off guard by the magnitude of the protests

An explosion of violence (thousands of deaths, arrestations and destructions of buildings)



1920s: a « cultural policy »

Korean press allowed

Participation of local elites to the Japanese project of Korea's "regeneration"

The promise of **harmony** between the two countries

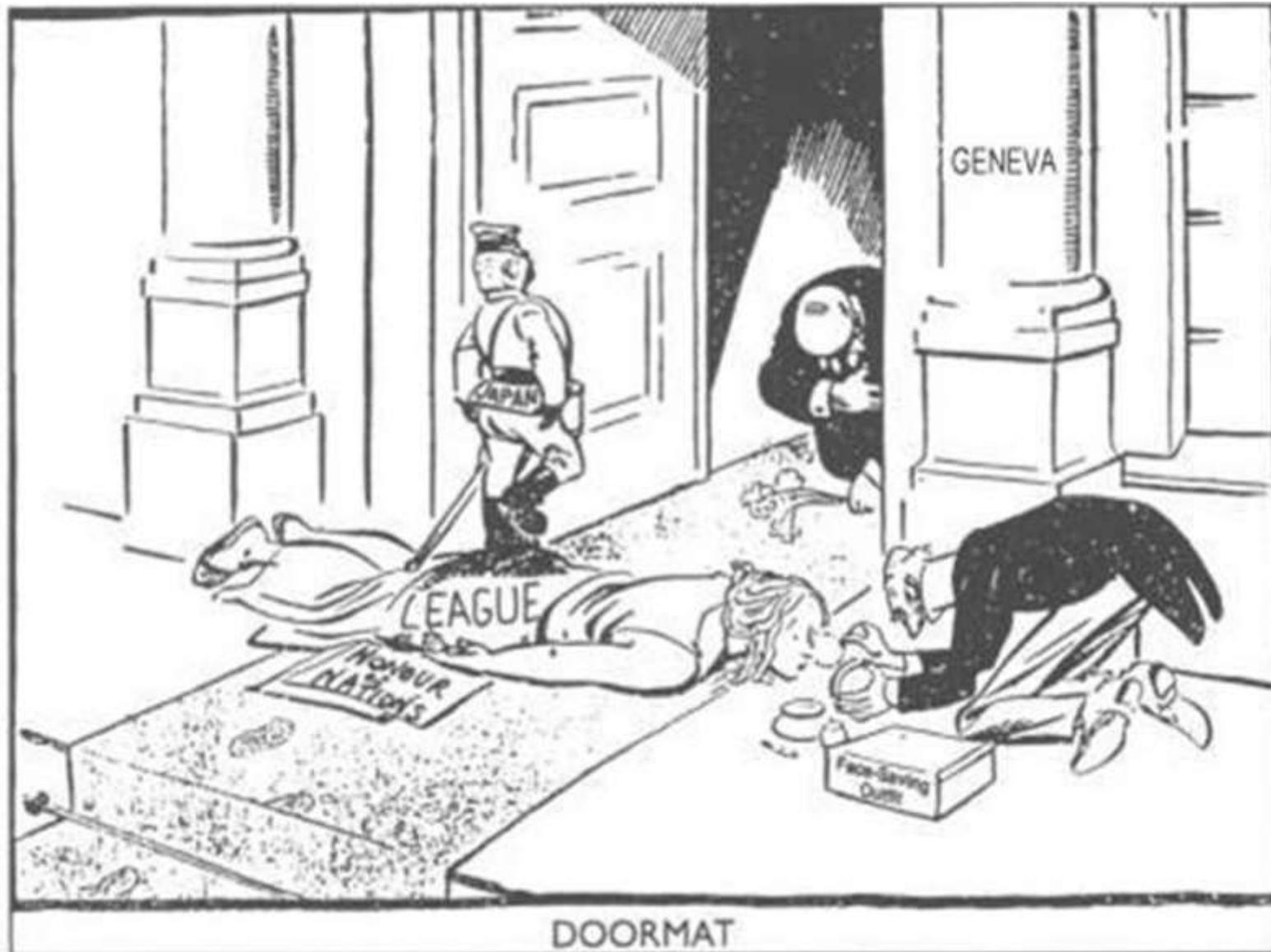




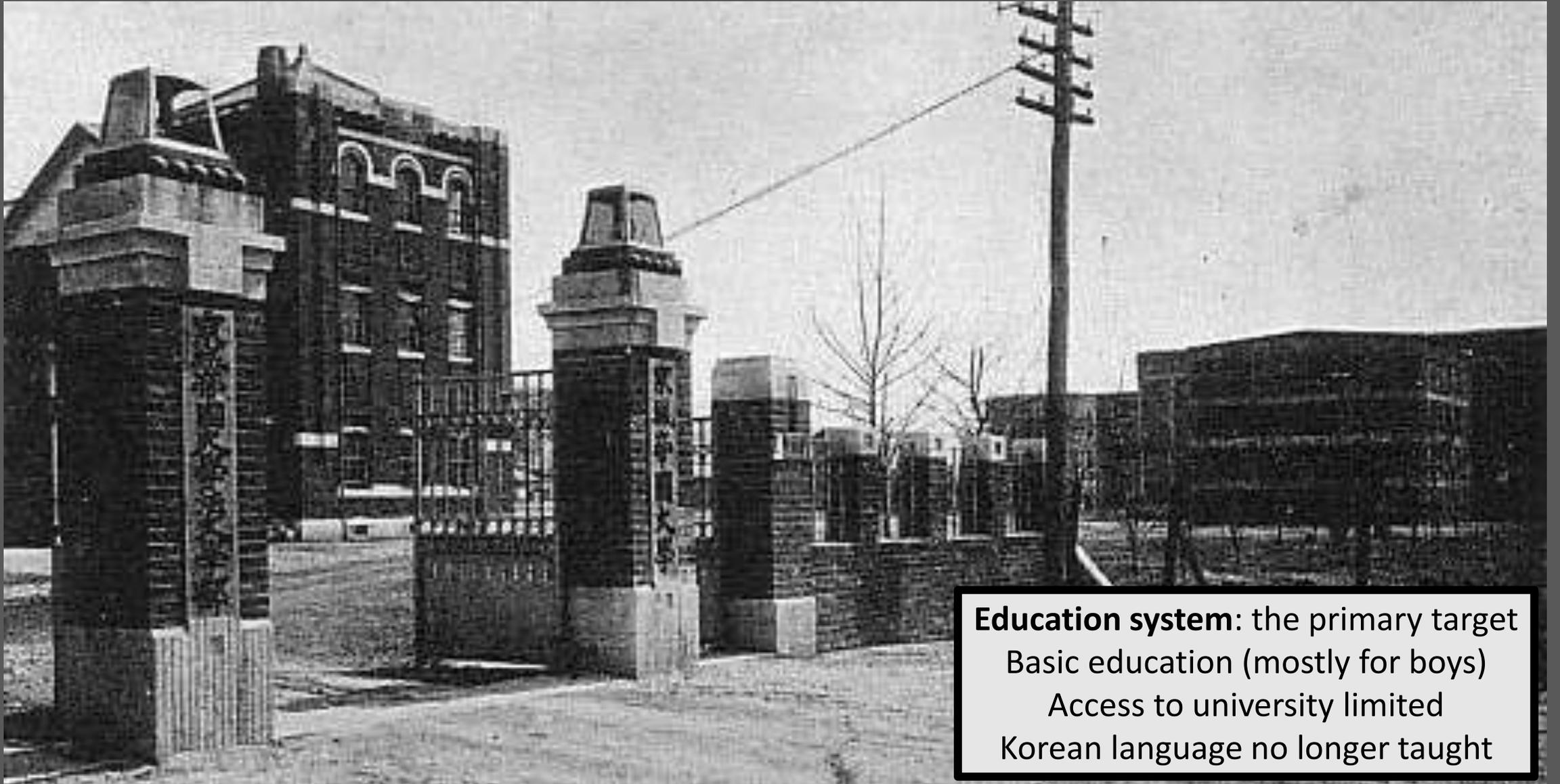
The occupation of Manchuria:
Japan increasingly **isolated** on
the global stage

Economic and political **self-**
sufficiency

Greater integration of Korea
to Japan



1930s: the “Japanization” of Korea



Education system: the primary target
Basic education (mostly for boys)
Access to university limited
Korean language no longer taught

時ノ行斷慮熟今リ限日十月八ル迫ニ々刻ハ限期

△好機ヲ逸サヌヤウ!

氏設定ニ就テ御注意

- 一、創氏届出ハ八月十日迄ニテス其後創氏届ハ出来マセシム名ノ變更ハハ期限ガアリマセン
- 二、八月十日迄ニ氏ノ届ヲ爲リ及者ハ從來ノ戸主ノ姓力其儘氏ト爲ル結果戸主ノ姓ガ金ナレバ金ガ氏トナリ妻尹貞姫ハ戸主ノ氏ニ從ヒ金貞姫トナリ子婿朴南祥ハ金南祥トナリ粉籍スル虞ガアリマセン
- 三、此ノ結果ハ内地式氏ヲ設定シナカッタコトヲ却テ後悔スルコトニナラント思ハレマセン
- 四、氏ト姓トチ混同スル向ガアルヤウデスガ氏ハ家ノ稱號デアリ姓ハ男系ノ血統ヲ表スモノデ兩者ノ性質ハ全然異ツテ居リマセン
- 五、氏ヲ設定スルト從來ノ姓ガ無クナルト云フ誤解ガアルヤウデスガ氏設定後ニ於テモ姓及本貫ハ其儘戸籍ニ存置セラレマス
- 六、門中又ハ宗中ハ同一ノ氏ヲ設定シテケレバチラフスト考ヘラレテ居ル人モアリマセンガ大ナル誤解デアリマセン氏ハ家ノ稱號デアルガ故ニ各家異ル氏ヲ設定スルノガ當然デアリマセン
- 七、氏選定ニ就テ熱慮中ノ様デスガ考ヘ過ギルト却ツテ速ニ決定スルノガ最モ理想的デアリマセン
- 八、期限モ迫リマシタ不齊ノ点ハ早ク府面色又ハ法院へ御問合セ下サイ

大邱地方法院

△即刻届出シマセウ!

ウヤヌサ貽ニ孫子ヲ悔テ誤ヲ識認

1939: policy of **pressuring** Koreans to adopt Japanese names

Choice of name to be approved by the authorities

National distinctions maintained in public records

A “cultural genocide”?



1930s: the **spectacular development of Korea's colonial economy**

Rice for Japanese market/textile industry

Energy resources (coal, iron-ore, **hydroelectrical infrastructure** key to development of **chemical industry**)

Well trained workforce

Excellent railroad system

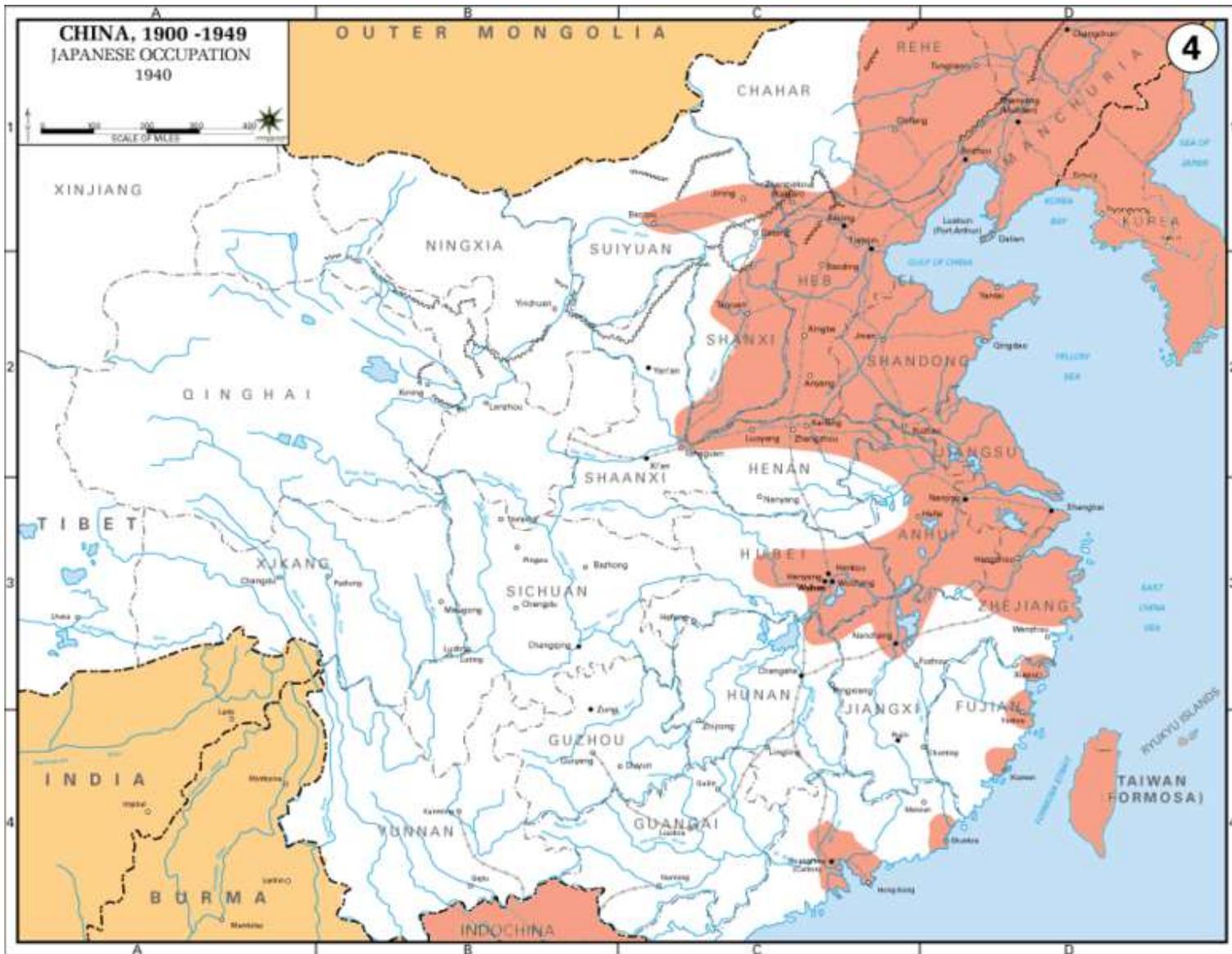


1937: the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War

Enhanced role for Korea: Japan's industrial periphery

A rear base to help in the conquest of China
 (Agricultural resources, mining & manpower)

200 000 Korean soldiers mobilized in 1943



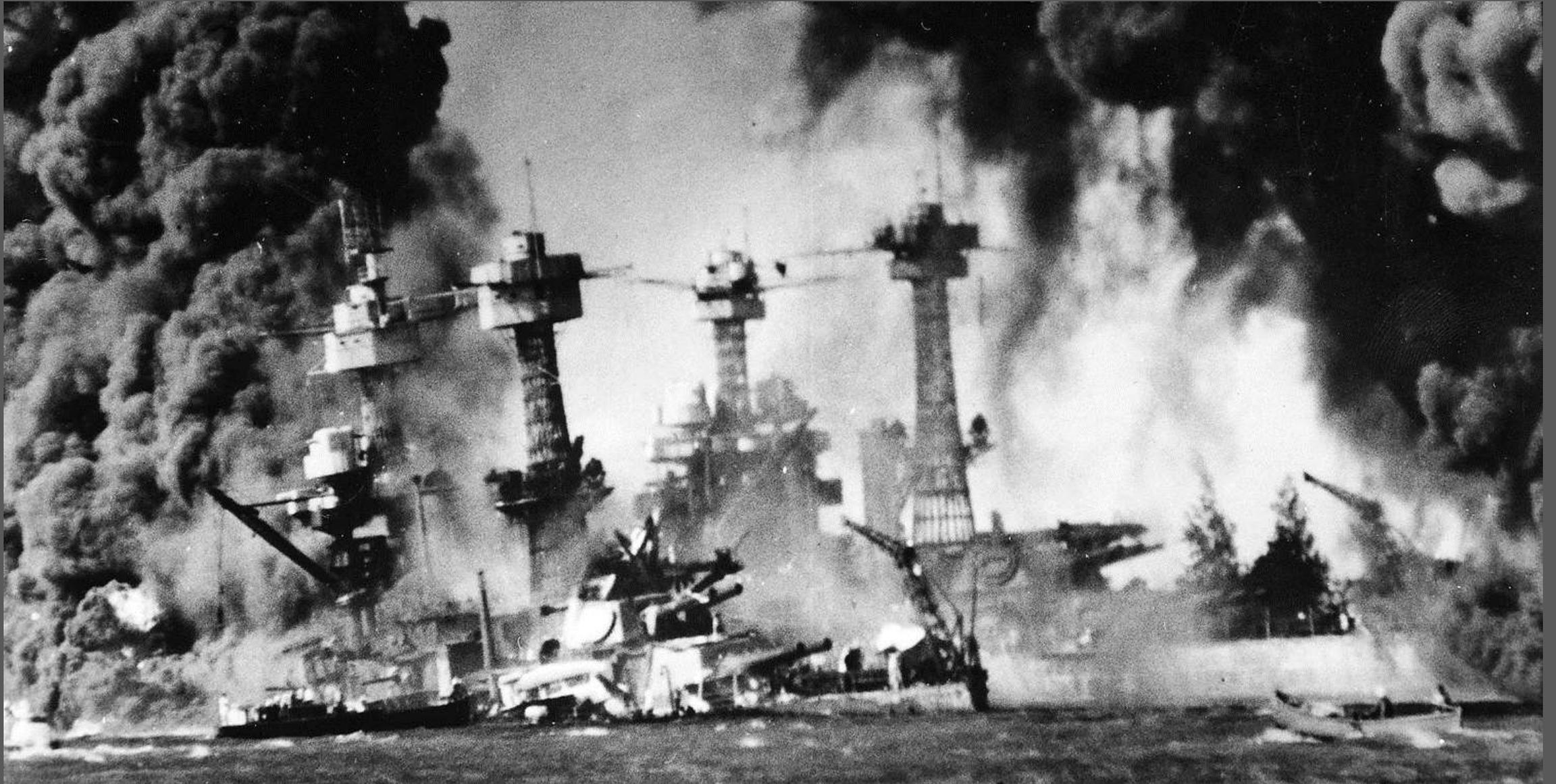
Why did Japan invade China in 1937?

A central location in Asia
 (buffer zone)

Natural resources (Iron-ore)

Civilizing mission aimed at restoring China's former greatness

Why did Japan attack the U.S. in December 1941?



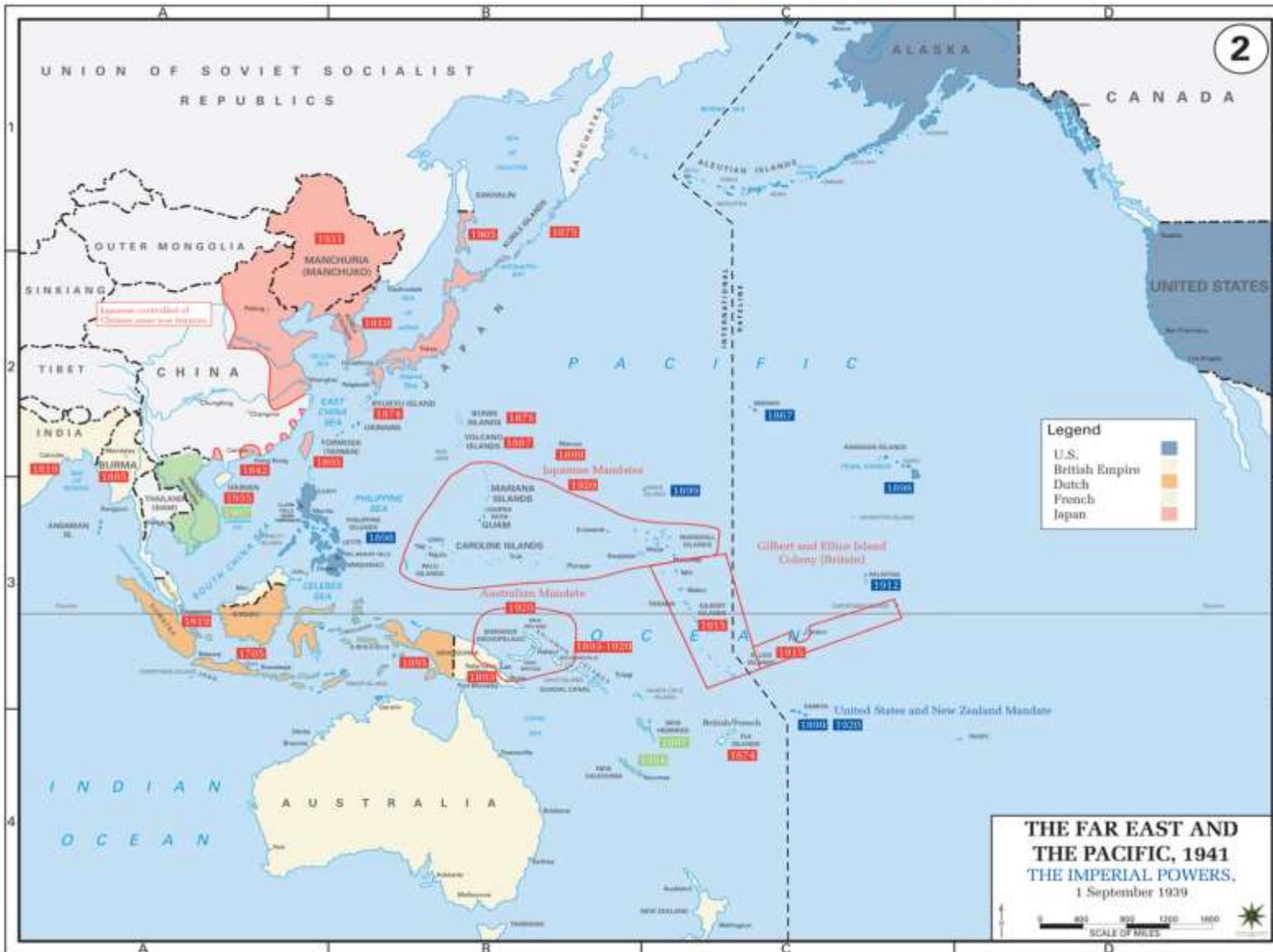


August 1940: the Japanese's partial occupation of **French Indochina**

The Soviet Union **to help** China against Japan

Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union (June 1941): no further help to China

Neutrality pact signed with the Soviet Union



The U.S. & Western powers:
 Japan's **new adversaries**

The U.S. hostile to Japan's
 expansionism in Asia/Pacific

The **Dutch East Indies**: an
 important source of **oil**
 supply

September 1940: Tripartite Pact (Germany, Italy & Japan)





July 1941: the complete occupation of French Indochina

Washington freezes Japanese assets in the U.S.

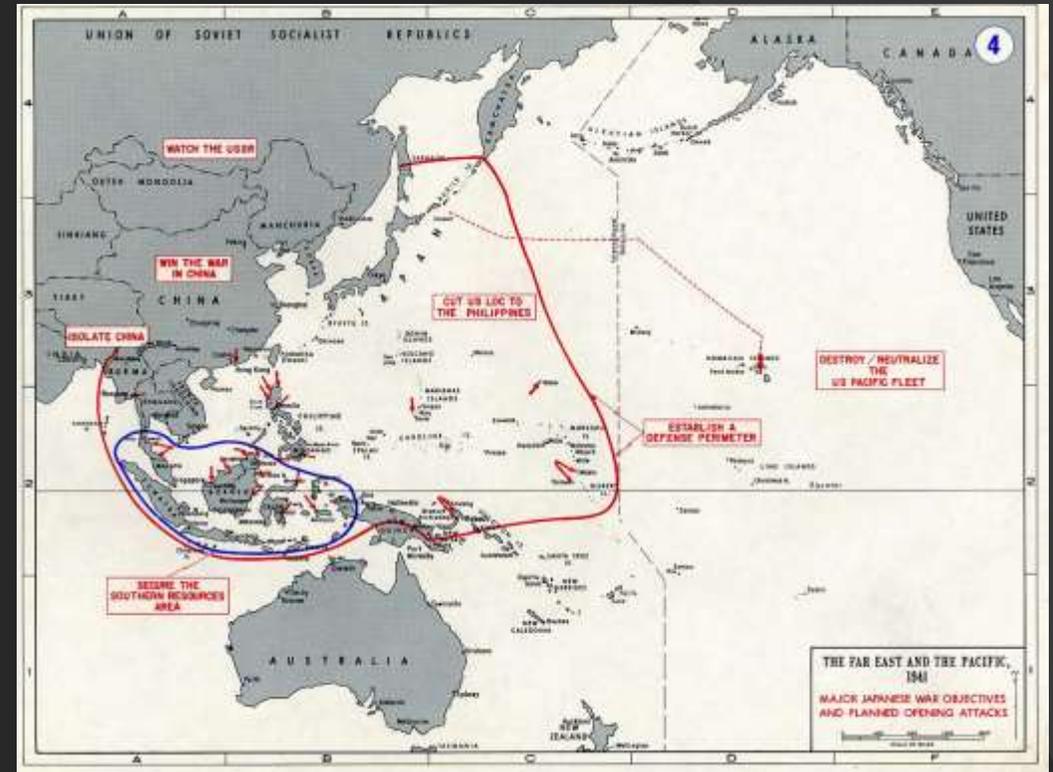
Total oil embargo

The purpose of Pearl Harbor: to destroy the U.S. fleet & paralyze the U.S.
Enough time to establish defense perimeter
To force U.S. to negotiate

Landings in Thailand & Malay peninsula
preceded Pearl Harbor

British & Dutch empires = primary targets

The Pacific War did not start with an attack
against the U.S.



A “co-prosperity sphere”: A “prosperous” Asia liberated from Western colonial domination



1941-1945: the full mobilization of Korea

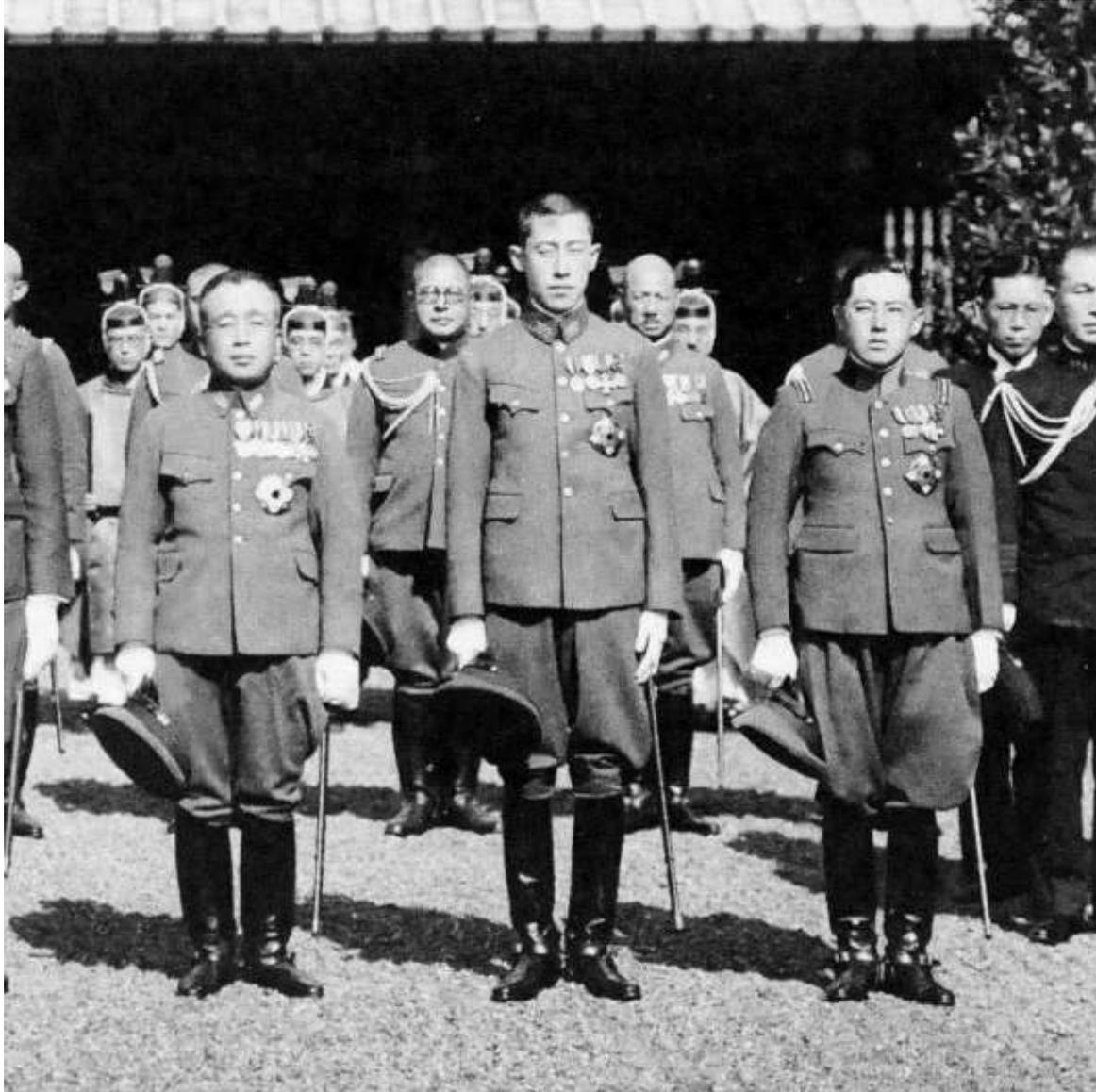
Agricultural products, mining & manpower (including “comfort women”) to feed Japan’s war machine



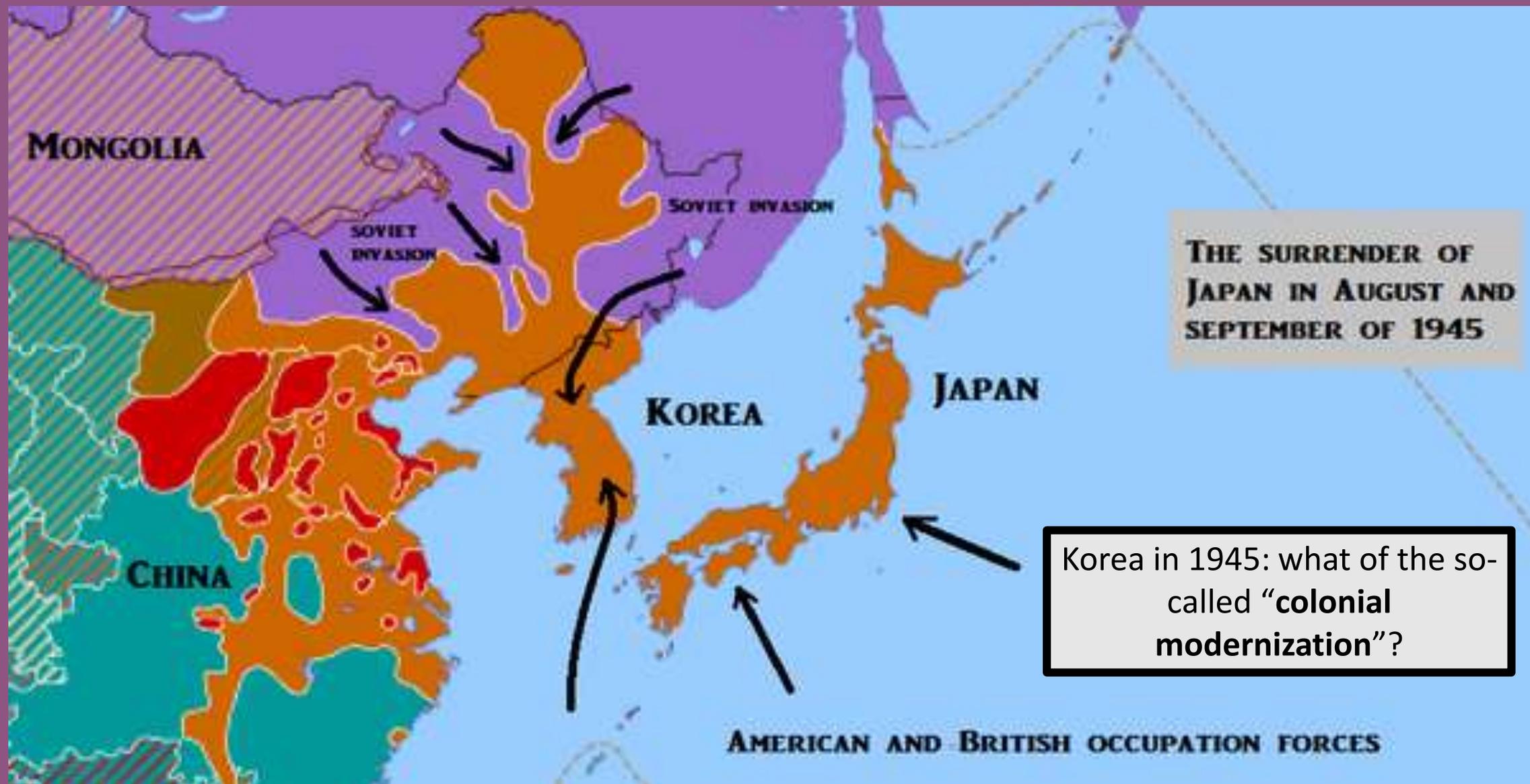
1942: the 1938 Japanese **National Mobilization Law** extended to Korean labor
5.4 million Koreans conscripted (670 000 in Japan)

1945: 2 million Koreans in Japan & 2 million in Manchuria





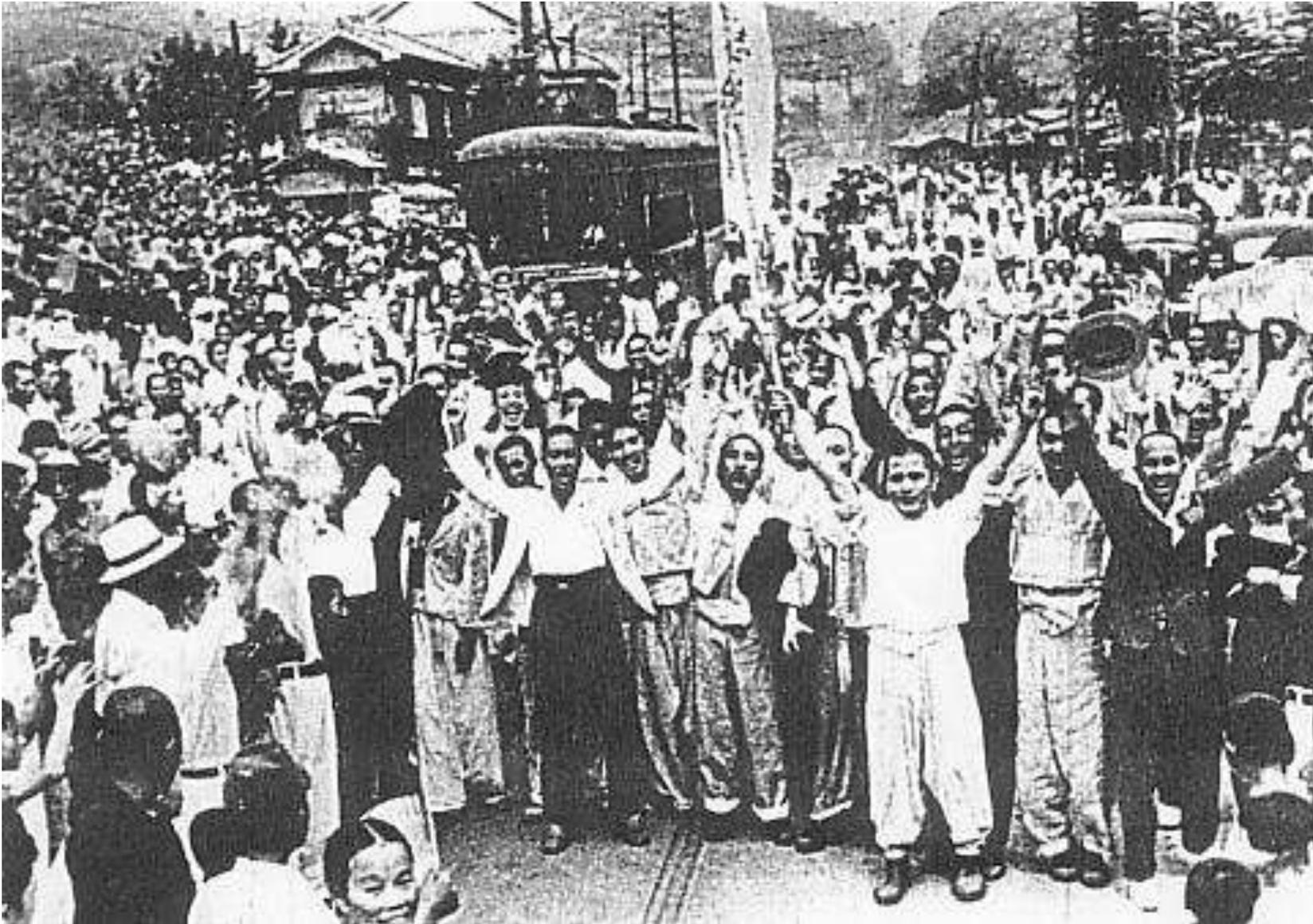
**Military conscription after 1943: 200 000
soldiers and laborers**



THE SURRENDER OF
JAPAN IN AUGUST AND
SEPTEMBER OF 1945

Korea in 1945: what of the so-called "colonial modernization"?

AMERICAN AND BRITISH OCCUPATION FORCES



The benefits of modernization largely distributed to Japanese colonists or Japan at the expense of Koreans

A **fractured society**: landlords vs. rural world
The **birth of an industrial society**: working classes vs. capitalism

Korea's independence in 1945: a brewing class struggle that led to **civil war**