U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

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Overview

- 1853  First diplomatic contact
- 1941~45  The Pacific War
- 1945~52  Occupation
- 1952  Security Treaty started
- Late-60s~80s  Trade friction
1853—The Beginning

- Matthew Perry’s visit to Japan (1853)

- Japan was in a self-imposed international isolation for more than 200 years.
- Forced to open up (1854)
- Political change

Good Times...

- Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)
  - Theodore Roosevelt brokered a deal between Japan and Russia to end a war
  - Roosevelt won the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize

- Taft-Katsura Agreement (1905)

- 3,020 Cherry Trees Given to Washington, D.C. (1912)
Deteriorating Relationship

- Expansionism (esp. to China) grew in Japan
- Washington Naval Conference (1921-22)
  - Japan gave up some of its concessions in China
  - Limit set on Japan’s war fleet size (60% of the U.S.’s)
- Japanese Invasion of Manchuria (1931)
- Nanking Massacre & Panay Incident (1937)

1941—How the War Began

- August 1, 1941—U.S. total oil embargo on Japan
  - Response to Japan’s advance to Southern Vietnam
  - FDR’s true intention?
- Inside Japan—different opinions (back down or war?)
- Negotiations
- December 7—Attack on Pearl Harbor
1945—The End of the War

- March 10: Great Tokyo Air Raid (80,000~100,000 killed)
- August 6: Atomic bombing of Hiroshima (140,000 killed)
- August 8: Soviet Union entered war
- August 9: Atomic bombing of Nagasaki (74,000 killed)
- August 15: Emperor’s radio broadcast

1945~52—Occupation

Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP)
1945~52—Occupation

- Demilitarization & Democratization
  - The 1947 Constitution (current)
  - Article 9: “Renunciation of War” clause

- Chinese Revolution (1949) & Korean War (1950)
  - Change in occupation policies: “Reverse Course”
    - Rearmament
    - U.S. support for the conservative political forces

1952~present—Close Allies

- San Francisco Peace Treaty & Security Treaty signed in 1951 and took effect in 1952
- U.S. troops remained
  - U.S.—keep using bases in Japan
  - Japan—save costs on defense

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- 30,000~50,000 troops stationed in Japan
- About 3/4 of the cost paid by Japan
Economic Relationship

➢ Trade Friction (Late-1960s~80s)
  • Japan’s exports to the U.S. far exceeded imports
  • Japan’s market is “closed” for foreign business (protectionism)

➢ “Japan Bashing” & diplomatic pressure

➢ Friction subsided in the 1990s
  • Voluntary export restraints
  • Japanese companies’ overseas production
  • Japan’s economic slump