Modern Japan
Lesson 8: Early Meiji Era

Meiji Ishin 明治維新
- Meiji Restoration?
- Meiji Revolution?

Leaders

- Kido Takayoshi (Kōin)
  - 木戸孝元
  - 1833–1877
  - Age: 35
  - Chōshū

- Ōkubo Toshimichi
  - 大久保利通
  - 1833–1878
  - Age: 39
  - Satsuma

- Saigō Takamori
  - 西郷隆盛
  - 1828–1877
  - Age: 41
  - Satsuma

- Itō Hirobumi
  - 伊藤博文
  - 1841–1909
  - Age 27
  - Chōshū

- Ōkuma Shigenobu
  - 大隈重信
  - 1838–1922
  - Age: 30
  - Hizen

- Yamagata Aritomo
  - 山縣有朋
  - 1838–1922
  - Age: 30
  - Chōshū

- Iwakura Tomomi
  - 岩倉具視
  - 1825–1883
  - Age: 43
  - Nobleman

- Sanjō Sanetomi
  - 三条実美
  - 1837–1891
  - Age: 31
  - Nobleman

- Itagaki Taisuke
  - 板垣退助
  - 1837–1919
  - Age: 31
  - Tosa

Five Article Charter Oath: 五箇条の御誓文 April 1868
- Deliberative assemblies shall be widely established and all matters decided by open discussion.
- All classes, high and low, shall be united in vigorously carrying out the administration of affairs of state.
- The common people, no less than the civil and military officials, shall all be allowed to pursue their own calling so that there may be no discontent.
- Evil customs of the past shall be broken off and everything based upon the just laws of Nature.
- Knowledge shall be sought throughout the world so as to strengthen the foundation of imperial rule.

Reforms:  Overview
- Fukoku Kyōhei 富国強兵 “Enrich the country; Strengthen the military”
- Desire to end unequal treaties / semi-colonial status
- Learn from the West selectively
- Study abroad
- Oyatoi gaikokujin
- Adopt and Adapt
- Use of tradition
Toward State Shinto
- 1868: Separation of Shinto and Buddhism
- Destructions of Buddhist statues
- 1868 Christianity forbidden (repealed in 1873)
- 1870-1884: Great Promulgation campaign

Abolishment of Feudal System
- 1869: Daimyo returned their lands and people to the Emperor
- 1871: Abolishment of domains (han 藩) and replacement with “prefectures” (ken 県)
- Former daimyo removed from governorship
- land reorganized into 72 prefectures (from 280)
- new governors appointed by central gov’t.
- Stipend to former daimyo

Changes in class system
- 1869: noblemen (kazoku 華族); upper warriors (shizuku 士族); lower warriors (sotsu 卒);
  commoners (heimin 平民)
- 1870: Surnames for commoners
- 1871: freedom of hairstyles, occupation; intermarriage allowed.
- 1872-73: census taken; equality before the law recognized.
- 1873: Conscription

Economy and Industry
- Communication:
  - 1869: Telegraph (Tokyo-Yokohama)
  - 1871: Postal system
  - 1877: telephone
  - 1873: New Land Tax
- Industrialization:
  - Gov sponsored model enterprises
  - 1872 locomotive (Tokyo-Yokohama)

Iwakura mission 1871-1873

Iwakura mission 1871-1873
Bunmei Kaika 文明開化
- “Civilization and Enlightenment”
- New hair style!
- Beef, milk, beer, consumptions
- Western clothes
- Gas lump
- Sunday
- Baseball
- Rickshaw (人力車)

Educational System 1872
- 8 years of compulsory elementary education

Conscription 1873
- Army and Navy
- All male 20 years of age
- Exceptions: Below 5 ft, Sick, gov’t officials, students, household head or successor, only child or grandchild, or pay 270 yen
- more than 80% exempt
- Unpopular among former samurai and peasants
- 16 riots in 1873-74.

1873
- Opposed Korean Invasion
- Korean Invasion Proposal
- Okubo
- Leader due to poor health
- Kido
- Leader 1877 Seinan War / Satsuma Rebellion
- Saigo
- Leader 1877 Seinan War / Satsuma Rebellion
- Itagaki
- Leader Movement for Freedom and People’s Rights