

# Japanese Imperialism

What were the economic and cultural conditions that led to Japanese imperialism in Asia?

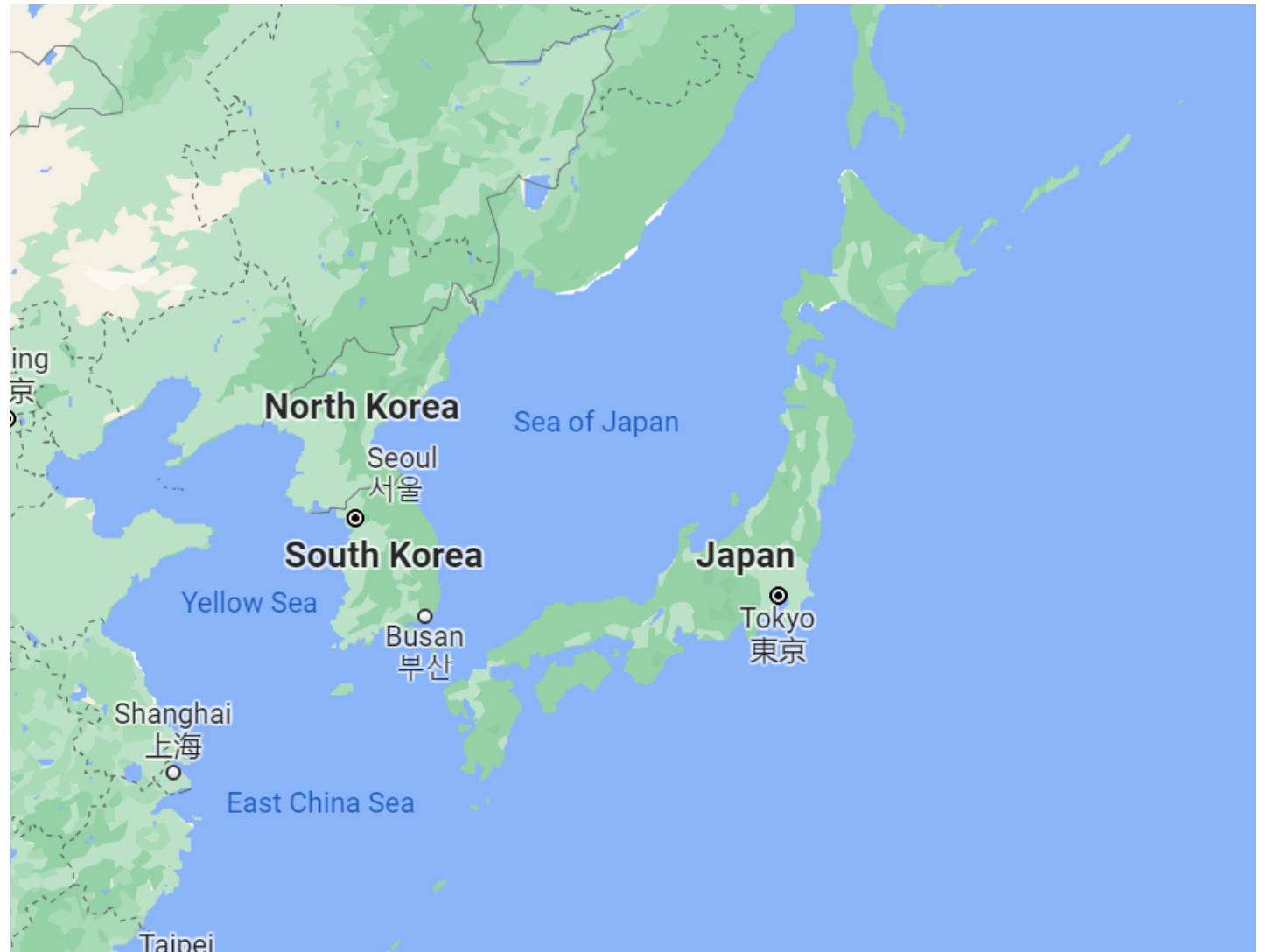
How is Japanese imperialism in Asia similar to European imperialism in Africa?

# Day 1

Economic reasons  
for Japanese  
imperialism



Japan is an island nation with few natural resources.



# Japan industrializes in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century

- The shipping company Mitsubishi was founded in 1870. Today it's best known for making cars.
- Train routes and telegraph wires increased communication and internal trade.
- Hundreds of foreign experts were brought in by the Japanese government and private businesses to increase industrial output.
- Military experts helped modernize Japan's naval fleet. Many Japanese war ships were built in English and French ports.

# Reading (optional)

- <https://www.oerproject.com/OER-Materials/OER-Media/PDFs/1750/Unit3/Japans-Industrial-Revolution> - From OER, variable reading level
- You threaten us with
- Industrialization?
- We can win that game

# Getting resources

- Industrialization requires lots of coal and iron.
- Sino-Japanese war (China vs Japan) fought 1894-1895
- Japan gained control over Korea, a source of coal and iron.
- World surprised that “little” Japan could defeat “big” China.
- Cartoon from Punch magazine 1894



# Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905

- Japan and Russia fought over parts of China and Korea
- Japan wins, regaining influence of Korea (which it will eventually annex)
- Japan gets control of Port Arthur, a warm water port in China.
- Why are warm-water ports important? Why would they be especially important to Russia?





# Japanese militarism – Day 1 on the worksheet

- Reading from the OER
- Variable reading level
- <https://www.oerproject.com/OER-Materials/OER-Media/PDFs/1750/Unit7/Authoritarianism-in-Japan>
- Annotate and be prepared to answer: How does the increase of militarism in Japan contribute to their desire to imperialize in Asia?

# Day 2 – political cartoons

How was Japanese  
imperialism  
perceived by other  
countries?



# Views of Japanese Imperialism – analyzing political cartoons

## Five common techniques used in political cartoons

- Exaggeration - Cartoonists will overdo physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point.
- Labeling - Objects or people are often labeled by cartoonists to make it clear exactly what they stand for.
- Symbolism - Objects are used to stand for larger concepts or ideas.
- Analogy - Cartoonists will 'draw' a comparison between two unlike things.
- Irony - The difference between the way things are and the way things should be.

## Analyzing the cartoons part 2 of your worksheet

Complete the analysis  
for each cartoon. We  
will do the first one  
together

Every element may  
not be present in  
every cartoon



published in *Le Petit Journal* Jan. 16th, 1898.



# Cartoon 1

Exaggeration –length of Chinese ponytail

Labeling – cake or pie is labeled as “Chine” or China

Symbolism – knives represent carving out influence, cake represents China

Analogy - arguing over sharing a dessert = arguing over China

Irony – ?

What is going on: 5 people/countries are carving up China – England, Germany, Russia, France, Japan

# Cartoon 2



1898



# Cartoon 3



E.F. Hiscocks in 1904

# Find a modern cartoon for the class to analyze

## Links are in TEAMS

- Association of American Editorial Cartoonists  
<https://editorialcartoonists.com/>
- US News  
<https://www.usnews.com/cartoons>
- David Horsey from the Seattle Times  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/author/david-horsey/>

## Directions

Each table group chooses 1 cartoon

Email me the cartoon (not just a link)

Be prepared to explain why you chose it and walk us through the five elements.

# Day 3

Cultural reasons for  
Japanese  
imperialism



# Three documents – read and complete Day 3 in worksheet

1. Introduction to Pan-Asianism – 2-minute video from Facing History & Ourselves

- <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/japanese-pan-asianism-introduction>

2. Excerpt from an interview with a Japanese soldier

3. Racial equity clause proposed for the Treaty of Versailles

## Be prepared to discuss

1. *How did Japan justify expansion into Asia?*
2. *How does Pan-Asianism demonstrate Japan's belief in their cultural superiority?*
3. *How was Japanese loyalty encouraged by racist beliefs?*
4. *How were Japanese cultural attitudes similar to many European and American attitudes?*
5. *Why did the United States oppose the racial equity clause?*

# Summary

- What were the economic and cultural conditions that led to Japanese imperialism in Asia?
- How was Japanese imperialism in Asia similar to European imperialism in Africa?