

KOREA – Japan Colonizes Korea

Purpose:

- Students will examine the connection between the Russo-Japanese War and Japan's annexation of Korea.

Central Questions:

1. How did the events of the Russo-Japanese War allow for Japan to eventually annex Korea?
2. Why and how did the US and Great Britain allow Japan to develop a protectorate over Korea?
3. How did Japan politically put itself into a position to annex Korea in 1910?
4. What was the impact of Japanese aggression on Korea and its people? Were the Koreans victims of Japanese aggression?

Ohio Academic Content Standards Addressed:

- Describe the political, economic and social roots of imperialism.
- Analyze the perspectives of the colonies and colonized concerning indigenous language, natural resources, labor, political systems and religion
- Explain the global impact of imperialism – modernization of Japan
- Analyzed the results of political, economic and social oppression the violation of human right – exploitation of indigenous people

Grade Level:

9th Grade Modern World History

Time Period:

1-2 days depending on depth of assignments and activities

Background:

This lesson should be used after students have been introduced to the concept of imperialism and have an understanding as to its political, economic and social roots. Students also should have covered the Meiji Era of Japanese history and the development of Japan as an imperial power. This lesson will further develop these concepts. References are also made to the Boxer Rebellion in China. Teacher may need to include information on this if this has not been covered.

Procedure and Evaluation:

1. Vocabulary – Provide a list of key terms that the lesson will cover. Students will develop an understanding of these terms as they relate to the lesson. The list is located in appendix A.
2. PowerPoint – notes to enhance student textbook. Information for the notes comes from Ki-baik Lee's *A New History of Korea*. PowerPoint is located in appendix B.
3. Students will read and analyze the *Treaty of Annexation* which can be found at <http://www.isop.ucla.edu/eas/documents/kore1910.htm> or appendix C. Students are to

determine the Japanese rationale for the treaty. How does Japan promise to treat the Koreans?

4. Writing Assignment: Hindsight is 20/20! Given the presented information, students will write a petition to President Teddy Roosevelt presenting the potential impact of supporting Japan in 1905 and encouraging a different course of action. Grading rubric for assignment in is appendix D

Extension:

1. Read from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6614299.stm> *S Korea to seize 'traitors' land* From the *BBC* May 2, 2007. Article can serve as a discussion of Korea since WWII and the issues that they are facing today that stem from the colonial period.

Appendix A

Vocabulary

Taft – Katsura Treaty: secret diplomatic memorandum signed between United States Secretary of War William Howard Taft and Prime Minister of Japan Katsura Taro on July 29, 1905 . In the agreement, the United States recognized Japan's sphere of influence in Korea in exchange, Japan recognized the United States's sphere of influence in the Philippines. The agreement was not publicized until 1924, and was not a bilaterally signed document or secret treaty, but only a meeting memorandum meant to smooth over Japanese-American relations.

Anglo-Japanese Alliance: Agreement between Japan and Great Britain made in 1902 in an effort to contain Russian expansion

Protectorate: a country or territory with its own internal government but under the control of an outside power.

Treaty of Portsmouth: Treaty that officially ended the Russo-Japanese War and was mediated by President Teddy Roosevelt of the United States.

Treaty of 1905: Treaty forced upon Korea in 1905 to make it a protectorate of Japan.

Collaborator: people who assist an occupying enemy force

“Righteous armies”: guerilla forces that developed throughout Korea that fought against the Japanese. Armies consisted of peasants and later were joined by Korean military personal as the Korean army was dissolved by Japan.

annexation: the adding of a region to the territory of an existing political unit

Appendix C

The following document is from <http://www.isop.ucla.edu/eas/documents/kore1910.htm>

East Asian Studies Documents

Treaty of Annexation

[Annexation of Korea by Japan]

(August 22, 1910)

The Proclamation

Notwithstanding the earnest and laborious work of reforms in the administration of Korea in which the Governments of Japan and Korea have been engaged for more than four years since the conclusion of the Agreement of 1905, the existing system of government in that country has not proved entirely equal to the duty of preserving public order and tranquillity; and in addition, the spirit of suspicion and misgiving dominates the whole peninsula.

In order to maintain peace and stability in Korea, to promote the prosperity and welfare of Koreans, and at the same time to ensure the safety and repose of foreign residents, it has been made abundantly clear that fundamental changes in the actual regime of government are absolutely essential. The Governments of Japan and Korea, being convinced of the urgent necessity of introducing reforms responsive to the requirements of the situation and of furnishing sufficient guarantee for the future, have, with the approval of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, concluded, through their plenipotentiaries, a treaty providing for complete annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan. By virtue of that important act, which shall take effect on its promulgation on August 29, 1910, the Imperial Government of Japan shall undertake the entire government and administration of Korea, and they hereby declare that the matters relating to foreigners and foreign trade in Korea shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

The Treaty

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, having in view the special and close relations between their respective countries, desiring to promote the common wealth of the two nations and to assure the permanent peace in the Far East, and being convinced that these objectives can be best attained by the annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan, have resolved to conclude a treaty of such annexation and have, for that purpose, appointed as their plenipotentiaries, that is to say, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan Viscount Terauchi Masatake, Resident-General, and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea Yi Wan-Yong, Prime Minister, who upon mutual conference and deliberation have agreed to the following articles:

Article 1. His Majesty the Emperor of Korea makes the complete and permanent cession to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan of all rights of sovereignty over the whole of Korea.

Article 2. His Majesty the Emperor of Japan accepts the cession mentioned in the preceding article and consents to the complete annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan.

Article 3. His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will accord to their Majesties the Emperor and ex-Emperor and His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Korea and their consorts and heirs such titles, dignity, and honor as are appropriate to their respective ranks, and sufficient annual grants will be made for the maintenance of such titles, dignity and honor.

Article 4. His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will also accord appropriate honor and treatment to the members of the Imperial House of Korea and their heirs other than those mentioned in the preceding article, and the funds necessary for the maintenance of such honor and treatment will be granted.

Article 5. His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will confer peerage and monetary grants upon those Koreans who, on account of meritorious services, are regarded as deserving such special recognition.

Article 6. In consequence of the aforesaid annexation the Government of Japan assume the entire government and administration of Korea, and undertake to afford full protection for the persons and property of Koreans obeying the laws there in force to promote the welfare of all such Koreans.

Article 7. The Government of Japan will, so far as circumstances permits, employ in the public service of Japan in Korea those Koreans who accept the new regime loyally and in good faith and who are duly qualified for such service.

Article 8. This treaty, having been approved by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, shall take effect from the state of its promulgation.

In faith thereof:

Resident General Viscount Terauchi Masatake

Prime Minister Yi, Wan-yong

Appendix D

Writing Assignment: Hindsight is 20/20! Given the presented information, students will write a petition to President Teddy Roosevelt presenting the potential impact of supporting Japan in 1905 and encouraging a different course of action.

Grading Rubric for Extended Response

4	Student uses proper writing conventions in presenting information in completing the assignment. Student presents a thesis and a minimum of 4 examples to support thesis.
3	Incorrect writing conventions, but provides a thesis and 4 examples
2	Student does not have a thesis statement or student only provides 2-3 examples to support thesis.
1	Student does not have a thesis statement or student only provides 1 example to support thesis.
0	Student's response does not answer the writing prompt or student does not support thesis.