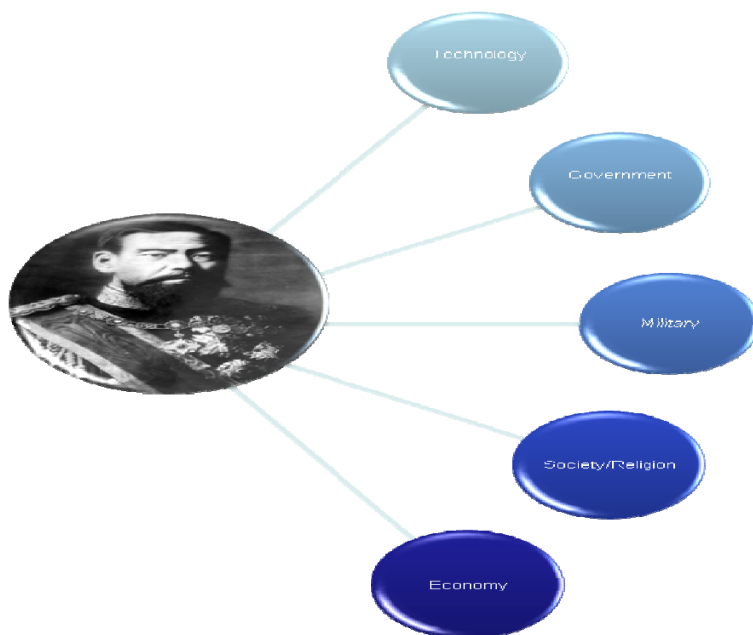


Name: _____ - Period: _____ Date: _____

Revolution in Japan which toppled the Tokugawa shogunate, "restored" imperial rule, and transformed the country from a feudal into a modern state. The opening of Japan's ports to Western colonial fleets, **coerced (forced)** by Matthew Perry and others from 1853 onwards, exposed the weakness of the Tokugawa shoguns, and triggered nationalist unrest. Radicals inspired by the ideas of Motoori Norinaga saw a solution in the revival of imperial "direct rule"-especially young samurai who never believed in the Tokugawa power. By the 1860s shogunate and daimyo were importing Western technology and proposing new governmental structures to meet the foreign threat.

In 1867 pro-imperial daimyo suggested that shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu should step down. Yoshinobu agreed in principle in November 1867, but mistrustful Satsuma radicals seized the imperial palace in Kyoto on January 3, 1868. They proclaimed a restoration under the young Emperor Meiji. Most daimyo stayed neutral, and the civil war ended in 1869. They **confiscated (took over)** Tokugawa estates comprising some 25 per cent of Japan's fertile land. In 1869 the emperor moved to Edo, renamed Tokyo ("Eastern Capital"), the new imperial capital. The emperor was used by the new government as a focus of national loyalty and the sanction for the revolutionary changes they introduced.

By 1871 the daimyo domains had been surrendered to the throne and standardized into counties, and the daimyo got rid of members of the old nobility. Mass education and **military conscription (mandatory service)** were introduced, and curbs on Buddhism inspired by the regime's pro-imperial **Shinto (main religion of Japan that stresses nature and ancestor worship)** religion. Western experts were imported to create new railways, armies, fleets, and industries, building on pre-Restoration efforts. Samurai discontented with the abolition of their privilege of wearing swords and the taxing of their stipends rebelled, especially in the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877, which was defeated by the new military. The Bank of Japan was established, economic policy reformed, and civic unrest firmly suppressed. A new constitution was drafted based on the German model in 1889, establishing the **Diet (governing body)**, but for most of the Meiji era power was exercised by an **oligarchy (rule by a few)** outside constitutional controls. Despite an astonishingly fast and successful modernization, the constitutional structure, military changes, and nationalist **ideology (ideas)** given by the Meiji Restoration led Japan to the disastrous imperialist adventures of the 1930s and 1940s.



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Question 1. Why did the Emperor Meiji choose to Westernize Japan?

Question 2. Explain how the Japanese used western ideas to modernize their Country?