

Meiji Period (2): Two Wars

Modern Japanese History

**TWO WARS: THE SINO-JAPANESE (1894-1895)
AND RUSSO-JAPANESE WARS (1904-1905)**

- 
- “Korea is the dagger aimed at the heart of Japan”
— Klemens Meckel

Japan's International Transformation

Early Meiji Period 1860's -1870's

- No claims on external territories
- Forced to sign unequal treaties with West
- Subordinate power in East Asia

Japan's International Transformation

Early Meiji Period 1860's -1870's

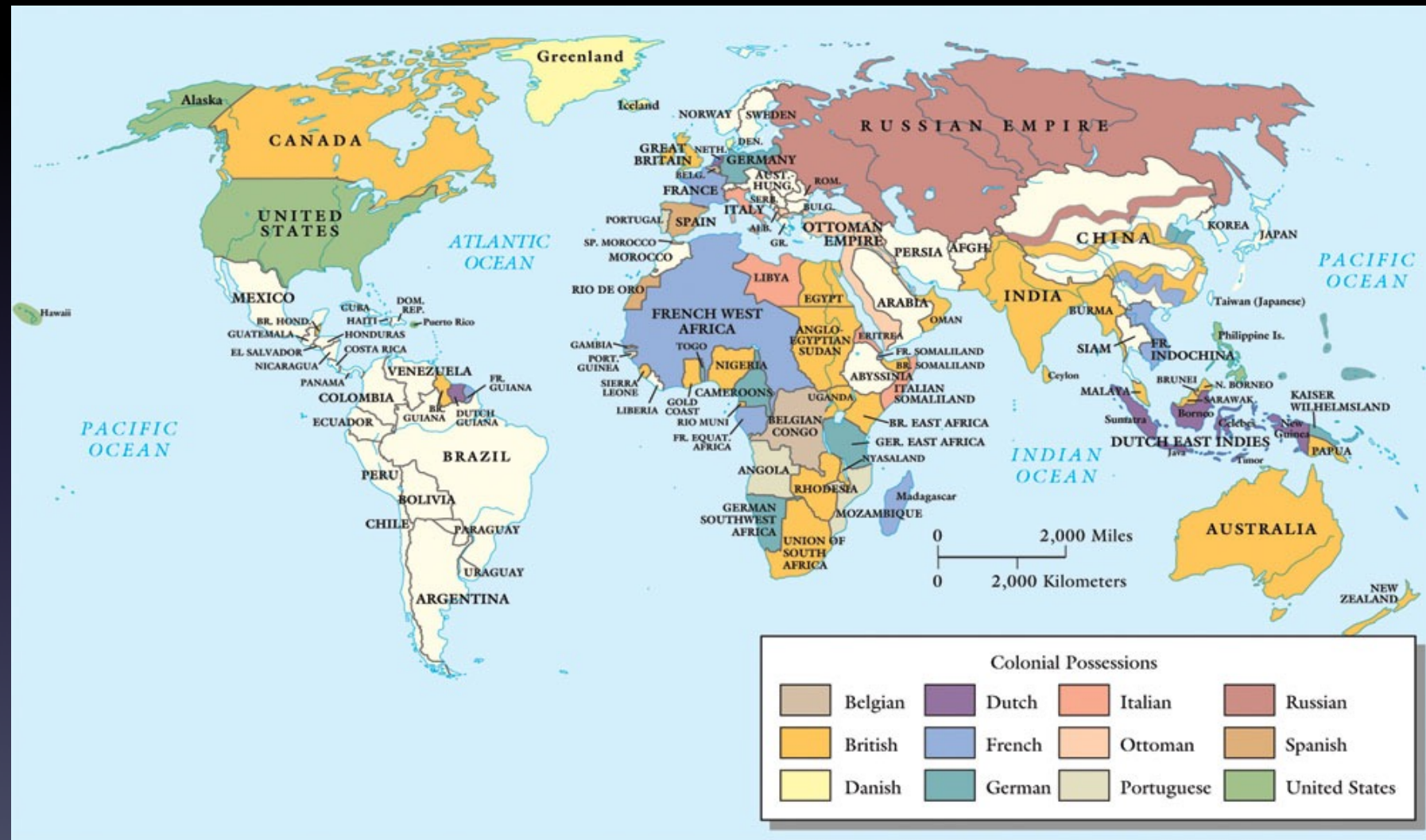
- No claims on external territories
- Forced to sign unequal treaties with West
- Subordinate power in East Asia

1910

- Colonial Power
- Revised its unequal treaties with West
- Regarded as leading power in East Asia & model for Asian reformers (Turkey, Iran, China, India,...)

...Accepted by the Western powers??

International context: intensification of imperialist competition





Japanese possessions
before 1880



Japanese acquisitions
1880–1900

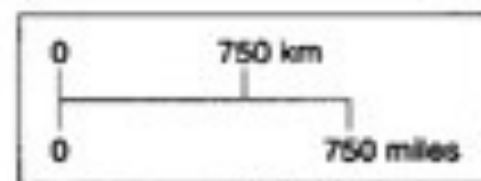


Japanese acquisitions
1900–1912

JAPAN Empire/state

KOREA Conquered state/province
with date of acquisition

— International border



SINO-JAPANESE WAR 1894-1895

Background

- Fought with China over influence on Korean Peninsula
 - Strategic background: uncertainty of Korean peninsula
 - Economic interests in Korea
 - Older Chinese model (tribute) VS Japan:
- Japanese support for Korean nationalist reformers VS Chinese support for the Korean King & court
- 1884 Coup attempt in Seoul & China-Japan Agreement
- Trigger for war: 1894 rebellion → Korean King calls Chinese support → Japanese military intervention
-



Sino-Japanese War

- Short, relatively low number of casualties
- Results in major Japanese victory
- Worldwide surprise, establishes reputation of Japan as main modernizer in Asia



“Tiny Japan Victorious Over Big China”



Treaty of Shimonoseki



- Both Japan and China recognize Korea's independence
- China cedes Taiwan, Pescadores, and Liaodong Peninsula to Japan
 - Senkaku/Diaoyu islands not mentioned in the treaty, but officially incorporated in 1895, under principle of *terra nullius*;
- Chinese pays large indemnity to Japan
- China opens 4 ports to trade with Japan & Japan gains right to engage in industry in China
- → Also: Rising Asian interest in Japan: influx of Chinese students and revolutionaries to Japan (+/- 15,000)

Triple Intervention

- Russia, France, Germany with threat of war, force Japan to give up claims on the Liaodong peninsula
- Background:
 - German railroad building & mining concessions in Shandong peninsula
 - Russian Trans-Siberian railroad
- Widespread anger in Japan

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

(1904-1905)

Context for Russo-Japanese War:

- Intensification of Imperialist competition in Asia
- Long-term conflicts over influence in Korea and Southern Manchuria
- British support for Japan: “Cold war” between Britain and Russia > abolition of extraterritoriality + **Anglo-Japanese security alliance** (1902)
- Russia establishes a naval base in the strategically crucial Port Arthur on the Liaodong Peninsula



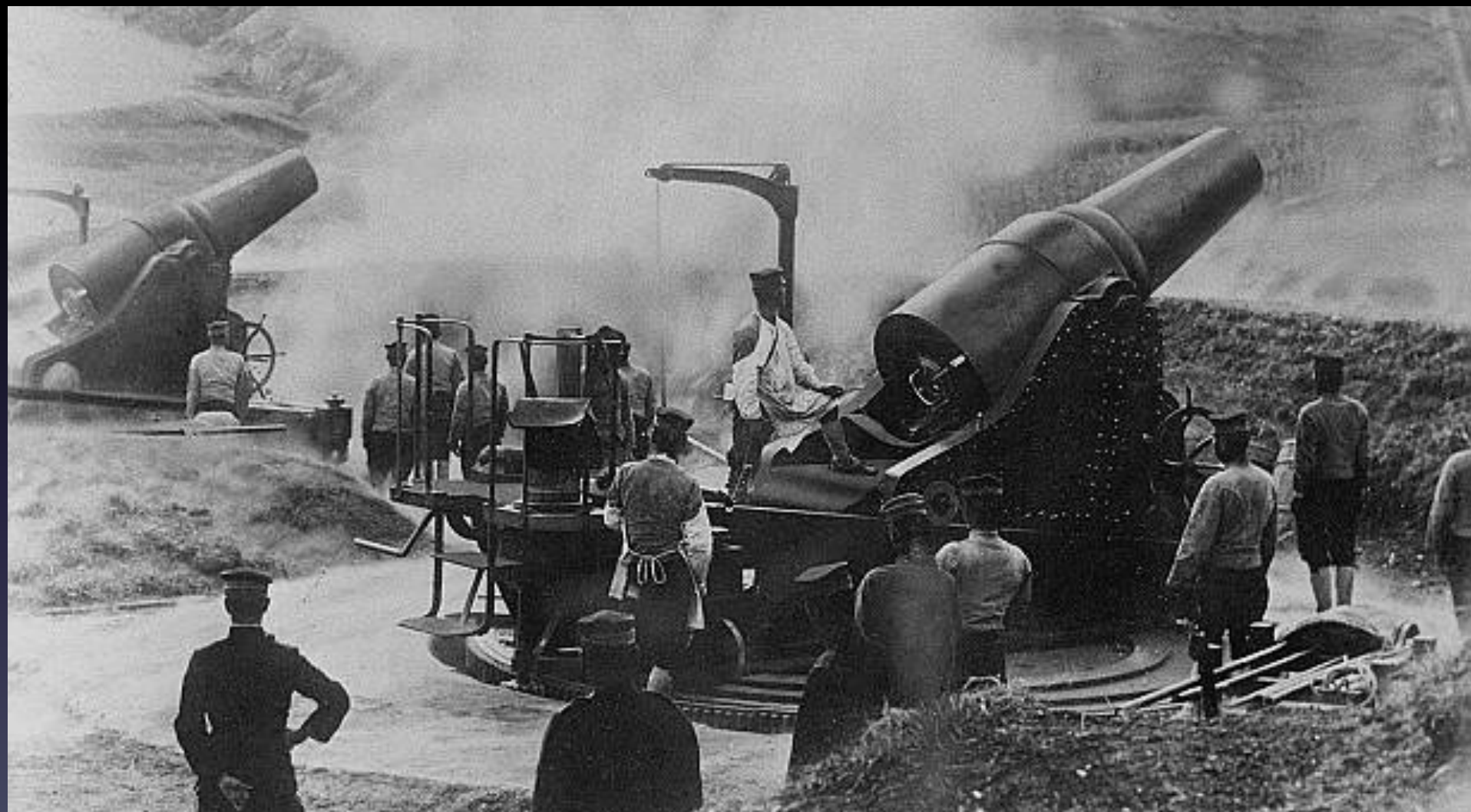


Port Arthur



Hill 203

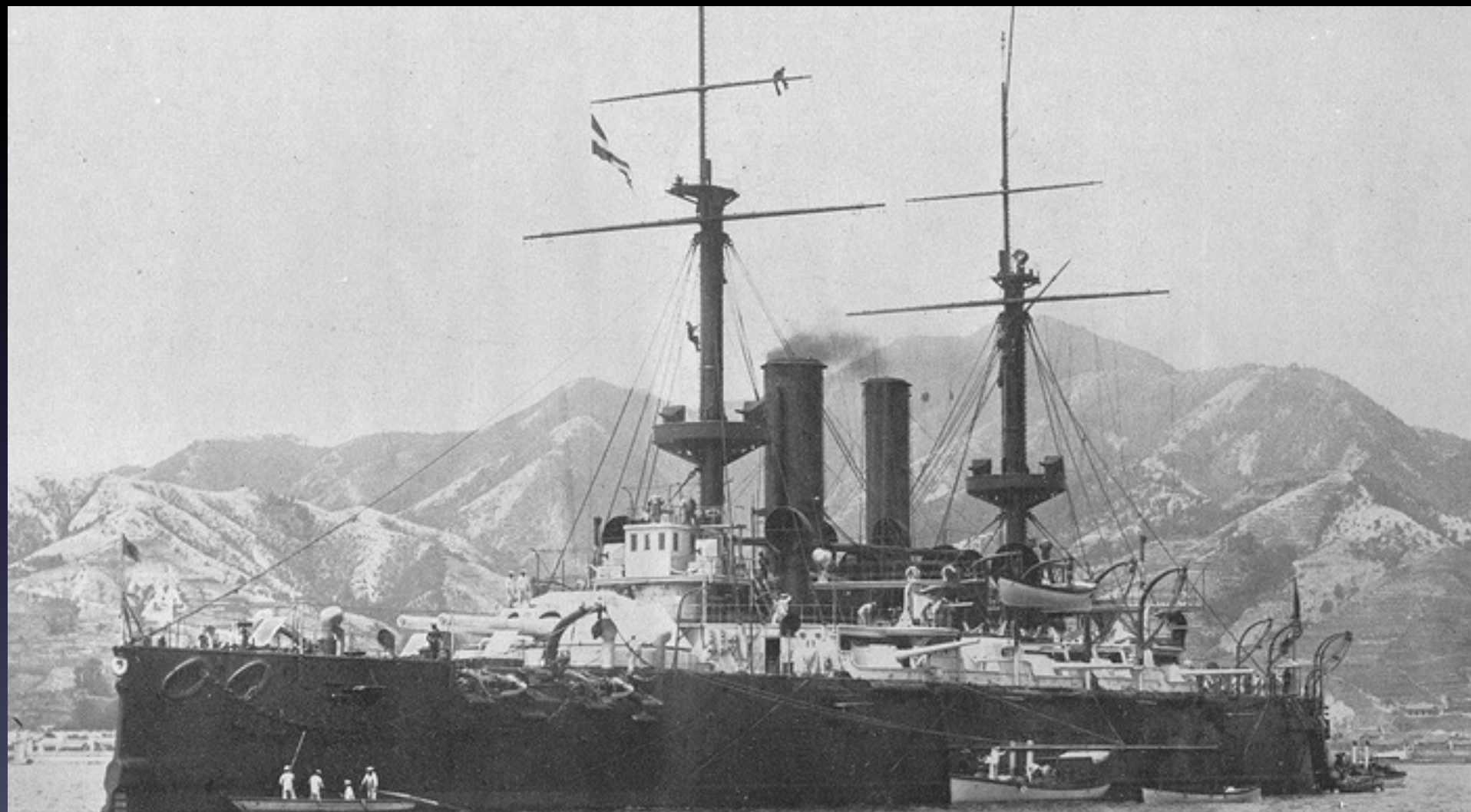




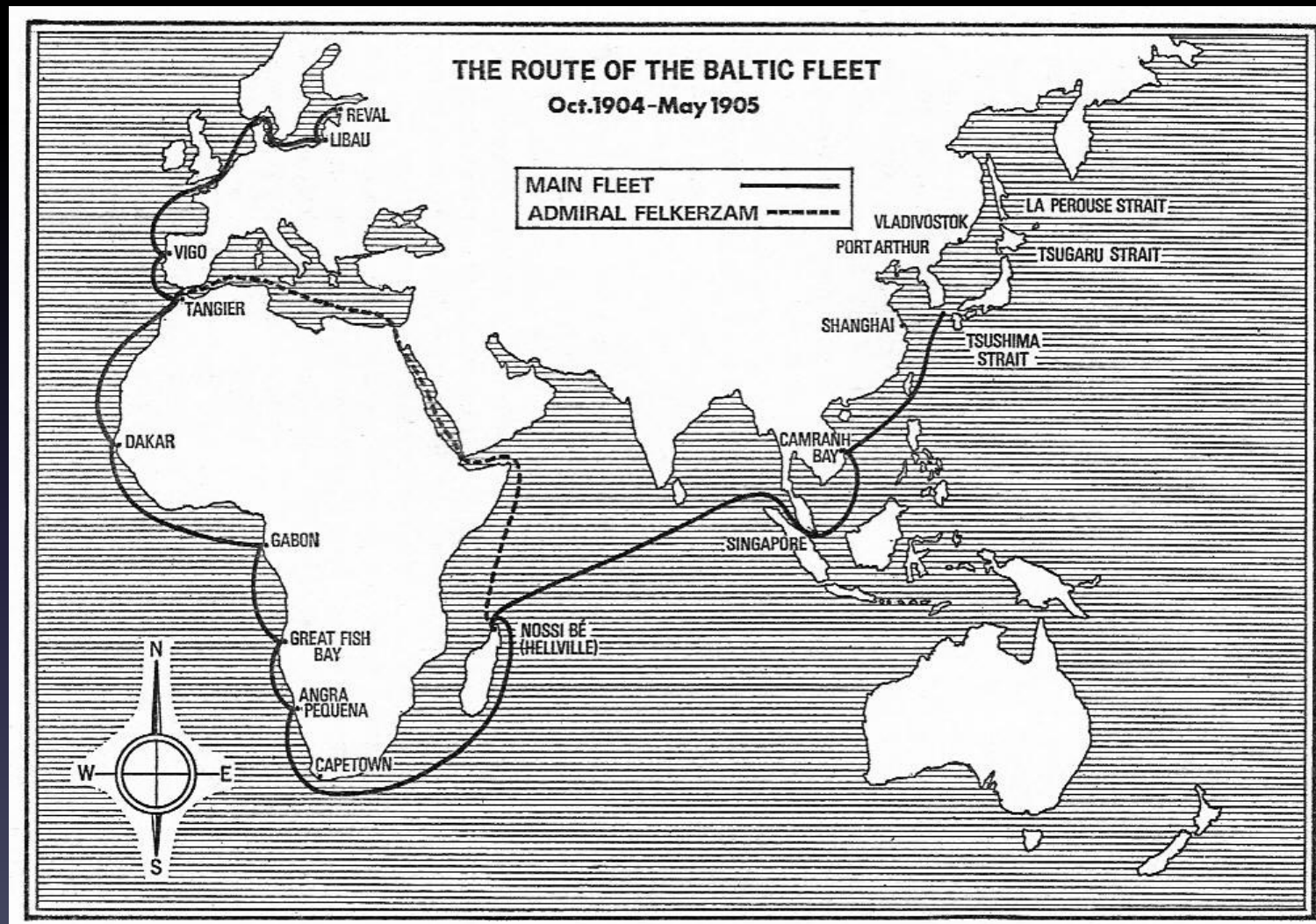


War at Sea: Battle of Tsushima





Baltic Fleet



Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)

- Official recognition of Japan's interests in Korea
- Japan gains the lease for Liaodong Peninsula and Railroads
- Japan acquires half of Sakhalin (Karafuto)
- No financial compensation
- > 1910 Japanese annexation of Korea



Effects of the Russo-Japanese Conflict

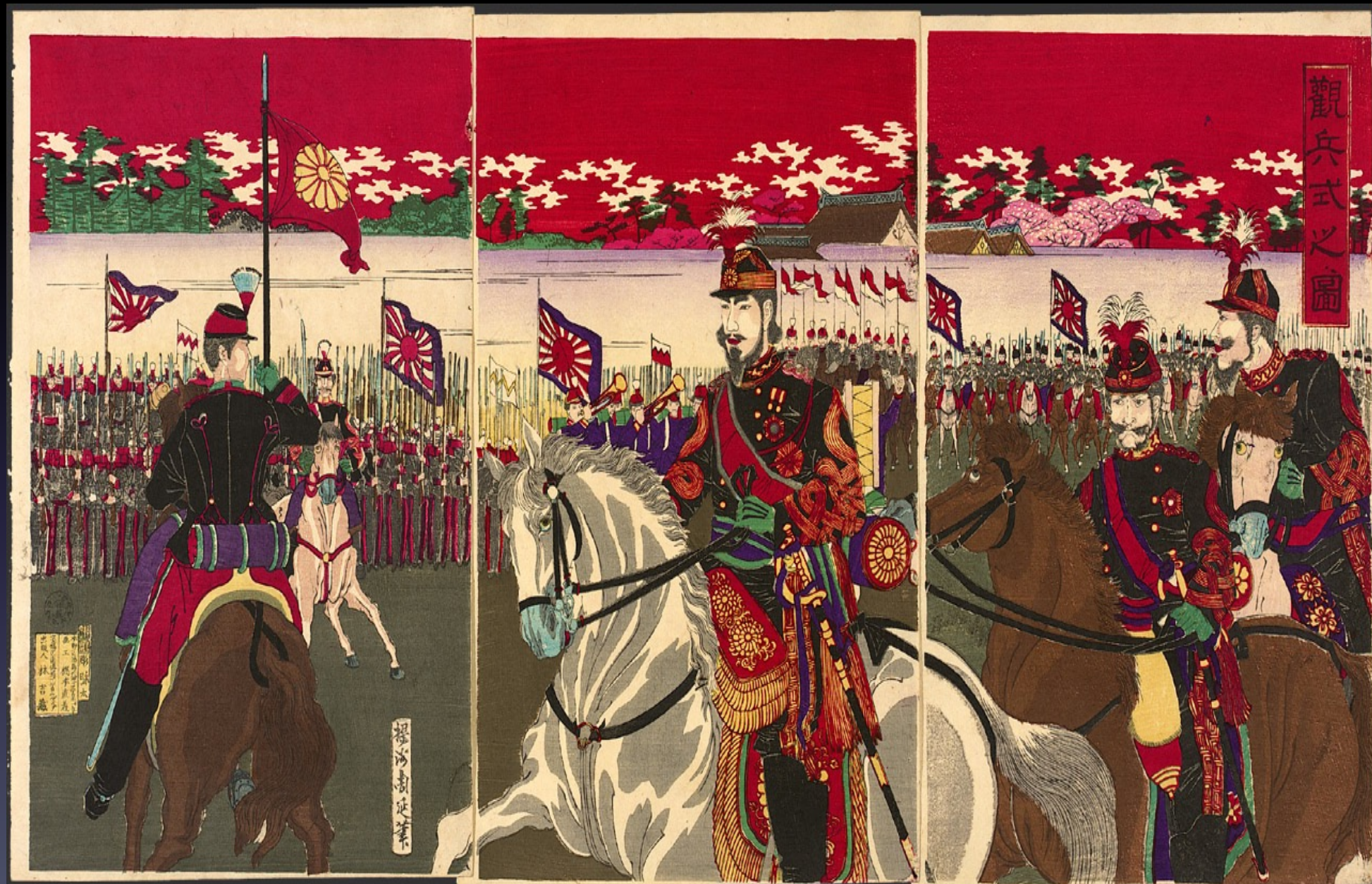
- End of Russian eastern ambitions
- Japan as regional power
 - - Japanese presence on the mainland
 - - indirectly: colonization of Korea
- Nationalist wave in Asia (Egypt, Turkey, India, Persia, China, ...)- Japan as model
- Japan learns that military adventures can pay off



INTERNAL EFFECTS OF WAR

Popular Nationalism



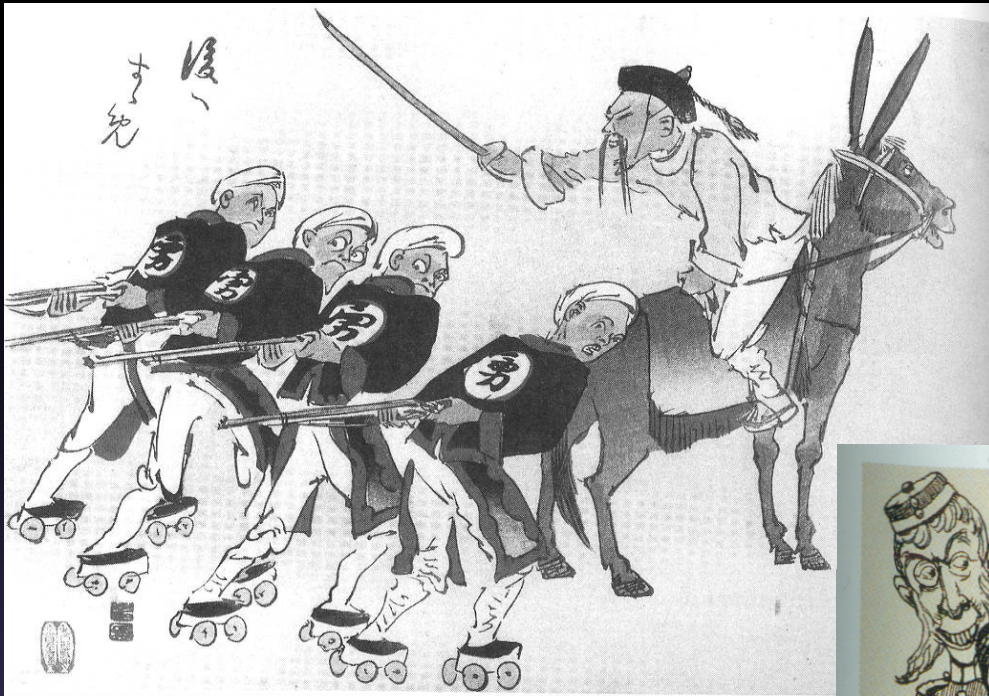






▲高谷國太郎「軍人の妻」。明治37年。油彩、80.2×137センチ。
高谷は日露戦争には従軍しなかったが、この作品のほかにも写真
や新聞のニュースをもとに、国木田独步の「戦争画展」などに、写
真では不可能だった戦況を数多く描いた。 編集 丸尾コナン・タナカ

Japan in the world: Orientalizing "Asia" & accepted by the West?

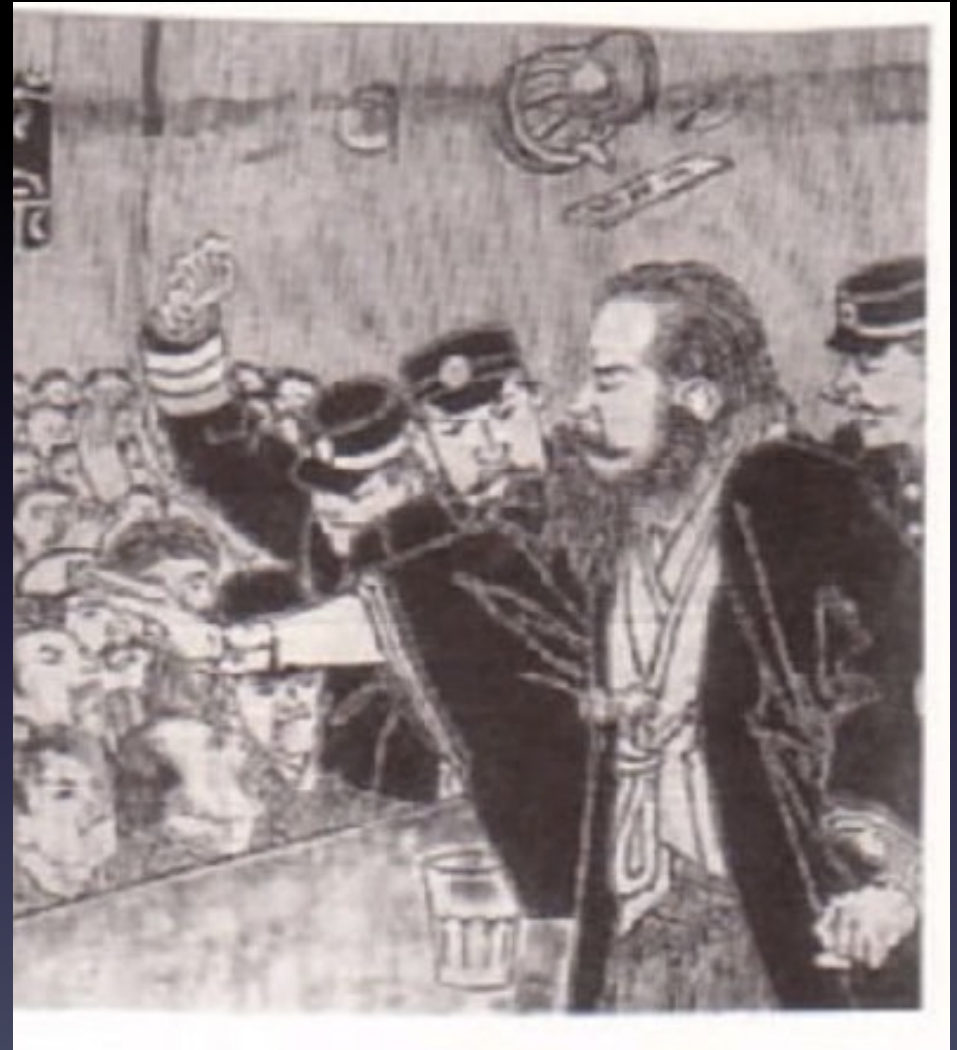




MEIJI CONSTITUTION

Freedom and People's Rights Movement (1870's-1880's)

- Grassroots movement for representative government
- Worked to mobilize the public--rallies, speeches, plays, songs, journals, newspapers...
- Demanded a constitution



Promulgation of the Meiji Constitution



Meiji Constitution (1890-1947)

- A “gift” from the Emperor to the people of Japan
- Written by small group of leaders, partly based on Prussian constitution
- Objective 1: to meet popular calls for democracy halfway and secure control for leadership (mostly Satsuma & Choshu)
- Objective 2: modernization & overturning the unequal treaties

Meiji Constitution (1889-1947)

- A gift from the Emperor to the Japanese people
- Emperor head of state but at the same time was “inviolable”
- Bicameral system:
 - 1) Upper house: appointed
 - 2) Lower house: elected
- Freedom of religion
- Emperor head of the armed forces
 - Army and Navy general staffs directly responsible to the Emperor (not to the cabinet)

