

Militarist Japan

Important Dates ☆

- ★ **1600 - 1868:** Japan was under Tokugawa Shogunate's rule -military government led by the Shogun
- ★ **1853:** US opened Japan to trade with USA
- ★ **1868:** Shogun lost power and Emperor Meiji took control of the government
- ★ **1868:** Japan embarked on modernisation and rapid industrialisation
- ★ **1868 - 1912:** Meiji Period

CC ☆

RISE:

- Able to gain support from:
 - Peasants/Farmers
 - Workers
 - Small biz owners
 - Army
- Able to weaken/discredit political opponents
- Increase in power/influence of the military

CONSOLIDATION:

- Impact of military rule:
 - Beneficial (+ve outcomes for the country/people)
 - Disaster (-ve outcomes for the country/people)
- Success / Failure of military's policies:
 - Success - achieved aims of policy, +ve outcomes for country/people
 - Failure - did not achieve aims of policy, -ve outcomes for country/people

MAIN AIM OF MILITARY'S POLICIES WAS TO HAVE TOTALITARIAN RULE OR TOTAL CONTROL OVER JAPAN AND ITS PEOPLE

Rise of Militarist Japan

Political Challenges in Japan

Political challenges in Japan	Examples to illustrate political challenges of Japan	How did it lead to the rise of militarist Japan?
D	Ex	A
Discontentment of the military	- Many young military officers subscribed to the belief that the civilian govt. was corrupt and favoured the zaibatsus over the well-being of the masses - Many of these officers were young and came from families of the poorer rural farming communities and new urban middle classes - Both classes had been badly affected by the economic conditions in the 1920s → reinforced their perception of the civilian govt. as corrupt - The civilian govt. cut the military budget → angered the military	- Many Japanese saw the strong relationship between the civilian govt. and the zaibatsus → saw them as serving their own interests - Military promised to reverse the cut in the military budgets - Able to gain support from: farmers, middle-class, army - Increase in power and influence of the military
Naval Conferences of 1921 - 1922 and 1930	Washington Naval Conference (1921 - 1922) - After WWI, USA, Br, Japan, Fr, Italy, met to discuss naval disarmament - Ratio for warship tonnage - 5 : 5 : 3 : 1.75 : 1.75 respectively - Unhappiness of the navy with the arms limitations because it was fewer than what Britain and USA had - Unhappiness intensified because the civilian govt. retrenched naval officers and scrapped warships London Naval Conference (1930) - Met again to review the naval treaty - Japan demanded to build more warships but was rejected by the Western powers - New warship tonnage ratio for US, Br, Japan - 10 : 10 : 7 Response by Japanese: - Navy was discontented with civilian govt. and their signing of the London Naval Treaty which seemed to put Japan in a disadvantageous position - Navy commanders saw this as betrayal by the govt.	- Military was able to capitalise on the unpopularity of the govt. - Build up their own public image - Able to gain support from: army, nationalists - Increase in power and influence of the military

	Japanese perceived govt's signing of the treaty as a form of weakness → lost trust in the govt.	
Opposition to the Civilian Government	- In Japan, a network of ultranationalists and anti-democratic activists began to form and grow - Network included junior military officers who likely had the secret backing of senior military commanders - were against the civilian politician leaders and the zaibatsu, whom they regarded as self-serving 4 groups were: - Showa Restoration Faction - Sakurakai - Kodoha - Ketsumeidan - All groups shared a common goal: remove all aspects of democratic govt + restore direct rule of Emperor - Groups carried out assassinations against many key figures in the govt. and the zaibatsu - Nov 1930: PM Hamaguchi Osachi shot by right-wing fanatic → died	- Military capitalised on the assassinations - Push for militarist political reform by generating public sympathy - Exploited the power vacuum - Weakened position of civilian leadership to stall any attempts by civilian politicians to form a new govt. - Forced emperor to nominate someone from the militarist faction as the PM - Military able to gain support from: japanese - Eliminate political opponents - Increase in power and influence of military

Economic Challenges in Japan

Economic challenges in Japan	Examples to illustrate economic challenges of Japan	How did it lead to the rise of militarist Japan?
D	Ex	A
Economic challenges	1923: - Great Kanto Earthquake caused devastation & loss of lives → hardship ↑ 1927: - Banking crisis - closure of many banks - Japanese lost their savings 1929: - Wall Street Crash affecting the world economy → GD in Japan 1920s (includes the 3 factors): - Severe inflation in Japan - cost of goods ↑ → price of rice increased by 174% ↓ Overseas demand for Japanese goods → large companies dismissed workers → unemployment ↑	- Growing resentment among the Japanese towards civilian govt. - Blamed civilian govt. for the economic challenges faced - Military was not blamed due to overseas victories - Military able to gain support from: Japanese - unemployed, poor - Increase in power and influence of the military
Challenges in the Countryside	- Those living in the countryside did not benefit as much as those living in the cities - Insufficient land for farmers due to the large population growth in Japan - Productivity of farmers in the countryside had stagnated as tech. advances in farming did not spread quickly enough in the countryside - Majority of farmers were tenant farmers who struggled to survive - much of their harvest went towards paying the landlord → left with barely enough to eat - Those who owned farms only had small plots of land and was affected by poor harvests	- Military followed an expansionist policy as a solution to Japan's econ. problems and to make Japan strong and independent - Military was able to gain support from: those living in countryside - Increase in power and influence of the military
Great Depression of 1929	Impact on farmers: - Demand for farmer's produce dropped → farmers earned less - Landowners continued to demand high rent & tried to evict those who could not pay Impact on small biz owners: - Could not attract customers due to econ. crisis - Many closed down	- Economic recession heightened fear of a communist uprising in Japan - Japan's proximity to the Soviet Union - security became a key concern of the Japanese govt. - Enabled military to increase

	Unemployment: ● Businesses collapsed → caused almost 15-20% of Japan's workforce to lose their jobs Fear of Communism: ● Many workers were attracted to the comm. ideas ● Ideas never really took root in the country - People felt that the govt. cared about the well-being of the elites and wealthy but were neglecting the poor during this crisis - Believed that the civilian politicians were corrupt in their dealings with the zaibatsu - Made many increasingly sus of the intentions of the govt.	its intervention in govt. affairs under the justification of national security ● Japanese started to look to more radical approaches to governance ● Military able to gain support from: nationalists, small biz owners, farmers, unemployed, anti-comm. ● Increase in power and influence of the military
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Social Challenges in Japan

Social challenges in Japan	Examples to illustrate social challenges of Japan	How did it lead to the rise of militarist Japan?
D	Ex	A
Rural-Urban divide	• Tensions within society worsened as gap between the rural-urban and rich-poor ↑ • Wealthy benefited during the 1920s as govt. continued to support the wealthy zaibatsus to strengthen the economy - concentrating wealth in the hands of the zaibatsus • In the countryside, richest landlords (2 - 3% of Japanese population) did not work on the farms themselves but lived on rent collected from tenant farmers • These landlords lived in luxury and engaged in various leisure activities • Workers and peasants continued to live in poverty • Became increasingly unhappy → resulted in uprisings such as the Rice Riots of 1918	• Many Japanese suffered from inflation and unemployment • Govt. failed to improve the lives of the peasants and workers • Resentment of the populace towards zaibatsus and other large capital owners would be capitalised by the military • Promised to address these inequalities • Military was able to gain support from: peasants, workers, unemployed
Changing Role of Women	• In the 1920s, many young women were perceived to be abandoning their traditional roles in their families • Many now had greater independence through the wages earned from their jobs • Some became active in politics • Seen as a threat to traditional Japanese society and values • These women were accused of serving their own interests instead of the needs of their families • Many Japanese were unhappy with the growing independence of women - saw this as a breakdown of traditional Japanese values that made up Japan's identity	• Military, being more culturally conservative, became a more popular alternative for traditionalists • Militaristic and expansionist goals of the military resonated with the traditionalists' desire to restore a sense of Japanese supremacy and independence from foreign influence

Political changes in 1932 resulted in a Japanese Cabinet of mostly military officers. From then on, the military increasingly consolidated their control and established a militarist govt. by 1941.

Militarist's consolidation of power (from 1932 onwards)

Political Impact of Militarist Rule

Political impact of Militarist rule	Examples to illustrate political impact of militarist rule	How did this allow the military to consolidate their power?
D	Ex	A
Increased military influence	- By 1934, military officers could now take positions in the civil service originally reserved for non-military or civilian politicians - Foreign affairs ministry handed over the supervision of Manchuria to the military - Civilian politicians were too busy with the division over party differences - Military successes in Manchuria emboldened the military to intervene in politics and oppose civilian politicians - Campaign of "electoral purification" to remove corrupt practices in the govt. - Campaign targeted individuals and groups that were socialist and communist - Political parties also became less impt, and fewer Japanese bothered to vote	- Japanese gave their support to the military as they were seen as capable due to their successes - Able to intervene in the civilian govt. and exert influence on the govt. → ↑ pride and militarism of Japanese - Allowed military to eliminate their political opponents - Gain support from the Japanese population
Loss of political power for civilian politicians	- Growing influence of the military caused the civilian politicians' power to diminish → Japanese people support the military officers and their expansionist plans July 1937: - Prince Konoe Fumimaro was appointed as PM - Military led an invasion into China Oct 1937: - Prince Konoe Fumimaro permits the formation of a Cabinet Planning Office made up of mostly military officers - Japan's finances was now in control by a military officer rather than a civilian politician Oct 1941: - Army Minister - General Tojo Hideki took over role of PM - Army gained total control over the Japanese govt.	- Conservative military leadership now had more direct power in the Cabinet and influence over the remaining govt. - Enabled them to holistically shape Japan for war

Economic Impact of Militarist Rule

Economic impact of Militarist rule	Examples to illustrate economic impact of militarist rule	+ve / -ve outcomes for the country/its people	How did this allow the military to maintain control of Japan?
D	Ex	A	A
Economic policies	Japan's industrialisation - The militarist government's industrialisation efforts were further encouraged by its new emphasis on expanding the empire and preparing for war - Shifted from developing consumer industries to heavy industries and chemical production → led to production of arms and big construction projects such as roads, railways, bridges - Govt. also increased spending to stimulate Japan's economy - more money was set aside for heavy industries, expanding the manufacturing industries and strengthening Japan's economy - Gave rise to new zaibatsus (large biz corporations) that made profits from govt. contracts in areas such as chemicals & construction - These corporations were closely linked to and influenced by the military - Played a role in the exploitation of resources in Korea & Manchuria - Military aimed to make Japan self-sufficient and industrially strong	+VE OUTCOME: - Military able to strengthen & control Japan by rebuilding the economy - Improved infrastructure - Helped to reduce unemployment in Japan - Japanese economy was repurposed for war preparation while under increased state control	The economic policy of industrialisation allowed the military to: Continue to gain support from the people
	Control of Labour Unions - In the 1920s, the govt. had encouraged the formation of labour unions as it could bring stability to the country - However, by 1936, militarist govt. had a different attitude towards labour unions - It no longer favoured unions and forced thousands of workers to withdraw from the union of govt. employees	-VE OUTCOME: - Japanese did not welcome the military govt.'s control of the labour unions - By controlling the labour unions → militarist govt. removed the ability of workers to express	The economic policy of controlling the labour unions allowed the military to: People were too afraid to oppose the military

		their discontent or advocate for change and improvement ● Had little choice but to abide by the rules set out by their employers	
	Improving conditions in Japan's countryside ● GD hit Japanese farming and farmers hard → by 1932, many farmers were heavily in debt ● Struggled to pay rent, taxes, and feed their families ● Govt. introduced a range of measures to help farmers pay off their debts → govt. increased public works in the countryside to provide jobs for people living there ● In 1932, Ministry of Agriculture launched the Campaign for Economic Revitalisation ● Campaign was a mix of propaganda and practical proposals aimed to strengthen the countryside ● Campaign stressed the need to revive the spirit of cooperation in rural areas ● Encouraged farmers to utilise scientific farming methods instead of traditional farming methods ● Farmers received guidance on how to better manage crops & finances ● Govt. also presented success stories to motivate more farmers to take part	+VE OUTCOME: ● Farmers enjoyed an increase in income from the improved farming methods with greater efficiency in farming ● Improvement of farmer's situations helped to improve social stability and cohesion in rural society	The economic policy of improving conditions in Japan's countryside allowed the military to: ● Continue gain support from the people
		-VE OUTCOME: ● Conditions in the farms did not improve significantly as the govt. was more focused on industrialisation	

Social Impact of Militarist Rule

Economic impact of Militarist rule	Examples to illustrate economic impact of militarist rule	+ve / -ve outcomes for the country/its people	How did this allow the military to maintain control of Japan?
D	Ex	A	A
Social Changes	Control of Japanese thought - Govt. took action to promote loyalty to the state and the Emperor as well as a strong military spirit - Introduction of the Campaign for Economic Revitalisation emphasised the traditional values seen in the lives of peasants in rural Japan → contrasted with the chaotic and corrupting of influence in cities - Campaign also praised women in rural Japan for their traditional roles in working on the farm & managing the home - Govt. also began to search for strategies to manage workers and increase productivity - In 1937, govt. implemented a network of discussion councils in all workplaces → consisted of worker and manager representatives to prevent conflict in workplaces - Military also introduced 2 branches of the govt. to control censorship of ideas - Publications Monitoring Department - guidelines for all publishing companies scrutinised in the media - Information and Propaganda Committee - control the media and promote militarist ideas - Individuals who did not conform were silenced → special police force known as Kempeitai was set up to enforce this	+VE OUTCOME: - Japanese lived in an atmosphere of fear - Subjected to constant brainwashing to ensure loyalty to the Emperor and state as well as a strong military spirit became part of their thoughts - Role of women was reduced to a domestic one - Japanese became deprived of freedom of thought as society became more rigid and dictated by the authoritarian govt.	The control of Japanese thoughts allowed the military to: - Enforce beliefs of the Japanese military - Control public opinions - Eliminate those who did not support their policies or threatened their power
	Control of education Japan's education system already had a strong emphasis on national pride and the	+VE OUTCOME: Japanese students became more regimented and	The control of Japanese education allowed the military to:

	importance of Japanese traditions ● Stressed Shinto beliefs, loyalty to the Emperor, and importance of the community over the individual ● In 1937, MOE published a document called Fundamentals of Our National Polity (Kokutai no Hongi) - used it as a basis for Japan's education system ● Document was distributed to officials and educators, and was intended to guide teachers in inculcating Japanese traditional ethics in their students ● Japanese curriculum sought to instill a sense of patriotism in young Japanese, and was centred on ultranationalist and military ideals ● Contained large amounts of physical exercise, military-style drilling and technical lessons designed to prepare the youths for war	ultranationalistic	● Enforce beliefs of Japanese military ● Control public opinion ● Continue to gain support from the people ● Eliminate those who did not support his policies or threatened his power
		-VE OUTCOME: ● Youths were subjected to constant indoctrination to ensure militarist beliefs were part of their thoughts ● Alternative and more moderate political views became less common as new generation of youths were limited by a militarist mindset ● Support for aggressive foreign policy became increasingly unanimous as a result	