Age of Gunpowder Empires
1450 – 1800
Changed the balance of power

This term applies to a number of states, all of which rapidly expanded during the late 15th and over the entire 16th century. Most significant were Portugal, Spain, the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Empire, and the Mughal Empire but also included England, France, Tokugawa (Japan), Romanov Russia, and Ming/Manchu (Qing) China

Varying degrees of impact

- new gunpowder weapons had some impact in most parts of the inhabited world, but each place reacted differently.
- In China & Japan, for example, guns were allowed minimal influence
  - those countries kept themselves isolated, but then paid a high price, in the 19th century, by being vulnerable to the West.
- But while the West's exploitation of gunpowder weapons enabled them to become wealthy & to dominate much of the globe, the effort cost countless lives & helped to keep Europe embroiled in war for much of modern history.

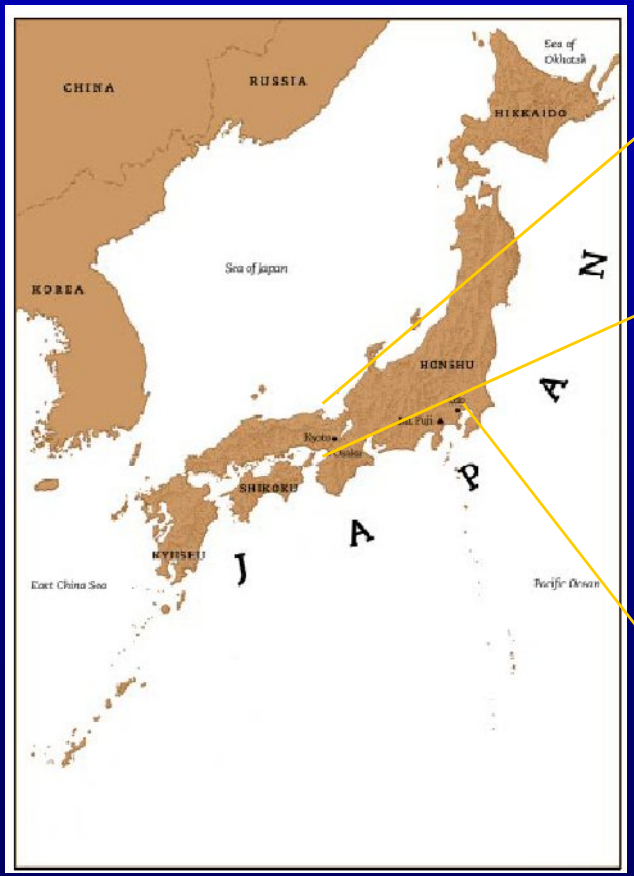
Japanese Reunification Civil War and the Invasion of Korea and Manchuria, 1500–1603

- In the twelfth century, with imperial unity dissolved, Japan came under the control of a number of regional warlords called *daimyo*
- Each *daimyo* had their own castle town, a small bureaucracy, and an army of warriors, the *samurai*
- A long civil war would bring the separate Japanese islands under the control of different warlords

- Warfare among the daimyo was common, and in 1592 the most powerful of these warlords, Hideyoshi, chose to lead an invasion of Korea
- After Hideyoshi's death in 1598, the Japanese withdrew their forces and, in 1606, made peace with Korea

Tradition and Change in East Asia

- The Unification of Japan: The Tokugawa Shogunate
  - Tokugawa Ieyasu (1603)
  - Control of the Daimyo



Kyoto

Osaka

Edo

Tokugawa Japan, 1600-1867

Tradition and Change in East Asia

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Tokugawa Japan, 1600-1867

Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543 – 1616)

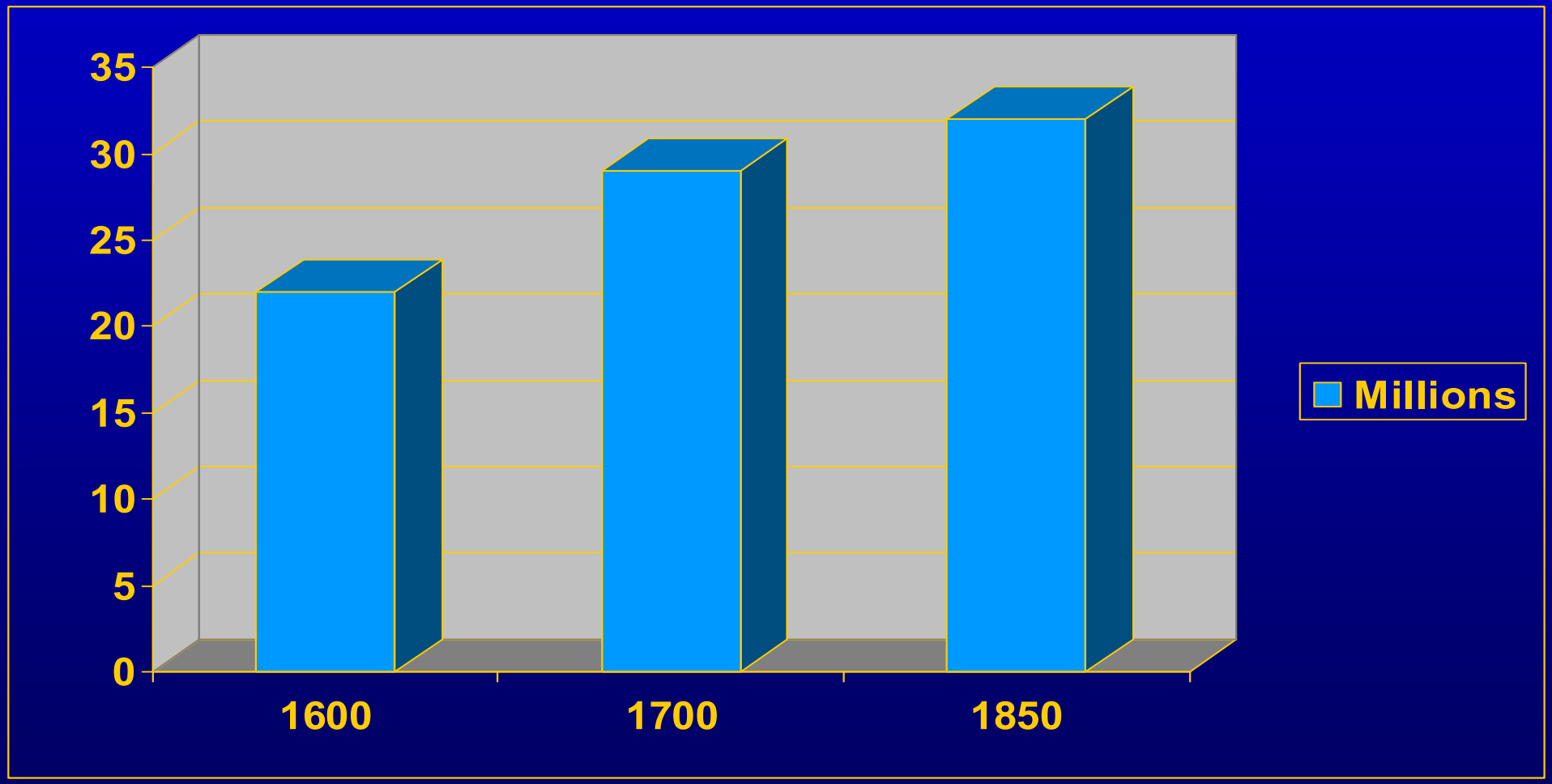
Control of *Daimyo* (“Great Names”)

- Approximately 260 powerful territorial lords
  - Independent militaries, judiciaries, schools, foreign relations, etc.
- From capital Edo (Tokyo), shogun requires “alternate attendance”: daimyo forced to spend every other year at court
  - Controlled marriage, socializing of daimyo families
- Beginning 1630s, shoguns restrict foreign relations
  - Travel, import of books forbidden
  - Policy strictly maintained for 200 years

Economic Growth in Japan

- End of civil conflict contributes to prosperity
- New crop strains, irrigation systems improve agricultural production
- Yet population growth moderate
  - Contraception, late marriage, abortion
  - Infanticide: “thinning out the rice shoots”

Population Growth



Tradition and Change in East Asia

- The Unification of Japan
  - The Tokugawa Shogunate
    - Control of Foreign Relations

Dutch Merchants on Island of Deshima

The Tokugawa Shogunate
~ Artistic Developments

Jinbaori with Ships sails

Samurai ~ cuirass armor & Helmet

Porcelain dish with radish & waves design

Samurai – formed from bodies

Tradition and Change in East Asia

- The Unification of Japan
  - Economic and Social Change
    - Population Growth
    - Social Change

Edo street life

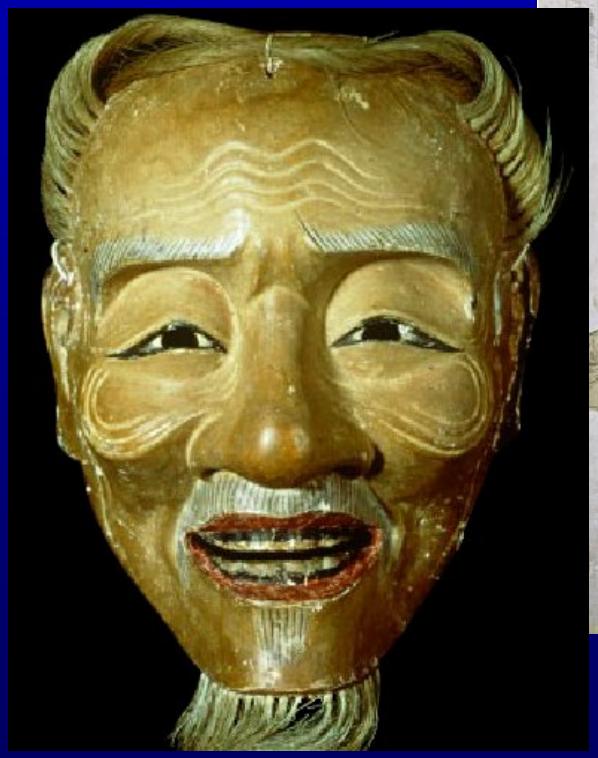
Hikone Screen
Gaming

Economic & Social Change

- Entertainment

Courtesan

Nō mask, carved wood

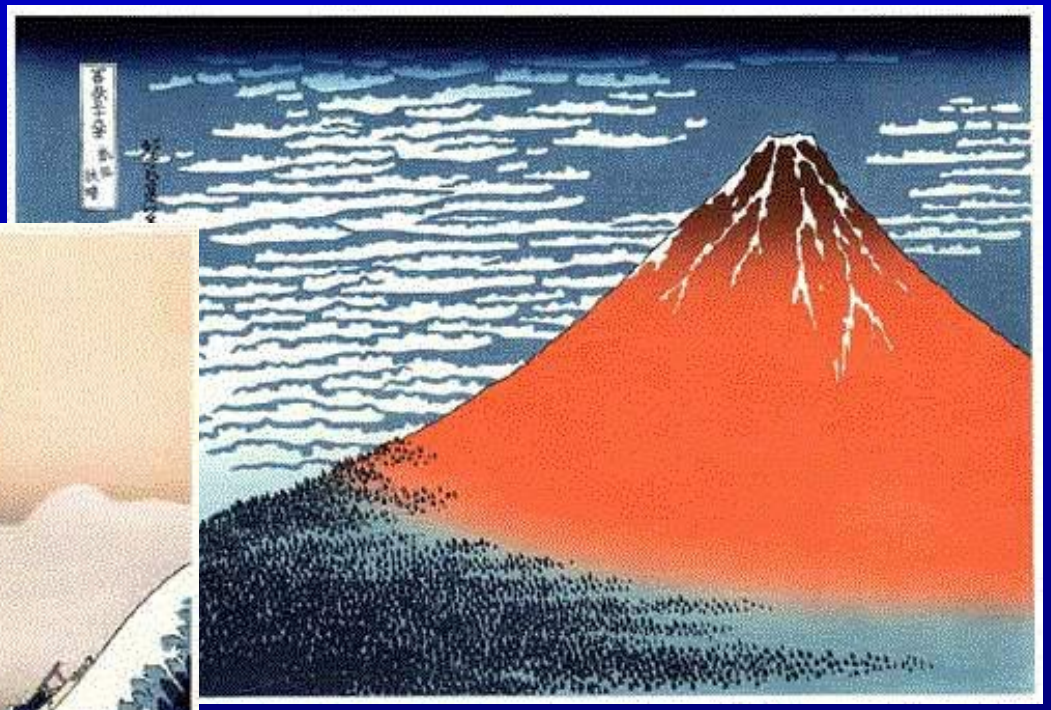


Sumo Wrestlers, 1790

Kabuki Costume

Tradition and Change in East Asia

- Neo-Confucianism and Floating Worlds
  - Neo-Confucianism in Japan
  - Native Learning
  - Floating Worlds



Katsushika Hokusai (1760 – 1849)

from Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji

Neo-Confucianism in Japan

- Chinese cultural influence extends through Tokugawa period
- Chinese language essential to curriculum
- Zhu Xi and Neo-Confucianism remains popular
- “Native Learning” also popular in 18th century
  - Folk traditions, Shinto

Neo-Confucianism & Floating Worlds

Gion Festival, parade of floats ~ Kyoto

Tradition and Change in East Asia

- The Unification of Japan
  - Christianity and Dutch Learning
    - Christian Missions
      - The Jesuits
      - Francis Xavier
    - Anti-Christian Campaign
    - Dutch Learning

St. Francis Xavier
(1506-1552)

Dutch Traders & Japanese at Nagasaki

Tradition and Change in East Asia

Sources From The Past: Fabian Fucan Rejects Christianity

Why did the Japanese Buddhist Fabian Fucan first convert, then reject Christianity?

"I joined this creed at an early age; diligently, I studied its teachings, and pursued its practices. Due to my stupidity, however, I was long unable to realize that this was a perverse and cursed faith…"

- Deus Destroyed, 1620

Key Words & Terms

Tokugawa Shogunate
shogun
bakufu
daimyo
neo-Confucianism
kabuki
Francis Xavier
Tokugawa Ieyasu
Floating worlds (*ukiyo*)
Dutch learning

Tradition and Change in East Asia

Summary

- East Asian states benefited from long-distance trade
- China remained the dominant power & centuries passed before China or Japan fell under European domination
- American food crops fueled population rise
- Japan unified under the Tokugawas & began its evolution into a powerful state
- Foreign relations closely controlled
- Vibrant economy promoted social change & enhanced status of merchants & artisans

Comparative Perspectives

Political Comparisons

- Between 1500 and 1800, China and Russia grew dramatically, both in territory controlled and population.
- In comparison to Russia and China, the seaborne trading empires of the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English had less territory, tighter administrations, and much more global sweep.

- Despite being headed by an emperor, Japan's size, homogeneity, and failure to add colonies disqualify it from being called a true empire.
- Japan and Russia made greater progress in improving their military than did the Chinese.
- Of Japan, Russia, and China, Russia did the most to build up its imperial navy.

Cultural, Social, and Economic Comparisons

- As they expanded, both China and Russia pursued policies that tolerated diversity, while promoting cultural assimilation.
- While both Russian and Chinese leaders were willing to use foreign ideas and technologies, they tended to see their own culture as superior.
- Both China and Russia had hierarchical and oppressive social systems.
- Merchants occupied a precarious position in both China and Japan.