

5-14-13

## Characteristics of the Meiji Period:

- Modernization in Japan →
  - focus on military - set the stage for 20<sup>th</sup> c. conflicts
  - railroads were built, steel production ↑
- Feudal System became outdated →
  - Samurai sword was outlawed by gov't
  - samurai salary cut in half
- clash between modernization and traditional Japanese values
- Japanese gov't sent representatives to western nations to learn ways of the west
- Western teachers & military experts were invited to Japan.
  - Japan changed its education system
- Change in clothing and diet
- Emperor gained power
- Japan became an imperial power in Asia during the late 19<sup>th</sup> c. - early 20<sup>th</sup> c.
  - increased militarism & expansionism