PHUNC VI
A Timeline of Exploration
The Meiji Restoration
Dear Delegates,

My name is Jacob Glenister. I’m a sophomore studying Computer Science at Penn State, and as your crisis director I’d like to welcome you to The Meiji Restoration at PHUNC VI.

I have loved history for nearly as long as I can remember, at the very least since I first played Rise of Nations when I was five. Ever since, I’ve done everything I can to study and understand history. In addition to all of the history books I’ve read and historical games I’ve played, I’ve been in Model UN for five and a half years now, including one and a half in PSIADA. This is my first time as a crisis director for a committee, but I have served behind the scenes in several committees in the past. As such, if you have any questions about Model UN in general or the way this committee will run in particular, don’t hesitate to ask me.

I have been excited to run this committee since I started planning it this spring. I can’t wait to see what creative and interesting ideas you will have and what the future holds for Japan.

Sincerely,

Jacob Glenister

jrg5819@psu.edu
Dear Delegates,

My name is Erfan Shakibaei and I will be your chair for the Meiji Restoration Committee of PHUNC VI. I am a junior here at Penn State majoring in Finance. I have been involved in Model UN all throughout high school, and I immediately joined the Penn State International Affairs and Debate Association (PSIADA) when I arrived at Penn State. Since then, I have had the pleasure of chairing a Chinese Civil War Joint Crisis Committee for PHUNC V and the Pirate Conclave for PUNC X, co-chairing the United States Civil War JCC for PHUNC IV, and crisis directing the Ad Hoc Committee for PUNC XI. I was previously the Vice President of Finance for PSIADA, and I am excited to take on the challenge of chairing another committee this year.

Outside of PSIADA, I am involved with the Nittany Lion Fund, Leveraged Lion Capital, and the Sapphire Leadership Academic Program. Besides extracurricular activities, I like to stay active and play rugby.

I hope all of you have fun and learn in the process of this committee. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the committee structure, research advice, etc. I am at your service and happy to help in any way I can. eps5273@psu.edu

Sincerely,

Erfan Shakibaei
Overview

The year is 1865. For over 650 years, with a few brief intermissions, Japan has been under the rule of the shoguns, hereditary military dictators who nominally serve the all-powerful Emperor but in reality run the country as absolute monarchs. Under them are the daimyo, hereditary feudal lords similar to Europe’s counts and dukes. The daimyos each rule over Japan’s provinces and are themselves served by the samurai, a hereditary warrior caste that have acted as retainers and mercenaries in the service of the daimyo for nearly a millennium.

Three hundred years earlier, in the mid-16th century, this order had begun to break down. The Ashikaga shogunate began to lose its grip on the country as daimyo fought amongst themselves for dominance. Eventually, a daimyo named Oda Nobunaga, aided by his generals Tokugawa Ieyasu and Toyotomi Hideyoshi, declared himself shogun.

While he was able to establish some level of order, it was not to last. He soon died, leaving Hideyoshi in charge of the country. After Hideyoshi's death, his young son was placed in nominal control of the country, but in reality five regents, including Ieyasu, were placed in charge of the nation. However, it was not long before the most powerful of the regents, Ieyasu, turned on the others. At the battle of Sekigahara in 1603, Tokugawa Ieyasu and his allies defeated a coalition of the other daimyo of Japan, resulting in him and his heirs claiming the title of Shogun.

Since 1603, the shoguns have come from the Tokugawa clan, and they have maintained a policy of isolation so extreme that only a single ship from the Dutch (whose books kept Japan informed of Western scientific developments) and a few ships from China and Korea are permitted to enter the country each year. While this isolation has left Japan behind in world affairs, it has also kept peace within her borders for a quarter of a millenium and led to a flowering of Japanese culture. I t was during this period that kabuki and bunraku theatre, for example, were invented.

Sekigahara left another legacy within Japan: the division of daimyo into privileged and unprivileged groups. Those daimyo who had sided with Ieyasu before the battle, or those who were members of his family, were rewarded with vast domains and great power, while the outsider clans who had not aided him until later were relegated to poor domains in far-flung corners of the country, left to languish in relative obscurity.

That all began to change in 1853, when Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States Navy arrived in Tokyo with 4 “black ships” that forced the port to open to American trade under the threat of bombardment. This led to an abrupt end of Japan’s isolation and the most turbulent period. The shogun found himself powerless to repel the foreign interlopers in the face of growing pressure to do so. This began a period of great internal instability that has begun to parallel that of the Warring States period 250 years earlier.
Recent Years

Since the reopening of Japan to the West, the shogun’s control has been rapidly slipping away as failure after failure erodes public faith in the shogunate. While not nearly as severe as the fate that befell the Americas when the Europeans arrived, diseases such as cholera have claimed a great number of lives in Japan after having been introduced by Europeans. Moreover, one of the worst years of earthquakes in Japan’s history occurred in 1854, further weakening Shogunate authority.

Of course, it is not only natural disasters that have befallen Japan since it reopened its borders. A disparity in the gold to silver exchange rate compared to that of the West led to an economic crisis as currency rapidly became devalued and Japan’s gold reserves were greatly weakened. The harsh treaties imposed by foreigners, which forced them to keep tariffs low and allow foreigners to live freely in Japan, did not help the country’s economic situation. This, coupled with fears of a loss of traditional Japanese values, have led to great popular unrest and dissent among the general populace and the samurai, on whom the daimyo rely for security.

In the past few years, these tensions have begun to boil over into violence. The most rebellious domain, Choshu, under daimyo Mori Takachika, was bombarded by foreign powers in 1863 and nearly invaded by the Shogunate in 1864. It was only the intervention of Satsuma Domain that saved them from occupation. A popular rebellion has recently occurred in Mito Domain and is only now beginning to be defeated.

While these attacks on regime enemies have begun to recover Shogunate authority, many remain disloyal, and the country rings out with cries of “sonno joi!” (“revere the emperor! Expel the barbarians!”) as the people turn more and more to the Emperor for help against the foreigners who run rampant over the country. The Emperor and his politically active young son Prince Mutsuhito have begun to hear these calls and have called this meeting to determine Japan’s future. As the foremost leaders of Japan, it is up to you to return her to greatness and stability in the face of these troubles.
The Imperial Powers

**The United States:** At the beginning of Japan’s reentry into the larger world, the United States had by far the greatest involvement of any Western nation in Japanese affairs. It was Commodore Perry who first opened the harbor, and the United States is the only Western power with a mainland Pacific border, giving it an easier route to Japan. However, it is currently in the throes of a Civil War (albeit one that looks to be almost over), which has greatly reduced its involvement. Nonetheless, it is hardly out of the question for the United States to once again take on its role of supplying industry and weapons to a changing Japan (at a sizeable profit, of course).

**The United Kingdom:** By all accounts, except for the French, Great Britain is easily the most powerful nation on Earth. The Royal Navy is the world’s largest, and Britain stands at the forefront of science and industry. As the world’s largest empire, Britain desires nothing more than to expand her holdings into East Asia, an area previously relatively free of British control outside of small sections of China. British arms would be of aid to any daimyo, and their proficiency in ship construction is unsurpassed.

**France:** Not quite as strong as the United Kingdom, but always looking to be, France stands poised to spring at any opportunity Japan presents. With a strong position established in South East Asia, France is more than willing to expand northwards into Japan. While they are not as powerful as the British, they are as a result perhaps more eager to work with the daimyo in an effort to undercut the British.

**The Netherlands:** While hardly a power on the scale of the other nations investing in Japan, The Netherlands has strong historical ties with Japan that keep it heavily invested in the region. It also helps that they control the relatively nearby Indonesian islands. For hundreds of years, they had exclusive trade rights to valuable Japanese goods, and they would hardly mind such a situation appearing once more, albeit with more than one ship per year. They do not possess a great land-based army, but they do have some arms and industry as well as great naval strength, and they are willing to cut a deal to help them add more islands to their Asian domain.
With few exceptions mentioned above, all delegates of this committee are daimyo. That means that each of you holds a domain within Japan. Moreover, as you are all locally powerful daimyo, you have cowed smaller local daimyo into submission, effectively making them part of your domain. Note that if you grow weak in the eyes of other daimyo, they may flip allegiances, costing you income. You are also, with the exception of the Shogun himself, subservient to the Shogun. However, due to the circumstances of the times those bonds are loosening. As noted earlier, one of the main questions of the committee is whether or not that loyalty will continue into the future.

In addition to landowning feudal vassals, you also command an army of samurai retainers. These warriors have been the core of Japan’s military since the 13th century, and they have proven themselves in wars from the Sengoku Jidai to the invasion of Korea to the Mongol invasion of Japan. Now, however, they are becoming more and more outmoded in the face of modern weaponry. Of course, it is well within the means of a daimyo to conscript the common folk into his army and equip them in European fashion, complete with the cavalry, artillery, and supporting steamships that a modern army requires. The decision of how to compose your army will be important for it will be very unlikely that there is no violence in this transitional period in Japan’s history.

Crisis:

Crisis will act as all entities not represented in the committee. For example, crisis will represent foreign powers not represented in the committee, the domestic populations of each nation, and the economic forces of the nations. You will communicate with crisis primarily through notes, but you may request that an attaché enter and meet with a crisis staffer who will represent the person you would like to meet.

When communicating with crisis, use detailed yet simple notes. An example of a note to move troops would look like this:

Front

To: Crisis

From: Name of your position

Inside

Please move 1,000 soldiers from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.
Your troops encountered X number of enemy soldiers. You lost 600 soldiers in the battle. You now have 400 soldiers camped in State College. They are unable to continue to Pittsburgh.

Crisis will respond to your request. If they deny it, you’ll be told “you don’t have enough supplies to move these soldiers” or whatever other reason it is that you cannot do so. Perhaps your soldiers, on their way to Pittsburgh, encounter an enemy force in State College. In that case, you will receive a note that looks like the one to the left. Here it is important to remember that your troops never made it to Pittsburgh, they are trapped. They require reinforcements to move on to Pittsburgh. Crisis will provide periodic individual updates on your financial and military situations as well as newsworthy alerts.

While these notes are simple, they also include all the information Crisis will need. Crisis cannot move soldiers unless it knows where they are coming from and where they are going. This same process works for all things you do be they economic, humanitarian, political, etc. Value detail and quality over quantity. Your effectiveness in Crisis is determined by your ability to use it to your advantage and play to your own strengths.

### Topics of Debate

1. **The Foreigner Question:**
   There is no beating around the bush—Japan is full of barbarous foreigners. Whatever their use to the state, these Westerners are not exactly pleasing the peasants, and the merchants are unhappy with the trade deals they force upon us. If we are not careful, we may find ourselves their puppets, as has befallen our neighbor China. We must find a way to deal more amicably with them while also preventing civil insurrection at their presence.

2. **The Leadership Question:**
   The Emperor has ruled with the help of a Shogun for nearly a millennium, but the people cry out for direct imperial rule. Moreover, for the West to take us seriously, we may need a more modern form of government that will make it clear to them who is in charge as well as showing that we are as philosophically and politically advanced as them. Of course, any governmental changes must be done with great caution, as it is desirable to avoid popular unrest.

3. **The Modernization Question:**
   While our ‘Dutch learning’ has helped us keep up in some capacity to remain on pace with the West, we nonetheless sit at a considerable technological and industrial disadvantage compared to the foreign powers. We must find a way to improve our technology, especially in our military, and our industry without causing public outcry and becoming over-reliant on the Western powers.
Learning Objectives

1. **How was Japan specifically, and in a broader context East Asia, shaped by the influence of colonizing powers?** Like most of the world, the 19th Century in East Asia was largely defined by interactions between local powers and colonizing empires. The nature of this interaction was varied between the individual states of the region. While Japan avoided the fates of nations such as Vietnam and China, which were absorbed in whole or in part into foreign states, it did struggle with colonialist influence and was faced with the threat of foreign domination. Delegates of this committee will learn through experience the struggles Japan’s leaders went through during the period as they tried to preserve their independence.

2. **How did modernization and industrialization affect non-Western countries in the late 19th century?** Imperialists brought many aspects of their society with them, but one of the most notable is technology. Modern medicine, weapons, and methods of production arrived with the colonists and merchants, reshaping the societies they encountered. Nowhere was this more prevalent than in Japan, which adopted an industrial economy and Westernized military faster than any of its neighbors. Delegates will explore how and why this occurred as they take the role of Japan’s leaders during the transition from feudalism and agrarianism to industrialization and imperialism.

3. **How and why did Japan rise as a great power in the Pacific in the 20th century through the context of its transformation in the 19th century?** Japan in the first half of the 20th century was an imperialist power as violent and conquering as any of the great European empires. It conquered Korea and large sections of China and Southeast Asia as well as most of the islands of the Pacific Ocean. This imperialism had its roots in Japan’s militarism and industrialization, trends which either grew or began during the Meiji Restoration. Delegates will explore how these came about by seeing their roots during this time period.

Delegate Positions

**Tokugawa Iemochi:**
Tokugawa Iemochi is the current shogun of Japan, the latest in a 250-year long line of Tokugawa shoguns who have acted as military dictators of the nation since 1603. He is easily the most powerful man in Japan, with estates over four million koku. Yet his position is precarious. The people of Japan clamor for the restoration of power to the Emperor and the expulsion of foreigners. A Shogun who cannot perform the second task may well be forced to perform the first. At the same time, the daimyos are growing restless and beginning to vie for power. It is up to Tokugawa to fight off these forces and retain power or fail and see the shogunate fall out of Tokugawa hands or even out of existence.
Shimazu Hisamitsu:
Shimazu Hisamitsu is the lord of Satsuma Domain, a province in the south of Kyushu, one of the furthest domains from the capital. His family was influential during the Sengoku Jidai, but they were severely diminished as a result of their opposition to the shogun in the battle of Sekigahara. He is part of a faction supporting cooperation between the Shogun and Emperor, but there is no love lost between him and the Shogun. In addition to his domain, he has the great general Saigo Takamori under his command.

Omura Masujiro:
Omura Masujiro is not a daimyo, but he is an important samurai and one of the greatest military minds of his generation. What he lacks in material power he makes up in the soft power of his foreign contacts. He is in the employ of Choshu domain as one of their military advisors. He has studied in Germany and is an expert in Western military tactics and techniques.

Katsu Kaishu:
Katsu Kaishu is not a daimyo, but he is a samurai retainer of the Tokugawa shogunate. As a consequence, he does not rule over a domain per se, but his long service has granted him similar wealth and prestige to a daimyo. He rose through the ranks to become indispensable to the shogun. He is an accomplished general and the foremost admiral of the Japanese Navy.

Matsudaira Katamori:
Matsudaira Katamori is the daimyo of Aizu domain in central Japan, not far from the old Imperial capital of Kyoto. In addition, he is responsible for keeping the peace in the city of Kyoto, giving him control not only of his samurai forces but also of the famed Kyoto Police, elite pikemen in his service. These two titles together make him one of the most powerful people in Japan’s central region. He has historical loyalties to the Tokugawa family, especially due to his title and the fact that one of his ancestors was a Tokugawa.

Yamauchi Toyoshige:
Yamauchi Toyoshige is the lord of Tosa Domain, a domain far from Tokyo and the reach of the Shogun. He is officially retired, but nonetheless retains actual power over the “real” daimyo of Tosa. He is a pragmatist who understands when to change allegiances to retain his own power.

Todo Takayuki:
Todo Takayuki is the daimyo of Tsu Domain, a wealthy domain near Kyoto of about 300,000 koku. He is a Tokugawa loyalist but also an experienced politician and a pragmatist. He is also an early supporter of modernization, having already worked to modernize Tsu Domain’s military.

Inaba Masakune:
Inaba Masakune is a daimyo of a clan historically loyal to the Shogunate. He rules over Yodo Domain, worth around 115,000 koku. He also serves as an elder (a high-ranking government position) within the Shogunate government.

Mori Takachika:
Mori Takachika, also known as Mori Yosichica, is the lord of Choshu domain, another one of the
western domains on poor terms with the Shogunate. He is a reformist, a traditional ally of the rulers of Satsuma and Tosa domains, and in a good position to take advantage of anti-Shogunate sentiments to do away with his hated Tokugawa rivals. His domain was recently subject to a campaign by the Shogunate to crush his disloyalty. Total disaster was only averted by quick thinking and negotiation on the part of Shimazu Hisamitsu.

Ogasawara Tadayoshi:
Ogasawara Tadayoshi is a daimyo and a descendant of the ancient and illustrious Takeda clan. He rules over Kokura domain in Kyushu, just across the sea from Choshu domain. However, unlike his other western neighbors, he is a Shogunate loyalist with his clan holding Shogunate ties dating back to the Battle of Sekigahara.

Nabeshima Mochoziru:
Nabeshima Mochoziru, known later in life as Nabeshima Naohiro, is the lord of Saga Domain, a domain containing the city of Nagasaki. As the ruler of the only port open to the West until 1853, Nabeshima is no stranger to Western customs and has strong ties with Western traders, especially the Dutch. Easy access to Western trade has left him with one of the most modern militaries in Japan, with advanced (relative to most other daimyo, who still largely rely on samurai) weapons and tactics at his disposal. Although the Nabeshima clan was once loyal to the Shogun, they now find themselves surrounded by Imperialist daimyo and are beginning to lean towards the Emperor.

Sakai Tadaaki:
Sakai Tadaaki is the former head of the Obama Domain. While not technically ruling his domain, he nonetheless maintains great power over his son who rules Obama Domain in name. His family is closely connected to the shogunate, to which he maintains great loyalty. A man of domestic policy rather than foreign, his primary concern is maintaining order first within his domain and ideally throughout Japan.

Makino Tadayuki:
Makino Tadayuki is the lord of Nagaoka Domain and an old ally of the Tokugawa Shogunate, having been elevated to clan status by the Tokugawa’s predecessor, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. He is a staunch traditionalist, believing strongly in the preservation of traditionalist Japanese culture. He is especially opposed to Western influence, which he sees as extremely dangerous. However, he is a famous military organizer and has an excellently trained army of samurai at his disposal.

Maeda Nariyasu:
Short of the Shogun, Maeda Nariyasu is the richest man in Japan. With a domain of 1.2 million koku, he holds the largest domain of the han system, except for that of the Shogun. He is also a shrewd politician, able to follow the winds of change and ride them for his own benefit.

Kuroda Nagatomo:
Another wealthy daimyo, Kuroda Nagatomo heads the 472,000-koku Fukuoka Domain. In addition to this wealth, Kuroda is not above the occasional less-than-honorable dealing. Due to his anti-establishment nature, he is opposed to the Tokugawa shoguns, and more than happy to effect a regime change if the opportunity presents itself.
Date Yoshikuni:
Date Yoshikuni is heir to both the illustrious legacy of the Date clan and Sendai Domain, a domain worth, in theory, 626,000 koku. However, the province has yet to fully recover from a famine decades earlier, and its actual income is far below this level. As well, he is compelled by the shogun to help pay for the defense of Kyoto and about one third of Hokkaido, further hurting his income. However, should Date fix the problems facing his domain, he could use this great wealth and his distance from both Kyoto and Tokyo to his own ends, whatever they may be.

Date Munenari:
A distant cousin of Date Yoshikuni, Date Munenari is a prominent former daimyo and politician from Uwajima Domain. Although he does not rule over the province himself, he maintains great sway over his son Date Mune’e, who administers the domain. He is a believer in cooperation and peace and wants nothing more than negotiations and agreements between the Shogun and Emperor.

Matsumae Takahiro:
Matsumae Takahiro rules over Matsumae Domain, the only major domain on the island of Hokkaido in the north of Japan. Matsumae is very open to foreigners, willing to circumvent other government authorities to open up Japan to trade. Although a court elder at the Tokugawa court, he is something of a political outsider, and this, as well as his physical distance from Kyoto and Tokyo sets him up as something of a wildcard in Japan’s future.

Abe Masato:
Abe Masato is the lord of Shirakawa Domain and an old favorite of the Shogun’s. He was originally only a minor samurai, but upon the death of one of his relatives he was rapidly elevated first to daimyo and then to a number of court titles, including roju (court elder), as a result of his great loyalty to the Shogun. Like his fellow roju Matsumae Takahiro, he is a great believer in modernization and trade with the West.

Hachisuka Mochiaki:
Hachisuka Mochiaki is the daimyo of Tokushima Domain on the island of Shikoku. An early adopter of Western technology, he is more than willing to work with foreigners to outfit his military effectively. He is also a shrewd politician and is capable of winning battles in the Imperial or Shogunate courts as well as on the battlefield.
While not truly reading, one of the best ways to get a feel for the historical period of the committee and a decent amount of factual information is the game *Total War Shogun 2: Fall of the Samurai*. While this committee is not based off of said game, the game does feature a number of characters from the committee and is generally accurate in its portrayal of 19th-century Japan. If you’re more into books, here are a few works that will greatly help you in this committee:

*The Meiji Restoration*, W.G. Beasley

*The Samurai Revolution: The Dawn of Modern Japan Seen Through the Eyes of the Shogun's Last Samurai*, Romulus Hillsborough

*Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps*, Romulus Hillsborough
References

www.worldstatesmen.org/Japan_feud.html.


“The Meiji Restoration and Modernization | Asia for Educators | Columbia University.”


Awards Criteria

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<th>Effectiveness in Crisis</th>
<th>Effectiveness in Committee</th>
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<td>• Frequency of communication.</td>
<td>• Initiative in proposing solutions.</td>
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<td>• Appropriate use of portfolio powers.</td>
<td>• Quality of proposed solutions.</td>
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<td>• Impact of portfolio actions on crisis.</td>
<td>• Contribution to directives.</td>
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<td>• Coherence and quality of communication.</td>
<td>• Direction of committee.</td>
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**Creativity**
- Originality of ideas.
- Ability to adapt actions to evolving crises.
- Ability to manipulate existing powers beyond their initial capacity.

**Diplomacy**
- Eloquence of speech.
- Influence amongst other delegates.
- Leadership during moderated caucuses.
- Ability to negotiate and collaborate with fellow delegates.
- Professionalism and consideration.