

CHAPTER 19 Section 3 (pages 542–547)

Japan Returns to Isolation

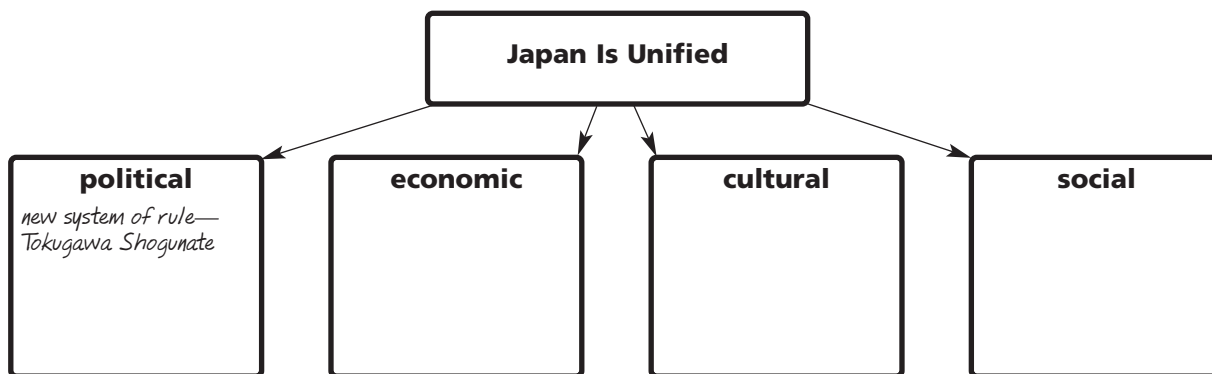
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you saw how the Chinese reacted to foreigners.

In this section, you will read about civil war in Japan and its effects.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to show some ways in which Japan changed after it was unified



A New Feudalism Under Strong Leaders (pages 542–544)

Why were warriors fighting in Japan?

From 1467 to 1568, Japan entered a long, dark period of civil war. Powerful warriors took control of large areas of land. They were called **daimyo**. They became the most important powers in the country. The daimyo fought each other constantly to gain more land for themselves.

In 1568, one of the daimyo, **Oda Nobunaga**, took control of Kyoto. It was the site of the emperor's capital. Another general, **Toyotomi Hideyoshi**, continued the work of bringing all of Japan under one rule. Using military conquest and clever *diplomacy*, he won that goal in 1590. He failed in his effort to capture Korea, however.

TERMS AND NAMES

daimyo Warrior-chieftains

Oda Nobunaga Daimyo who hoped to control all of Japan and seized Kyoto

Toyotomi Hideyoshi Daimyo who took control of almost all of Japan

Tokugawa Shogunate Dynasty that ruled Japan from 1603 to 1868

kabuki Type of Japanese theatre

haiku Type of Japanese poetry

The work of *unifying* Japan was completed by Tokugawa Ieyasu. He became the *shogun*, or sole ruler. He moved the capital of Japan to a small fishing village named Edo. Later, it grew to become the city of Tokyo.

While all of Japan was ruled by Tokugawa, the daimyo still held much power in their lands. Tokugawa solved that problem by forcing them to follow his orders. Tokugawa died in 1616. All of the shoguns to follow him were from his family. They maintained a strong central government in Japan. This system of rule, called the **Tokugawa Shogunate**, lasted until 1867.

1. Which three leaders helped bring Japan under one rule?

Life in Tokugawa Japan (page 544)

How was Tokugawa society organized?

The new government brought about a long period of peace and prosperity for most people. Peasant farmers suffered greatly during this time, however. They worked long and hard on the farms and paid heavy taxes. Many left the countryside to move to the cities. By the mid-1700s, Edo had more than a million people. It was perhaps the largest city in the world. Women found more opportunities for work in this and other cities than they had in the country.

A traditional culture thrived. It preferred ceremonial dramas, stories of ancient warriors, and paintings of classical scenes. However, in cities, new styles emerged. Townspeople attended kabuki, dramas of urban life. They hung woodblock prints of city scenes in their homes. They also read haiku, poetry that presents images instead of expressing ideas.

2. What kinds of old and new culture were found in the cities?

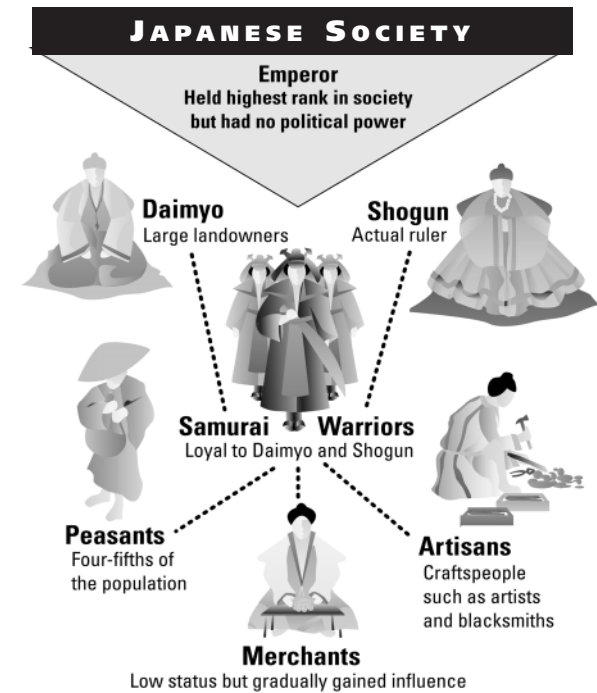
Contact Between Europe and Japan; The Closed Country Policy (pages 545–547)

Who came to Japan?

In 1543, Europeans began to arrive in Japan. The Portuguese were first. In the beginning, Japanese merchants and the daimyo welcomed them. They even welcomed the Christian missionaries who came after 1549. Some missionaries scorned traditional Japanese beliefs. They also got involved in local politics. Tokugawa became worried. In 1612, he banned Christianity from the country. Christians were persecuted. Over the next 20 years or so, Japan managed to rid the country of all Christians. This was part of a larger plan to protect the country from European influence.

In 1639, leaders sealed Japan’s borders except for one port city. It was open to only the Chinese and the Dutch. The Tokugawa shoguns controlled that port city, so they had tight control over all foreign contact. For the next 200 years, Japan remained closed to just about all European contact.

3. Why did the Japanese seal almost all of their borders?



Skillbuilder

Use the illustration to answer these questions.

1. What three people or groups of people controlled Japanese society?

2. What was the relationship of the samurai to the other classes in Japanese society?