

Chapter 15

Japan

Chapter Preview

People

Shinzo Abe, Jimmu, Commodore Matthew Perry, Harry S. Truman, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Hirohito, Douglas MacArthur

Places

Sea of Japan, Honshu, Shikoku, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima, Nagasaki

Terms

archipelago, terrace, Ring of Fire, tsunami, typhoon, homogenous, shogunate, indigenous, MacArthur Constitution, war reparations, constitutional monarchy, Bill of Rights, prefecture, autonomous, work ethic, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), tariff, subsidy, yen, robotics, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Top: Tokyo is the capital of Japan and the world's most populated city.

Background: The Chureito Pagoda is in a park dedicated to peace. Mount Fuji can be seen in the distance.

To the east of mainland Asia lies the “Land of the Rising Sun.” Stretching about 1,500 miles from north to south, the 4,000 islands of Japan arc gently from the northeast to the southwest. Beautiful scenery can be found on and around these islands. Striking snowcapped mountain peaks and swiftly flowing rivers are spread across the landscape. Volcanoes lie among the mountains, and from these come hot springs heated by Earth’s internal heat.

Japan is an island country that for many years was isolated from the rest of the world. Later, it became an aggressor and sought to gain control of nearby countries and the oceans in the region. The devastating defeat of Japan in World War II changed the country forever.

In the 21st century, Japan is one of the world’s most technologically advanced countries with one of the world’s most powerful economies. Many Japanese-based companies have brands familiar to Americans: Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Canon, Casio, Toshiba, and Sony, just to name a few. Japan is the United States’ largest export market. Japanese speakers are the third- largest group on the Internet, comprising almost 10 percent of the world’s Internet population. Have you ever read manga or created origami or eaten sushi? If you have, you have participated in a part of Japanese culture! Japan’s connections to the United States make it an important and interesting gateway to other Asian countries.

Bottom: Sushi, a Japanese dish, has become popular in the United States. It is made with vinegar-flavored rice and may be served with seafood, vegetables, or egg.

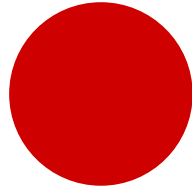
“

I think it is the responsibility of anyone involved in politics to always think of what Japan can do to contribute more to the peace and stability not just of Japan and the region but of the entire world.

- Shinzo Abe,
prime minister
of Japan



PASSPORT



Official Name: Japan (日本 or Nihon-koku)

Capital: Tokyo

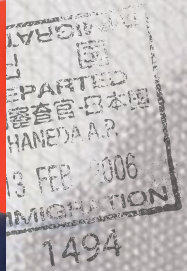
Form of Government: parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Head of Government: Prime Minister

Head of State: Emperor

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

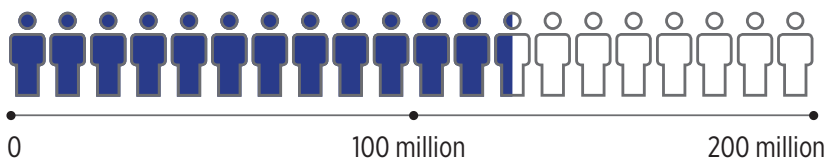
Currency: Japanese yen (JPY)



Top: Flag of Japan. **Middle Left:** The National Diet building of Japan, where the legislature meets. **Middle Right:** Shinzo Abe is the current prime minister of Japan and president of the Liberal Democratic Party. **Right:** The Japanese yen, in both bill and coin forms.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION



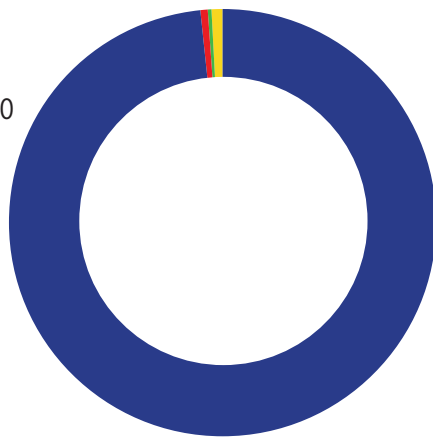
Japan
126,702,133 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 11

United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

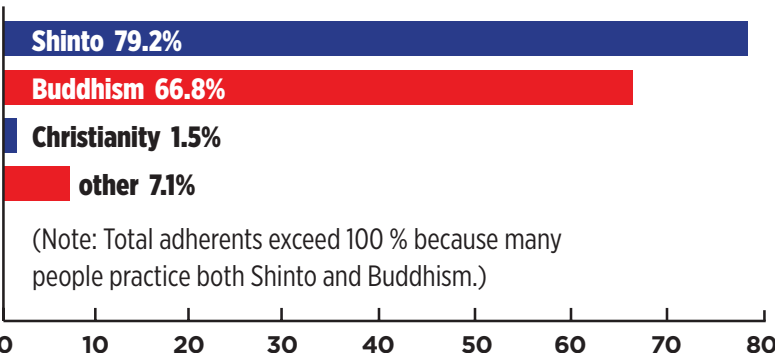
ETHNIC GROUPS

- Japanese 98.5%
- Koreans 0.5%
- Chinese 0.4%
- other 0.6%

(Note: Up to 230,000 Brazilians of Japanese origin migrated to Japan in the 1990s to work in industries; some have returned to Brazil.)



RELIGION



(Note: Total adherents exceed 100 % because many people practice both Shinto and Buddhism.)

FUN FACTS

Japan is home to many different forms of martial arts; Karate, Judo, Sumo, Ninjutsu, Kendo, Jujutsu, and Aikido are just a few examples. Sumo is actually recognized as the national sport of Japan, although the most popular spectator sport is baseball.

Official Language:
Japanese

Phrases in Japanese

Hello - こんにちは - Kon'nichiwa

Goodbye - さようなら - Sayōnara

Good morning - おはようございます - Ohayōgozaimasu

Good afternoon - こんにちは - Kon'nichiwa

Thank you - ありがとうございます - Arigatōgozaimashita

You're welcome - どういたしまして - Dōitashimashite

Yes - はい - Hai

No - いいえ - Īe

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 85 years
Male 81.7 years
Female 88.5 years

EDUCATION

Literacy total population 99%
Education Expenditures 3.8% of GDP
Rank 115

TIMELINE

OF JAPAN HISTORY



Figure 15.1



1800

- 1853** Commodore Matthew Perry forced Japan to enter into trade with the United States
- 1854** Japan signed the Treaty of Kanagawa and opened its ports



1900

- 1931** Japan occupied Manchuria
- 1937** Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China
- 1941** Japan attacked US forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 1945** Japan surrendered in World War II after two atomic bombs were dropped on its cities
- 1947** Japan adopted its first constitution



2000



- 2011** A 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami struck Japan
- 2012** Japan turned off its last nuclear generator
- 2013** Georgia Governor Nathan Deal led a trade mission that visited Japan
Japan began participating in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations
- 2014** Ten-year extension of bilateral Science and Technology Agreement announced
- 2017** United States withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Top Left: Commodore Matthew Perry, the man responsible for forcing Japan to end its 200-year isolation and open its trade ports. **Top Right:** The Japanese infantry advancing in Manchuria in the 1930s. **Above:** The explosion of the USS *Shaw* after being bombarded by Japanese aircraft during the Pearl Harbor attack. **Right:** The 2011 earthquake registered a magnitude 9.0 and caused a tsunami and nuclear disaster that killed over 20,000 people. **Background:** Buddhists completed work on the Daigoji Temple and gardens in Kyoto in 1598.



Area: 145,914 square miles

Rank: 62

Natural Resources:

negligible mineral resources, fish

Environmental Issues:

air pollution from power plant emissions results in acid rain; acidification of lakes and reservoirs degrading water quality and threatening aquatic life; Japan is one of the largest consumers of fish and tropical timber, contributing to the depletion of these resources in Asia and elsewhere; following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Japan originally planned to phase out nuclear power, but it has now implemented a new policy of seeking to restart nuclear power plants that meet strict new safety standards

Map 15.1

Japan

Map Skill: Can you find Fukushima and Hiroshima on the map? What disastrous events happened in those two cities?

Section 1

The Geography of Japan

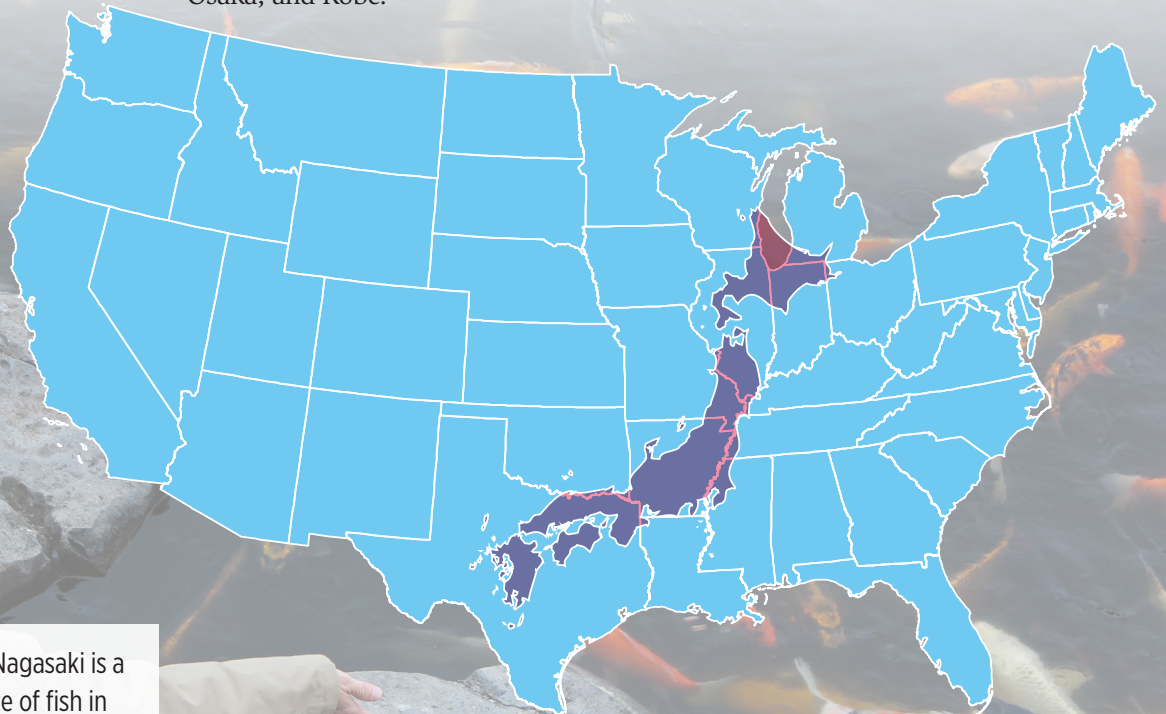

 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the four main islands of Japan;
- ▶ the physical feature that covers most of Japan;
- ▶ how the physical geography of Japan has impacted its development and people;
- ▶ how earthquakes and tsunamis affect Japan;
- ▶ terms: **archipelago**, **terrace**, **Ring of Fire**, **tsunami**, **typhoon**, **homogenous**.

Location and Size of Japan

The island nation of Japan is located on the eastern edge of Asia. It is located in the northern and eastern hemispheres. Japan is an **archipelago**, or series of islands. Because it is an island nation, it does not share a land border with any other countries. Japan is located east of the Korean Peninsula of mainland Asia, across the Sea of Japan. Japan has four large islands: Honshu, Shikoku, Hokkaido, and Kyushu, as well as thousands of smaller islands. Only 430 of those islands are inhabited. Honshu is the largest island and the location of major cities like Tokyo, Osaka, and Kobe.



Bottom: This koi pond in Nagasaki is a reminder of the importance of fish in Japanese art, culture, and diet.

Japan's land area is about 145,000 square miles. For comparison, Japan is slightly smaller than the combined area of Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. However, the country has a long, thin outline. If laid over the United States, it would stretch from Canada into Mexico. Japan is the 62nd-largest country in the world by land area.

Physical Features of Japan

Almost 80 percent of the country of Japan is covered with mountains. This leaves a small percentage of the land suitable for farming. The Japanese have created farmland out of these mountains by building terraces, putting in irrigation channels, and using different fertilizers and farming techniques. **Terraces** are flat areas of land carved into the sides of hills and mountains by farmers so they can grow crops. Even so, Japan has to import food for its growing population. Because Japan has so little farmland, the Japanese people depend on fishing for much of their food. Japan imports fuel as well. The country has a very highly developed industrial economy but no gas or oil. It depends on the world market to import petroleum products.

There are many volcanoes in Japan. Japan is located on the **Ring of Fire**, which is an area around the Pacific Ocean where there are frequent volcanic eruptions due to plate tectonic movements. These volcanoes are often the cause of earthquakes. Japan has more earthquakes every year than any other place in the world. The Japanese people have adjusted to the threat of earthquakes, even though many cause a lot of damage. Some parts of the country have developed hot springs around the volcanic areas, and others use the heat to warm water for people to use. In March 2011, Japan's strongest-ever earthquake, and an accompanying **tsunami** (a long high sea wave caused by an earthquake), devastated the northeast part of Honshu island, killed thousands, and damaged several nuclear reactors. The catastrophe hobbled the country's economy and its energy infrastructure, and tested its ability to deal with humanitarian disasters.



Top: The fishing industry is important to Japan, with fish as a major food source for the country. **Above:** Japan is located along the Ring of Fire. As such, it has many volcanoes, active and inactive, including the Sakurajima volcano. **Left:** To accommodate for the mountainous terrain, the Japanese built terraces on mountainsides to have more room to grow crops.

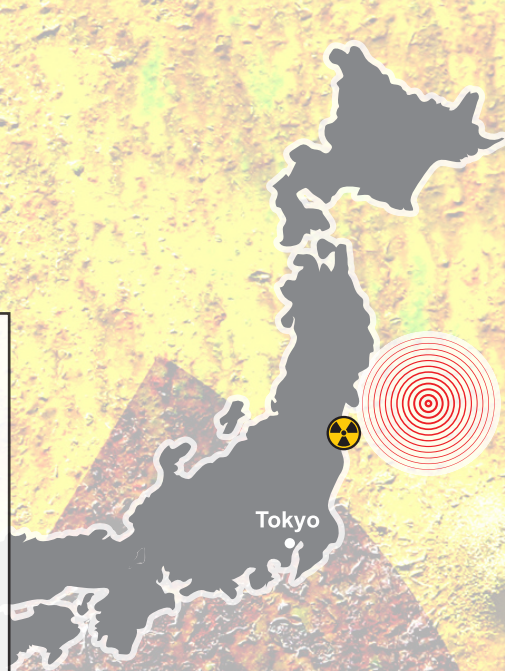
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Fukushima Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster

On March 11, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan—the worst in Japanese history. The earthquake lasted for six minutes and was so strong it moved the entire island of Honshu two meters to the east. Once the shaking had ended, however, the worst was still to come. The earthquake created a tsunami over 40 feet high that came crashing down on the eastern coast of Japan, wiping out everything in its path. Over 20,000 people died during the earthquake and tsunami.

In the northern part of Japan was a nuclear power plant called Fukushima Daiichi. At the time of the earthquake and tsunami, only three of the six nuclear reactors were operating. When the tsunami waves hit the power plant, they flooded the basement where the backup generators were located. As a result, the cooling systems in the plant failed, and over the next few days, the second-worst nuclear power plant accident in history began. The Japanese government created an eighteen-mile no-fly zone over the reactors and evacuated 47,000 people from a 12.5-mile area around the reactors. Years later, many of those people have still not returned to their homes. Food and water in the area were contaminated. Contaminated water from the reactors spilled into the ocean.

The Japanese government has spent over \$1.5 billion trying to clean and contain the area around Fukushima. The cleanup, however, could take up to forty years. The reactors are slowly leaking low levels of radiation. Experts say the contamination in the area could last up to 300 years. As a result of this accident, Japan completely stopped using nuclear power, which supplied 30 percent of the country's energy. On May 5, 2012, Japan turned off its last generator, and Japan was without nuclear power for the first time in forty-five years. As a result, 80 percent of Japan's fuel had to be imported, which increased energy prices for Japanese citizens. The future of nuclear energy in Japan is still under debate. What would you decide? Do you think Japan should go back to using nuclear power plants, despite the risk of earthquakes?



Top: The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant has to be checked by experts occasionally to ensure the proper steps for decommissioning and deconstruction are taken, but it is a dangerous task. **Above:** Many parts of Japan's eastern coast were flooded by the tsunami in 2011, and many are still left abandoned.

Climate of Japan

Most of Japan is in the temperate climate zone between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. These latitudes generally have a moderate climate without extremes of heat or cold. However, Japan's climate is affected by ocean currents, and locations are also affected by their altitude.

The Japan Current coming from the south brings warm water to the southern and eastern coasts of Japan, while the Oyashio Current coming from the north cools the northern coast. Farmers in the warmer parts of the country are able to have longer growing seasons, while people living in the cooler north rely on fishing. High, mountainous elevations have colder temperatures.

The islands receive about 40 inches of rain per year. High amounts of rain can be expected when monsoon rains and even tropical hurricanes called **typhoons** hit the islands.

Natural Resources of Japan

Japan has few natural resources. In fact, the only ones it has are a few deposits of minerals. However, because Japan is an island, it has excellent access to areas that are good for fishing. One of Japan's main exports is fish, and fish are a very common Japanese food. Another effect of Japan's rocky terrain is that there is very limited arable land. Japanese farmers have built terraces into mountains to try to produce more food, but Japan still has to import food to feed its population. To meet its energy demands, Japan has to import oil, natural gas, and other resources. This fact has made Japan the world's largest importer of coal and natural gas and the second-largest importer of oil.

Environmental Issues of Japan

Like all countries in the world today, Japan has several serious environmental issues it must deal with. Many of these issues are the result of burning coal and oil for power. Acid rain is a major concern in Japan. Not only does it damage buildings, but it can also pollute lakes and reservoirs. Acid rain is a direct result of air pollution. Japan's government is looking at alternative energy methods to solve its air pollution problems. Japan once used nuclear power plants to generate one-third of its electricity, but after a devastating earthquake and tsunami destroyed one of the nuclear power plants, the Japanese people demanded that all nuclear power facilities be closed. Now the government is investigating solar, wind, and other forms of clean and renewable energy sources. It is also exploring ways to make the existing nuclear power plants safer.



Top: Like much of Asia, Japan experiences monsoons, which can be both a blessing and a curse. **Above:** Because the Japanese abandoned nuclear power, they rely more on fossil fuels, which are costly and contribute to air pollution. **Left:** Japan's efforts to use cleaner sources of energy, like wind and solar power, will be expensive, but this investment will help reduce the country's overall pollution levels.



Japan's large population consumes a massive amount of seafood. This has led to overfishing of Japan's waters. The demand for fish and timber in Japan is met with imports from other countries. However, Japan's great demand strains the resources of other countries.

Impact of Location

Most people in Japan live along the coasts. This settlement pattern dates back for hundreds of years. Cities grew along the coasts in areas that made good ports. Trade has long been important to the Japanese economy. Over 93 percent of the Japanese people live in urban areas, or cities. To compare, in the United States, about 82 percent of the population lives in urban areas.

Another very important thing to know about where people live in Japan is the population density.

In the United States, there are about 85 people for every square mile of land. In Japan, however, there are 868 people per square mile. Tokyo, the world's largest city, has a population around 38 million people with a population density of 11,500 people per square mile!



People of Japan

The population of Japan is very **homogenous**, which means similar. Over 98 percent of Japan's population is Japanese. There are small numbers of Koreans, Chinese, and other nationalities as well. The main language spoken in Japan is Japanese. Almost 80 percent of the people practice Shinto, a religion that began in Japan hundreds of years ago. In addition, over 68 percent of the population practices Buddhism. Many people follow the beliefs and rituals of both Shinto and Buddhism. One unique thing about the Japanese population is that it is shrinking. This means there are more people dying than being born in Japan. In fact, in 2016, Japan's population growth was -0.16 percent. This is one of the major challenges facing Japan's government. Overcrowding can be a problem, but an aging population and reduction in population can cause problems, too.

DID YOU KNOW?

One-third of Japan's population lives in the capital city of Tokyo.

Top and Above: Kansai International Airport in Osaka is visible in a satellite image. The airport was built on a man-made island at a cost of more than \$20 billion. Reclaiming land from the sea is one way the large population of Japan is adapting to life in the small island nation.

Reviewing the Section

1. What is an archipelago?
2. What are the four main islands of Japan?
3. What physical feature covers most of Japan?
4. How has the physical geography of Japan affected its development and people?
5. How have earthquakes affected Japan?

Section 2

A Brief History of Japan

As you read, look for



- ▶ the influence of the shogunate in Japanese history;
- ▶ the event that caused Japan to surrender in World War II;
- ▶ the role of Douglas MacArthur in Japanese history;
- ▶ the type of government MacArthur put in place in Japan;
- ▶ why the position of emperor still exists in Japan;
- ▶ terms: **shogunate**, **indigenous**, **MacArthur Constitution**, **war reparations**.

Early History of Japan

Thousands of years ago, clans in Japan fought for power. About 660 BC, a member of the Yamato clan, Jimmu, united the clans and became the first emperor. Around the year AD 1000 was the age of the samurai



warrior. The samurai were hired to protect the lords in much the same way medieval knights in Europe protected their lords. By the 1200s there were powerful samurai called shoguns ruling Japan. Although there was an emperor in place, the shogun had the ultimate power.

In 1603, after decades of civil warfare, the Tokugawa **shogunate** (a military-led monarchy) ushered in a long period of relative political stability and isolation from foreign influence in Japan. For more than 200 years, this policy enabled Japan to focus on its **indigenous** (native) culture.



Above: The samurai acted as military officials and commanders for their lord's army. **Left:** Emperor Jimmu, according to legend and myth, is the descendant of two gods, making him a divine figure.

Below: This wood carving of Commodore Matthew Perry, which exaggerated his western features, may be the first depiction of westerners in Japanese artwork. **Bottom:** The atomic bombings of Japan by the United States were violent and swift, killing more than 200,000 people. They are the only two instances of nuclear weapons used in the history of warfare. **Background:** The surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, attempted to cripple the US Pacific Naval Fleet to prevent its interference in Japan's plans to take over many parts of the Pacific.



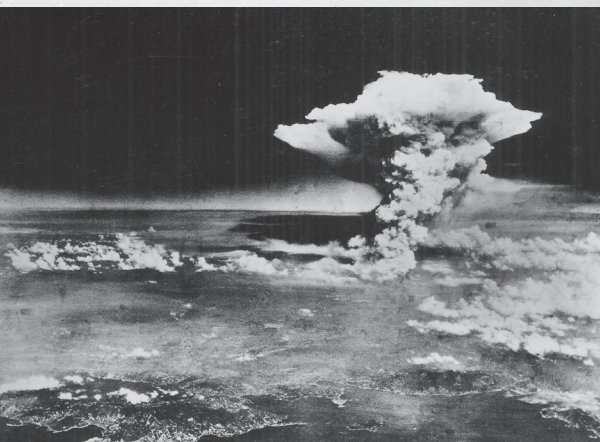
Japan Reconnects with the World

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the US Navy forced Japan to enter into trade with the United States and demanded a treaty permitting trade and the opening of Japanese ports to US merchant ships. Japan opened its ports after signing the Treaty of Kanagawa with the United States in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power that was able to defeat the forces of both China and Russia. It occupied Korea, Formosa (Taiwan), and southern Sakhalin Island. In 1931 and 1932, Japan occupied Manchuria, and in 1937 it launched a full-scale invasion of China. Japan attacked US forces in 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, triggering America's entry into World War II. It soon occupied much of East and Southeast Asia.

In May of 1945, the war in Europe ended, which left America and its allies to focus on the war in the Pacific against Japan. The Japanese showed no sign of surrender, which left US President Harry S. Truman with a difficult choice: continue fighting the war and losing many American lives or drop the newly developed atomic bomb.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, killing over 150,000 people. The United States demanded that Japan surrender, but Japan refused. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the United States dropped another atomic bomb. This time it was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki, killing at least 50,000 people. On August 15, 1945, Japan announced its surrender. The formal peace treaty was signed on September 2, 1945, officially ending World War II.



Rebuilding Japan after World War II

At Japan's surrender in September 1945, the country had been reduced to rubble. Industries and farms were destroyed, the government was in shambles, the people were demoralized, and the emperor had been exposed as an ordinary person rather than the god the Japanese people had believed him to be. The American commander of the occupation forces was General Douglas MacArthur. He was given the job of putting Japan back on its feet, in a way that would guarantee Japan would not pose a military threat to other countries in the future.

General MacArthur wanted Japan to have a democratic government, but he also understood the important place the Japanese emperor occupied in Japanese culture. He decided Japan would be a constitutional monarchy. He wrote a constitution for the country, still referred to as the **MacArthur Constitution**, that created a two-house parliament called the Diet. The emperor remained only as a symbol of the country in the official capacity of head of state. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and an ally of the United States. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians hold actual decision-making power.

One clause in this constitution prevents Japan from declaring war. Its people are allowed to fight only if they are attacked first. The Japanese signed all peace treaties ending the war and pledged to pay **war reparations** (damages) to the countries they had harmed during World War II. American troops were allowed to remain in Japan, and the Japanese were not permitted to rebuild their military in any major way.



Reviewing the Section

1. What caused Japan to finally surrender in World War II?
2. Who was Douglas MacArthur? Why is he important in Japanese history?
3. What type of government did MacArthur put in place in Japan?
4. What are four ways the Japanese government changed with the MacArthur Constitution?
5. Why do you think the position of emperor still exists in Japan?

Top: General MacArthur worked to rebuild Japan after the war, making sure to blend tradition with western ideals in the process. **Above:** Many American military bases, like the one in Okinawa, Japan, act as an important position to deal with issues in various parts of the Pacific.

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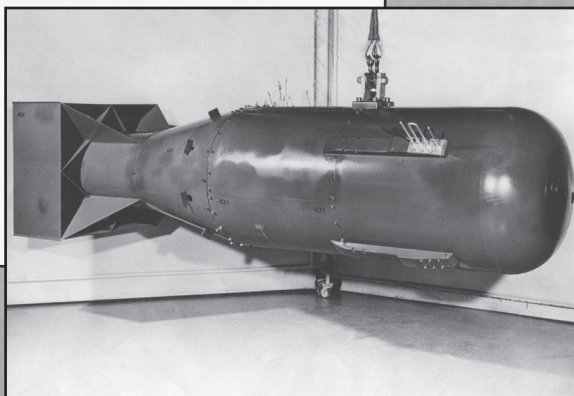


Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

In 1940, before the United States joined World War II, the United States began funding atomic weapons development. The project was referred to as the Manhattan Project and was led by J. Robert Oppenheimer. The Manhattan Project received over \$2 billion in funding. On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was tested at the Trinity site in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

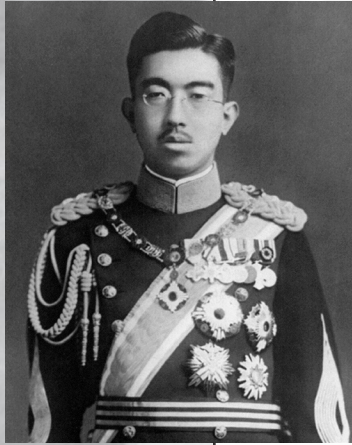
By 1944, it was clear that Japan was going to lose World War II, but fighting in the Pacific became deadlier. Between mid-April and mid-July 1945, the number of Allied casualties was half of the combined casualties of the previous three years. US President Harry S. Truman wanted a way to stop the loss of American lives. It was estimated that an all-out invasion of Japan would cost the lives of about 1 million US soldiers. On July 26, 1945, the Potsdam Declaration, signed by the United States and Great Britain, demanded Japan's surrender. The Japanese emperor, Hirohito, refused.

On August 5, 1945, at 8:15 in the morning, the US bomber *Enola Gay* dropped the first atomic bomb nicknamed "Little Boy." The bomb exploded 2,000 feet above the Shima Surgical Hospital in Hiroshima, a manufacturing city of 350,000. The explosion was the equivalent of 12,000 to 15,000 tons of TNT. Around 90 percent of the city was wiped out and over 80,000 people were killed instantly. A five-square-mile area underneath the blast was completely incinerated. There was nothing left of the buildings or people. Tens of thousands more people would die later of radiation exposure.



Top: Emblem of the Manhattan Project.

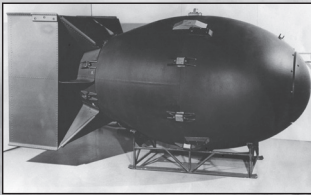
Right: A postwar model of "Little Boy," the atomic bomb that exploded over Hiroshima. **Background:** A mushroom cloud rose more than 60,000 feet into the air over Nagasaki after the US bomber *Bockscar* dropped an atomic bomb on August 9, 1945.



Emperor Hirohito refused to surrender, so on August 9, 1945, at 11:02 in the morning, another US bomber, *Bockscar*, dropped another atomic bomb called “Fat Man” on the city of Nagasaki. While Fat Man was actually a bigger bomb than Little Boy, it did not damage as large an area as Little Boy because of the mountains surrounding Nagasaki. At least 40,000 people were killed instantly. This bombing was enough to convince Hirohito that Japan could not win the war. On August 15, 1945, he announced Japan’s surrender.

The effects of the radiation continued to haunt the hibakusha, or survivors, for decades. Radiation illnesses,

like leukemia, killed thousands of people. Today, however, both Hiroshima and Nagasaki have rebuilt. The population of Hiroshima is now over 1 million people, and they manufacture machinery and Mazda automobiles and process food. Nagasaki is a city of over 500,000 people with a Mitsubishi plant that makes turbines for power plants. Both cities today have many memorials and museums to the bombings and those who were killed. How do you think the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki found the strength to rebuild their cities?



Top: Hirohito, the emperor of Japan during World War II, rejected surrender twice before finally submitting to the United States. **Middle Left:** A postwar model of “Fat Man,” the atomic bomb that exploded over Nagasaki. **Middle:** Total devastation of Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped.

Bottom: Despite the devastation of the bombings, both Nagasaki (pictured here) and Hiroshima have been rebuilt, with large populations and thriving industry.

Section 3

The Government of Japan


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of government in Japan today;
- ▶ the role of the emperor in the Japanese government;
- ▶ the form and function of the Diet;
- ▶ terms: **constitutional monarchy**, **Bill of Rights**, **prefecture**, **autonomous**.



Type of Government

Before World War II, the country of Japan was an absolute monarchy. A hereditary emperor named Hirohito ruled Japan. The people believed him to be descended from the sun goddess, Ameratsu. He was thought to be a god, and few in the country had ever seen him. After Japan was defeated in World War II, the United States helped the Japanese reorganize their government as a constitutional monarchy. A **constitutional monarchy** is a government in which there is a king, queen, or emperor, who is limited to the power granted to him or her by the constitution or laws of the nation.

In 1947, Japan adopted its first constitution, which created a two-house parliament. This parliament is called the Diet, and the government is led by a prime minister and a cabinet of advisors. The prime minister is chosen by an election of members of the Diet. All Japanese citizens over age eighteen, including women, are guaranteed the right to vote for members of the Diet. The constitution also includes a **Bill of Rights**, spelling out the basic freedoms that all Japanese citizens enjoy. The emperor of Japan remains in his position, but he has no political power. The constitution also states that the emperor is no longer to be considered a god.

Above: Emperor Akihito, monarch of Japan, delivered his annual speech to the elected leaders of the country in 2016. He is a symbol for the country and the unity of its people. **Right:** The legislative powers of the Japanese government are given to elected representatives of the Diet.



Branches of Government

Japan has three branches of government. The executive branch includes the prime minister as head of government, the emperor as head of state, and the cabinet. The legislative branch is the bicameral Diet made up of the House of Councilors and the House of Representatives. The judicial branch has the highest court in Japan, the Supreme Court. Japan is divided into 47 **prefectures**, which are similar to states. The prefectures have limited **autonomous** (having self-government) power, with most decisions made by the national government.

Challenges Facing the Government of Japan

The biggest challenge facing the government of Japan is its declining population. Japan is projected to lose at least 50 percent of its population by the end of the century. There are more elderly people in Japan than children. While the life expectancy in Japan is increasing, the birthrate is declining. As this trend continues, there will not be enough working people to take care of the elderly. Japan's government is researching ways to combat this issue. One way is to use robots in factories and other places as employees. Another is to promote the use of migrant workers in the country; however, this idea has not been popular with many Japanese citizens.

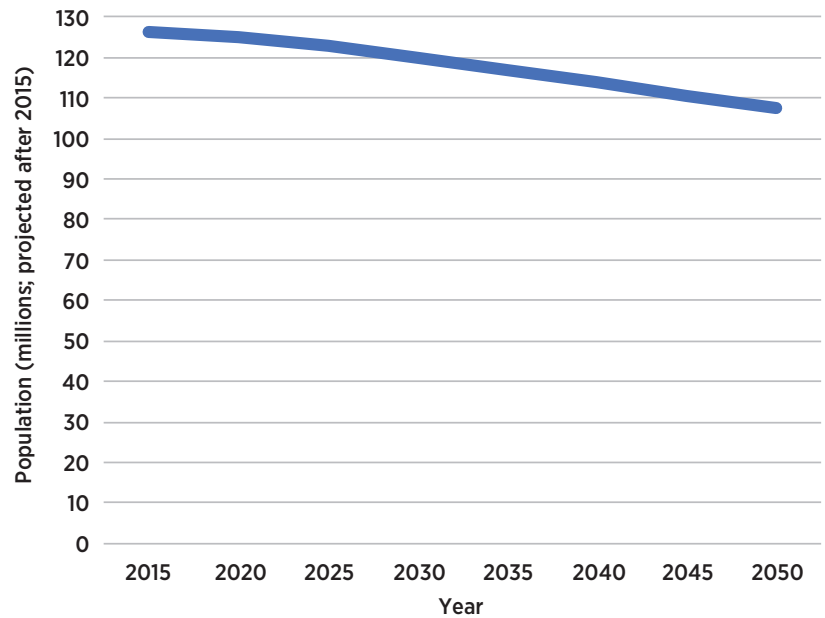
Another issue facing the government regards its territory. Treaties ending World War II keep Japan from building up its military. However, China has challenged Japanese claims to some islands, and North Korea has threatened the country with its ongoing missile testing. The United States has nearly 40,000 troops stationed at bases in Japan to help maintain peace and security in the region.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of government does Japan have today?
Who is head of government in Japan?
2. What role does the emperor play in the Japanese government?
3. What is the Diet?
4. How do you think the Japanese government should deal with Japan's aging population?

Figure 15.2

Population of Japan - Projected Trend



The Yamato family is the longest-reigning monarchy in the world. They came to power in Japan over 2,000 years ago.

Section 4

The Economy of Japan


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of economic system in Japan;
- ▶ how the work ethic in Japan affects the economy;
- ▶ how Japan made up for its lack of natural resources;
- ▶ how Japan's government uses tariffs, quotas, and subsidies;
- ▶ why Japan is considered to be the land of entrepreneurs;
- ▶ terms: **work ethic**, **Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)**, **tariff**, **subsidy**, **yen**, **robotics**.

Type of Economy

Japan has one of the most technologically advanced economies in the world. Only the United States and China have economies that are more productive. China is ahead of Japan in large part because of the country's relatively large population. The Japanese government has a close and cooperative relationship with major industries in Japan, and the Japanese people traditionally have a strong **work ethic** (the belief that doing work is valuable). Workers can be counted on to work hard

and for long hours if needed. Japan has a market economy. In addition, Japan spends very little on maintaining a military, a restriction that has been in place since the end of World War II. Japan is able to invest more money in industry and technology because it does not need it for the military.



Above: Kobe is one of Japan's busiest seaports. The Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995 caused an estimated \$102 billion in damage here and killed over 6,000 people. **Right:** Tokyo is the economic powerhouse of the country and is the source for a majority of Japan's GDP.



The Japanese government has a hand in industrial planning. The **Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)** helps companies decide what products will sell best on the global market. The government also protects Japanese industries by setting tariffs on imported goods that might compete with products made in Japan. These **tariffs** are taxes placed on imports that make them more expensive than the Japanese products. The Japanese government also cooperates with the Japanese business community to be sure companies are tuned into the demands of the world market and are producing those products that will have the best chance of selling well and earning profits. The MITI brings government leaders and business leaders together so they can keep track of how the Japanese economy is responding to changes in the world market.

Trade in Japan

Trade is very important to Japan's economy. Japan must rely on imports to have enough fuel to power its industries. In fact, Japan is the second-largest importer of oil and the leading importer of natural gas in the world. The countries that Japan imports these and other goods from include China, the United States, Australia, and South Korea. Despite its lack of natural resources, Japan is also a major exporter of goods such as cars, electronics, iron and steel products, car parts, and power plant machinery. The top countries that Japan exports goods to include the United States, China, South Korea, and Thailand.

While Japan imports food, it also uses subsidies to protect its farmers. A **subsidy** is when the government pays a business or industry to make up the difference between the sales price for a good and the cost to produce it. This means that, in Japan, the government pays farmers so they can compete with imports from other countries and still make a profit.

Japan and other countries must use exchange rates in order to trade fairly. Japan's currency is called the Japanese **yen**. Businesses in Japan that trade with other countries must exchange their yen for the currency of that country. On the other hand, foreign businesses must exchange their currency for yen to trade in Japan. In 2017, 1 US dollar could be exchanged for 110 yen.

Below: Japanese automobile companies, like Honda, try out developing technologies in the annual MotorSport Japan competition, where they can get valuable information about performance. **Bottom:** Japanese farmers have limited arable land for growing crops.



Figure 15.3
Economic Systems in Southern and Eastern Asia

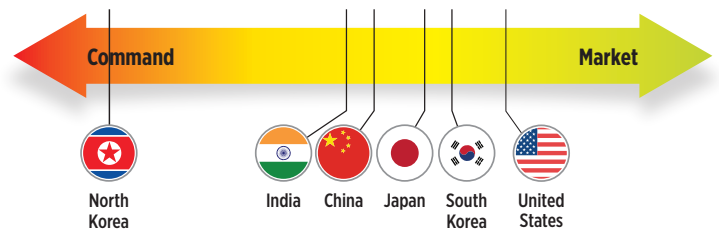
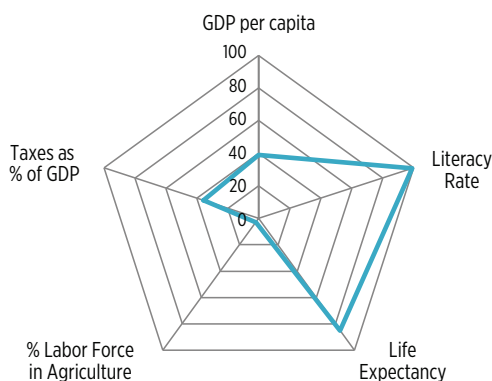




Figure 15.4
Japan Spider Graph



Top: Japan has only one offshore oil-drilling platform, meaning nearly all the oil in the country is imported.

Above: Whaling, a rather old practice, is now outlawed by many countries. Despite this, Japan is one of a very few countries to continue this practice.

In August 2013, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal led a business, trade, and tourism mission to Asia, ending in Tokyo to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Georgia's economic development office in Japan. This office works to expand economic opportunities for Georgia businesses in Japan and across Asia. Japan is an important market for Georgia products. In 2014, Georgia exports to Japan totaled \$1.37 billion. Japan is the 7th-largest export market for Georgia. Top exports from Georgia to Japan include wood pulp, kaolinic clays, kaolinic composed paper and paperboard, and carpets and other textile floor coverings.

Natural Resources in Japan

Japan has very little farmland and few natural resources. For that reason, the country must import raw materials and food. Japan must also import all of its oil. One alternative energy source the Japanese developed was nuclear power. Before the Fukushima nuclear accident that resulted from the tsunami, one-third of all of Japan's energy was supplied by nuclear power plants. Today, none of its power comes from nuclear reactors.

One of Japan's largest industries is the fishing industry. Because so much food must be imported, the sea is a valuable resource for the Japanese.

There is some farming in Japan, but because there is so little land suitable for farming, crops are often planted on terraces carved out of hillsides. The government often buys up farm goods to keep the prices high enough for farmers to make a profit. It also does not let foreign countries sell certain farm products in Japan if those products will compete with Japanese farm goods. The United States, for example, produces a higher quality of rice cheaper than Japanese farmers. The Japanese government, however, imposes both quotas and tariffs to protect the Japanese rice farmers. Very little US rice is allowed into the country, and what is imported is more expensive than rice grown in Japan.

Human Capital in Japan

Since World War II, Japan has rapidly industrialized and become one of the most powerful industrial nations in the world. One of the greatest resources Japan has is its population. The Japanese are among the most highly educated people in the world. The literacy rate in Japan is consistently 99 percent, with most Japanese people completing high school and at least one-third going on to college. Competition for places in high school and college is stiff, and Japanese students must be able to pass very difficult exams to earn a chance to go on to a higher level. This investment in human capital through education is among the highest in the world.

The Japanese also have a solid work ethic as a part of their culture—a dedication to whatever job is put before them. Japanese workers are known to work longer hours than many workers in other parts of the world. Most Japanese workers stay with the companies they work for their entire careers, and many describe their co-workers as part of their extended family. Japanese companies also go to a great deal of effort to provide benefits for their workers, like health insurance, recreational

programs, and financial planning help. This corporate investment in human capital pays off in dedicated workers who give their best efforts to their employers.

Japan is one of the world leaders in the production of motor vehicles and electronic equipment, two types of products that require constant updates in production methods and use of new technologies. An educated workforce is essential to remain successful and keep up with world demand. Industrial production and work in providing services account for most of Japan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Capital Goods in Japan

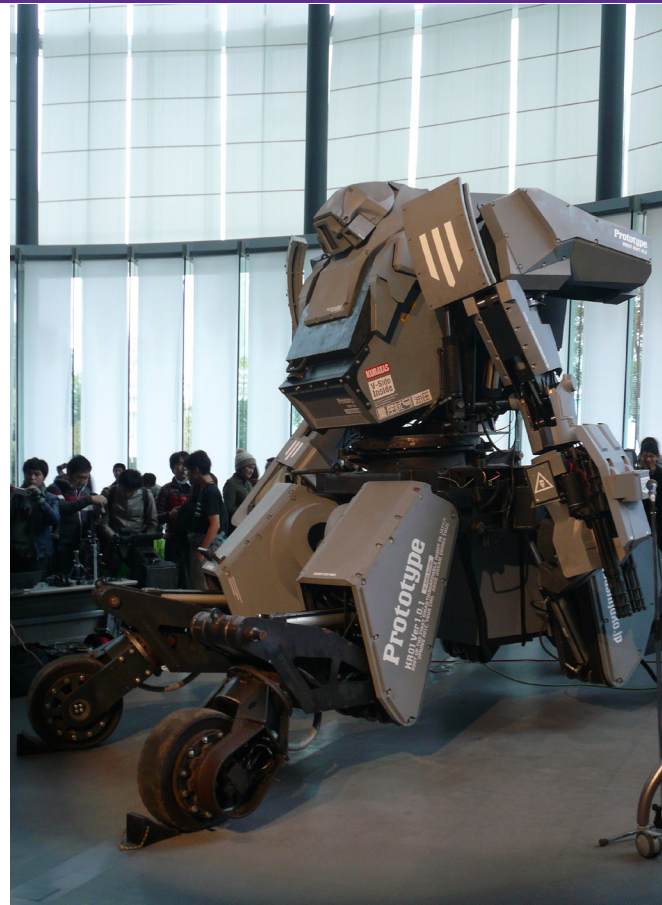
Few countries in the world have made the investments in capital goods that Japan has made. Japan is a country with few natural resources; therefore, nearly all of Japan's GDP comes from industry and services. Technology and up-to-date training in the uses of that technology are essential for the Japanese economy to continue to grow. Japanese industry leads most countries in the world in the use of **robotics** (assembling goods using mechanical techniques like robots). Many electronics and software products are put together with robotics in Japanese factories. Japanese businessmen are always looking for more efficient technology to keep their production levels high. Japanese workers are encouraged by their employers to make suggestions for ways products can be made and businesses can be run more efficiently. Continuing investment in capital goods makes Japan a world leader in industrial production and in providing the wide range of services demanded by the world market.

Entrepreneurship in Japan

Japan is a land of entrepreneurs. The need for business development, the availability of good education, and the Japanese work ethic have combined to make Japan an ideal place for someone who has a good idea and the energy to see if it can work.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economy does Japan have?
2. What is a work ethic? How does Japan's work ethic affect its economy?
3. How has Japan made up for its lack of natural resources?
4. Describe Japan's investment in human capital.
5. Describe how Japan's government uses tariffs, quotas, and subsidies.
6. Why is Japan considered to be the land of entrepreneurs?



Top: Robotics has become so advanced in the country that some private companies are creating combat robots, challenging other private companies of the United States to do the same in a friendly competition. **Above:** Nintendo, a Japanese business, started as a handmade playing card company in 1889 and has since developed into one of the most influential video game companies in history.

Section 5

US-Japan Relations


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ how the relationship between Japan and the United States has changed since World War II;
- ▶ ways the United States and Japan work together closely;
- ▶ term: **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**.



A Close Ally to the United States

Japan is one of the world's most successful democracies and largest economies. Despite being enemies in World War II, today the United States and Japan have a relationship of mutual friendship and respect. The US-Japan alliance is critical to US security interests in Asia and is basic to regional stability and prosperity. It is based on shared interests and values. These include stability in the Asia-Pacific region, the preservation of political and economic freedoms, support for human rights and democratic institutions, and the attainment of prosperity for both peoples and the international community as a whole.



Top: US President Barack Obama (left) and Emperor Akihito, head of state of Japan, (right) met for an official state visit at the Tokyo Imperial Palace in 2014. The two nations have had a long history of friendship since World War II ended. **Right:** Troops from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) trained with US troops at Fort Lewis, Washington, in 2008. The JGSDF's main role is security of the Japanese homeland.

Japan provides bases and financial and material support to US military forces, which are essential for maintaining stability in the region. Over the past decade, the alliance has been strengthened through revised defense guidelines. These include the expansion of Japan’s noncombatant role in regional emergencies, renewal of Japan’s agreement to support US forces stationed there, and the ongoing Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI). The DPRI redefines roles, missions, and capabilities of alliance forces and outlines key realignment and transformation initiatives. These include reducing the number of US troops stationed in Okinawa, enhancing communication between the two countries’ commands, and broadening cooperation in ballistic missile defense.

Because of the two countries’ combined economic and technological impact on the world, the US-Japan relationship has become global in scope. The two countries cooperate on a broad range of global issues, including development assistance, combating communicable disease such as HIV/AIDS and avian flu, and protecting the environment and natural resources. The countries also collaborate in science and technology in such areas as mapping the human genome, research on aging, and international space exploration.

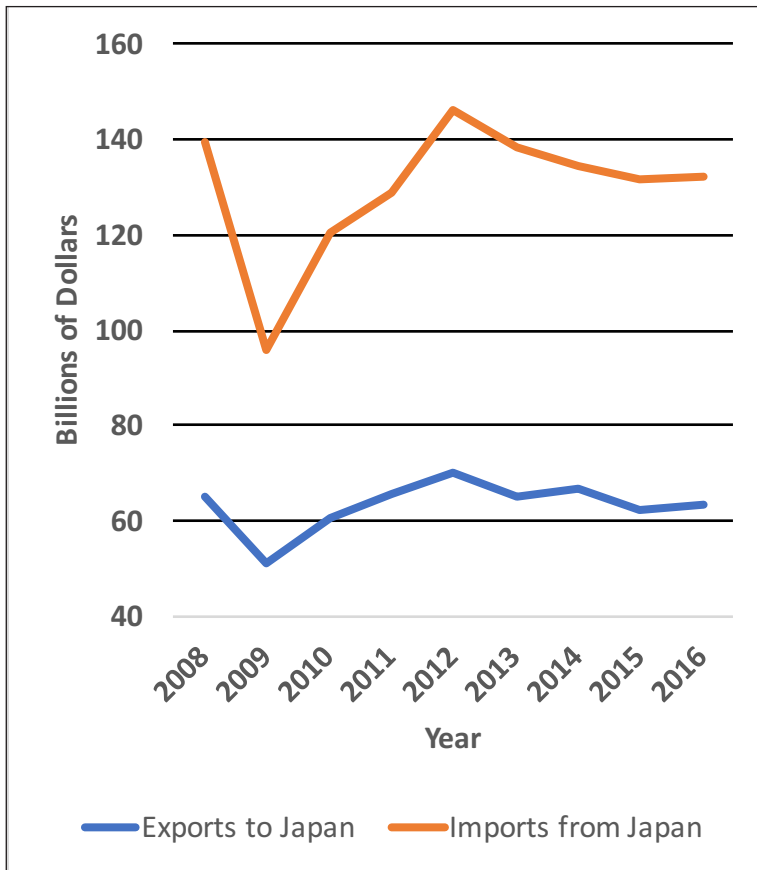


Figure 15.5
United States Trade in Goods with Japan

Top: The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the United States’ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are partners on many projects such as the Global Precipitation Measurement mission that launched from Japan’s spaceport in 2014.



Japan contributes political, financial, and moral support to US-Japan diplomatic efforts. The United States consults closely with Japan and the Republic of Korea on policy regarding North Korea. The United States works closely with Japan and Australia as part of the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue and the Security and Defense Cooperation Forum. In Southeast Asia, US-Japan cooperation is vital for stability and for political and economic reform. Outside Asia, Japanese political and financial support has strengthened the US position on a variety of global issues. These include countering ISIS and terrorism in all its forms, working to stop the spread of the Ebola epidemic, advancing environmental and climate change goals, maintaining solidarity against Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine, assisting developing countries, countering piracy, and standing up for human rights and democracy. Japan is an indispensable partner in the United Nations and the second-largest contributor to the UN budget. Japan broadly supports the United States on nonproliferation and nuclear issues.

Bilateral Economic Relations

US economic policy toward Japan is aimed at increasing access to Japan's markets and two-way investment, increasing economic growth, promoting economic restructuring, improving the climate for US investors, and raising the standard of living in both countries. The US-Japan bilateral economic relationship is strong, mature, and increasingly interdependent. Interdependence means the two countries rely on each other. It also is firmly rooted in the shared interest and responsibility of the United States and Japan to promote global growth, open markets, and a vital world trading system.

Japan is a major market for many US products, including agricultural products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, films and music, commercial aircraft, nonferrous metals, plastics, medical and scientific supplies, and machinery. US imports from Japan include vehicles, electronics, machinery, optic and medical instruments, and organic chemicals. US direct investment in Japan is mostly in the finance/insurance, manufacturing, nonbank holding companies, and wholesale sectors. Japanese direct investment in the United States is mostly in the wholesale trade and manufacturing sectors.

Top: In 2012, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sailors practiced emergency procedures with Royal Australian and US Navy divers in Hawaii. **Right:** This US Air Force F-22 Raptor flies over Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. About 54,000 US military personnel are stationed in Japan.



The United States and Japan cooperate in a number of international economic forums. Japan formally began participating in the ongoing **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** negotiations in July 2013, joining eleven other Asia-Pacific countries, including the United States, that are aiming to conclude a comprehensive, high-standard free trade agreement. In addition to the TPP negotiations, the United States and Japan are also engaged in negotiations to address issues in the areas of automotive trade, insurance, and other nontariff measures. The United States withdrew from TPP, however, in 2017.



Science and Technology Cooperation

The US-Japan partnership in the areas of science and technology includes a broad array of complex issues facing the two countries and the global community. Under the rules of the US-Japan Science and Technology Agreement, the two countries have collaborated for over twenty-five years on scientific research in areas such as new energy technologies, emergency management, supercomputing, and critical materials. In recognition of these achievements, President Obama and Prime Minister Abe announced in 2014 an extension of the bilateral Science and Technology Agreement for an additional ten years.

Japan's Membership in International Organizations

Japan and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, G-7, G-20, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, ASEAN Regional Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. Japan also is a Partner for Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and an observer to the Organization of American States.



Reviewing the Section

1. How has the relationship between Japan and the United States changed since World War II?
2. What are some of the ways the United States and Japan work together closely?
3. What is interdependence?
4. What is the Trans-Pacific Partnership?
5. What is one word that you would use to describe the relationship between Japan and the United States? Explain your answer.

Top: Japanese engineers test a new circuit board to improve the production of electronics. **Above:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe with his wife Akie (far left) and US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump (center) attended the Group of 7, or G7, Economic Summit in Italy in May 2017.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of Japan

- Japan is an archipelago country with four large islands and thousands of small islands.
- The country experiences earthquakes and tsunamis because it is part of the Ring of Fire.
- Japan has a homogenous population mainly settled along the coasts and urban areas.

Section 2: A Brief History of Japan

- The Tokugawa shogunate allowed Japan to be relatively isolated until the United States demanded and received the ability to trade in Japan in 1854.
- Japan grew quickly and colonized multiple Asian countries before attacking the United States in World War II.
- The United States was influential in rebuilding Japan after World War II with the MacArthur Constitution.

Section 3: The Government of Japan

- Japan is a constitutional monarchy where the emperor is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government.
- Japan's legislative branch has a bicameral parliament called the Diet. The judicial branch has a Supreme Court.

Section 4: The Economy of Japan

- Japanese work ethic combined with actions of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry have allowed the economy to become one of the largest in the world.
- Japan must import many products but makes sure not to import any that compete with Japanese products.

Section 5: US-Japan Relations

- The two countries share important ideals that allow them to be strong political allies.
- Japan provides bases and funding for the American military in their country.
- Bilateral trade agreements allow easy trade between the countries as well as collaboration in medical, technological, and security fields.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Imagine you work for an American company that is considering opening an office in Japan. Write a letter to your boss to explain why you think this is a good or bad idea. Use the words and names below, underlining each word as you use it.

Ring of Fire

tsunami

Ministry of International Trade and Industry

subsidy

tariffs

robotics

Trans-Pacific Partnership

homogenous

Understanding the Facts



1. What is the name of Japan's largest island?
2. What is the Ring of Fire?
3. What important tasks did General Douglas MacArthur have?
4. What are war reparations?
5. What powers does the emperor of Japan have?
6. What are prefectures?
7. What is one product Japan will not import from the United States?
8. Is the technology of robotics important in Japan?
9. What are some global issues that Japan and the United States work together to solve?
10. What is the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. Why do you think Japan still has an emperor even though he has no power? Do you think other countries with a constitutional monarchy share the same reasons?
2. How do you think the declining population will affect Japan's economy? Use examples to explain why.

3. During the Tokugawa shogunate, Japan remained isolated for an extended period of time. How do you think this period affected Japan's later successes?

Writing across the Curriculum



1. Japan's physical features and natural resources have forced the Japanese to become creative. Write a short report on two ways the Japanese have increased their food supply on small mountainous islands.
2. What are some dangers posed by Japan's location in the Ring of Fire? Write a short report on possible dangers, events that have already occurred, and ways to prepare for any more.

Applying Your Skills



1. Create a chart comparing the economic systems of Japan, India, and China. What similarities and differences do you notice? Are you surprised by any of these?
2. What is something you found interesting while reading Section 5? Formulate a research question about this interest. Write down your research question and what sources could help you answer this question.

Exploring Technology



1. Use Google Maps to view the political map and satellite images of Japan. What physical features do you notice? Locate (a) Hiroshima, (b) Nagasaki, (c) Sea of Japan, and (d) the four major islands
2. Japan is well known for entrepreneurship and innovation in the technology sector. Visit the following website to see some of the newest tech: tiny.cc/japantech. Select one article that interests you and summarize it. Be sure to cite your source.