

I. Important Dates

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| “Restoration” of Meiji Emperor | 1868 |
| End of Daimyo independence | 1869 |
| Iwakura Mission | 1871-73 |
| Satsuma Rebellion | 1877 |
| Promulgation of Meiji Constitution | 1889 |
| Sino-Japanese War | 1894-95 |
| Russo-Japanese War | 1905 |

II. Important THEMES

1. Social and Economic Changes in the Meiji Era

Westernization (cf. Fukuzawa Yukichi, 1835-1901)

Education

Social Hierarchies:

Removal of formal legal discrimination

End of legal and symbolic privileges of the samurai

Attempts to change family life and the position of women in society

Industrial development and lower classes of Japanese society

Industrialization and the “Catch Up Vision”

2. Continuities and Breaks with the Tokugawa Era

3. Class, Gender and Nation

Ambiguities toward Westernization

Nationalism From Above

Class and Nation

Gender and Nation

4. Nationalism: What does the Japan “case-study” tell us about nationalism?