**Documents: Meiji Japan**

Excerpts from the Letter from Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito) to President Ulysses S Grant, 1871

Mitsuhito, Emperor of Japan, etc., to the President of the United States of America, our good brother and

faithful friend, greeting:

Mr. President: Whereas since our accession by the blessing of heaven to the sacred throne on which our

ancestors reigned from time immemorial, we have not dispatched any embassy to the Courts and Governments of friendly countries. We have thought fit to select our trusted and honored minister, Iwakura Tomomi, the Junior Prime Minister (udaijin), as Ambassador Extraordinary ... and invested [him] with full powers to proceed to the Government of the United States, as well as to other Governments, in order to declare our cordial friendship, and to place the peaceful relations between our respective nations on a firmer and broader basis. The period for revising the treaties now existing between ourselves and the United States is less than one year distant. We expect and intend to reform and improve the same so as to stand upon a similar footing with the most enlightened nations, and to attain the full development of public rights and interest. The civilization and institutions of Japan are so different from those of other countries that we cannot expect to reach the declared end at once. It is our purpose to select from the various institutions prevailing among enlightened nations such as are best suited to our present conditions, and adapt them in gradual reforms and improvements of our policy and customs so as to be upon an equality with them. With this object we desire to fully disclose to the United States Government the constitution of affairs in our Empire, and to consult upon the means of giving greater efficiency to our institutions at present and in the future, and as soon as the said Embassy returns home we will consider the revision of the treaties and accomplish what we have expected and intended. ... Your affectionate brother and friend,

Signed Mutsuhito Countersigned Sanjō Sanetomi, Prime Minister

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A historian reading this document could determine that

a. Japan was a very militaristic culture

b. Japan wanted to be in a military alliance with the western powers

c. The Emperor was tied to heaven and very important in Japan

d. Japan was heavily influenced by China

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Japan is open about their traditional policy of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in this letter.

a. Confucian bureaucracy b. Imperialism

c. Dynastic Cycle d. Isolationism

3. \_\_\_\_\_ What does the Emperor want to accomplish with this letter?

a. Renegotiate the “unequal treaties” with the West

b. Form a military alliance with the United States

c. Force the US to recognize Japanese sovereignty

d. Get US investment in Japanese industrialization

4. \_\_\_\_\_ What does this letter describe as Japans plans for the future?

a. To maintain their traditions against the West

b. Gradual reforms, using modified versions of what has made the west so successful

c. Immediate and drastic reforms to catch up with the west

d. And adoption of political but not economic reforms

**Documents: Black Hand**

I. Purpose and Name

Article 1. For the purpose of realizing the national ideals – the Unification of Serbdom - an organization is hereby created, whose members may be any Serbian irrespective of sex, religion, place or birth, as well as anybody else who will sincerely serve this idea.

Article 4. In order to carry into effect its task the organization will do the following things:

(2) It will carry out a revolutionary organization in all the territories where Serbians are living:

(3) Beyond the frontiers, it will fight with all means against all enemies of this idea:

(4) It will maintain friendly relations with all the States, nations, organizations, and individual persons who sympathize with Serbia and the Serbian race:

(5) It will give every assistance to those nations and organizations who are fighting for their own national liberation and unification.

Constitution of the Black Hand 1911

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The constitution’s description of membership is a great example of what ideology?

a. Communism

b. Nationalism

c. Racism

d. Popular Sovereignty

2. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the Black Hand’s ultimate goal?

a. A nation-state for all Serbs

b. A Christian empire to compete with the Ottomans

c. To provoke a war between Austria and Russia

d. To industrialize and modernize Serbia

3. \_\_\_\_\_ It is clear from this constitution that the Black Hand is willing to

a. Accept any Christians into their organization

b. Use any means and tactics necessary to meet their goals

c. Not moving forward until they get more major nations as allies

d. Use women and children as fighters

**Documents: All Quiet**

* “This book is to be neither an accusation nor a confession, and least of all an adventure, for death is not an adventure to those who stand face to face with it. It will try simply to tell of a generation of men who, even though they may have escaped shells, were destroyed by the war.”
* “I am young, I am twenty years old; yet I know nothing of life but despair, death, fear, and fatuous superficiality cast over an abyss of sorrow. I see how peoples are set against one another, and in silence, unknowingly,foolishly, obediently, innocently slay one another.”
* “But now, for the first time, I see you are a man like me. I thought of your hand-grenades, of your bayonet, of your rifle; now I see your wife and your face and our fellowship. Forgive me, comrade. We always see it too late. Why do they never tell us that you are poor devils like us, that your mothers are just as anxious as ours, and that we have the same fear of death, and the same dying and the same agony--Forgive me, comrade; how could you be my enemy?”
* “We are not youth any longer. We don’t want to take the world by storm. We are fleeing. We fly from ourselves. From our life. We were eighteen and had begun to love life and the world; and we had to shoot it to pieces.”
* “We are forlorn like children, and experienced like old men, we are crude and sorrowful and superficial—I believe we are lost.”

All Quiet on the Western Front, WWI veteran Erich Marie Remarque published 1929

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Reading these excerpts, they present a great example of what post war impact?

a. High death and casualty rates for civilians

b. Lots of refugees

c. The Lost Generation

d. Red Scare

**Documents: Lenin**

Lenin's Proclamation of 7 November 1917

We have deposed the Government of Kerenski, which rose against the revolution and the people. The change which resulted in the deposition (end of) of the Provisional Government was accomplished without bloodshed.

The Petrograd Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates solemnly welcomes the accomplished change and proclaims the authority of the Military Revolutionary Committee until the creation of a Government by the

Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates.

Announcing this to the army at the front, the Revolutionary Committee calls upon the revolutionary soldiers to watch closely the conduct of the men in command. Officers who do not join the accomplished revolution immediately and openly must be arrested at once as enemies.

The Petrograd Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates considers this to be the program of the new authority:

First - The offer of an immediate democratic peace.

Second - The immediate handing over of large proprietarial lands to the peasants.

Third - The transmission of all authority to the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates.

Fourth - The honest convocation of a Constitutional Assembly.

... Soldiers! For peace, for bread, for land, and for the power of the people!

(Signed) THE MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Based on a reading of the document above, what was the top priority for the new communist government?

a. Conduct free elections

b. Get out of WWI

c. Implement communist principles of government and economics

d. Get rid of the royal family

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is going to be the temporary government while the new system is established?

a. Provision Government

b. Petrograd Council of Workmen and Soldiers

c. Military Revolutionary Committee

d. Vladimir Lenin

3. \_\_\_\_\_ The letter shows a clear concern over the potential for

a. Counterrevolutionary uprisings

b. Land redistribution

c. Resistance from military leaders

d. Democracy

**Documents: Peace in Our Time**

*The following is the wording of the statement that Neville Chamberlain waved when he stepped off the plane after the conference in Berlin had ended on 30 September, 1938.*

"We, the German Führer and Chancellor, and the British Prime Minister, have had a further meeting today and are agreed in recognizing that the question of Anglo-German relations is of the first importance for two countries and for Europe. "We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again. "We are resolved that the method of consultation shall be the method adopted to deal with any other questions that may concern our two countries, and we are determined to continue our efforts to remove possible sources of difference, and thus to contribute to assure the peace of Europe."

*Chamberlain read this statement to a cheering crowd in front of 10 Downing St. and said;*

"My good friends this is the second time in our history that there has come back from Germany to Downing Street peace with honor. I believe it is peace in our time."

1. \_\_\_\_ These two speeches are an example of what became known (infamously) as a policy of

a. Isolationism

b. Appeasement

c. Pacifism

d. Militarism

**Documents: Nanjing**

*Japan complains after China says 300,000 died in Nanking Massacre*

Japan told China in late December that it wasn’t appropriate for Chinese President Xi Jinping to say that 300,000 people were killed in the 1937 Nanking Massacre, government sources said on Wednesday.

Xi made the comment in a Dec. 13 speech at a ceremony marking the first national observance and the 77th anniversary of the massacre in the eastern Chinese city, which is now called Nanjing.

He called on Japan to own up to responsibility for the tragedy, saying that acknowledgment of the countries’ shared troubled past is crucial to improving relations between them.

The Japanese government told China via a diplomatic channel after the speech that the figure is “different from Japan’s position” and that it is “difficult to determine the concrete number of victims,” according to the sources.

Among Japanese historians, death toll estimates from the Nanking Massacre generally range from tens of thousands up to 200,000.

The Japanese government admits that non-combatants were killed and there was looting during infamous episode.

January 14th, 2015 The Japanese Times

1. \_\_\_\_ The main dispute between China and Japan over Nanjing today is about

a. The cause of the invasion

b. The role Chinese communists played in the invasion

c. The number of casualties

d. Japanese reparations payments