



NEERAJ®

HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA : JAPAN (C. 1868-1945)

B.H.I.E.-142

**Chapter Wise Reference Book
Including Many Solved Sample Papers**

Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

I.G.N.O.U.

& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities

By: Taruna Jain



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

(Publishers of Educational Books)

Retail Sales Office:

1507, First Floor, Nai Sarak, Delhi - 6 | Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878

E-mail : info@neerajbooks.com Website : www.neerajbooks.com

MRP ₹ 280/-

Published by:



NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS

(Publishers of Educational Books)

Retail Sales Office: 1507, First Floor, Nai Sarak, Delhi - 6 | Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878

E-mail : info@neerajbooks.com Website : www.neerajbooks.com

© Copyright Reserved with the Publishers only.

Reprint Edition with Updation of Sample Question Paper Only

Typesetting by: Competent Computers, Printed at: Novelty Printing Press

Disclaimer/T&C

1. For the best & up-to-date study & results, please prefer the recommended textbooks/study material only.
2. This book is just a Guide Book/Reference Book published by NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS based on the suggested syllabus by a particular Board/University.
3. These books are prepared by the author for the help, guidance and reference of the student to get an idea of how he/she can study easily in a short time duration. Content matter & Sample answers given in this Book may be Seen as the Guide/Reference Material only. Neither the publisher nor the author or seller will be responsible for any damage or loss due to any mistake, error or discrepancy as we do not claim the Accuracy of these Solutions/Answers. Any Omission or Error is highly regretted though every care has been taken while preparing, printing, composing and proofreading of these Books. As all the Composing, Printing, Publishing and Proof Reading, etc., are done by Human only and chances of Human Error could not be denied. Any mistake, error or discrepancy noted may be brought to the publishers notice which shall be taken care of in the next edition and thereafter as a good gesture by our company he/she would be provided the rectified Book free of cost. Please consult your Teacher/Tutor or refer to the prescribed & recommended study material of the university/board/institute/ Govt. of India Publication or notification if you have any doubts or confusions regarding any information, data, concept, results, etc. before you appear in the exam or Prepare your Assignments before submitting to the University/Board/Institute.
4. In case of any dispute whatsoever the maximum anybody can claim against NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS is just for the price of the Book.
5. The number of questions in NEERAJ study materials are indicative of general scope and design of the question paper.
6. Any type of ONLINE Sale/Resale of "NEERAJ BOOKS" published by "NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS" in Printed Book format (Hard Copy), Soft Copy, E-book on any Website, Web Portals, any Social Media Platforms – Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn etc. and also on any Online Shopping Sites, like – Amazon, Flipkart, eBay, Snapdeal, Meesho, Kindle, etc., is strictly not permitted without prior written permission from NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS. Any such online sale activity of any NEERAJ BOOK in Printed Book format (Hard Copy), Soft Copy, E-book format by an Individual, Company, Dealer, Bookseller, Book Trader or Distributor will be termed as ILLEGAL SALE of NEERAJ BOOKS and will invite legal action against the offenders.
7. The User agrees Not to reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell or exploit for any commercial purposes, any portion of these Books without the written permission of the publisher. This book or part thereof cannot be translated or reproduced in any form (except for review or criticism) without the written permission of the publishers.
8. All material prewritten or custom written is intended for the sole purpose of research and exemplary purposes only. We encourage you to use our material as a research and study aid only. Plagiarism is a crime, and we condone such behaviour. Please use our material responsibly.
9. All matters, terms & disputes are subject to Delhi Jurisdiction only.

Get books by Post & Pay Cash on Delivery :

If you want to Buy NEERAJ BOOKS by post then please order your complete requirement at our Website www.neerajbooks.com where you can select your Required NEERAJ BOOKS after seeing the Details of the Course, Subject, Printed Price & the Cover-pages (Title) of NEERAJ BOOKS.

While placing your Order at our Website www.neerajbooks.com You may also avail the “Special Discount Schemes” being offered at our Official website www.neerajbooks.com.

No need to pay in advance as you may pay “Cash on Delivery” (All The Payment including the Price of the Book & the Postal Charges, etc.) are to be Paid to the Delivery Person at the time when You take the Delivery of the Books & they shall Pass the Value of the Goods to us. We usually dispatch the books Nearly within 2-3 days after we receive your order and it takes Nearly 3-4 days in the postal service to reach your Destination (In total it take nearly 6-7 days).

Content

HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA : JAPAN (C. 1868-1945)

Question Paper–June-2023 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–December-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–Exam Held in July-2022 (Solved)	1
Sample Question Paper–1 (Solved)	1
Sample Question Paper–2 (Solved)	1

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	The Roots of Modern Japan	1
2.	Early Modernity: The Tokugawa Period 1600-1868	13
3.	The Meiji Restoration and the Creation of Modern Japan	24
4.	The Meiji Political Order	35
5.	Civilization and Enlightenment:	47
	Creating A New Social Order	
6.	Meiji Industrialization and Development	59
7.	Other Voices: Opposition to Meiji Policies	70
8.	Meiji Japan: Seeking International Equality	81
9.	Japan's Emergence as an Economic Power	90
10.	Imperial Democracy and Political Parties	102

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
11.	Rise of Militarism	114
12.	Japan: Supporting Anti-colonial Movements Against The West	125
13.	Japan's Colonial Empire and its Defeat	136
14.	Japan: Defeat and the Allied Occupation	148



**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

Published by:



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

www.neerajbooks.com

QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA : JAPAN (C.1868-1945)

B.H.I.E.-142

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any **five** questions. Attempt at least **two** questions from each Section. All questions carry equal marks.

PART-I

Q. 1. Write a note on the Tokugawa Period in Japan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Introduction' and 'The Tokugawa Daimyo-Han System'.

Q. 2. Discuss the Meiji political order.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 35, 'Introduction' and 'Establishment of an Imperial Government'.

Q. 3. Describe some of the important opposition voices to the Meiji rule.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 37, 'Protest and Revolts Against the Meiji State'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Japanese Foreign Trade in the Inter-War Period

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 97, Q. No. 7.

(b) Approaches for studying Japanese History

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 7, Q. No. 2.

(c) Japan and the Western World

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 47, 'Japan and the Western World'.

(d) Japan Colonization of East Asia

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 88, Q. No. 2.

PART-II

Q. 5. Discuss the Rise of Militarism in Japan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 114, 'Introduction', 'Military and Government' and Page No. 115, 'Military Displeasure with Political Parties'.

Q. 6. Analyse the functioning of a constitutional government under Meiji oligarchy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 102, 'Constitutional Government Under Meiji Oligarchy'.

Q. 7. Write a note on the period of high growth in Japan after the Second World War.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 150, 'The Period of High Growth (1952-1973)'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Ideologies of Imperial Expansion in Japan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 138, 'Ideologies of Expansion'.

(b) Industrial Growth in Japan in the Inter-War Period

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 90, 'Industrial Growth in the Inter-War Period'.

(c) Rise of Trade Unions in Japan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 60, 'The Development of Trade Unions'.

(d) The coming of the 'Black Ships'

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 33, Q. No. 6.

■ ■

QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA : JAPAN (C.1868-1945)

B.H.I.E.-142

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. Attempt at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION – I

Q. 1. What were the political and economic reforms that contributed towards the modernization of Japan?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 150, 'The Period of High Growth (1952-1973)'.

Q. 2. Discuss the important characteristics of the classical period in Japan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 8, Q. No. 4.

Q. 3. Write a note on protests and revolts against the Meiji State.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 37, 'Protest and Revolts Against the Meiji State'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) People's Rights Movement in Japan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 37, 'Freedom and People's Rights Movement'.

(b) Intellectual Currents in Tokugawa Period

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, 'Tokugawa Intellectual Currents'.

(c) The Struggle of Hisabestu Buraku

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 72, 'The Struggle of the Hisabestu Buraku : Japan's Levellers'.

(d) Unequal Treaties and Reform of Criminal Law in Japan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 81, 'Unequal Treaties, and Reform of Criminal Law and Prisons'.

SECTION – II

Q. 5. Discuss Japan's emergence as an economic power.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 90, 'Introduction', 'Industrial Growth in the Inter-War Period' and Page No. 93, 'Foreign Trade in the Inter-War Period'.

Q. 6. Write a note on Japanese Colonial Imperialism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 136, 'Imperialism : Definitions and Debates'.

Q. 7. Analyse Japan's relationship with nationalists in South-East Asia and India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 127, 'Japan's Advance into South-East Asia and India'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Culture in Tokugawa Japan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, 'Culture in Tokugawa Japan'.

(b) Formation of Political Parties

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 102, 'Formation of Political Parties'.

(c) The Impact of Oil Shock on Japan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 151, 'The Oil Shock and After'.

(d) Military Authoritarianism in Japan

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 117, 'Military Authoritarianism'.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

Published by:



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

www.neerajbooks.com

HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA : JAPAN (C. 1868-1945)

The Roots of Modern Japan



INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background that will help us in understanding the history of modern Japan. We shall study about Japan within the East Asian region and also some features of the geographical environment and give a broad outline of historical development till the 18th century. The chapter also covers about the Japanese history, upto the 16th century and the key political institutions that have shaped the country. We shall also learn about the economic development and the transformation of daily life and the major religious systems and intellectual patterns that form the bedrock of Japanese thinking.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

EAST ASIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

Geographically, the important features important to keep in mind are that Japan is composed of four main islands and other smaller ones which were physically separated from the continental mainland but not isolated from its influences. There was a maritime connection between Japan and the mainland. The Korean connection also formed an important part for the entry of people, ideas and trade to the Japanese islands. It was dangerous to cross the East China Sea that was insulated from direct contact and the possibilities of invasion by China, which was the dominant political and cultural power in the region. The maritime routes also connected the Japanese islands to Southeast Asia. It is argued that the Japanese civilisation was shaped by Asian civilizations but as it was never colonized it best preserved these elements. China also exerted a powerful influence in East and Southeast Asia. The language, ideas and the religious beliefs of the Chinese people were adapted in Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

Alongwith the bond, there was tension and conflict as each struggled to maintain its autonomy from Chinese political control and the dominance of its ideas.

JAPAN: THE GEOGRAPHICAL ENVIRONMENT

During 2-5 million years ago, the islands have been created which were brought about by the collision of four tectonic plates. This led to the production of many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. There was an unstable condition which led to the periodic disasters forcing the inhabitants to learn to anticipate and cope with these recurring disasters. The ice-age glaciers did not affect the east and southeast Asian region and as the Japanese archipelago was connected at various periods to the continental mainland it has benefitted from the biological riches of the region. Japan is also rich in natural resources. The terrain of Japan is 80% mountainous with the mountains on an average 2-3,000 metres in height and very steep. There are streams that are cut across these mountains which has made water management very important and led to the development of sophisticated water management techniques. The agricultural development was restricted to the plains but was swidden or slash and burn agriculture was practiced. The cultivation of the steep hillsides for fuel, fodder and mulch lead to erosion and flooding as hillsides were denuded of their forest cover.

The climatic conditions of the country are mainly mild winters and hot summers which allows irrigated rice-culture in the alluvial plains along the coast. Rice culture is prevalent in Japan. The need to use the volcanic soil made the country became the largest user of chemical fertilisers in the world. Maritime resources have always been an important source of food as well.

APPROACHES FOR STUDYING JAPANESE HISTORY

There are many resources that have witnessed the historical development of Japan like Western missionary accounts, Japanese writings and that of Western, notably US scholars. Another source is the 'area study' approach that was developed in the US in the post World War-II period and was based on the idea that countries in Asia were different and they needed 'interpreters' to understand their societies. The approach looked at the religion and philosophical traditions of the country and emphasized on the exceptionalism of Japan.

There are many mythical tales that also tell about the country. These texts tell us that the islands were created by the Gods and the Sun Goddess sent her grandson to rule the country. The myth was also used in the modern period to mark Japan as different and superior to China and other countries. There are many sources which portrays Japan as the only Asian country to modernise. Some post-modernist writings also deconstructed the ideas about Japan by investigating the institutions and ideas that seemed to have a long history and showed how they were constructed as Japan modernized. There were many other scholars who saw Japanese developments within a global perspective and how these affected Japan.

There was a great influence of China and Chinese culture in the East Asian region that has meant that Chinese influences shaped the area and the Chinese language became the carrier of civilization and the lingua franca of the elites. Japan also adopted the Chinese language and the Japanese language is a polysyllabic and conjugated language and very different from Chinese. The knowledge of the Chinese language and tradition also gave the elites access to Chinese civilization but the knowledge they gained was diffused to a wider popular level because texts written in the local alphabet could be read by those who were not educated in the high culture.

PERIODISATION IN JAPANESE HISTORY

There are many questions that are raised by the dominant political categorisation of Japanese history by ruling dynasties. The standard political divisions are the classical period with the Heian (794-1180) that marked the peak of the Japanese civilization with its distinctive characteristics. The imperial government was the dominant power in the Heian period which was followed by the warrior governments or bakufu of the Kamakura (1185-1333), then the short Kemmu

restoration when imperial power was restored (1333-1336), and then again power passed to a warrior house, the Ashikaga or Muromachi bakufu (1336-1573). From 573 to 1603, there was emergence of daimyo houses that began to control large parts of Japan. The first to emerge form among the daimyo's of the military conflicts of the time was Oda Nobunaga who was then followed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi and then Tokugawa Ieyasu who established Tokugawa rule which lasted from 1603 to 1868. From 1868, the period was marked as the modern period when a revolution made Japan into a modern-nation state. This is the broad classification of the periodisation in Japan.

One important source that tells about the Japanese history is ecology that is looking at the dominant relation between man and his environment. The history of Japan is divided by the historian Conrad Totman into three stages:

1. Forager period-when people lived off what the land produced naturally, agricultural and industrial and was upto 400 B.C.E.
1. Agricultural period-which was marked by the use of agriculture and has many sub-phases.
1. Industrial period. This period begins from around 1890 with the development of the industrial society which develops on what Totman calls 'the exploiters of the dead'.

THE MAKING OF CLASSICAL JAPAN

The classical age of Japan started in 794 when the Yamato state built its capital at Heian. This period is from 794 to 1185 when power shifted to the warrior government. The period of 400 years is the longest of the standard divisions of Japanese history. During this period, the Chinese influence, through Buddhism, was adapted by the people and then used to create an imperial state, where the Emperor exercised direct political power. Buddhism became the state religion and the Chinese language was adopted by the elites. During this period many literatures were produced by the women writers. The period called as the Heian period which was named after the capital was modeled on the Chinese capital of Chang'an brought together earlier clan (uji) based groups into an imperial state modeled on the Tang dynasty state (618-907) in China but adapted to Japanese ideas. There were many rules and regulations that were developed to create a military organisation and a system of tax collection collectively known as the ritsuryo (penal codes and civil codes) system. There were many provinces in which the country was divided which were ruled by the

THE ROOTS OF MODERN JAPAN / 3

Governors. The area that was ruled in this period was mostly in the Kyoto region and the southern island of Kyushu but emperor Shomu began to send army to Tohoku, the northern region of the main island Honshu and by 725 had 'pacified' the area upto modern day Sendai. The theory was not accepted by everyone that the 'emishi' were people from the Jomon culture who had been driven north as the Yayoi people took over the main islands of Japan. This led to the beginning of the settled agriculture to this region. The 'emishi' were foragers which were later known as Ainu, the original inhabitants of Japan.

The important characteristic of this period is that even though the trappings of imperial power were based on a bureaucratic model and land belonged to the emperor, the 'familial authority' was widespread. The spread of 'shoen' private estates only nominally under imperial control was one such characteristic and two periods when 'retired emperors' (insei) had control. The guardians exercised the rule and the power was held, by exercised by samurai bands or governors.

The scholars such as C. Cameron Hurst proclaimed that the Heian period should be divided into two periods, the early period up to the tenth century when elements of the Tang model were dominant but 'feudal' tendencies were beginning to develop and the second part which saw these feudal characteristics strengthening as the central power eroded and passed first to the Fujiwara family and then to the retired sovereigns. There are many scholars who opined that the Emperor and nobility did not simply surrender their power to outside interests but rather the nobility created a 'royal court state' (ocho koka) whereby they contracted certain political duties to concentrate on rituals, which were in those times an equally important part of 'politics'. There was the formation of the imperial power but direct imperial rule did not last long. From 794 onwards, the Fujiwara family became the major power and exercised this power as regents and by marrying their daughters to the Japanese Emperors. The division between legitimacy and power is an important feature of the Japanese history and the Emperor was the legitimate ruler, the source of power but actual power was exercised by the Fujiwara family, the most powerful of whom was Fujiwara-no-Michinaga (966-1028 A.D).

The Culture of the Heian Period

The Heian culture produced a highly sophisticated and refined aesthetic philosophy. During this period,

the material life was extremely simple and austere. The people ate rice, vegetables and very little meat or fish was eaten. Tea was mainly used as a medicine and ox-cart was the major form of transport. The main religion of the state was Buddhism and Shinto which was the whole set of earlier popular religious practices, became a part of Buddhism. The word Shinto in Japan was being referred for only 'popular religious practice' and it meant the 'way of the gods', under Buddhist influence as Buddhism is 'the way of the Buddha'. With the practice of Buddhism, a new religious foundation was established for the new imperial state. The Buddhist sects such as Tendai was founded by Kukai (774-835) and Shingon (True Word) by the monk Saicho (767-822). The teachings of Saicho were based on the Lotus Sutra that meant that the work, meditation and faith led to enlightenment. These sects developed through the ninth and tenth centuries and found favour among the Heian aristocracy. There were some new movements that developed during the period such as Zen, Jodo and Nichiren. Buddhism started in Japan and then moved from an esoteric and aristocratic religion spread out to become a religion of the people. There was no trade contract between China and Japan after 800 and in 1274 and 1281 the expanding Mongol Empire of Qiblai Khan of China launched two invasions. The first expedition was meant to test the ground and the second which is said to be the largest sea expedition till the twentieth century, was defeated partly because of Japanese preparations but also because a typhoon caused extensive damage to the ships.

COMPETING POWERS: EMPEROR, RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND WARRIORS

The power of the imperial state did not last for a longer period as it gradually conceded land and the right to collect revenue to noble families and Buddhist monasteries. The nobility and the Buddhist monasteries gained control over land estates or shoen and collected the taxes and raised their own armies and became politically powerful. There was no control of the imperial state and by 1150 there was emergence of the samurai or warriors bands owing loyalty to their leaders. The groups were organized in a hierarchical manner and were bound by kinship and loyalty to their leaders. The most powerful leader of the period was Minamoto Yoritomo (1147-1199), the leader of the Taira. The 11th century period witnessed that the Kinai region had been stripped of extractable resources. By 1190, the real power had shifted from the Imperial

Capital Kyoto to Kamakura which had a wider revenue base. The samurai or warrior groups also emerged as a major group competing for power.

According to the Japanese scholar Kuroda Toshio, between the eleventh and fifteenth centuries state the authority was divided between three powers working together. The three group of families identified by Kuroda were– the courtiers (kuge), warriors (buke or samurai) and religious institutions (jisha). These three groups were seen as a part of one political system. Yoritomo formulated his warrior government or bakufu at Kamakura, in the Kanto region working out a power sharing arrangement with the emperor. There were many titles received by Yoritomo from the emperor as a mark of his power and authority like ‘barbarian subduing generalissimo’ (seii tai shogun).

The scholars opined that the Kamakura period was a transition from the Heian period and was a turning point when the Kenmu rule and the Ashikaga brought about a new type of rule. The military power became the basis for rule. After the defeat of Kamakura bakufu, the Emperor Go Daigo succeeded him and then the Ashikaga warrior government. There were many political changes during the period and the political power was based on the daimyo or regional lords who exercised a high degree of autonomy in their domains.

The daimyo focused on integrating the domains rather than expanding their control and were called as the ‘warring states lords’ (sengoku daimyo). There was emergence of the leaders who would unify Japan. The religious institutions were an important part of the political system and politics were not distinct elements as in the modern period. Some of the important religious centres were in Mt Hiei, near Kyoto which belonged to the Tendai sect, Nara where the major temples of Kofukuji and Todaiji were situated and was dominated by sects that were more philosophical and appealed to the aristocracy and Mt. Koya, the headquarters of the Shingon sect of Buddhism. The important Buddhist sects were Tendai and Shingon with many followers across the country. Zen Buddhism was divided into two sects, Soto and Rinzai which was imparted through rigorous training with the help of exercises as koan or riddles that forced the adherents to think about their assumptions. The Zen also became important players in the trade with China.

THE RISE OF THE DAIMYO: ODA NOBUNAGA

There were constant wars from the end of the 15th century. There government was in competing forms and

the imperial house was marginalized. The samurai retainers bound by feudal ties were the major forces that competed for power and dominance. The solidarities or Ikko groups were religious groups that were based on principles of equality and hierarchical like the samurai. The period saw the growth in economy and the institutions that developed a degree of sophistication. The situation was unstable and the three figures that gradually brought the main islands under their control were: Oda Nobunaga (1543-82), Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537-98) and Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616). In 1568, Oda Nobunaga forced the emperor to recognise Ashikaga Yoshiaki (1537-1597) and then when the shogun proved disruptive drove him out. Nobunaga also brought large areas and daimyo under his control. Nobunaga destroyed the Tendai Buddhist monastery of Hiezen in October, 1571. The destruction and the massacre of over three thousand monks effectively put an end to their bid for political authority. Nobunaga also fought the armed leagues of the Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism, the Ikko Ikki, centred around the temple of Ishiyama Honganji in Osaka and crushed them. After that, he built the magnificent castle of Azuchi, reputed to be a magnificent structure, which no longer exists.

When died, he controlled over one-third of Japan and laid the basis for the emerging political structure. A new system of land tax assessment was started and later he began to disarm the peasantry. Nobunaga brought the warriors or samurai to the castle towns which were to form the nucleus of the emerging cities. This led to the reduction of the independent power of the military landed aristocracy. He also made an effort to introduce uniformity in weights and measures.

HIDEYOSHI: A COMMONER WHO BECAME RULER OF JAPAN

In the year 1582, Nobunaga was murdered and then Hideyoshi (1536-1598) emerged as the important figure uniting Japan. He belonged to an ordinary family but became the powerful ruler of the country through his abilities and managed to defeat other daimyo contenders such as Shibata Katsuie and in 1585 had himself appointed Kampaku (regent) by the Emperor. He fought with many rivals over a period of time and defeated his major opponents. In 1588, he began a ruthless sword hunt with the objective to clearly demarcate the farmer from the soldier. The class that was allowed to carry sword was samurai and in the year 1590 a land survey recorded fields in the name of the free cultivator, this