

	Meiji Era (Before 1912)	Taisho Era (1912-1926)	Pre-war Showa Era (1926-1945)
Political (Policies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1889, the Meiji Constitution was enacted, making Japan the first Asian country with a constitution. ▲ In 1900, the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law was enacted, stipulating that the post of Army Minister in the Cabinet must be filled by an active-duty general, or the Cabinet could not be formed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1913, the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law was abolished. ▲ In 1925, the General Election Law was promulgated to grant the right to vote to men aged 25 or above, broadening the electorate base to 19% of the population. ▲ In 1925, the Peace Preservation Law was enacted to criminalize any opposition against absolute monarchy or private property. Initially designed to curb communist, the law was then used by the government to suppress the opposition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1936, the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law was restored. ▲ In 1940, the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (IRAA) was established to replace all political parties and make Japan a one-party dictatorship.
Political (Movement/Assassination/Coup)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1913, the First Constitution Protection Movement took place and compelled the Japanese government to abolish the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law. ▲ In 1918, the Rice Riots broke out and brought about the fall of the then Cabinet, which led to the rise of Hara Kei as the first commoner appointed to the office of prime minister, and marked the beginning of party politics. ▲ In 1924, the Second Constitution Protection Movement took place and prompted the Japanese government to promulgate the General Election Law for higher representativeness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1930, the Hamaguchi Osachi administration upset the right wing after signing a disarmament treaty at the London Naval Conference without the Emperor's endorsement, and Prime Minister Hamaguchi was then assassinated by a member of the Aikokusha. ▲ In 1932, Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi was assassinated by members of the Brotherhood of Blood League for his opposition to the establishment of Manchukuo in China. Historically known as the May 15th Incident, the assassination, after which the post of prime minister had been filled by either military personnel or aristocrats, marked the end of party politics. ▲ In 1936, the Imperial Way faction made an unsuccessful coup attempt to eliminate the Control faction, after which the Imperial Way faction fell into decline while the Control faction took control of the country politically.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1907, 3700 out of some 8000 factories in Japan used machinery in their production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ During the First World War, Japan's economy developed rapidly due to the country's monopolization of the Chinese market. ▲ In 1923, the Great Kanto Earthquake destroyed more than 100 thousand houses and economic losses of more than US\$30 billion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1927, the Bank Crisis caused more than 30 banks to close down. ▲ In 1929, the Great Depression left 3 million Japanese people unemployed. ▲ In 1930, the share of Mitsui, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo in Japan's mining and transport industries was as much as 63%. ▲ In 1938, the National Mobilization Law was promulgated to raise the percentage of Japan's national budget allocated for military purposes to 70%, which was further increased to 99% in 1944.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1901, the Black Dragon Society was founded. ▲ In 1910, the Imperial Military Reserve Association was founded. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1928, the Aikokusha was established. In 1930, a member of the Aikokusha assassinated Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi. ▲ In 1930, the Cherry Blossom Society was founded. ▲ In 1931, the Brotherhood of Blood League was founded. In 1932, the League staged the May 15 Incident to assassinate Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi.
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1890, the Imperial Rescript on Education was introduced to emphasis loyalty to the Emperor and patriotism. ▲ In 1903, the National Textbook System was implemented to tighten government censorship of textbooks. ▲ The Japanese government extended compulsory education from 4 to 6 years to raise the number and percentage of educated people in Japan, boosting the country's enrolment rate to as much as 97%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1920, the enrolment rate of school-aged children in Japan reached 99%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ By 1931, approximately 9,000 Japanese people obtained a doctorate. ▲ Not only did the militarist government carry through military trainings in schools (1938), but it also dismissed teacher who attempted to promote human rights and free thought.

<p>Military</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1906, there were 13 infantry divisions equipped with modern weapons in Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ At the Washington Conference of 1921-22, Japan was allowed to possess a number of warships that was only lower than that of Britain and the US, being the third largest naval power in the world. ▲ In 1922, Japan finished building the world's first standard aircraft carrier named Hoshō. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ For navy, Japan owned 10 battleships, 125 destroyers and 65 submarines (1941). For air force, it produced as much as 10430 A6M Zero Fighters (during the Pacific War).
<p>Diplomatic (Rising status/ Alliance)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1902, Japan formed the Anglo-Japanese Alliance with Britain, being the first Asian country forging alliances with a Western power on an equal footing. ▲ In 1905, Japan defeated Russia in the Russo-Japanese War. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1919, Japan acquired the concessions in Shandong, China at the Paris Peace Conference. ▲ In 1920, Japan became one of the four permanent members of the Council of the League of Nations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1936, Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany. ▲ In 1937, Japan formed the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis with Italy and Germany.
<p>Diplomatic (Discrimination from the powers)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1921-22, Japan was forced to return its concessions in Shandong to China and break off the alliance with Britain. ▲ In 1924, the United States introduced the Immigration Act to ban immigration from Asian countries, including Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ At the London Naval Conference of 1930, Japan's naval development was curbed by Britain and the United States with the 5:5:3 ratio of tonnage for heavy cruisers with respect to Britain, the United States and Japan.
<p>Diplomatic (Territorial expansion/ Invasion)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1900, Japan invaded China as a member of the Eight-Nation Alliance. ▲ In 1904, Japan launched a surprise attack on the Russian army stationed in China and triggered the Russo-Japanese War. ▲ In 1910, Japan signed the Japan–Korea Annexation Treaty with Korea to annex it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1915, Japan attempted to force China into accepting the Twenty-one Demands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In 1927, the Japanese government convened an internal Far East Conference and formulated an outline of its policy towards China, establishing its aggressive China policy. ▲ In 1928, the Japanese Kwantung Army staged a bomb explosion incident to kill Zhang Zuolin, leader of the Fengtian clique in China. ▲ In 1931, Japan staged the September 18 Incident to invade Northeast China. ▲ In 1932, Japan staged the January 28 Incident to invade Shanghai, China. ▲ In 1933, Japan withdrew from the League of Nations. ▲ In 1937, Japan staged the July 7 Incident and launched its full-scale invasion of China. ▲ In 1938, Japan announced the New Order in Greater East Asia seeking 'co-prosperity' for East and Southeast Asian countries. ▲ In 1940, Japan announced the concept of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere, invading the neighboring countries on the pretext of liberating East and Southeast Asia. ▲ In 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the American Pearl Harbor.