

# 日本 20世紀上半葉

JAPAN - THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY



歷史科市場領導

**K. W. HO**

**歷史**

考場戰神・求敗・高考歷史科  
全卷88%分數奪A

THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

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## Study Outline

Curriculum Framework	
Source from: Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Final Version) (March 2007)	
Key Points	Explanatory Notes
<p>Japan</p> <p>Modernization in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>● The rise of militarism and its consequences</li> </ul>	<p>Students will assess the extent to which Japan was modernized in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the light of the contemporary political, social, economic and cultural conditions. They will analyse the ways in which such conditions led to the rise of militarism, and assess its consequences for Japan and Asia.</p>
Focuses of Learning	
<p><b>I. Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Political aspect</li> <li>➤ Economic aspect</li> <li>➤ Social aspect</li> <li>➤ Educational aspect</li> <li>➤ Military aspect</li> <li>➤ Diplomatic aspect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Modernized</li> <li>◇ Not Modernized</li> </ul>
<p><b>II. Reasons for the rise of militarism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Political aspect: Incompetence of the democratic government *</li> <li>➤ Economic aspect: Serious economic problems</li> <li>➤ Social aspect: Rise of extreme nationalism</li> <li>➤ Military aspect: the excessive power of the military</li> <li>➤ External factor: International circumstances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Importance and limitations for the rise of militarism</li> <li>◇ Relative importance versus other factors</li> </ul>

Situation-based Learning Design

Factor-based Learning Design

Significant  
 Evidence-based  
 Learning  
 Design

<p><b>III. Impact of Militarism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Negative impact on Japan</li> <li>➤ Positive impact on Japan</li> <li>➤ Negative impact on Asia</li> <li>➤ Positive impact on Asia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Political aspect</li> <li>➤ Economic aspect</li> <li>➤ Social aspect</li> <li>➤ National aspect</li> <li>➤ Military aspect</li> <li>➤ Diplomatic aspect</li> </ul>
<p><b>I. Historical Background and Development – Typical Examples:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902)</li> <li>2. Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)</li> <li>3. Abolishment of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law (1913)</li> <li>4. Japan's Participation in World War I (1914-18)</li> <li>5. Rice riots (1918)</li> <li>6. Hara Kei became the first civilian appointed as the Prime Minister (1918)</li> <li>7. Paris Peace Conference (1919)</li> <li>8. Washington Conference (1921-22)</li> <li>9. Great Kanto earthquake (1923)</li> <li>10. Immigration Act of 1924 (1924)</li> <li>11. General Election Law (1925)</li> <li>12. Bank Crisis (1927)</li> <li>13. Far East Conference (1927)</li> <li>14. Great Depression (1929)</li> <li>15. London Naval Conference (1930)</li> <li>16. September 18 Incident (1931)</li> <li>17. January 28th Incident (1932)</li> <li>18. May 15th Incident (1932)</li> <li>19. Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations (1933)</li> <li>20. February 26th Incident (1936)</li> <li>21. Anti-Comintern Pact (1936)</li> <li>22. July 7th Incident (1937)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. National Mobilization Law (1938)</li> <li>24. New Order in Greater East Asia (1938)</li> <li>25. Imperial Rule Assistance Association (IRAA)(1940)</li> <li>26. The attack on Pearl Harbor (1941)</li> <li>27. The defeat of Japan (1945)</li> </ol>

## Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Political aspect

two-  
point  
form

Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century refers to the overview of Japan's political, economic, social, educational, military and diplomatic conditions in the period 1900-(about) 1929.

### 1. Political aspect (Modernized)

#### A. Constitutional monarchy (showing not completion of but progress in political modernization of Japan)

Since the implementation of *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 in 1889, Japan's political system had changed into constitutional monarchy. The status of the Emperor was retained, and meanwhile the *Diet* 國會 and the *Cabinet* 內閣 were formed, the former of which consisted of the *upper house* 上議院 and the *lower house* 下議院. The nobility were appointed as members of the upper house, while those of the lower house were elected by Japanese citizens who paid not less than a certain amount of tax. Japan's political system transformed from absolute monarchy into constitutional monarchy by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Though the Meiji Constitution retained the supreme power of the Emperor, it made Japan be the first Asian country having constitutional monarchy, indicating that Japan 'broke away from Asia and merged with Europe' 脫亞入歐 politically. This was a great effort to achieve modernization in Japan during the Meiji Restoration period.

#### B. Rise of party politics (showing not completion of but progress in political modernization of Japan)

In the 1910s, political parties, the press and intellectuals in Japan were discontented with the oligarchy of the Genro. They started the *First Constitution Protection Movement* 第一次護憲運動 in 1913, pressurizing the Japanese government to abolish the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制. The Cabinet was thus no longer controlled by the military. In 1918, *Prime Minister Terauchi* 寺內首相 and his cabinet resigned as the government failed to settle the *Rice Riots* 米騷動. *Hara Kei* 原敬 was appointed as his successor and he became the first Prime Minister affiliated with political party. His accession to power ushered in the era of party politics and proved that Japan was politically modernized in the Taisho period.



## C. Extension of franchise (showing not completion of but progress in political modernization of Japan)

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the franchise in Japan was extended continuously. In 1902, only 2% of the population enjoyed voting rights. But the percentage soon increased to about 5% in 1920. Furthermore, the request for universal suffrage received growing support because of the emergence of party rule and the *Second Constitution Protection Movement* 第二次護憲運動. Giving in to popular pressure, the Japanese government promulgated the *General Election Law* 普通選舉法 in 1925 which gave all men aged 25 or above the right to vote. Voters were no longer limited to those who paid enough tax. As a result, the percentage of population eligible to vote rose to around 19%, showing the increasing representativeness of the lower house.

## 2. Political aspect (Not Modernized)

### A. Government with rule of man instead of rule of law

*Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 stated that the Emperor was the leader of the country and both the *Prime Minister* 首相 and the *Cabinet* 內閣 were answerable to him. The Emperor was also declared to be sacred and inviolable. He was in fact superior to the Constitution as he held the authority to amend the Constitution, dissolve the lower house of Diet and control the military. Rule of man instead of rule of law was observed. In addition, as the military and the *Genro* 元老 were considered as the 'founding fathers' 建國功臣 of modern Japan, they held excessive power in the government. For example, the Genro were not under the control of the Constitution, and they were able to control the *Privy Council* 樞密院 and the *Cabinet* 內閣. *Yamagata Aritomo* 山縣有朋, one of the Genro in the early 20th century, best exemplified that. At that time, several government officials were promoted to the Prime Minister successively just because of his nominations. He was thus dubbed the 'Prime Minister Maker' 首相製造者. Likewise, the power of the military was great. They were not controlled by the Diet or the Cabinet but had direct access to the Emperor. In addition, the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制 was still effective before 1913, which means that a cabinet could not be formed without the participation of the military as the Secretary of the Army and Navy. In other words, the Cabinet was under their control.

## B. Limited power of the elected House of Representatives and the Cabinet

The elected House of Representatives and the Cabinet enjoyed limited power. The House of Representatives only held discussion about political affairs but had no legislative or decision-making power. The Cabinet was answerable to the Emperor, which means that its power was restricted by him. Moreover, the military enjoyed enormous power despite the abolition of the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制 in 1913. They had direct access to the Emperor and were not influenced by the Cabinet. Examples like the unauthorized assassination of *Zhang Zhoulun* 張作霖, a Chinese warlord, by the *Kwantung Army* 關東軍 in 1928 reflected the limited power of the Cabinet and its failure to limit the military.

## Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Economic aspect

### 1. Economic aspect (Modernized)

#### A. Booming economy before the First World War (showing not completion of but progress in economic modernization of Japan)

Japan's economy developed rapidly before the end of the First World War. For example, Japan defeated Russia in the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭(1904-05) and took over her interests in the Northeast China. Although its expansion in China led to boycotts of Japanese products that harmed its trade, the war provided a chance for Japan to develop its economy. As the Western powers were occupied with wars in Europe, Japan was able to monopolized China's market. The war also caused the 'military boom' 戰爭景氣 since Japan sold military supplies to belligerent countries. These favourable circumstances led to the rapid growth in Japan's trade. Her economy benefited greatly from the world war and was flourishing.

#### B. Modernized mode of production

The Japanese government and the zaibatsu made great efforts to develop Japan's industry, which led to a dramatic increase in the number of factories. In 1907, there were more than 8,000 factories in Japan, 3,700 of which used machinery in their production. Meanwhile, the production of *machinery* 機械 and *steel* 鋼鐵 increased by 4 and 7 times respectively from 1913 to 1923. These figures demonstrate the rapid industrialization in Japan. A similar situation appeared in agricultural aspect. To raise crop production, Japan has adopted *chemical fertilizers* 化學肥料 since the Meiji period and put small-sized agricultural machinery into use. Agricultural production in Japan became more commercialized and specialized. At that time, the agricultural production of Japan was the highest among Asian countries. It was enough for not just domestic supply but also export to other countries. For example, the export of *silk* 絲 made up 1/3 of Japan's total exports. These show that Japan's agriculture developed rapidly and modernization was achieved.



## 2. Economic aspect (Not Modernized)

### A. Grassroots families suffering from poor living conditions

Although Japan dominated Asia's market during the First World War and gained rapid economic development, Japan's grassroots families were continuously suffering from poor living conditions. For example, there was the largest scale of riot in centuries in 1918, the *Rice Riot* 米騷動, people suffered from hunger at that time. Also, there were several natural disasters and economic events which made citizens' lives harder in the 1920s. For instance, the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 in 1923 brought 100,000 deaths and a US \$30 billion loss; the 1927 *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 led to closure of about 30 banks; The *Great Depression* 世界經濟大蕭條 in 1929 severely damaged Japan's economy and the unemployed population reached 3 million because of the closure of factories. At that time, there were different tragedies because of the poor economic condition. As a result, Japan is not economic modernized.

### B. Economy monopolized by the zaibatsu

After the establishment of the Meiji government, Japanese government had had a close link with the *zaibatsu* 財閥 as they contributed enormously to the *fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate* 倒幕. In the era of party politics, the political donations from the zaibatsu were the major source of funding to political parties for elections. By virtue of their close relationship with the government, they could make a huge profit and even monopolize the economy. For example, the five biggest banks owned by the zaibatsu, including *Mitsui* 三井, *Mitsubishi* 三菱, *Sumitomo* 住友, *Yasuda* 安田 and *Daiichi* 第一, held 34.5% of Japan's deposits in 1929. As a consequence, small and medium-sized enterprises were difficult to develop and survive, and the economy had an unbalanced development.

## Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Social aspect

### 1. Social aspect (Modernized)

#### A. Coexistence of traditional and Western cultures

With the increasingly frequent trade with the West, Western cultures were introduced to Japan, including Western architectural styles, wearing suits and eating beef. They were largely embraced by the Japanese. In addition, some corrupt practices in Japan were abandoned. For example, the government waived the special rights of the *samurai* 武士 in the *Meiji Restoration* 明治維新 period, promoting *equality of all people* 四民平等 in the society. Yet, its unique traditional culture was preserved while foreign cultures were introduced. For instance, the Japanese still wore *kimono* 和服 at home or during festivals, and Japanese cuisine remained as a popular and common Japanese food culture. Japan became a culturally diverse country with the coexistence of traditional and foreign cultures.

### 2. Social aspect (Not modernized)

#### A. A society with limited freedom

Japan adopted constitutional monarchy and the *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 stated that Japanese people had freedom of speech, assembly and publication. However, they could enjoy that only when it is 'not prejudicial to peace and order' 不損害和平的情況. The government often took advantage of the vague word 'peace' to restrict people's freedom and power. In 1925, it even promulgated the *Peace Preservation Law* 治安維持法, which targeted on communists at first but soon became a tool for the government to mute dissenting voices. People's freedom was further restricted.

## B. Development of extreme nationalist ideas

The *traditional Bushido spirit* 傳統的武士道精神 and thoughts about loyalty and patriotism evolved into extreme nationalist ideas in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Extreme nationalists even set up organizations such as the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會(1901), the *Reserve Association* 在鄉軍人協會(1910), the *Sakura Society* 櫻花會, the *Aikokusha* 愛國社(1928) and the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團(1931). Such ideas became the underlying cause of the rise of militarism afterwards. Also, many assassinations were planned and carried out by members of those organizations. For example, Prime Minister *Osachi Hamaguchi* 濱口雄幸 was assaulted by members of the *Aikokusha* 愛國社 in 1930 and the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 was launched by the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團 and reactionary elements of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

## Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Educational aspect

### 1. Educational aspect (Modernized)

#### A. Highest educational standard in Asia

The educational standard of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was not only the highest in Asia but also on par with that of Western countries like the US and the European ones. It was the outcome of the *compulsory education* 強制性教育 policy implemented in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1907, the government extended compulsory education from 4 to 6 years, raising the number and percentage of educated people in Japan. National enrolment rate reached 97%, and it further increased to 99% in 1920. This shows that Japan's educational standard was not only far ahead of other Asian countries but also on par with Western countries as it could almost provide education for all.

#### B. Rise in academic standard

The academic standard of Japan increased together with the educational standard. Rapid development could be seen in aspects like Physics, Medicine and Astronomy. For example, *Kitasato Shibasaburo* 北里柴三郎 and *Hideyo Noguchi* 野口英世 were nominated for the *Nobel Prize* 諾貝爾獎 in Physiology / Medicine owing to their contributions to medicine. *Mori Ogai* 森鷗外 and *Natsume Soseki* 夏目漱石 also became leading writers in the world and were very famous outside Japan. Additionally, the tertiary education developed rapidly in Japan. Doctorate degree was available in different fields of study, including Medicine, Architecture, Science, Arts and Law. By 1931, the title of doctor was granted to about 9000 people.

### 2. Educational aspect (Not modernized):

#### A. Indoctrination of values like loyalty and patriotism

Japan's education put emphasis on loyalty and patriotism. As early as 1890, the government issued the *Imperial Rescript on Education* 教育敕語, which stated that education is not a self-improvement process but the service provided by the individuals to the state. According to it, education should emphasize Bushido spirit that promotes loyalty and patriotism and deny individualism and liberty from the West. In 1903, the government even introduced the *National Textbook System* 國定教科書制度 to place more restrictions on textbooks. Education was tightly controlled by the Japanese government. Students were not allowed to think critically from multiple perspectives, which went against the principles of modern education.



## Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Military aspect

### 1. Military aspect (Modernized)

#### A. Great military strength

Japan had a well-equipped military force in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which was strong enough to resolve internal disputes, defend the country against external threats and even invade other countries. For Navy, since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Japan had started research and development of advanced warships. With the large sum of money invested, the development of naval technology was rapid. In 1922, Japan even finished the building of the world's first standard *aircraft carrier* 航空母艦 named *Hosho* 鳳翔號. Its naval strength was on a par with that of the Western powers. In the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 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. For army, Japan introduced conscription before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After setting up military academies, learning German military training methods and buying weapons from Germany, there were 13 infantry divisions equipped with modern weapons in Japan in 1906. The strength of Japanese army was too great to ignore. The modernized military force allowed Japan to not only resolve internal and external disputes but also expand its territory. For example, it defeated Russia in 1905 (*Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭) and conquered a large piece of land. It transformed into a power that achieved military modernization.

## Overview of Japan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – Diplomatic aspect

### 1. Diplomatic aspect (Modernized)

#### A. Equal status with the Western powers

Japan had an equal international status with the Western powers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For example, the formation of the *Anglo-Japanese Alliance* 英日同盟(1902) made Japan be the first Asian country forming alliance with Western powers on an equal basis. Besides, Japan was one of the victorious powers in the First World War and representatives were sent to attend the *Paris Peace Conference* 巴黎和會(1919) and being one of the *permanent members* 常任理事國 of the League of Nations. It was also enjoying high international status.

#### B. Colonial expansion (It does not necessarily represent modernization, but it can show the high international status enjoyed by Japan)

Japan's diplomatic influence was shown not only in alliances and the League of Nations. At that time, its colonies and sphere of influence were mostly located in China and the Korean Peninsula. Japan got the interests in Northeast China after the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭 in 1905. It even forced *Yuan Shikai* 袁世凱 to sign the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條 in 1915 and further meddled in China's internal affairs. Also, Japan forced Korea to sign the *Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty* 日韓合併條約 in 1910 in order to fully control the peninsula. These evidences show that Japan was influential in internal affairs of countries nearby.

### 2. Diplomatic aspect (Not modernized)

#### A. Western discrimination against Japan

In the 1920s, European countries and the US worried about the growing national strength of Japan. 'Yellow Peril' 黃禍, the theory that Asian people will use up resources in countries they immigrate to, also prevailed in Western countries. As a result, these countries took actions against Japanese and Asian people. To reduce Japan's strength, the US restricted Japanese naval expansion, forced Japan to return its interests in China and ended the *Anglo-Japanese alliance* 英日同盟 in the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 of 1921. Japan thus lost her international status. In addition, the naval expansion of Japan was restricted again in the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦會議 of 1930. The ratio on heavy cruisers was set to be 10(US) : 10(Britain) : 6(Japan). Japan further lost her international status. Moreover, targeting Asian immigrants, the US passed the *Immigration Act* 排外法案 of 1924 to ban immigration from Asian countries, including Japan, to the States. It was explicitly a discrimination against the Japanese.

## Reasons for the rise of militarism –

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### Incompetence of the democratic government

#### 1. Importance of the incompetence of the democratic government for the rise of militarism

##### A. Political aspect: Weaknesses of the democratic government

The democratic government was corrupt and rocked by a series of scandals. For example, there were 15,000 cases of violation of the Election Law in 1924 and they ruined the government's reputation. Also, the Cabinet was frequently reorganized. From 1918 to 1932, there were in total 11 cases of Cabinet reshuffle, which showed the instability of it. More importantly, the government displayed its weakness when putting forward policies. For instance, Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was against the establishment of *Manzhouguo* 偽滿洲國 in China and thus attracted criticism from radical elements and the mass media in the early 1930s. He was eventually assassinated by members of the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團 (*May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件), who gained 350,000 signatures in blood afterwards from people around the country to plead for a lenient sentence. This showed that party politics had lost popular support. In contrast, militarist organizations that used violence against the democratic government gained public support and militarism dominated Japanese politics in the 1930s.

##### B. Economic aspect: Colluding with the zaibatsu and failing to solve economic problems

The corrupt Japanese political parties often colluded with the zaibatsu to get political donations for elections. The zaibatsu thus enjoyed huge influence and even controlled Japan's economy. For example, the share of *Mitsui* 三井, *Mitsubishi* 三菱 and *Sumitomo* 住友 in Japan's mining industry was as much as 63.3% in 1930. Under the circumstances, small and medium-sized enterprises were difficult to develop and the middle class were thus unsatisfied with the government. This also damaged the image of the democratic government and it became very unpopular. In addition, the government was incapable of solving economic problems and failed to tackle economic crises like the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震(1923), the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 (1927) and the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條(1929-32). Japan was facing acute economic problems and people thus supported the militarists to embark on territorial expansion like the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) targeting Northeast China. In the end, militarism received overwhelming support in the 1930s.

## C. Diplomatic aspect: Poor performance in diplomatic aspect

The party government had poor performance in diplomatic aspect. Such as it reluctantly accepted the 10:10:6 ratio of capital ships for United States, Britain and Japan in *London Naval Conference 倫敦海軍會議* (1930). The party government suffered severe criticism from military side, media and citizens. There was even assassination by extreme nationalists, *Osachi Hamaguchi 濱口雄幸* was assassinated in 1930 which made the politicians more cautious. On the other hand, the weakness of the party government contrasted with the strength of the military. This facilitated the support towards the expansionary acts in order to strive for national glory. For example, after the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident 九一八事件* (1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident 一二八事件* (1932), the militarists gained citizens support rather than opposition. This can show that the image of party government was deteriorating while the militarism was gaining support.

## 2. Greater significance of Incompetence of the democratic government for the rise of militarism

### A. Incompetence of the democratic government > Serious economic problems

- In terms of cause-result relationship, the failure of the democratic government to solve economic problems was the main reason for the widespread support for militarism.
- The democratic government only cared about the interests of the related groups and contributed little to solving economic problems.
- In addition, it colluded with the zaibatsu and allowed them to control Japan's economy.
- Japan thus went into recession in the 1920s. The depressed economy drove the Japanese to support militarism that advocated territorial expansion.



## **B. Incompetence of the democratic government > Rise of extreme nationalism**

- In terms of limitation, extreme nationalism once lost its popularity in the 1910s and the early 1920s. At that time, democratic ideas prevailed in Japan. The two *Constitution Protection Movements* 兩次護憲運動(1913 & 1924) were evidences for that.
- However, in terms of cause-result relationship, extreme nationalism rose again owing to the incapability of the democratic government in economic, diplomatic and other aspects. An example is its failure to resolve the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 (1927).

## **C. Incompetence of the democratic government > excessive power of the military**

- In terms of limitation, the power of the military had once been checked. For example, the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制 was abolished in 1913, which means that the military could no longer influence the formation of the Cabinet.
- However, in terms of cause-result relationship, because of the incompetence of party politicians who were reduced to silence after the assassination against *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅, power of the military gradually expanded and this enabled the restoration of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law in 1936.

## **D. Incompetence of the democratic government > International factor**

- in terms of cause-and-effect relationship, the democratic government lost the confidence of the Japanese because of its disappointing diplomatic performance.
- E.g. the democratic government failed to protect the naval strength of Japan in the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930).
- This let Japanese think that the democratic government was not competent in safeguarding the interests of Japanese. People supported militarists, who wished to be on par with the west. Militarism gained widespread support as a result.

## Reasons for the rise of militarism – Other factors

### ➤ Economic aspect: Serious economic problems

Economic prosperity always drums up support for the government. But Japan's exports declined sharply and its economy experienced recession because the powers returned to the Chinese market after WW1 ended in the late 1910s. Worse still, Japan was hit by several economic crises in the 1920s and faced serious economic problems. For example, the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 in 1923 caused destruction of more than 100 thousand houses and losses of US\$30 billion. About 30 banks were closed during the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 of 1927. After the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 of 1929, Japan's economy reached its trough and the number of unemployed climbed to 3 million. The depressed economy made the government lose its popularity because they thought it was incapable of solving economic problems. It also cultivated support of the Japanese for expansionist foreign policy adopted by the militarists. After the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變(1932) were staged by the *Kwantung Army* 關東軍 in China, the Japanese and the press not only showed no criticism towards its actions but also expressed their support. Rise of militarism became possible in the 1930s with popular support.

### ➤ Social aspect: Rise of extreme nationalism

Traditionally, Bushido thoughts were deep-rooted in Japan and the Japanese were habituated to absolute obedience. The Meiji government even did intense brainwashing on Japanese nationalism, suggesting sacrifice for the country and saving other Asian races to fight for prestige for the Yamato people. The *Imperial Rescript on Education* 教育敕語 published in 1890, which stressed loyalty, patriotism and sacrifice, was a typical example of indoctrination of ideas. Exposed to extreme nationalist ideas, the Japanese established militarism and related organizations, including the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會(1901) that backed invasion of China for achieving *Pan-Asianism* 大亞細亞主義, and the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團(1931) that aimed at removing corrupt officials through assassination. Afterwards, these organizations launch several mutinies to strike a blow to the democratic government. For example, the Brotherhood of Blood League plotted the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 in 1932 which Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was assassinated and party politicians were not dared to challenge the military. After that, almost all Prime Ministers were generals or the Genro and this marked the end of party politics.

➤ **Military aspect: the excessive power of the military**

Traditionally, the military in Japan enjoyed huge political power. Before Emperor Meiji came to the throne, Japan politics were under the control of *shogun of the shogunate* 幕府大將軍. After regaining ascendancy, the Emperor granted a huge power to the military because of the great contribution of the samurai from different domains in the *Anti-Shogunate Movement* 倒幕運動. For example, the *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 stated that the military had direct access to the Emperor and were answerable to him. In addition, the Cabinet was controlled by the military because as stated in the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制, a Cabinet could not be formed without the participation of the military as the Secretary of the Army and Navy. Although this requirement was cancelled once in 1913, the power enjoyed by the military was never weakened. The unauthorized assassination of *Zhang Zhoulin* 張作霖 by the *Kwantung Army* 關東軍 in 1928 showed that the military was not influenced by the Cabinet. After the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事變(1936), the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* was restored and the military were able to manipulate the formation and operations of the Cabinet again. Since then, almost all cabinet members were from the military, which means that they controlled the Cabinet completely.

➤ **External factor: Western discrimination against Japan**

Japan had been building up its strength after the *Meiji Restoration* 明治維新. Not only did it defeat China in the *First Sino-Japanese War* 甲午戰爭(1894-95), but it also scored a victory over Russia, an European power, in the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭(1904-05). The Western powers could feel the growing threat of Japan and adopted racially exclusive policy against Japan. One example was the *American Immigration Act* 排外法案 of 1924, which banned Asian immigrants, including Japanese ones, to the US. The powers even attempted to check its influence. For example, Japan was forced to return Shandong to China in the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 of 1921-22 and the ratio on heavy cruisers was set to be 10(US) : 10(Britain) : 6(Japan) to curb Japanese naval expansion in the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930). This induced anti-foreign sentiment among the Japanese and their support for territorial expansion by the military since the 1920s, which is exemplified by the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931). They wanted to gain back national glory through foreign encroachment and the militarists successfully rose to power with their support.

## Impact of Militarism

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### 1. Negative impact on Japan

#### A. Political aspect: led to continuous coups and assassinations and loss of democracy

The militarists supported eradication of corrupt politicians by assassinations and establishment of a military dictatorship. As a result, several coups and assassinations took place in Japan, including the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 in 1932 which Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was assassinated by members of the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團, and the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事件 (1936) in which *Imperial Japanese Army officers* 皇道派軍人 killed former Prime Minister *Saito Makoto* 齋藤實. More importantly, these coups and assassinations hampered progress towards democracy in Japan and gradually made it a military dictatorship. For example, after the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件, party politicians were not dared to challenge the military and the position of Prime Minister was held by generals and the Genro. This marked the end of party politics. In 1940, the militarists even established the *Imperial Rule Assistance Association (IRAA)* 大政翼贊會 as a replacement of all other political parties. Japan genuinely became an autocratic nation ruled by one-party military dictatorship.

#### B. Economic aspect: wrecked Japan's economy

The militarists gave priority to military development when distributing national resources and kept increasing Japan's military expenses. In 1938, the *National Mobilization Law* 國家總動員法 was passed to allocate 70% of its national budget for wars. The proportion further rose to 99% in 1944. However, with the allocation of excessive resources for military uses and increase in military production, Japan was short of different materials and experienced devaluation and inflation. Its economy was hugely damaged. Worse still, Japan lost its momentum at the late stage of war and US bombings caused huge economic destruction. The US dropped two atomic bombs on *Hiroshima* 廣島 and *Nagasaki* 長崎 in 1945, directly destroying two important cities of Japan. As a result, Japan was economically strained. In 1945, the Japanese Central Bank owed debts that were equivalent to 204% of Japan's GDP, which showed that Japan's economy was on the brink of collapse.



### C. Social aspect: brought Japan under coercion

Militarism supports a curb on human rights and freedom, and absolute obedience to the government. For education, priority should be given to indoctrinating patriotic ideas and nurturing military personnel. As a result, after the militarist takeover in the 1930s, they immediately made the Japanese society a suppressive one. As for education, the militarist government did not only carry through *military trainings* 軍事訓練 in schools (1938), it also fired teacher who promoted human rights and liberal ideas. A strong grip was added on education. In addition, all activities in the society came under the militarist government's scrutiny. Strikes were banned and all publications must gain approval from the military before publishing. Worse still, the militarists used the *Peace Preservation Law* 治安維持法 to oppress dissidents. *Akira Iwasaki* 岩崎昶, a film producer who was arrested in 1941 for infringement of this law, serves as an example. Freedom of speech, publication and other kinds was greatly suppressed.

### D. Diplomatic aspect: led to diplomatic isolation of Japan

The militarists advocated territorial expansion for resources and manifestation of national strength. But its aggression would cause deterioration of its relationship with the neighbouring countries. For example, Japan launched the *July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident* 七七事變 in 1937 and caused the outbreak of the *Second Sino-Japanese War* 中日戰爭. After that, Japan declared its policy of setting up the '*Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere*' 大東亞共榮圈 and aggressively invaded Southeast Asian countries on the pretext of driving out the Western influence there. Japan's relationship with these countries worsened as a result. In addition, it launched a sudden attack on the *Pearl Harbour* 珍珠港 in the US in 1941, triggering a war between them. Japan became the enemy of many countries and ran into isolation with poor foreign relations with Asian countries. Besides, Japanese militarists took some outrageous actions during wars. For instance, they murdered 200-300 thousands Chinese civilians and disarmed combatants in the *Nanjing Massacre* 南京大屠殺 of 1937. Because of that, Japan's relationship with the neighbouring Asian countries remained bad.

## 2. Positive impact on Japan

### A. Military aspect: promoted military advancement in Japan

Militarism glorifies war and supports military buildup for territorial expansion. It was thus favourable to Japanese military development. In 1938, the *General Mobilization Law* 國家總動員法 was passed and 70% of Japan's national budget was spent on military expenses. This greatly increased Japan's military strength. For navy, Japan owned 10 *battleships* 戰艦, 125 *destroyers* 驅逐艦 and 65 *submarines* 潛水艇(1941). For air force, it produced as much as 10430 *A6M Zero Fighters* 零式戰鬥機(during the Pacific War). Japan was therefore strong enough to conquer more than half of Asia and its military strength reached its peak. Though it lost the Second World War and its military expenses were restricted, there was no doubt that militarism promoted the military development of Japan. The achievements of military technology even helped the research and development in the future.

### B. Social aspect: promoted national unity among the Japanese

Militarism places heavy emphasis on values like loyalty and patriotism. It demands absolute obedience to the Emperor and contributions to the country. As the militarists promoted territorial expansion and incited the nationalism of the Yamato people, the Japanese were united to invade other countries. Men fulfilled military service to serve the country, and women engaged in domestic production to support Japan in defeating other countries. When Japan lost the momentum in the closing stage of the Second World War, the militarists even suggested dying for the country. The *Kamikaze* 神風敢死隊 was then formed voluntarily to launch suicide attacks on American naval vessels. Doubtless, militarism made the Japanese more united and patriotic.

## 3. Negative impact on Asia (of Japan in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

### A. Political aspect: infringed the sovereignty of many countries

After the successful Meiji Restoration in the late 19th century, Japan displayed its aggression against other Asian countries. For example, it forced Korea to sign the *Japan–Korea Annexation Treaty* 日韓合併條約 in 1910, depriving it of autonomy. Besides, Japan made several attempts to meddle in China's internal affairs. For instance, it intimidated and lured Yuan Shikai into signing the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條 in 1915 in order to make China a protectorate of Japan. After that, it put *Puyi* 溥儀 on the throne and established a puppet regime called *Manzhouguo* 偽滿洲國 to intervene in China's domestic affairs and strengthen its influence there. Moreover, Japan also interfered in the internal affairs of Southeast Asian countries. It announced the policy of setting up the '*Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere*' 大東亞共榮圈. Japan superficially aimed at driving out the western countries, but it started invasions relentlessly and established pro-Japanese regimes around Southeast Asia. This resulted in blatant violation of sovereignty of other Asian countries, which was apparently a negative impact.

**B. Political aspect: stimulated the rise of communism in Asia (This point can be seen as a neutral impact)**

In the first half of the 20th century, Japan relentlessly invaded other Asian countries, including China in 1937 and Southeast Asian countries in 1940. The original political situation was changed completely and the communists took the chance to promote their ideology. The aggression became the indirect factor facilitating the spread of communism in Asia. With respect to China, after the KMT's several encirclement campaigns against the CCP, there left only 40 thousand communists in 1937 before Japan's full-scale attack on China. However, the *July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident* 七七事變 staged by Japan in 1937 gave the KMT no choice but to give up its policy of '*stabilizing the country before resisting foreign invasion*' 攘外必先安內 and offered the CCP a window of opportunity. The communists made an effort to extend their influence when the KMT was busy resisting Japanese aggression and they managed to turn the tables at the closing stage of the war. Similar situation appeared in *Korea* 朝鮮 and *Vietnam* 越南 as well, and communist regimes were then unavoidably installed in these countries. Japanese aggression provided a breeding ground for communism, whose influence increased greatly after the war.

**C. Economic aspect: hindered economic development in Asia**

In order to stimulate domestic economic development, Japan ceaselessly started invasions to get their resources. Many Asian countries became the prey of Japan and their economic resources were drained by it. For example, by virtue of the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條(1915) signed with China, Japan was granted the right of mining in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, being able to seize resources from China. As for Southeast Asia, Japan announced the *New Order in East Asia* 東亞新秩序 in 1938 and expressed interest in Southeast Asian countries. It surely depleted resources there and took away economic interests from them. More importantly, Japan brought about even greater economic devastation to Asia during WW2. The prolonged war led to shutdown of factories, damages to farmland and economic stagnation. The losses were catastrophic. For China alone, Japan had caused direct losses of US\$100 billion and indirect losses of US\$500 billion. It did great harm to other Asian countries and gave rise to their ailing economy.

## D. Military aspect: drew Asia into wars

Japan was eager to expand its territory in the first half of the 20th century for economic interests and status as a power. It thus started invasions and wars, drawing the continent into wars. For example, as early as 1904 it launched a sudden attack on Russian army in Lushun and sparked the Russo-Japanese War, in which Northeast China turned into battlefield of the powers and became war-torn. The *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變(1932) caused wars and suffering in the Northeast part of China and the Shanghai area respectively. Japan's full-scale invasion against China starting from 1937 even dragged it into the eight-year war of resistance. After that, Japan further invaded other parts of Asia. Starting from 1940, it invaded Southeast Asian countries on the pretext of driving out Western imperialism. It also invaded *Hong Kong* 香港 in 1941 and these caused ceaseless warfare and countless deaths. More than 18 million casualties were caused in China only. It is true that Japan exerted irreversible and catastrophic impact on Asia.

## 4. Positive impact on Asia (of Japan in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

### A. Political aspect: indirectly promoted decolonization in Asia

It is true that Japan relentlessly invaded Asian countries on the pretext of establishing the 'Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere' 大東亞共榮圈 and liberating Asian countries by driving out Western imperialist countries. Nevertheless, Japan defeated the Asian colonial governments established by Western countries like Britain and France and proved that even an Asian country was able to kick the Western powers out of Asia. This encouraged other Asian countries to overthrow colonial rule and gain independence, leading to a trend of decolonization. For example, *Indonesian armed groups* 印尼武裝組織 adopted guerrilla warfare against Dutch rule and the pressure made the Netherlands recognize its independence in 1949. *Vietnam* 越南 also chose the method of war against France and gained independence in 1954 as well. Eventually, the trend of decolonization swept across Southeast Asia and most Asian countries became independent successively in the post-war period.

### B. Social aspect: promoted unity among people within their own countries

Japan started a number of invasions in the first half of the 20th century and caused disturbance to other countries. Therefore, people were all united in different countries against Japan and this favoured national unity. The most typical example was the KMT and CCP from China. The two parties had their relationship broken in the 1920s and the former launched five encirclement campaigns against the latter in the early 1930s. However, Japanese aggression intensified constantly with events like the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變(1932). The two parties consequently put down their ideological differences. The CCP made the *August 1 Declaration* 八一宣言 in 1935 to call for national unity and end of civil war so as to resist Japanese invasion jointly. After the *July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident* 七七事變 in 1937, the KMT gave up the policy of 'stabilizing the country before resisting foreign invasion' 攘外必先安內 and formed the Second United Front with the CCP for resistance against Japan.



<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>
1889	Promulgation of the Meiji Constitution
1890	Issue of the Imperial Rescript
1900	Introduction of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law
1902	Anglo-Japanese Alliance
1903	Introduction of the National Textbook System
1904-05	Russo-Japanese War
1913	First Constitution Protection Movement (also known as Taisho Political Crisis)
	Abolishment of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law
1914-18	First World War
1915	Twenty-One Demands
1918	Rice Riots
1918	Hara Kei became the first civilian appointed as the Prime Minister
1919	Paris Peace Conference
1921-22	Washington Naval Conference
1923	Great Kanto Earthquake
1924	Second Constitution Protection Movement
	Issue of the American Immigration Act
1925	Promulgation of the General Election Law and the Peace Preservation Law
1927	Bank Crisis
1927	The Far East Conference
1929	The Great Depression
1930	London Naval Conference
	Prime Minister Osachi Hamaguchi was assaulted and suffered serious injury
1931	September 18 <sup>th</sup> Incident
1932	January 28 <sup>th</sup> Incident
1932	May 15 <sup>th</sup> Incident
1933	Japanese withdrawal from the League of Nations

1936	February 26 <sup>th</sup> Incident
	Restoration of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law
	Anti-Comintern Pact
1937	Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis
	July 7 <sup>th</sup> Incident
1938	National Mobilization Law
	New Order in East Asia
1940	Establishment of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (IRAA)
	Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere
1941	Japanese sudden attack on the Pearl Harbour
1945	The defeat of Japan

# 最強

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## Trend Analysis

	DBQ	Essay
<b>SP</b>	\	Q2. 'Militarism was a loss rather than a gain to Japan up to 1945.' Comment on the validity of this statement.
		Q7. Select one country or region as example and discuss in what ways was the Second World War a turning point for it in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>PP</b>	\	Q2. Discuss the reasons for the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.
		Q7. Select any one country or region and discuss to what extent this country or region in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century was different from what it had been in the late 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>12</b>	Question 1: Japan in the first half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century (Party politics and militarism) 【Choice question】 Whether party politicians or the military should bear a greater responsibility	Q3. To what extent was Japan a modernized country? Limit your discussion up to the 1920s.
<b>13</b>	\	Q7. Select one country and discuss its impact on the continent to which it belonged in the period 1900-49.
<b>14</b>	\	\
<b>15</b>	\	Q3. Explain why militarism rose in Japan in the 1930s but not earlier.
		Q7. Choose two countries and discuss the factors affecting their relationship in the period 1900-49.
<b>16</b>	\	\
<b>17</b>	\	\



18	\	Q7. 'There were more continuities than changes with respect to the development of Japan in the first half of the 20th century.' Comment on the validity of this statement.
19	\	\
20	<p>Question 2: China and Japan (the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)</p> <p>【Polar + 'Compare situations' Questions】Do you agree that Japan did more good than harm to China in the period 1900-45?</p>	

Study Sources A and B.

DBQ

#1

## SOURCE A

The following is adapted from a history book.

Because of the First World War, Japan's industrial manufacturing and mining output had an increasing share of the nation's gross agricultural and industrial output value, which went from 49.5% in 1914 to 61.1% in 1919. After the war, the US bought from Japan large quantities of goods such as raw silk, silk textiles and ships, while Britain, France and Germany needed to import from Japan to meet their critical shortage of civilian-use manufactured goods in wartime. These resulted in Japan's expansion into the international market. In the second half of 1919, as much as 500 million Japanese yen was invested in business establishment and expansion. With special treatment from the government, significant development was observed in sectors involved in military production, including steel, electric power, chemical and machinery industries.

In 1927, before the Great Depression, there was already a financial crisis in Japan. Bankruptcies of banks and enterprises led to political instability in Japan and the rise to power of militarist leader Tanaka Giichi and his cabinet. In 1929, the unprecedented Great Depression happened in the US and soon affected Japan. There were repeated incidents of people fleeing, being found laid dead on the streets, committing suicide with the entire family or selling their own children. In the face of economic crises and social tension, the Japanese zaibatsu found a 'hard-line regime' increasingly necessary and this gave the Fascists, who were comprised mainly of army personnel, the chance to gather momentum. Taking advantage of British and American economic crises and Chinese internal disputes, they quickened the pace of invading China.

## SOURCE B

The following extract is about the Japanese Kempeitai (military police) during the Second World War.

One of the most notorious police units was the Kempeitai. Whether in Japan or abroad, the Kempeitai imposed law and order not merely within the military forces. Under the pretext of national security, they were impatient to reach out their evil hand to the public.

Hideki Tojo, serving concurrently as the Prime Minister and Army Minister, held direct control of the Kempeitai. The great force in his hand was readily available and prepared to arrest those being even the least bit suspicious of subverting social stability, expressing political dissent or showing disrespect to the Emperor.

Under such atmosphere, Kempeitai officers became extremely presumptuous. They searched through passengers' luggage on trains, detaining and interrogating any person found reading English books. At simply the slightest excuse, such as learning about leftist ideology, they could confiscate others' diaries for inspection.

- (a) What were the effects of the First World War for Japan's economy? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)
- (b) What was the attitude of the author of Source B towards the Japanese Kempeitai during the Second World War? Explain your answer with reference to the language and arguments used in Source B. (4 marks)
- (c) To what extent was Japan a modernized country? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and Japanese history in the period 1919-45. (8 marks)

## Suggested Answer

(a) What were the effects of the First World War on Japan's economy? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer and ineffective use of the Source. [max. 1]  
L2 Clear answer and effective use of the Source. [max. 3]  
e.g. - Increasing share for industrial manufacturing and mining output  
- Increase in exports to European countries and the US  
- Increase in number of businesses being established or under expansion

### Suggested Answer

The First World War was largely conducive to Japan's economic development.

According to Source A, thanks to the First World War, the ratio of Japan's industrial manufacturing and mining output to its gross agricultural and industrial output value 'went from 49.5% in 1914 to 61.1% in 1919'. This shows that the World War helped promote the development of industrial manufacturing and mining, which explained the increase in their share of the local economy.

From Source A, after the war, the US and Western European countries like Britain and France needed to buy from Japan 'raw silk', 'silk textiles', 'ships' and 'civilian-use manufactured goods'. This promoted Japan's export trade, and its economy therefore benefited from the First World War.

Source A also indicates that 'in the second half of 1919, as much as 500 million Japanese yen was invested in business establishment and expansion'. This was the result of the aforementioned development of industrial manufacturing, mining and trade, which led to the formation of more enterprises and their expansion for higher productive capacity. There were clearly benefits to the economy.

### 閱卷員評分指引

- ◇ 僅概略討論一項線索/論據者 → 1分
- ◇ 討論一項線索/論據，但討論飽滿充分 → 3分
- ◇ 概略多項線索及論據，分析全面 → 3分



(b) What was the attitude of the author of Source B towards the Japanese Kempeitai during the Second World War? Explain your answer with reference to the language and arguments used in Source B. (4 marks)

### Marking Scheme

Attitude

e.g. - Criticizing, condemning

L1 Explanation lacks balance, only referring to language **or** argument of Source.

[max. 2]

L2 Clear explanation, referring to **both** language **and** argument of Source. [max. 4]

Language:

e.g. - Adjectives like 'notorious' and 'presumptuous' suggest their bad reputation and reckless behavior.

- The word 'evil hand' is used to describe what the Kempeitai did.

Arguments:

e.g. - The Kempeitai might arrest people who were merely dissidents instead of criminals.

- The Kempeitai were free to search and confiscate what others had.

## Suggested Answer

The author held a negative, discontented, criticizing and condemning attitude towards the Japanese Kempeitai.

In terms of language, the Source describes the Kempeitai as 'the most notorious', which suggests that their reputation was the poorest and everybody knew how bad they were. This reflects the author's discontented attitude towards them.

In the Source, the word 'evil hand' is used to describe the Kempeitai's intervention in the public. 'Evil hand' refers to nasty and malicious methods, showing the author's criticizing attitude towards the Kempeitai.

The Source describes Kempeitai officers as 'extremely presumptuous', which means that they were arrogant and unrestrained. This is a criticism against them and shows a negative attitude.

In terms of arguments, the Source says that Kempeitai officers would arrest people 'expressing political dissent or showing disrespect to the Emperor'. In other words, people might be arrested for not breaking the law but merely being dissidents. The author should therefore have a criticizing attitude.

From the Source, Kempeitai officers could confiscate what others had 'at simply the slightest excuse'. This implies that they had unparalleled power and did whatever they wanted. The attitude should therefore be criticizing.

## 閱卷員評分指引

- ◇ 僅作答「負面態度」將視之為未能有效回應題目字眼 → 略為扣分
- ◇ 用語：未能準確引用相關用語 → 不給用語分數
- ◇ 用語：未有嘗試就引用的用語作出解釋 → 略為扣分
- ◇ 用語：嘗試就用語作出解釋，但欠準確 → 略為扣分
- ◇ 論據：未能清楚指出論據的論點 → 不給論據分數
- ◇ 論據：討論了「用語」的論點 → 不給論據分數
- ◇ 未能區分清楚用語及論據的論點 → 最高得 2 分

(c) To what extent was Japan a modernized country? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and Japanese history in the period 1919-45.

(8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

L1 Cover only aspects that were modernized or not modernized, and/or using Source or own knowledge only. [max. 4]

L2 Cover both aspects that were modernized and those that were not, using both Source and own knowledge, with a clear viewpoint. [max. 8]

Modernized:

- e.g.:
- Different industries in Japan underwent rapid development. (Source A)
  - The country became much more democratic with the General Election Law and Hara Kei as the first civilian appointed as the Prime Minister. (Own knowledge)
  - Japan was the third largest naval power after the First World War. (Own knowledge)
  - Japan's educational standard was far ahead of other Asian countries and even on par with Western countries. (Own knowledge)
  - Japan was one of the permanent members of the Council of the League of Nations. (Own knowledge)

Not modernized:

- e.g.:
- Life in Japan after the Great Depression was extremely hard. (Source A)
  - Rise of militarism after the Great Depression (Source A)
  - The Kempeitai gave rise to white terror in Japan's politics. (Source B)
  - Repeated assassinations and coups including the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident and February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident. (Own knowledge)
  - Japan's wartime economic development was very unbalanced. (Own knowledge)
  - Japan moved towards diplomatic isolation and built ties with totalitarian states. (Own knowledge)

### 閱卷員評分指引

- ✧ 對「現代化」掌握欠準確，例如在使用資料 A 時，指出日本經濟蓬勃發展是現代化。事實上，經濟蓬勃發展與現代化不存在必然的關係。因此，此論點不能獲得完整分數。
- ✧ 未能回應題目[現代化] → 略為扣分
- ✧ 僅討論現代化或非現代化 → 最高只得一半分數
- ✧ 僅使用資料(S)或就我所知(K)作答 → 最高只得一半分數
- ✧ 討論完現代化與非現代化後，欠缺解釋「程度」的立場 → 略為扣分

## Suggested Answer

To a small extent, Japan was a modernized country.

It was true that Japan showed signs of modernization in the early 1920s. From Source A, concerning Japan's economy in 1919, there was rapid development in different industries, including 'industrial manufacturing and mining', 'steel, electric power, chemical and machinery'. Also, European countries and the US imported large quantities of civilian-use manufactured goods from Japan. Hence, Japan's economy at that time met the requirement of modernized country with its diversified economy.

From my own knowledge, the General Election Law was passed in Japan in 1925. The law granted suffrage to all men aged 25 or above and the ratio of eligible voters to the whole population increased to nearly 20% accordingly. With its representativeness greatly enhanced, Japan also demonstrated characteristics of a modernized government.

In military aspect, Japan possessed great military strength. According to the warship ratio pinned down in the Washington Conference of 1921-22, Japan had the naval strength that was only lower than that of Britain and the US, being the third largest naval power in the world. The country fulfilled the definition of a modernized country by showing capabilities to resolve internal disputes and defend the country against external threats.

However, Japan was not a modernized country to a large extent.

Politically speaking, Source A shows that 'the Fascists who were comprised mainly of army personnel' got 'the chance to gather momentum'. In other words, the rise of militarism already took place in Japan. This ideology, being autocratic and dictatorial in nature, gave rise to the dark ages in Japan's politics. Therefore, the country failed to achieve political modernization since it was not a democratic one.

Economically, from Source A, Japan's economy in the 1920s was terrible with 'repeated incidents of people fleeing, being found laid dead on the streets, committing suicide with the entire family or selling their own children'. This shows that Japan's economic problem became extremely acute after the financial crisis and the Great Depression, and people led a hard life there. Apparently, Japan was not economically modernized when people there still had to struggle for basic needs.



In social aspect, according to Source B, the Kempeitai would arrest people 'expressing political dissent' and could confiscate what others had 'at simply the slightest excuse'. These were examples showing their unparalleled power and the white horror in the Japanese society since not only perpetrators but also dissidents would be arrested. This lack of freedom was the opposite of modernization.

From my own knowledge, politically speaking, there were repeated assassinations and coups in Japan in the 1930s. For example, in the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident (1932), Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi was killed and there came the age of fear in Japan's politics. This instability was also not what a modernized country should have.

Economically, the General Mobilization Law was passed in Japan in 1938 to increase the ratio of military spending to national budget to 70% and the ratio went up further to 99% in 1944. Japan's economy developed in a very unbalanced manner and this was not modernization, which is characterized by balanced and stable economic development instead.

In educational aspect, Japan's education was about indoctrination and placed emphasis on ideas about loyalty and patriotism instead of critical thinking. In addition, in the 1930s, the militarists started dismissing teachers promoting democratic and liberal thoughts, and imposing strict censorship on textbooks. The education was tightly controlled and failed to demonstrate academic freedom, which is a characteristic of modernization.

In diplomatic aspect, Japan was not respected by foreign countries. For example, the American Exclusion Act was promulgated in 1924 to ban immigration from Japan. The country also faced diplomatic isolation because of its frequent aggression against other countries like China and the US. It was not diplomatically modernized because it lacked respect from other countries and diversification of diplomatic relations.

In conclusion, although there were signs of modernization in Japan in the early 1920s, in the 1930s there was regression in Japan's modernization. Despite its great military strength, Japan was not qualified as a modernized country in other aspects. Therefore, it was modernized to a small extent only.

## Grid Method:

DBQ  
#2

Failure of party politics in Japan  
Study Sources A and B.

### SOURCE A

The following extract is adapted from a commentary written in 1924 by Japanese political scholar Sakuzo Yoshino on the coalition cabinet that was soon to be established.

Doubtless, the Japanese public's greatest hope is that the forthcoming cabinet will be strong, regardless of whether it is formed by a single party or a coalition. But the word 'strong' can have two meanings. One is that the cabinet should govern by controlling a majority in the House of Representatives, without hostile opposition from the House of Peers and Privy Council, or from the military and genro. The other meaning is that it should bravely confront unreasonable opposition from these quarters. Which of these meanings do I base my hopes on for the forthcoming cabinet? ... A cabinet that tries to please everybody by deferring actions is utterly useless. The cabinet I seek must be determined to fight and repel any enemies of its beliefs, irrespective of whether such enemies have the support of genro, the House of Peers or the military. That is the only way for a cabinet to be welcomed for the first time as the people's true friend.

## SOURCE B

The following extract is adapted from the manifesto for the establishment of the Cherry Blossom Society, a Japanese ultranationalist organization, in 1930.

[The political politicians] have forgotten basic principles, lack the courage to carry out state policies, and completely neglect the spiritual values that are essential for the ascendancy of the Yamato people. They are wholly preoccupied with their selfish pursuit of political power and material wealth. Above, they veil the sacred light, and below, they deceive people. The torrent of political corruption has reached its crest. ...Now, the poisonous sword of the thoroughly degenerate party politicians is being pointed at the military. This was clearly demonstrated in the controversy over the London treaties. ... It is obvious that the party politicians' sword, which was used against the navy, will soon be used to reduce the size of the army. Hence, we who constitute the mainstay of the army must arouse ourselves and wash out the bowels of these completely decadent politicians.

- (a) Which of the two meanings of the word 'strong' that Sakuzo Yoshino suggested do you think were his great expectations for the forthcoming cabinet based on? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)
- (b) What was the attitude of the Cherry Blossom Society towards party politicians? Explain your answer with reference to the language and arguments used in Source B. (4 marks)
- (c) 'Party politicians should be the most responsible for the failure of party politics in the 1930s.' Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

## Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

- (a) Which of the two meanings of the word 'strong' that Sakuzo Yoshino suggested do you think were his great expectations for the forthcoming cabinet based on? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)

### Marking Scheme

Meaning: [1 mark]

e.g. - To bravely confront unreasonable opposition

L1 Able to cite relevant clues without due explanation [max. 1]

L2 Able to cite relevant clues with due explanation [max. 2]

e.g. - It was ineffective to defer actions and necessary to fight against enemies of the Cabinet's beliefs.

\* Candidates in general will hold the view that his expectations were based on the meaning of bravely confronting unreasonable opposition. However, marks may be awarded to answers that hold the opposite view and are presented logically.

### Suggested Answer

I think his expectations were based on the meaning of bravely confronting unreasonable opposition.

He claimed that 'a cabinet that tries to please everybody by deferring actions is utterly useless'. It was therefore necessary to bravely confront unreasonable opposition from different parties and not to defer actions purely for pleasing others.

He also pointed out that the cabinet he sought 'must be determined to fight and repel any enemies of its beliefs' regardless of whether they had the support of genro, the House of Peers or the military. It was clear that he expected a strong cabinet to brave confront its enemies and not to give way in order to gain public support.



- (b) What was the attitude of the Cherry Blossom Society towards party politicians?  
Explain your answer with reference to the language and arguments used in Source B. (4 marks)

### Marking Scheme

Attitude

e.g. - Critical, discontented

L1 Explanation lacks balance, only referring to language **or** argument of Source.

[max. 2]

L2 Clear explanation, referring to **both** language **and** argument of Source. [max. 4]

Language:

e.g. - Using negative adjectives such as 'selfish', 'thoroughly degenerate', 'completely immoral' and 'poisonous' to describe party politicians

Arguments:

- e.g. - Party politicians forgot basic principles and spiritual values, and lacked courage to introduce state policies.  
- Party politicians reduced the size of the navy and intended to do the same on the army.

## Suggested Answer

The Cherry Blossom Society held a negative, discontented and critical attitude towards party politicians.

In terms of language, the Society described party politicians to have ‘selfish pursuit’ of power and wealth. The adjective ‘selfish’ meant they only cared about themselves, showing the Society’s criticism against party politicians.

The Society accused party politicians of being ‘thoroughly degenerate’ and ‘completely immoral’. These adjectives showed the decayed and degraded thoughts of these politicians, demonstrating the Society’s discontented attitude.

The Society claimed that party politicians pointed their ‘poisonous sword’ at the military. The metaphor ‘poisonous sword’ was a criticism against the treacherous party politicians, showing the Society’s intention to vilify these politicians and its dissatisfaction towards them.

In terms of arguments, the Society claimed that party politicians ‘forgot basic principles, lacked the courage to carry out state policies, and completely neglected the spiritual values that are essential for the ascendancy of the Yamato people’. The claim showed its criticism against party politicians for their incapability and negligence of basic values and principles.

The Society also claimed that party politicians cut the size of the navy and the same method would ‘be used to reduce the size of the army’. It was natural for the Society, as the backbone of the army, to be discontented with party politicians who intended to reduce the size of the army.

- (c) 'Party politicians should be the most responsible for the failure of party politics in the 1930s.' Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague argument, ineffective in using both Sources and own knowledge, and/or limited discussion of factors that contributed to the failure of party politics in the 1930s. [max. 2]
- L2 Unbalanced discussion with effective use of Sources or own knowledge only, and/or one-side discussion of factors that contributed to the failure of party politics in the 1930s. [max. 4]
- L3 Sound and balanced discussion with effective use of both Sources and own knowledge, and reasonably balanced discussion of factors that contributed to the failure of party politics in the 1930s. [max. 8]

Party politicians:

- e.g. - The coalition cabinet was prone to dissolution with a great number of political parties existing. (Source A)
- Party politicians were corrupt and weak. (Source B)
  - Party politicians demonstrated their weakness in economic, diplomatic and other aspects. (Own knowledge)

Other factors:

- e.g. - Hostile opposition from the military and genro. (Source A)
- Assassination attempts made by ultranationalist organizations such as the Brotherhood of Blood League, as exemplified by the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident, to deal a blow to party politicians (Own knowledge)

### Suggested Answer

Party politicians should be the most responsible.

According to Source A, the newly established cabinet was a 'coalition' one, and Yoshino suggested that a strong cabinet should 'control a majority in the House of Representatives'. Since the coalition cabinet was formed by several political parties, it might not be able to control the House of Representatives and would easily get into disagreements with the great number of political parties existing. This paved the way for its failure later.

From Source A, Yoshino wrote a commentary on the standard of so-called strong cabinet, and concluded that 'deferring actions' and lacking determination as well as courage would only make the cabinet not welcomed by the people. It could be inferred that the weakness of the cabinet led to the dwindling popularity of party politics and eventually its failure.

From Source B, the Cherry Blossom Society accused party politicians of 'forgetting basic principles, lacking the courage to carry out state policies, and completely neglecting the spiritual values that are essential for the ascendancy of the Yamato people'. It was clear that the Society considered them to be incapable and lacking in fundamental values and principles. Their characteristics provoked criticisms and contributed to their failure.

From Source B, the Society also claimed that party politicians were in 'selfish pursuit' of power and wealth while being 'thoroughly degenerate' and 'completely immoral'. It was clear that these extremely corrupt party politicians failed to win the support of the public and ended up failing.

From my own knowledge, party politicians failed to effectively solve economic problems, including the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, Bank Crisis of 1927 and Great Depression of 1929. As a consequence, as many as 3 million were unemployed in Japan in the early 1930s. It was clear that party politicians did little to address economic problems that threatened people's livelihood and eventually led to their failure.

In addition, democracy was not deeply rooted in Japan under the governance of party politicians. They focused solely on pleasing the people with benefits by building schools for them and other ways, instead of educating them the idea of democracy. As a result, the foundation of democracy remained weak and when the people did not support these party politicians anymore, party politics were doomed to fail.

Moreover, governments under party politics also showed their weakness in the diplomatic arena. For example, at the London Conference of 1930, Japanese government representatives gave in to their British and American counterparts and accepted the 5:5:3 ratio of tonnage for heavy cruisers with respect to Britain, the United States and Japan, instead of the 5:5:3.5 expected by the Japanese people. Party politicians' unsatisfactory diplomatic performance disappointed the people and doomed them to failure.

There were other factor that also contributed to the failure of party politics, but they were not as important as the responsibility of party politicians themselves.

From Source A, the military also contributed to the failure of party politics. According to the Source, the military could make 'hostile' and 'unreasonable opposition' to cause executive obstruction to the cabinet. Clearly, the military undermined the governance of party politicians, leading to their low popularity and subsequently the failure of party politics.

However, party politicians were still the most responsible for the failure. In terms of causality, the rise of the military was caused by the limitations of party politics. For example, at the London Naval Conference, party politicians were criticized for signing the Treaty of London without satisfying the requirements the military set before the conference, and obtaining prior approval from the Emperor. Therefore, party politicians should be more responsible.

From my own knowledge, ultranationalist organizations also contributed to the failure of party politics. Exemplified by the Aikokusha and the Brotherhood of Blood League, ultranationalist organizations launched several assassination attempts against party politicians. For example, in 1932, the Brotherhood of Blood League staged against Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident, after which party politicians were intimidated into silence and the position of Prime Minister was dominated by the military. It was clear that the bloody actions by ultranationalist organizations struck a severe blow to party politics and led to its fall.

However, party politicians were still more responsible. In terms of causality, ultranationalists were outraged by the diplomatic incapability of party politicians. For instance, the Brotherhood of Blood League plotted the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident in protest at Inukai Tsuyoshi's attempt to establish Manchukuo in China. Therefore, the weakness of party politicians was more important.

In conclusion, party politicians should be the most responsible.



Study Sources A and B.

DBQ  
#3

## SOURCE A

The following is an extract from a history book.

The Japanese economic crisis arose comparatively late and it was not until the spring of 1930 that Japan received heavy blow from the global economic crisis. From 1929 through 1931, prices and quantities of major export goods – raw silk and cotton products – decreased sharply. Their exports dropped by 44.6% in total and by 62.5% year-over-year in 1932.

Japan was in its prime of party politics during the 1920s, but it failed to solve internal and external crises with which Japan at that time was faced. Additionally, those political parties always focused on their own interests. They dug their own grave by struggling for power and attacking each other. Meanwhile, bribery and corruption were more and more common in elections, and significant corruption cases came in long succession. The prestige of party politics was hugely damaged among people.

The rise of the Fascist movement took place in this background. In countries with parliamentary democracy like the United States, France and Britain, despite the presence of active Fascist associations, the ruling class stopped the development of Fascist movements by modifying the existing parliamentary democracy. While in Japan where feudalism had greater impact and the foundation of parliamentary democracy was weak, the militarist influence developed into a strong Fascist movement that laid an important foundation for the rise of the Fascist party.

## SOURCE B

The following is taken from a history book.

Japanese party politics were aborted and eliminated by militarists. This could definitely be attributed to the lack of suitable political climate to nurture democratic spirit in general citizens after the Meiji Constitution was formulated. Considering the nature of the constitution, however, it showed no approval of the legitimacy of party politics. The presence of the constitution, together with its regulation about the independent supreme command and the Minister of Army and Navy's direct access to the throne, led to the approval of militarism under the constitution. It was also legitimized, regularized and permanentized. The crime of the militarists was even recognized as the 'legitimate right in the country'. Japanese militarism was secured and encouraged by the laws, with full-scale and systematic aggression followed.

- (a) According to Source A, identify the internal and external crises faced by party politics. (4 marks)
- (b) Infer from Source B the nature of the Meiji Constitution. Explain your answer with reference to Source B. (3 marks)
- (c) 'The advantage militarism gained in Japan in the 1930s was mainly a result of the traditional factor.' Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

(a) According to Source A, identify the internal and external crises faced by party politics. (4 marks)

### Marking Scheme

L1 Merely identify the internal or external crises faced by party politics. [max. 2]

L2 Effectively identify the internal or external crises faced by party politics.

[max. 4]

Internal crisis:

- e.g.
- Crisis of confidence ('The prestige of party politics was hugely damaged among people')
  - The rise of the Fascist movement ('the militarist influence developed into a strong Fascist movement')

External crisis:

- e.g.
- Global economic crisis ('received heavy blow from the global economic crisis')

### Suggested Answer

In terms of internal crisis, party politics was faced with the crisis of confidence among people. From the source, the political parties often 'struggled for power' and scandals of bribery and corruption were common in elections. Their image and prestige were thus 'hugely damaged among people' and crisis of confidence in governance was resulted.

Also, the Fascist movement also became an internal crisis faced by party politics. According to the Source, 'the militarist influence developed into a strong Fascist movement', which was actually a challenge to the governance of party politics. The Fascists even replaced party politicians and rose to power, manifesting themselves as the internal crisis with which party politics was faced.

As for external crisis, the source states that Japan 'received heavy blow from the global economic crisis' in the spring of 1930 that led to a 44.6% decrease in Japan's exports throughout 1929-31 and gave rise to domestic economic crisis. It is clear that external economic crisis was an acute crisis for party politics.

(b) Infer from Source B the nature of the Meiji Constitution. Explain your answer with reference to Source B. (3 marks)

### Marking Scheme

Valid nature [max. 1]  
e.g. - Autocracy; supreme status of the military

Valid explanation [max. 2]  
e.g. - Enshrined in the Constitution, the independent military command helped legitimize, regularize and permanentize militarism.

### Suggested Answer

The Constitution was autocratic in nature.

From the Source, the Meiji Constitution 'showed no approval of the legitimacy of party politics' in nature. Apparently, the Constitution was not intended to attract people with different backgrounds to join the government and establish a democracy with a multi-party system with its disapproval of party politics, being therefore autocratic in nature.

From the Source, the Constitution guaranteed 'the independent supreme command and the Minister of Army and Navy's direct access to the throne', which granted disproportionately large power to the military that was accountable not to the government but to the Japanese Emperor. Such approval under the Constitution also legitimized and regularized militarism, showing that the Constitution was autocratic in nature.

- (c) 'The advantage militarism gained in Japan in the 1930s was mainly a result of the traditional factor.' Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague argument, ineffective in using both Sources and own knowledge, and/or limited discussion of factors leading to the advantage militarism gained in Japan in the 1930s. [max. 2]
- L2 Unbalanced discussion with effective use of Sources or own knowledge only, and/or one-side discussion of factors leading to the advantage militarism gained in Japan in the 1930s. [max. 4]
- L3 Sound and balanced discussion with effective use of both Sources and own knowledge, and reasonably balanced discussion of factors leading to the advantage militarism gained in Japan in the 1930s. [max. 8]

Traditional factor:

- e.g. - Deep-seated feudalism and weak foundation of parliamentary democracy in Japan (Source A)
- The tradition of excessive power of the military was fully manifested by the Meiji Constitution. (Source B)
  - Ideas of patriotism and loyalty to the Emperor in Japanese tradition. (Own knowledge)
  - Military-led thoughts in Japanese tradition (Own knowledge)

Other factors:

- e.g. - Economic crisis (Source A)
- Corruption of party politics (Source B)
  - Discrimination of the powers (Own knowledge)



## Suggested Answer

I agree with the statement.

From Source A, Japan was a place that 'feudalism had greater impact and the foundation of parliamentary democracy was weak'. Feudalism refers to the traditional and feudalistic political system of Japan, while the country also lacked the tradition of democracy. As a result, the militarist influence was able to grow healthily and led to the rise of the militarist faction.

From Source B, Japan did not have 'suitable political climate to nurture democratic spirit in general citizens' even after the implementation of the Meiji Constitution. The reason was exactly the lack of tradition of democracy in Japan. Consequently, this became a hotbed for the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

From Source B, the excessive power of the military was explicitly demonstrated by the Meiji Constitution, which included 'the independent supreme command' and 'the Minister of Army and Navy's direct access to the throne'. As a result, the military enjoyed supreme power and its upcoming full-scale invasion was 'secured and encouraged by the laws'. This was an important reason for the rise of militarism.

From my own knowledge, ideas of patriotism and loyalty to the Emperor in Japanese tradition also led to the rise of the militarists. As early as 1890, Japan issued the Imperial Rescript on Education, which stressed patriotism, loyalty to the Emperor and personal contributions to the country. Such indoctrination of ideas was favourable to the presence of militarist associations afterwards, including the Brotherhood of Blood League and Aikokusha. This became the origin of militarism.

The traditional Bushido spirit and military-led ideology also helped militarism gain an advantage. In Japanese tradition the Bushido spirit, which encourages people to be valiant, was advocated. In addition to a series of victories like the one in the Russo-Japanese War (1894-95), the military had a supreme status in society and this was a factor working for the rise of militarism.

Despite the presence of other factors, they were less important than the traditional factor.

From Source A, Japan was faced with 'heavy blow from the global economic crisis'. Its exports plunged by 44.6% throughout 1929-31. This was a crisis for party politics and eventually led to the fall of party politics and an advantage for militarism.

However, the traditional factor was more important. From Source B, other countries were also faced with economic crisis, but Fascism was contained because these Western countries had a well-established democratic system and the ruling class 'modified the existing parliamentary democracy'. The lack of tradition of democracy in Japan made the country prone to the corrosion of militarism. Therefore, the traditional factor was more important.

From Source A, party politicians were very corrupt and they often 'struggled for power'. Scandals of bribery and corruption in elections were common. Consequently, they lost public support and this gave an advantage to militarism in the 1930s.

However, the traditional factor was more important. The Bushido spirit in Japanese tradition emphasizes prestige, loyalty and self-control, while the corruption of party politics went completely against them. As a result, the general public gave up their support for party politicians and turned to support the military that stressed integrity. This led to an advantage for the militarists in the 1930s.

From my own knowledge, the discrimination of the powers also gave an advantage to militarism. For example, America implemented the Immigration Act of 1924 to ban Japanese immigration to there. This gave Japan sense of be discriminated and the Japanese supported the militarists' hardline diplomacy, allowing their rise to power.

However, the traditional factor was more important. The Bushido spirit put much emphasis on personal and national glory. That is why the Japanese supported the militarists so enthusiastically when they were faced with the powers' discrimination. Therefore, the traditional factor was the genuine root cause.

Therefore, the traditional factor was the main reason for the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

Study Sources A and B.

DBQ  
#4

## SOURCE A

Below are the highlights of the *Summary of Fundamental National Policies* adopted by the Japanese Koki Hirota Cabinet on 7 August 1936.

- Get rid of the Great Powers' East Asiatic policy of aggression and achieve mutual happiness based on the genuine 'live-and-let-live' principle. This is the embodiment of the spirit of the Imperial Way as well as the guiding principle our country should always follow in terms of foreign policy.
- For the continent, the goals are pursuing sound development of Manchukuo, strengthening the Japan-Manchukuo defense setup, eradicating the Soviet threat in the North while preparing against Great Britain and the United States, and bringing about the close cooperation of Japan, Manchukuo and China with a view to promoting our economic development. When carrying out these policies, Japan should be careful to maintain its friendly relations with other countries.
- For the South Seas, especially the outer South Seas area, efforts will be made to boost the economic development of our nation. Without provoking other countries, we will extend our influence through gradual and peaceful means. Having this development together with the construction of Manchukuo, we strive for repletion of our national strength.

## SOURCE B

The following is adapted from the lyrics of the Japanese militarist song *Patriotic March* released in 1937.

Look! The dawn has come above the eastern sea  
Glorious and bright, the sun rides up on high  
The righteous spirit of heaven and earth, full of vitality  
Hope springs in the whole Japan  
Ohhh! Fine weather with morning clouds  
The towering Mount Fuji, an awe-inspiring sight  
Free from invasion, unshakeable foundation –  
This is the pride of our Nippon

Join the Sun to stay supportive of and loyal to the sovereign of unbroken line  
We loyal subjects, one and all  
Follow His might and fulfill our great destiny.  
Make the world our home as the slogan suggests  
Lead fellow men to establish the just peace  
To ensure eternal prosperity of the Empire ahead

- (a) Identify two external goals in the Summary of Fundamental National Policies. Explain your answer with one clue for each goal from Source A. (4 marks)
- (b) With reference to Sources A and B, identify the common objectives of militarism that appear in both Sources. (4 marks)
- (c) If you were a Japanese citizen in 1937, would you support the militarists? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

## Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) Identify two external goals in the Summary of Fundamental National Policies.

Explain your answer with one clue for each goal from Source A. (4 marks)

### Marking Scheme

L1 One effective external goal or two external goals without effective explanation.

[max. 2]

L2 Two effective external goals.

[max. 4]

e.g. - To drive the influence of the powers out of Asia. ('Get rid of the Great Powers' East Asiatic policy of aggression' as the Source suggests)

- To step up Japan's expansion into neighbouring regions. ('Extend our influence through gradual and peaceful means' as the Source suggests)

### Suggested Answer

The first goal was to drive the influence of the powers out of Asia. According to the first bullet point of the Source, 'getting rid of the Great Powers' East Asiatic policy of aggression' was the way to apply its 'live-and-let-live' principle with East Asia. It was clear that Japan embody the spirit of the Imperial Way by driving away the influence of the powers.

The second goal was to step up Japan's expansion into neighbouring regions. According to the fourth bullet point of the Source, Japan wanted to 'extend its influence through gradual and peaceful means' and 'have this development together with the construction of Manchukuo'. Japan was apparently intended to step up its expansion into the South Seas area and tighten its control over the region through Manchukuo with a view to strengthening the nation.



(b) With reference to Sources A and B, identify the common objectives of militarism that appear in both Sources. (4 marks)

### Marking Scheme

L1 One common objective, or two common objectives without effective explanation. [max. 2]

L2 Two effective common objectives [max. 4]

- e.g.
- Territorial expansion
  - Support for the Emperor
  - Contribution to peace
  - National security

## Suggested Answer

The first common objective was to step up its expansion into neighbouring regions. From Source A, the phrase 'extend our influence through gradual and peaceful means' suggested that militarism had the objective of extending the country's influence in the South Seas. From Source B, the phrase 'make the world our home as the slogan suggests' also showed its call for territorial expansion and annexation of neighbouring regions. Therefore, territorial expansion was one of the objectives of militarism.

The second common objective was to support the Emperor. From Source A, 'the spirit of the Imperial Way' referred to the principles by which the Emperor ruled the country. This showed the support for the Emperor with the Imperial Way as the guiding principle. From Source B, the line 'stay supportive of and loyal to the sovereign of unbroken line' also showed the support for the Emperor. Therefore, supporting the Emperor was also an objective of militarism.

The third common objective was to bring about peace and prosperity. From Source A, the phrase 'achieve mutual happiness based on the genuine "live-and-let-live" principle' showed the objective of co-existence and co-prosperity with East Asian countries. From Source B, the lines 'establish the just peace' and 'to ensure eternal prosperity of the Empire ahead' showed that the militarists wanted to bring eternal peace and prosperity to the Empire. Therefore, one of the objectives of militarism was to bring about peace and prosperity.

The fourth common objective was to enhance Japan's national security. From Source A, the phrase 'strive for repletion of our national strength' showed the militarists intended to enhance Japan's national strength. From Source B, the line 'Free from invasion, unshakeable foundation – This is the pride of our Nippon' showed that the militarists took pride in the fact that Japan was a powerful and stable country free from invasion. Therefore, another objective of militarism was to enhance Japan's national strength and make its foundation unshakeable.

Note: Since the question requires only two actions, student may choose any two of the above arguments.

- (c) If you were a Japanese citizen in 1937, would you support the militarists? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague argument, ineffective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 2]
- L2 Unbalanced argument, using Source *or* own knowledge only. [max. 4]
- L3 Reasonable and balanced argument, using both Source and own knowledge [max. 8]

#### Support:

- e.g.
- The militarists supported territorial expansion that helped raise Japan's international status. (Sources A and B)
  - The militarists promoted Japan's economic development by 'bringing about the close cooperation of Japan, Manchukuo and China' (Source A)
  - Japan suffered a severe economic downturn after the Great Depression, and the objectives proposed by the militarists helped overcome the economic crisis. (Own knowledge)
  - Japan was discriminated and targeted against by the Western powers in the 1920s, and what the militarists suggested would improve Japan's international status. (Own knowledge)

#### Oppose:

- e.g.
- The militarists' expansionist policy would inevitably create conflicts with neighbouring countries and even spark off wars. (Sources A and B)
  - The militarists went for territorial expansion and led to the Sino-Japanese War in 1937. (Own knowledge)
  - The militarists gave rise to the reign of terror in Japan. (Own knowledge)
  - The militarists set a large budget for military expenses and overwhelmed Japan's economy. (Own knowledge)

### Suggested Answer

I would not support the militarists.

From Source A, the militarists claimed to 'extend our influence through gradual and peaceful means' 'without provoking other countries', but territorial expansion would inevitably lead to conflicts with other countries and undermine Japan's relationships with them. I would therefore not support the militarists.

From Source B, the militarists proposed to 'make the world our home as the slogan suggested' so as to 'establish the just peace'. However, in order to reclaim territories from neighbouring countries and make the world our home, Japan could only use the means of war to put them under Japanese control. As this would lead to continuous wars, I would not support the militarists.

From my own knowledge, in terms of foreign expansion, the Japanese military already staged the September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident and January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident in 1931 and 1932 respectively, and started a full-scale invasion against China in 1937. Considering the heavy casualties, I would oppose what the militarists proposed.

Externally speaking, the militarists killed innocent civilians by carrying out the Nanjing Massacre in December 1937. Since killing the innocent was not a civilized act, I would not support the militarists.

Politically speaking, the militarists made relentless assassination attempts as typified by the one against Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi in 1932, and these attempts put Japan under a reign of terror. Given this terrible consequence, I would not support the militarists.

Economically speaking, the militarists allocated massive resources for military purposes, especially after the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in July 1937. The country's all-out war efforts created substantial burdens to its economy and caused people to suffer. Therefore, I would not support them.

Socially speaking, the militarists greatly restricted the freedom of speech, press and assembly, and dismissed teachers promoting liberal and democratic ideas at schools. I would therefore not support the militarists who limited the freedom in society.

It was true that the objectives of the militarists were somewhat favourable.

From Source A, the militarists supported territorial expansion in China and the South Seas area in order to 'strive for repletion of our national strength'. They made Japan stronger and spread its influence across the continent of Asia.

From Source A, the militarists emphasized ‘bringing about the close cooperation of Japan, Manchukuo and China with a view to promoting our economic development’. This showed that Japan’s economy could be improved through cooperation with the Manchukuo and the Republic of China. This plan was economically attractive.

Also, from Source B, ‘the just peace’ and ‘eternal prosperity of the Empire ahead’ could be guaranteed by ‘making the world our home as the slogan suggested’. In other words, invasions would bring about eternal peace and prosperity upon completion.

Source B also included the line ‘Free from invasion, unshakeable foundation – This is the pride of our Nippon’, which showed the militarists’ objective of pursuing national security and stability. This was also what a general Japanese citizen would expect.

From my own knowledge, economically speaking, as many as 3 million people were unemployed after the Great Depression of 1929. The militarists’ approach of seizing resources through territorial expansion could effectively improve the stagnant economy, having some advantages.

Diplomatically speaking, the tough diplomatic stance of the militarists would help improve Japan’s international status and increase its influence over international affairs after the Japanese navy was restrained from developing by Britain and the US at the London Conference of 1930. This also showed some advantages.

After comparing both sides, I would oppose more than support the militarists. In economic terms, territorial expansion would open Japan to more resources and overseas markets in favour of its economic revival, but Japan would need to pay a high price for the war efforts and it would be even more not worth paying once Japan lost. To err on the side of caution, I would not support the militarists.

In terms of peace, the militarists claimed that eternal peace could be achieved after unifying the neighbouring regions; but in fact, their fierce resistance to Japanese aggression would lead to prolonged wars and heavy casualties, and Japan’s expansion in all directions was likely to attract joint counter-attacks from all directions that would lead to its defeat. Since the loss would outweigh the gain, I would not support the militarists.

In conclusion, I would show no support for the militarists.



Study Sources A and B.

DBQ

#5

## SOURCE A

The following cartoon was published in China in 1932 after the establishment of the 'Manchurian regime' under the assistance of Japan.



「軍民的一致協力 現在的滿洲樂土」: 'Joint effort of the military and civilians - the present Manchurian paradise'

## SOURCE B

The following is adapted from a history book's depiction on Japan during her early 1930s.

In the early 1930s, the cabinet of Wakatsuki upheld the principle of 'non-expansionism'. However, the Kwantung Army disregarded decisions of the government and took unauthorized military action (the Manchurian Incident). The government attempted to solve the dispute through diplomatic negotiation. But Seiyukai, the opposition party, perceived it as feeble and criticized the authorities. In addition to the intensive reports by different newspapers on the latest news of war, most of the Japanese supported the action taken by the Kwantung Army. Thus, the cabinet of Wakatsuki was forced to step down.

After the Manchurian Incident, newspapers and the radio did their utmost to make intense reports. The civilians discredited political parties since they failed to stop the spread of fear effectively. They also felt discontented over the greedy zaibatsu. Meanwhile, they tended to support actions taken by the military force. The prolonged economic stagnation further intensified their disgruntled emotion. Consequently, part of the military and right-wing forces grew up. ... On May 15, 1932, the Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi was assassinated by a young naval officer because of his reserved attitude towards the independence of the Manzhouguo. The 'May 15 Incident' marked the end of party politics.

- (a) Infer the purpose of the cartoon with reference to Source A. (4 marks)
- (b) Identify the reasons behind the rise of the military and right-wing forces in Japan with reference to Source B. (3 marks)
- (c) With reference to Sources A and B and using your own knowledge, discuss the internal and external impact of Japan's militarism. (8 marks)

## Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) Infer the purpose of the cartoon with reference to Source A. (4 marks)

### Marking Scheme

L1 Vague answer, only describing the poster, not inferring its purpose. [max. 2]

L2 Reasonable inference of purpose, with effective reference to the Source. [max. 4]

Purpose:

e.g. - To propagandize friendly relationship between China and Japan, gain Chinese support for the Manchurian regime and stem discontent with Japan.

Clues:

- e.g. - The cartoon was published in 1932 after the establishment of the 'Manchurian regime' under the assistance of Japan. Therefore, the Japanese wanted to enlist Chinese support for the Manchurian regime.
- In the cartoon, the Japanese military man placed his hand on the shoulder of the Chinese guy. This scene illustrates friendly relationship between the two states with a view to lessen the Chinese's hatred towards Japan.
  - The caption of the cartoon 'joint effort of the military and civilians' represents that the Japanese military and the Chinese were united. The Sino-Japanese relationship shown in the Source flatters to deceive.
  - In the cartoon, Manchuria was described as a prosperous 'paradise', while the Japanese military flag in the back was sharp. This implies that Manchuria under Japanese assistance was affluent.

## Suggested Answer

The purpose of the cartoon was to propagandize friendly relationship between China and Japan, gain Chinese support for the Manchurian regime and stem discontent with Japan.

First of all, the cartoon was published in 1932 after the establishment of the 'Manchurian regime' under the assistance of Japan. Therefore, we may conclude that the Japanese wanted to enlist Chinese support for the Manchurian regime.

Secondly, the Japanese military man in the cartoon placed his hand on the shoulder of the Chinese guy. This scene illustrates friendly relationship between the two states with a view to lessen the Chinese's hatred towards Japan and enlist their support.

Moreover, the caption of the cartoon 'joint effort of the military and civilians' represents that the Japanese military and the Chinese were united. The Sino-Japanese relationship shown in the Source flatters to deceive so as to lower Chinese discontent towards Japan in favour of the establishment of the Manzhouguo.

Lastly, Manchuria was described as a prosperous 'paradise' in the cartoon. There was also a sharp Japanese military flag in the back. These imply that Manchuria under Japanese assistance was affluent. Therefore, the purpose should be enlisting Chinese support for the Manchurian regime and reducing their discontent towards Japan.

(b) Identify the reasons behind the rise of the military and right-wing forces in Japan with reference to Source B. (3 marks)

### Marking Scheme

L1 Attempts to explain the reasons without effective use of the Source. [max. 2]

L2 Presents clear explanation with due reference to the Source. [max. 3]

e.g. - The cabinet's principle of 'non-expansionism' drew criticism from the military and other political parties.

- Influence of the media
- Economic depression

### Suggested Answer

Firstly, the principle of 'non-expansionism' upheld by the cabinet of Wakatsuki was not agreed by the military and other political parties. The military disregarded the government's decisions and staged the Manchurian Incident without its authorization. Meanwhile Seiyukai also criticized its feeble performance. At last, the cabinet of Wakatsuki stepped down, which led to the rise of military and right-wing forces.

Also, the media continuously made sensational news reports on foreign invasion launched by the military. 'Newspapers and the radio did their utmost to make intense reports.' As a result, the image of the government became more negative while more people supported the military.

Moreover, economic depression also promoted the rise of the military. From the Source, 'prolonged economic stagnation' undermined the credibility of the government. Such circumstances allowed the rise of the military and right-wing forces.



(c) With reference to Sources A and B and using your own knowledge, discuss the internal and external impact of Japan's militarism. (8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer and ineffective use of both the Sources and own knowledge. [max. 2]
- L2 Unbalanced answer and effective use of the Sources or own knowledge only. [max. 4]
- L3 Sound and balanced answer, with effective use of both the Sources and own knowledge. [max. 8]

Internal impact:

- e.g. - The military and right-wing forces started the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident and ended party politics. (Source B)
- Besides the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident, the militarists also staged coups like the February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident. (Own knowledge)
  - Militarism led to autocracy in Japan. Examples are restoration of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law (1936) and establishment of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (1940). (Own knowledge)
  - The militarists allocated most of the national budget for military construction, which led to abnormal economic development. (Own knowledge)
  - The militarists deprived people of freedom. For example, they suppressed strikes and practiced censorship that threatened freedom of the press. (Own knowledge)

External impact:

- e.g. - The Kwantung Army invaded China. They established Manzhouguo to enhance their control over occupied areas in China. (Source A)
- The Kwantung Army started the September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident and invaded China. (Source B)
  - Besides the September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident, the military also started the January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident and the July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident to invade China. (Own knowledge)
  - Invading countries in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia and Indonesia. (Own knowledge)

## Suggested Answer

Considering internal impact, Source B shows its influence in political aspect. With the rise of the military and right-wing forces, Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi was assassinated by right-wing military man [the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident], which marked the end of party politics.

From my own knowledge, in political aspect, the militarists also staged coup called the February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident, in which several high-ranking officials were killed. These examples illustrate that endless coups and assassinations was an internal impact caused by militarism.

Also, militarism led to autocracy in Japan. For example, the restoration of the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law in 1936 put formation of cabinet again under the control of the military. The Imperial Rule Assistance Association (1940) was established in 1940 to replace all political parties, setting up one-party dictatorship in Japan.

Economically, the militarists introduced the National Mobilization Law in 1938 which allocated most of the national budget for military construction. The proportion further rose to 99% in 1944. This led to abnormal economic development in Japan.

In social aspect, the militarists deprived people of freedom by breaking strikes and practicing censorship. For example, film producer Akira Iwasaki was arrested in 1941 for breaching the Peace Preservation Law. Freedom of speech, publication and other kinds was greatly suppressed.

For external impact, Source A depicted a Japanese military man and a Chinese civilian who cooperated to build the 'Manchurian paradise'. This scene reflects the Kwantung Army's expansion in China. They established the 'Manchurian regime' to enhance their control over occupied areas in China in breach of China's sovereignty.

From Source B, the Kwantung Army disregarded decisions of the cabinet and 'took unauthorized military action (the Manchurian Incident)' targeting China. China thus faced foreign encroachment and invasions.

From my own knowledge, besides the September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident, the military also started the January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident, followed by the July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident of 1937 that marked the beginning of a full-scale war against China.

Apart from invading China, the Japanese military introduced the idea of 'New Order in East Asia' in 1938. The Japanese invaded Southeast Asian countries like Malaysia and Indonesia under the guise of liberation. Southeast Asia thus became battleground as well.

## Grid Method:

**(a) List out two suggestions (4marks)**

**Suggested Answer**

Firstly, it should control a majority of political parties in the House of Representatives. As the newly established cabinet was a coalition one, he thought that it should control most of the political parties 'regardless of whether it is formed by a single party or a coalition', so that the House of Peers and the military would not make hostile opposition, preventing it from coming under criticism.

Secondly, it should bravely confront opposition from the House of Peers, the Privy Council, the military and genro, as it would be useless if it 'pleases everybody by deferring actions'. It can only gain public support by confronting 'enemies of its beliefs' bravely.

**(b) Point out the attitude according to the language used in the source (4marks)**

**Suggested Answer**

Negative, scornful and critical attitude can be seen from the negative description of the party politicians given by the Society.

First of all, the party politicians are described as 'wholly preoccupied with their selfish pursuit of' power and wealth, and 'selfish' means 'caring only about themselves'. It shows the Society's criticism against the politicians.

Secondly, the Society claimed that the party politicians were 'degenerate'. The word implies that their thoughts were degraded and depraved, showing its dissatisfaction

Thirdly, it described the party politicians as 'completely immoral', condemning their evil thoughts. The language used also reflects its critical attitude.

Moreover, it described the party politicians' action as 'deceiving'. It implies that they kept the truth hidden from the people and the Tenno, vilifying their acts.

Lastly, it suggested that the party politicians were 'pointing the poisonous sword at the military'. It used the words 'poisonous sword' to criticize their cunning policies, showing the intention of vilifying them.

(c) Did party politicians or the military have to bear a greater responsibility  
[S+K](7marks)

### **Suggested Answer**

Party politicians should bear more responsibility than the military.

From Source A, as the newly established cabinet was a 'coalition' one and there were many political parties involved, unity was difficult to achieve among the members of the cabinet. Large number of political parties involved and disagreement among them paved the way to the failure of the party government.

Also, in Source A, Yoshino Sakuzo wrote a commentary on the standard of so-called strong cabinet, and concluded that 'deferring actions', lacking determination and courage would only make the cabinet not welcomed by the people. It can be inferred that the weakness of the cabinet led to dwindling popularity of party politics and eventually its failure.

From Source B, the Cherry Blossom Society criticized that the party politicians were selfish and 'degenerate'. They also deceived the people and the Tenno and were not in the interest of the country. These made them not supported but criticized by the people and the military, leading to the failure of party politics.

From my own knowledge, the people did not support the cabinet in Japan. The cabinet often received opposition and criticism from the Privy Council and the military, and the cabinet changed for 4 times in only 6 years (1925-31). It shows that the lack of support was an important reason for its failure.

From my own knowledge, the political parties had a close link with the business in order to get more political donations. Their policies often benefited the zaibatsu, like selling government property in low price and taxing them at lower rates. They were not supported by the people owing to their selfishness and failed.

Moreover, democracy was not deeply rooted in Japan under the governance of the party politicians. They only focused on pleasing the people with money, like building schools for them, but not educating them the idea of democracy. Thus, the foundation of democracy remained weak and the people did not favour the politicians later, marking the failure of party politics.



True, the military should bear part of the responsibility for the failure. From Source A, the military may have made 'hostile opposition', causing difficulties for the administration of the cabinet.

Also, 'as the mainstay of the army', the Cherry Blossom Society in Source B fiercely criticized party politicians, damaging their image. It also contributed to the failure of party politics to a certain extent.

From my own knowledge, the Brotherhood of Blood League, comprised mainly of reactionary elements of the Imperial Japanese navy, staged an assassination against Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi and caused the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident, which reduced party politicians to silence and led to the failure of party politics.

However, the rise of the military was owing to the limitation of party politics. For example, in the London Naval Conference, the politicians failed to satisfy the military's requirement made before the conference and signed the Treaty of London without the permission of the Emperor, leading to serious criticism.

Also, Wakatsuki's cabinet failed to solve the problems brought by the Great Depression (1929). He came under criticism from the military for his incompetence, leading to the fall of his cabinet.

Therefore, the party politicians were more responsible,

**Grid Method:**

## Analysis of Exam Essays by K.W. HO

### A. Factor

★ **Declarative and Evaluative**

1	Discuss the reasons for the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.
2	Explain why militarism rose in Japan in the 1930s but not earlier.
3	Choose two countries and discuss the factors affecting their relationship in the period 1900-49.

★ **Multi-factor and 'relative importance' (Single-subject)**

4	'The failure of party politics was the most important factor in contributing to the success of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.' Comment on the validity of this statement.
5	'External factors were the most important reason for the military takeover of the Japanese government in the 1930s.' Comment on the validity of this statement.
6	Discuss the importance of the economic factor relative to other factors in causing the rise of Japanese militarism in the 1930s.
7	To what extent did the traditional factor bring the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s?
8	'Foreign factors were the most important factor leading to Japanese aggression in the period 1931-41.' Comment on the validity of this statement.

★ **Multi-factor and 'relative importance' (Dual-subject)**

9	Assess the relative importance of party politicians and the military to the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.
10	Assess the relative importance of domestic and external factors to the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.

★ **Multi-factor and 'relative importance' (Multi-subject)**

11	Assess the relative importance of the major factors that caused the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.
12	Assess the relative importance of the major factors that led to the adoption of foreign expansionist policy by Japan in the 1930s.

## B. Situation

### ★ Declarative and Evaluative

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 13 | Examine the major characteristics of Japan in the Taisho period (1912-26).  |
| 14 | Trade and explain the political development of Japan in the period 1900-45. |
| 15 | Trade and explain the economic development of Japan in the period 1900-45.  |

### ★ Polar

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 16 | To what extent could Japan be regarded as a modernized country in the beginning of the 20th century? |
| 17 | To what extent was Japan a modernized country? Limit your discussion up to the 1920s.                |

### ★ Comparative

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 18 | Examine to what extent Japan in the early 20th century was different from what it had been in the late 20th century. |
|----|--|

## C. Significance

### ★ Declarative and Evaluative

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 19 | Discuss the impact of Japan on the continent to which it belong in the first half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. |
| 20 | Discuss the domestic and international impact of Japanese militarism.  |

### ★ Polar

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 21 | 'Militarism was a loss rather than a gain to Japan up to 1945.' Comment on the validity of this statement. |
|----|--|

### ★ Comparative

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 22 | In what ways was the 1930s a turning point in Japanese history in the first half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century?              |
| 23 | In what ways was the Second World War a turning point in Japanese history in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century?                     |
| 24 | Compare the First World War and the Second World War in terms of their impact on Japan.  |
| 25 | Compare the impact of the period of militarist rule (1931-45) and the SCAP occupation period (1945-52) on Japan's development. |
| 26 | To what extent was the First World War a turning point in Japanese history in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century?              |
| 27 | 'Militarism did more harm than good to Japan.' Comment on the validity of this statement with reference to the period 1930-45. |

## Discuss the reasons for the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.

### Essay

#### #1

As a military spirit, militarism bears a definition that all decisions related to society and the nation are based on military concerns. It encourages using armed force to solve problems and supports expansionist foreign policy. Militarism in Japan rose in the 1930s as a replacement of party politics. The reasons for its rise can be discussed from political, economic, social, military and diplomatic perspectives.

Politically, the incompetence of the democratic government was an important reason for the militarist takeover in the 1930s. The democratic government was corrupt and rocked by a series of scandals. For example, there were 15,000 cases of violation of the Election Law in 1924 and they ruined the government's reputation. Also, the Cabinet was frequently reorganized. From 1918 to 1932, there were in total 11 cases of Cabinet reshuffle, which showed the instability of it. More importantly, the government displayed its weakness when putting forward policies. For instance, Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was against the establishment of *Manzhouguo* 偽滿洲國 in China and thus attracted criticism from radical elements and the mass media in the early 1930s. He was eventually assassinated by members of the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團, who gained 350,000 signatures in blood afterwards from people around the country to plead for a lenient sentence. This showed that party politics had lost popular support. In contrast, militarist organizations that used violence against the democratic government gained public support and militarism dominated Japanese politics in the 1930s. Therefore, the incompetence of the democratic government must be responsible for the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

Economically, the poor economy was of great importance to the rise of militarism. Economic prosperity always drums up support for the government. But Japan's exports declined sharply and its economy experienced recession because the powers returned to the Chinese market after WW1 ended in the late 1910s. Worse still, Japan was hit by several economic crises in the 1920s and faced serious economic problems. For example, the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 in 1923 caused destruction of more than 100 thousand houses and losses of US\$30 billion. About 30 banks were closed during the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 of 1927. After the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 of 1929, Japan's economy reached its trough and the number of unemployed climbed to 3 million. The depressed economy made the government lose its popularity because they thought it was incapable of solving economic problems. It also cultivated support of the Japanese for expansionist foreign policy adopted by the militarists. After the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變(1932) were staged by the *Kwantung Army* 關東軍 in China, the Japanese and the press not only showed no criticism towards its actions but also expressed their support. Rise of militarism became possible in the 1930s with popular support. Therefore, economic recession provided a breeding ground for militarism.

In social aspect, extreme nationalism in Japanese tradition was an underlying factor leading to the rise of militarism. Traditionally, Bushido thoughts were deep-rooted in Japan and the Japanese were habituated to absolute obedience. The Meiji government even did intense brainwashing on Japanese nationalism, suggesting sacrifice for the country and saving other Asian races to fight for prestige for the Yamato people. The *Imperial Rescript on Education* 教育敕語 published in 1890, which stressed loyalty, patriotism and sacrifice, was a typical example of indoctrination of ideas. Exposed to extreme nationalist ideas, the Japanese established militarism and related organizations, including the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會(1901) that backed invasion of China for achieving *Pan-Asianism* 大亞細亞主義, and the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團(1931) that aimed at removing corrupt officials through assassination. Afterwards, these organizations launch several mutinies to strike a blow to the democratic government. For example, the Brotherhood of Blood League plotted the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 in 1932 which Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was assassinated and party politicians were not dared to challenge the military. After that, almost all Prime Ministers were generals or the Genro and this marked the end of party politics. Therefore, traditional extreme nationalism was also an important factor.

In military aspect, the excessive power of the military was also a reason for the rise of militarism. Traditionally, the military in Japan enjoyed huge political power. Before Emperor Meiji came to the throne, Japan politics were under the control of *shogun of the shogunate* 幕府大將軍. After regaining ascendancy, the Emperor granted a huge power to the military because of the great contribution of the samurai from different domains in the *Anti-Shogunate Movement* 倒幕運動. For example, the *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 stated that the military had direct access to the Emperor and were answerable to him. In addition, the Cabinet was controlled by the military because as stated in the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制, a Cabinet could not be formed without the participation of the military as the Secretary of the Army and Navy. Although this requirement was cancelled once in 1913, the power enjoyed by the military was never weakened. The unauthorized assassination of *Zhang Zhoulin* 張作霖 by the *Kwantung Army* 關東軍 in 1928 showed that the military was not influenced by the Cabinet. After the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事變(1936), the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law was restored and the military were able to manipulate the formation and operations of the Cabinet again. Since then, almost all cabinet members were from the military, which means that they controlled the Cabinet completely. It is apparent that the excessive power of the military paved the way for the rise of militarism in Japan.



In diplomatic aspect, Western discrimination against Japan was also an important factor. Japan had been building up its strength after the *Meiji Restoration* 明治維新. Not only did it defeat China in the *First Sino-Japanese War* 甲午戰爭 (1894-95), but it also scored a victory over Russia, an European power, in the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭(1904-05). The Western powers could feel the growing threat of Japan and adopted racially exclusive policy against Japan. One example was the American *Immigration Act* 排外法案 of 1924, which banned Asian immigrants, including Japanese ones, to the US. The powers even attempted to check its influence. For example, Japan was forced to return Shandong to China in the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 of 1921-22 and the ratio on heavy cruisers was set to be 10(US) : 10(Britain) : 6(Japan) to curb Japanese naval expansion in the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930). This induced anti-foreign sentiment among the Japanese and their support for territorial expansion by the military since the 1920s, which is exemplified by the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931). They wanted to gain back national glory through foreign encroachment and the militarists successfully rose to power with their support. Therefore, Western discrimination against Japan also fostered the rise of militarism in Japan.

To conclude, political, economic, social, military, diplomatic and other factors combined to facilitate the rise of militarism in the 1930s. Unfortunately, the militarist takeover led to endless aggression of Japan and it drew Asia into wars. Japan made many enemies worldwide and paved the way for its defeat afterwards.

Words: 1,136

## Explain why militarism rose in Japan in the 1930s but not earlier.

Japan's political, economic, social and diplomatic situation changed a lot before and after the 1930s. These changes led to the rising popularity of militarism. Militarism thus rose in the 1930s. In the following essay, the above aspects will account for the reasons why militarism rose in the 1930s but not earlier.

In political aspect, the weaknesses of Japan's democratic government led to the rise of militarism. Starting from 1918, the democratic government had a number of corruption. Worse still, they colluded with the zaibatsu to gain political donations for elections, thus winning the elections. Gradually, the zaibatsu had huge influence and they even controlled Japan's economy. For example, the share of *Mitsui* 三井, *Mitsubishi* 三菱 and *Sumitomo* 住友 in Japan's *mining industry* 採礦業 and *transportation* 交通運輸業 was as much as 63% in 1930. Small and medium-sized enterprises were difficult to develop and the middle class were not satisfied with the government. Besides, the weaknesses of Japan's government were also shown in diplomacy, one of which was the event of building 'Manchuguo' 偽滿洲國. Since the government adopted *non-expansionist policy* 不擴大方針, they held a firm stance that Japan should not set up the 'Manchuguo' in China. Eventually, the militarists felt discontent and the *Brotherhood Blood League* 血盟團 even killed *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅, who was the Prime Minister at that time. The event was called the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 (1932). People soon lost support to the democratic government and the Prime Ministers after 1932 were occupied by genro or militarists. Militarism got widespread support. Hence, the weaknesses of Japan's democratic government led to the rise of militarism.

On the contrary, before the 1930s, democracy was prevalent so militarism did not rise. Starting from the 1910s, Japan's democratic movement developed rapidly. For example, the *First Constitution Protection Movement* 第一次護憲運動 was carried out in 1913, during which the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制 was abolished. Later, *Hara Kei* 原敬 even became the first civilian appointed as the Prime Minister. It started the era of party politics. Though in the 1920s, 1922-24 in particular, the *genro* 元老 recommended 3 militarists to form the cabinet, militarism did not rise owing to the presence of democracy. The militarists were forced to step down eventually. In 1925, the *General Election Law* 普通選舉法 was passed, under which men aged 25 or above had the right to vote. Democracy was prevailing, which prevented the rise of militarism. However, with the corruption and weaknesses shown by the government, people lost faith and allowed the rise of militarism.

In economic aspect, the economy of Japan was impoverished in the 1930s, which allowed the rise of militarism. Since Japan experienced several economic crises in the 1920s, the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 in 1929 even hit the economy of Japan hard. Japan's exports dropped a lot as a result of the trade barrier set up by the west. During 1929-31, the total exports decreased 50%. Meanwhile, many factories closed, resulting in serious unemployment problem. In 1930, the number of unemployed climbed to 3 million. The depressed economy bred discontent in the society. Most of the Japanese attributed the poor economy to the incapability of the government, which tarnished the reputation of the government. On the contrary, the militarists advocated expansionist policy, which gained people's support. For example, the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事件(1931) and the *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事件(1932) showed expansionist policy was accepted by people. Militarism thus rose. Hence, the impoverished economy allowed the rise of militarism.

On the contrary, the economic situation before 1930s had not plunged to the bottom so militarism did not rise. Japan's economy flourished in the early 20th century. Japan succeeded in defeating Russia during the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭(1904-05), gaining interests in Shandong, where Russia stationed before. Later, when the European powers were busy fighting the First World War, Japan soon monopolised China's market. Japan even forced *Yuan Shikai* 袁世凱 to sign the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條 in 1915, expanding interests in China, which boosted the number of exports. Economy thus boosted. Though Japan suffered a number of economic crises such as the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 and the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 in the 1920s, Japan was strong enough to resist the tough situation. Hence, Japan could still afford the poor economy. Militarism failed to rise. Hence, the poor economy before 1930 was not a hotbed for militarism to rise. It was the Great Depression that gave a devastating blow to Japan. Hence, this allowed the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

In social aspect, extreme nationalism rose in the 1930s, which contributed to the rise of militarism. Since the 1920s, as the democratic government showed its weakness and incapability in solving economic and diplomatic problems, extreme nationalist organizations advocating assassinations against party politicians had mushroomed. Examples were the *Aikokusha* 愛國社(1928) and the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團(1930). Upon their formation, these organizations used violent means against party politicians. For instance, in 1930, *Tomeo Sagoya* 佐郷屋留雄, a member of the *Aikokusha* 愛國社, assaulted Prime Minister *Osachi Hamaguchi* 濱口雄幸, causing severe injury to the head of state and his death in the subsequent year. After that, the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團 staged the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 in 1932, during which Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was assassinated. A series of assassinations greatly undermined the influence of party politicians. After the May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident, positions in the Cabinet were mainly occupied by military officials and militarists and this marked the end of party politics. Hence, the rise of extreme nationalism led to the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

On the contrary, before the 1930s, the nationalism was not extreme enough, thus failing to rise. Although there were some extreme nationalist organizations such as the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會(1901) and the *Reserve Association* 在鄉軍人協會(1910) in the early 20th century, these organizations were relatively milder. At the same time, the genro and the samurai were the members of the cabinet. Hence, their presence did not provoke the discontent among the extreme nationalists. However, starting from 1910s, with the emergence of *two Constitution Protection Movement* 兩次護憲運動(1913, 1924), as well as *Hara Kei* 原敬 became the Prime Minister affiliated with political parties, extreme nationalism began to diminish with the prevalence of democracy. Hence, under the high degree of democracy in the society, militarism did not rise before 1930. Yet, after 1930, the weaknesses of Japan's democratic government were exposed, which allowed the rise of militarism, adopting violent means to crack down the party politicians. Eventually, militarism rose after 1930.



In diplomatic aspect, the international situation after 1930s was favorable to the rise of militarism. Starting from the late 1920s, the success of KMT during Northern Expedition in 1928 harmed the interests of Japan in China, together with the restrictions imposed on Japan by the US and Britain in navy, the democratic government was strongly criticized by the militarists and the media. For example, the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議 in 1930 restricted the naval strength of Japan by limiting the ratio on heavy cruisers, which was 5(US) : 5(Britain) : 3(Japan). Democratic government lost support. After the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件, although the militarists had generally gained support from people, among the militarists, there were 2 groups of people, namely the *Kōdōha* 皇道派 and the *Tōseiha* 統制派, which supported Tenno and militarists respectively. When Japan learnt that Germany became a Fascist country in 1933, she was impressed and wanted to follow Germany, thus turning to support militarism. The *Tōseiha* gradually gained support. In 1936, when the *Kōdōha* launched the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事件 but failed, the *Tōseiha* 統制派 fully dominated the cabinet and restored the Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law, which enabled the military to manipulate the formation of the Cabinet in accordance to dictatorship in Germany. This allowed the militarists to fully dominate Japan's politics. Hence, the international situation after 1930s allowed the rise of militarism.

On the contrary, the international situation before 1930 was unfavorable to the rise of militarism. Militarism thus failed to rise. Undoubtedly, there were cases of Western countries discriminating against Japan. For example, in 1921-22, during the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議, Japan was forced to return interests in Shandong. In 1924, the US passed the *Immigration Act* 排外法案, under which Japanese were not allowed to immigrate to the US. However, given that Japan was still a strong country, being one of the *permanent members* 常任理事國 of the League of Nations, Japan still enjoyed high international status. *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 also revealed the fact that Japan was the third strongest country in navy. People's dissatisfaction towards the democratic government was not high enough for the rise of militarism. Besides, although Italy became a *Fascist country* 法西斯國家 as early as 1922, Fascism had not developed at that period. Japan, regarding democratic Germany as a role model, made Japanese support democracy, as opposed to Fascism. Militarism was thus difficult to rise. Hence, the international situation in the 1920s was not a breeding ground for the rise of militarism. As for 1930s, owing to the change in international situation, Japanese turned to support militarism, allowing its rise.

To conclude, the changes in political, economic, social and diplomatic situation made the Japanese lose faith in the democratic government. On the contrary, militarists constantly won the support of Japanese, thus allowing the rise of militarism.

Words: 1456



## 考生答卷示範

分數： \_\_\_\_/15

1930 年代日本的軍國主義得以興起，對於興於 1930 年代而非之前，政黨政治的興盛、極端民族主義的式微為日本未有在 1930 年代之前興起的原因。而經濟危機，極端民族主義崛起和政黨政治失敗和極權主義，使 1930 年代軍國主義興起，現分析如下。

首先，1930 年代前日本的政黨政治興盛，使軍人的權力不足。如在 1913 年的大正政變，軍部大臣現役武官制已經廢除，使內閣不再需要陸軍軍部大臣的支持才能成立，加上，1918 年開始了政黨政治的興起。如寺內內閣因米騷動倒台，1918 年的原敬上台，政黨政治的民主思想興起，人民加以支持其在 1925 年的普通選舉法，能夠使 25 歲的男性投票。人民認為政黨政治並非專制，人民加以順服，故此政黨政治的統治仍然能夠維持。

另外，在極端民族主義上，極端民族的勢力在二十世紀初並不得到支持。在 1901 年極端民族主義已經興起，如黑龍會、但二十世紀初的極端民族主義不受支持，因為 1912-13 年和 1925 年兩次的護憲運動均使極端民族主義思想減退，故此未有任何行動，使人民推舉政黨政治的民主穩定，故使軍國未盛起。

然而，在 1930 年化經濟的危機同期極端民族主義的崛起，極端民族主義興起和政黨政治的失敗使極權主義在 1930 年代興起。

首先在經濟的危機方面，經濟的衰退成為了 1930 年代軍國主義擴張的藉口。其中如 1927 年的銀行危機和 1939 年的經濟大衰退均使日本經濟出現困難，1929 年 300 萬人失業，故此在接連的 1930 年代日本的軍人即提出對外侵略而奪取資源，加上中國在 1928 年的時候南京政府統一，日本軍方害怕改變中國的權益。故此，日本軍人以九一八事變，一二八事變，以奪取中國資源，受到國民的歡迎。故使 20 年代經濟危機使軍國主義上台。

另外，同期的極端主義使日本在 1930 年代軍國主義興起。其中 1933 年德國的希特拉同樣因經濟衰退而得到上台，建立納粹德國，而意大利雖在 23 年已崛起，但墨索里尼在 1930 年代同樣因經濟危機對外擴張而得到國民的支持，在此同樣為法西斯主義的極權主義崛起，為日本的軍人仿效，在國內的鼓勵對外擴張，能夠以侵略解決經濟問題。故使 1930 年化日本同樣以政變如九一八(1931)一二八事件等，使極權主義的國家興起，成為一黨專政取締政黨，如 1940 年

的大政翼贊會。至此軍人的地位崛起，軍國主義對外侵略思想鞏固。

再者，極端民族主義在 30 年代崛起亦大大破壞了政黨政治運作。極端民族組織在 1930 年代不甘列強的欺壓故此對政黨政治的外交無力感到失望。故使刺殺的行為出現，如在 1930 年的倫敦會議中因為日本的政黨未能在會議中維護日裁軍 10:10:7 的比例，故此極端組織愛國即行刺首相濱口雄幸，更支持軍人在 1931 年的五一五行刺首相犬養毅，使政黨政府的官員大受打擊。成為軍人政府有機會奪取政府的時機。自 1932 年後首相便由軍人壟斷。

最後，政黨政治在 30 年代的失敗亦使軍國主義崛起。政黨政治未有鞏固自身的勢力。相反軍人的坐大，加上政黨政治在 30 年代不受到支持，如 1932 年九一八事變建立偽滿州國之時，犬養毅反對，使國民認為政府未能夠為人民爭取大和民族的光榮。故使五一五事年後，35 萬的人民血書支持軍國主義者，希望經濟發展，同時政黨政府則沒有削弱軍人的權力，使 1936 年的軍部大臣軍國主義復辟，使軍人能箝制內閣，使軍人的權力更為鞏固。

綜合以上各點，1930 年代為軍國主義未能興起，由於人民對民主政府的促進和極端民族主義的式微，但在 1930 年代隨著同期的極權主義，經濟危機，極端民族主義興起刺激化使政黨政治的失敗，使 1930 年代日本軍國主義興起。

明顯可改善之處：

## Discuss the importance of the economic factor relative to other factors in causing the rise of Japanese militarism in the 1930s.

In terms of the rise of militarism, economic factor was more important than other factors, including the weaknesses of the democratic government, rise of extreme nationalism. Economic factors like economic recession and the monopolization of zaibatsu would discuss how they lead to the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.

First, economic recession was important in causing the rise of militarism in the 1930s. Prosperous economy helped increase people's support towards the government. However, starting from the late 1910s, Western countries returned to the China market and Japan's exports dropped as a result. Its economy fell into recession. Worse still, Japan faced serious economic problems after several economic crises in the 1920s. For example, the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 in 1923 caused destruction of more than 100 thousand houses and losses of US\$30 billion. About 30 banks were closed during the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 of 1927 and the economy was wrecked again. Worse still, the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 of 1929 further hit Japan's trading and financial sectors and 3 million people became unemployed. The depressed economy bred discontent in the society and most of the Japanese believed that territorial expansion was the most effective way to resolve economic problems. The militarists' invasions of China, including the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變 in 1931 and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變 in 1932, were exactly what they wanted. Therefore, the militarists gained popular support in the 1930s and the rise of militarism became possible. Hence, economic recession was a great hotbed for the rise of militarism.

Besides, the zaibatsu's monopolization of economy was also a reason why the democratic government lost support while militarism rose. Starting from the 1910s, when party politics started, the corrupt political parties colluded with the zaibatsu in order to gain political donations for elections. Corruption thus became frequent. For instance, there were 15,000 cases of violation of the Election Law in 1924 and they ruined the government's reputation. Also, the Cabinet was frequently reorganized due to lack of popular support. From 1918 to 1932, there were in total 11 cases of Cabinet reshuffle. Meanwhile, Japanese viewed the political parties as the culprit for the monopolization of the zaibatsu, leading to criticisms of extreme nationalist organizations. Some of the extreme nationalist organizations even planned and carried out assassinations like the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件, in which Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi was killed. 350,000 signatures in blood had been collected from people around the country to plead for a lenient sentence for the assassination. This shows that militarism was accepted by most of the Japanese in the 1930s and the democratic government was losing its popularity. Therefore, the monopolization of economy by the zaibatsu also allowed the rise of militarism.

It could be seen that economy factors were significant in contributing to the rise of militarism from the above. Others factors, including the weaknesses of democratic government and the rise of extreme nationalism, were of less significance.

First, the weaknesses of the democratic government was important in giving rise to militarism. The democratic government was weak and incapable diplomatically. It succumbed to the US and Britain and accepted the 10(US) : 10(Britain) : 6(Japan) ratio on heavy cruisers in the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930). They failed to fulfill the demand made by the militarists that the ratio on heavy cruisers should be 10(US): 10(Britain): 7(Japan). Eventually, the democratic government was criticized by Japanese as well as the militarists while militarism was embraced by more people and became dominant in Japan.

However, relatively speaking, economic factor was more important than the weaknesses of the democratic government. A number of economic crises exposed the weaknesses of the democratic government as it faced economic problems like post-war recession, *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震, *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 and the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條. The democratic government failed to solve such problems and it fell down. In contrast, the poor economy, which was a hotbed for militarism, as well as the militarists' hardline diplomatic approach, made them easier to get support from the people. As a result, economic factor was the main reason for the rise of militarism.



Second, the rise of extreme nationalist ideas was also the reason for the rise of militarism. The government emphasized Japanese nationalism a lot. Internally, the Japanese were indoctrinated with values like state supremacy and national consciousness. Such extreme nationalist ideas led to the emergence of militarism and related organizations, including the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會, as well as the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團 that aimed at removing corrupt officials through assassination. These organizations even cooperated with the military to launch several coups like the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 of 1932 started by the Brotherhood of Blood League. This stroke a devastating blow to the democratic government, allowing the rise of militarism in the 1930s.

Nonetheless, for the rise of militarism, economic factors were more important than the rise of extreme nationalist ideas. Extreme nationalism once lost its popularity in the 1910s. With *Hara Kei* 原敬 becoming the first Prime Minister who was a commoner, Japan had been facing various economic crises. Such economic crises bred discontent among Japanese. With their dissatisfaction towards the democratic government, extreme nationalist ideas rose again. For example, the *Aikoku-Sha* 愛國社(1928) and the *Brotherhood Blood League* 血盟團(1931) were established under such atmosphere. The militarists gained more support after the foundation of such organizations, leading to the rise of militarism. Thus, economic factors were more important than the rise of extreme nationalist ideas in contributing to the rise of militarism.

To conclude, although there were lots of factors causing the rise of militarism in the 1930s, comparatively speaking, economic factors were of greater significance. Economic factors were indeed more important than the weaknesses of the democratic government and the rise of extreme nationalist ideas.

Words: 940



## 'External factors were the most important reasons for the military takeover of the Japanese government in the 1930s.' Comment on the validity of this statement.

Militarism rose in Japan in 1930, ending the party politics. Militarism even brought Japan to the WW2. To explore the reasons for the rise of militarism, external factors were more important than internal factors and external factors were even the primary factor. Hence, the statement is true. Discrimination from the west, changing circumstance of China and the development of totalitarianism in the same period were some external factors leading to the rise of militarism.

First, the discrimination of western countries against Japan was also a main factor leading to the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s. In the early 20th century, the idea of 'yellow peril' 黃禍 was so prevalent and widespread that the US, as well as the European countries, isolated and discriminated against the Japanese. For instance, the US passed the *immigration act* 排外法案 in 1924, prohibiting Japanese from immigrating to the US. Moreover, during the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議(1921-22) and the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930), the West suppressed the Japanese by pressing them to return Shandong to China and limiting the heavy cruisers ratio to US (10): Britain (10): Japan (6). A strong sense of dissatisfaction towards the west was thus developed, people therefore turned to the militarists in order that they might regain their national glory by supporting the foreign expansion such as the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931). Thus, the discrimination from the west accounted for the rise of militarists in the 1930s.

Second, the changing situation of China also led to the rise of militarism in the 1930s. With the northern expedition of China in 1926, China embarked on the journey of the unification of China. This jeopardized the interests of Japan in China. On one hand, it stimulated the military actions of Japan's militarists; on the other, it prompted the militarists to take actions on their own initiative rather than following the instructions of the party government, making it possible for the takeover of militarists. For example, in 1928, *Zhang Zuolin* 張作霖, a military leader in China, was killed by the Kwan Tung Army in China. Japan thus expanded into the China. Furthermore, due to the weak attitude of the party towards China, like the Prime Minister, *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅. He objected to the proposal of *Manchuria* 滿洲國, arousing discontent of some extreme militarists. At last, he was assassinated in the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件. Since then, party politics dwindled, militarists rose. Thus, it could be seen that the changing situation of China was the reason for the takeover of militarists in the 1930s.

Third, the development of totalitarianism in the same period in Italy and Germany stimulated militarism in the 1930s. After the WW1, totalitarianism soon developed with poor economic and social situation. Fascist *Mussolini* 墨索里尼 and Nazi *Hitler* 希特拉 even rose to the power in 1922 and 1933 respectively. These totalitarian regimes strengthened and consolidated their power once they rose to power, placing emphasis on *one-party dictatorship* 一黨專政 and eventually, they became a role model for Japan's militarists. After the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事變 in 1936, Japan even restored the *Military ministers to be Active Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制. The cabinet was controlled by the militarists again. Moreover, in 1940, Japan even set up the *Imperial Rule Assistance Association* 大政翼贊會(IRAA) to replace other political parties. They even copied Italy and Germany to adopt one-party dictatorship. Militarism in Japan became a dominant power. Thus, the rise of totalitarianism in the same period in Italy and Germany led to the takeover of militarists in the 1930s.

There were also some other factors like the incompetence of the party government and the rise of extreme nationalism giving rise to militarism, but they were not as important as external factors. These factors were not the main factors.

First, the incompetence of the party government also led to the rise of the militarists but it was less important than the external factors. During the period of party politics, corruption of zaibatsu was common and widespread. The political parties colluded with the zaibatsu so as to gain the political donations and win the elections. Meanwhile, the inability to address the economic and diplomatic issues revealed and exposed the government's weaknesses. For instance, it failed to solve the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機(1927) and the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條(1929) and even succumbed to the west in *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議(1921-22) and the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930), which resulted in the opposition of Japanese. Japanese supported the militarists as a result. However, external factors were more important. In terms of causality, the external factors revealed the corruption of party politics. Since it was the US and Britain which competed with Japan for the market in China, together with the Great Depression, the number of unemployed reached 3 million. This became the problem that the government failed to solve. In addition, the government showed its weaknesses in the London Naval Conference by accepting the limitations of Japan's warships. Party government thus failed. Hence, external factor was the main factor for the rise of militarism.

Second, the rise of extreme nationalism also led to the rise of the militarists. Yet, it was less important than the external factors. Internally, Japan emphasized the ascendancy of the Yamato people and inculcated nationalism into Japanese. Externally, Japan put emphasis on national glory. Gradually, this ideology evolved into an extreme nationalism, contributing to the formation of some extreme nationalistic organizations like the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會 and the *Brotherhood Blood League* 血盟團. These organizations planned a number of assassinations, like the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 by the Brotherhood Blood League in 1932, leading to the rise of militarists in 1930s. However, the external factors were more important since they led to the spread of extreme nationalism. Since extreme nationalism once weakened in the 1910s with the entry of party politics (*Hara Kei* 原敬 became the first civilian appointed as the Prime Minister), it was the suppressing and discriminating policy from the west that caused the discontent of Japanese. Extreme nationalism rose with the dissatisfaction of Japanese. Japanese supported militarists who carried out foreign expansions. Thus, external factors were more important than the rise of extreme nationalism when it comes to the rise of militarism.

In conclusion, in contributing to the development of militarism, external factors were more important. Therefore, the statement is true and external factors were the most important factor.

Words: 1011

## Assess the relative importance of the major factors that caused the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s.

For the rise of militarism, the failure of the democratic government bore the greatest responsibility, while the international factor was less important than the failure of the democratic government but more important than racial factor. Their importance are to be discussed and compared in the following.

First, the failure of the democratic government was the main factor for the rise of militarism. The democratic government was rocked by a series of scandals. Corruption and illegal means of competition were common during elections. For example, there were 15,000 cases of violation of the Election Law in 1924 and they ruined the government's reputation. Also, the Cabinet was frequently reorganized due to lack of popular support. From 1918 to 1932, there were in total 11 cases of Cabinet reshuffle. In addition, the government was incapable of solving economic problems and failed to tackle economic crises like the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震(1923), the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機(1927) and the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條(1929-32). Japan was facing acute economic problems and people thus supported the militarists to embark on territorial expansion like the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變 targeting Northeast China. In the end, militarism received overwhelming support in the 1930s. Hence, the failure of the democratic government was significant in giving rise to militarism.

Comparatively speaking, the failure of the democratic government was more important than international factor when it comes to the rise of militarism. In terms of the cause-and-effect relationship, the democratic government lost the confidence of the Japanese because of its disappointing diplomatic performance. For instance, it succumbed to the US and Britain and accepted the 10(US) : 10(Britain) : 6(Japan) ratio on *heavy cruisers* 大型巡洋艦 in the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930) as opposed to the ratio 10(US): 10(Britain): 7(Japan). Eventually, Japanese thought that the democratic government was unable to protect the interests of Japan, thus supporting the militarists, who wished to be on par with the west, instead. Militarism became dominant in Japan. Therefore, in terms of the rise of militarism, the failure of democratic government was more important than international factor.



Relatively speaking, the failure of the democratic government was more significant than the racial factor in terms of the rise of militarism. From the cause-result relationship, nationalism evolved into extreme nationalism owing to the incapability of the democratic government in different aspects. An example is its failure to resolve the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條(1929). Also, its objection to set up 'Manchuguo' 偽滿州國 led to the discontent of some nationalists and this allowed the evolution of nationalism into the extreme one. They launched some coups so as to end the rule of the democratic government. The *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 (1932) was a typical example, which was launched by the *Brotherhood Blood League* 血盟團 and Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was assassinated. All the high-ranking officials were occupied by either the militarists or upper class since then. This marked the end of party politics and the era of militarism started. Thus, in terms of the rise of militarism, the failure of democratic government was more important than the racial factor.

True, international factor was less important than the failure of party politics, but was more important than the racial factor.

International factor was also crucial for the rise of militarism. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the idea of "yellow peril 黃禍" prevailed in the US and European countries. The theory suggested that yellow people had the potential to challenge their hegemony and the Japanese, as members of the yellow race, suffered discrimination and isolation by the West. For instance, the US passed the *Immigration Act* 排外法案 of 1924 to ban "yellow" immigration from Asian countries, including Japan, to the States. In the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議(1921-22) and the *London Naval Conference* 倫敦海軍會議(1930), the powers did it further by keeping Japan's power in check. In the Washington one they forced Japan to return Shandong to China, while in the London one they set a ratio of 10:10:6 on *heavy cruisers* 大型巡洋艦 in favour of Britain and the US. These induced strong anti-foreign sentiments among the Japanese during the 1920s and they turned to support invasions by the military, including the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931), in pursuit of national glory. Their support contributed to the rise of militarism in Japan. Therefore, discrimination from Western powers greatly promoted the spread of militarism in Japan.



In comparison, international factor was more important than racial factor in causing the rise of militarism. In terms of cause-result relationship, international factor made Japanese become more patriotic. Due to the western countries' suppressing policies towards Japanese, they felt dissatisfied. *Immigration Act* 排外法案 introduced in 1924 insulted Japanese and they felt outraged. Extreme nationalism rose as a result of the dissatisfaction towards the west. The militarists' rigid stance and hardline diplomatic policies made them easier to get support from the people as these actions could show the strength of Japan. Militarism was embraced by people. Hence, international factor was more important than racial factor in causing the rise of militarism.

Lastly, racial factor had little importance for the rise of militarism.

It is true that racial factor was also one of the reasons for the rise of militarism. It had a huge limitation. The government emphasized Japanese nationalism a lot. Internally, the Japanese were indoctrinated with values like state supremacy and national consciousness. Externally, the government advocated saving other races and fighting for glory for the Yamato people. Such extreme nationalist ideas led to the emergence of militarism and related organizations, including the *Black Dragon Society* 黑龍會(1901), as well as the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團(1931) that aimed at removing corrupt officials through assassination like the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 of 1932 started by the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團. These coups stroke a severe blow to the democratic government and paved the way to military control of the government in the 1930s. Nevertheless, racial factor had limited importance. Since Extreme nationalism once lost its popularity in the 1910s and the early 1920s. At that time, democratic ideas prevailed in Japan. The *two Constitution Protection Movements* 兩次護憲運動(1913 & 1924) were evidences for that. Also, *Hara Kei* 原敬 was the first Prime Minister who affiliated with political parties. However, extreme nationalism rose again owing to the incapability of the democratic government and the western discrimination against Japan. Therefore, although racial factor did contribute to the rise of militarism, it had limited importance.

By and large, militarism rose in Japan in the 1930s and caused lots of aggressions. War broke out eventually. To explore the reasons for the rise of militarism, the failure of democratic government was the most important, followed by international factor and lastly, the racial factor.

Words: 1,041

## To what extent was Japan a modernized country? Limit your discussion up to the 1920s.

A modernized country or region must have got rid of backwardness and feudalism, being modern and civilized in nature. Although huge changes took place in Japan after the Meiji Restoration and it was modernized in educational and military aspects, it failed to satisfy the criteria for modernization in political, economic, social and diplomatic aspects. Therefore, Japan was modernized to a small extent by the end of the 1920s.

Politically, Japan did not achieve genuine modernization by the end of the 1920s. Political modernization refers to the adoption of *rule of law* 法治 instead of *rule of man* 人治 and presence of the Cabinet that is granted power to limit the military. Undoubtedly, Japan entered the era of party politics at the end of the 1910s. *Hara Kei* 原敬 became the first Prime Minister affiliated with political party in 1918 and the electorate expanded to 19% of the population thanks to the promulgation of the *General Election Law* 普通選舉法 in 1925, which gave all men aged 25 or above the right to vote. Nevertheless, Japan was politically modernized only on the surface. In terms of government, rule of man instead of rule of law was adopted there. Stated as the supreme ruler in the *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法, the Emperor had the rights to amend the Constitution, dissolve the lower house of Diet and control the military. He was in fact superior to the Constitution. In terms of power of the Cabinet, the military enjoyed enormous power despite the abolition of the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制 in 1913. They had direct access to the Emperor and were not influenced by the Cabinet. Examples like the unauthorized assassination of *Zhang Zhoulun* 張作霖, a Chinese warlord, by the *Kwantung Army* 關東軍 in 1928 reflected the limited power of the Cabinet and its failure to limit the military. It is clear that Japan was not modernized politically by the end of the 1920s.

Economically, Japan was not very modernized indeed by the late 1920s. An economically modernized country should have a balanced economic development and enough food and necessities for its people. Indubitably, Japan's economy was booming in the early 20th century and the production was highly mechanized. In 1907, for example, 3700 out of some 8000 factories in Japan used machinery in their production. But it does not mean that Japan was modernized economically. In terms of balanced development, Japan's economy was largely controlled by a small group of *zaibatsu* 財閥. For example, the five biggest banks owned by the *zaibatsu*, including *Mitsui* 三井, *Mitsubishi* 三菱, *Sumitomo* 住友, *Yasuda* 安田 and *Daiichi* 第一, held 34.5% of Japan's deposits in 1929. Small and medium-sized enterprises were difficult to develop and survive, and the economy had an unbalanced development. In terms of people's livelihood, the lives of people at grass-roots level remained poor. As early as 1918, the *Rice Riots* 米騷動 erupted in Japan with unparalleled scale in recent centuries. The less privileged people looted rice and food out of hunger. In the 1920s, Japan even experienced a series of disasters, including the *Kanto Great Earthquake* 關東大地震(1923) and the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機(1927). After the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 of 1929, the number of the unemployed hit 3 million. The low-income group lived in terrible conditions and might not be able to afford even a meal. Therefore, Japan was not yet modernized economically by the late 1920s.

In social aspect, the Japanese society at that time was full of constraints and not modernized. In a modernized society, people enjoy high degree of freedom and nationalism should never develop into radical extreme nationalism. It is true that the *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 gave the Japanese freedom of speech, assembly and freedom and Japan was modernized superficially. But in fact, Japan's society was not fundamentally modernized. In terms of freedom, it could be enjoyed only when it is 'not prejudicial to peace and order' 不損害和平的情況 and the government often took advantage of the vague word 'peace' to restrict people's freedom and power. In 1925, the government even promulgated the *Peace Preservation Law* 治安維持法, which was at first against the communist only but later turned into a tool to mute dissenting voices. People's freedom was further restricted. In terms of nationalism, the traditional *Bushido spirit* 武士道精神 and thoughts of loyalty to the Emperor and patriotism evolved into extreme nationalist ideas in the beginning of the 20th century. Its upholders supported radical methods to safeguard national interest and eliminate the corrupt politicians in Japan. For example, Prime Minister *Osachi Hamaguchi* 濱口雄幸 was assaulted by members of the *Aikokusha* 愛國社 (established in 1928) in 1930. The ideas became the underlying cause of the rise of militarism afterwards. Therefore, the Japanese society was not yet modernized.

In diplomatic aspect, Japan did not achieve modernized by the late 1920s. A diplomatically modernized country should be treated fairly in international affairs, be respected and enjoy equal status. With no doubt, Japan rose as a power in the early 20th century and was one of the *permanent members* 常任理事國 of the League of Nations in 1920. It enjoyed high international status on the surface. However, in terms of the way it was treated by foreign countries, Japan attracted suspicion from the Western powers and their worries about their world leadership being threatened by an Asian country because Japan, as a new influential country, had its national strength increased rapidly and played an active role in the international community. The powers hence took actions against Japan in international affairs and it was discriminated by the West. For example, the Japanese proposed the '*racial equality clause*' 種族平等 in the *Paris Peace Conference* 巴黎和會 of 1919 but the proposal was objected by British representatives. The request of the Japanese for equality with the West was directly denied. Besides, the US promulgated the *American Immigration Act* 排外法案 in 1924 to ban Japanese immigrants to the States. This was an explicit discrimination against the Japanese and showed that Japan did not enjoy respect and equality. Therefore, Japan was discriminated by the powers diplomatically in the late 1920s and failed to fulfill the criteria for modernization.

Despite the fact that Japan was not modernized in political, economic, social and diplomatic aspects, one should not ignore its modernized aspects.

In educational aspect, Japan could be regarded as modernized because of its high educational standard. Educational modernization concerns high educational level and academic standard. In terms of educational level, Japan's educational standard at that time was not only far ahead of the other Asian countries, but also on par with the Western countries. This was the result of the compulsory education policy implemented in the end of the 19th century. In 1907, the government further extended compulsory education from 4 to 6 years, raising the number of the educated and educational standard in Japan. National enrolment rate reached 97%, and further increased to 99% in 1920. These showed that Japan's educational standard was not only far ahead of the other Asian countries, but also on par with the Western countries. The country could almost provide education for all. In terms of academic standard, with the ever-increasing educational standard, Japan's academic standard also increased significantly. Rapid development could be seen in different fields, including Physics, Medicine and Astronomy. For example, *Kitasato Shibasaburo* 北里柴三郎 and *Hideyo Noguchi* 野口英世 were nominated for the Nobel Prize in Physiology / Medicine owing to their contributions to medicine. Also, *Mori Ogai* 森鷗外 and *Natsume Soseki* 夏目漱石 became leading writers in the world and were very famous outside Japan. Therefore, Japan's high educational and academic standard showed its achievement in modernization.



In military aspect, Japan could also be regarded as modernized because of its great military strength. Military modernization refers to the possession of advanced armaments and capabilities to resolve internal disputes and defend the country against external threats. In terms of armaments, Japan possessed a modern and powerful army at the end of the 1920s. Since the late 19th century, Japan had started research and development of advanced warships. With the large sum of money invested, the development of naval technology was rapid. In 1922, Japan even finished the building of the world's first standard *aircraft carrier* 航空母艦 named *Hosho* 鳳翔號. Its naval strength was on a par with that of the Western powers. In the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 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 terms of guaranteeing internal security and external defense, the modernized military force allowed Japan to resolve internal disputes, defend the country against external threats and even expand its territory. This can be exemplified by the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變 of 1931, in which Japan invaded the Northeast part of China. It is clear that Japan possessed a modern and powerful military force and achieved modernization by the end of the 1920s.

To conclude, Japan was modernized in educational and military aspects, but on a whole, Japan's modernization in political, economic, social and diplomatic aspects was superficial. Not only did it fail to satisfy the criteria for modernization, it also became the excellent breeding ground for the rise of militarism in the 1930s. Therefore, Japan was modernized by the late 1920s to a small extent only.

Words: 1,462



## Examine the major characteristics of Japan in the Taisho period (1912-26).

After the Meiji modernization, although Japan could generally be regarded as a modernized nation, it kept a lot of Japanese traditions at the same time. When Emperor Taisho ascended to the throne in 1912, Japan had incessant developments and transformations in political, economic, social, educational, military and diplomatic aspects. The major characteristics of Japan between 1912 and 1926 will be discussed with reference to the aspects mentioned above.

Politically, Japan's politics in this period was unstable, despite the fact that Japan had entered the era of party politics. During the Taisho period, politics in Japan became more and more liberal. For instance, the *First Constitution Protection Movement* 第一次護憲運動 emerged in 1913, during which Prime Minister *Katsura Taro* 桂太郎 was forced to sign as he was appointed by the genro. This reflected that traditional genro politics was no longer suitable for Japan in this period and it faced challenges. Afterwards, *Hara Kei* 原敬 became the Prime Minister of Japan who had no genro or military background. This noted that Japan entered the era of party politics and it was even a main feature in the Taisho period. However, party politics not stable as from 1918 when Hara Kei became the first Prime Minister to 1926, the cabinet of Japan changed 7 times. Between 1922 and 1924, the genro even recommended *Yamamoto Gonnohyoe* 加藤友三郎, *Kato Tomosaburo* 山本權兵衛 and *Kiyoura Keigo* 清浦奎吾 to form a cabinet, all of whom had naval and genro background. This disrupted the development of party politics, reflecting its inability in developing in Japan in the Taisho period. As a result, Japan's politics in the Taisho period was unstable.

Economically, Japan's feature was the zaibatsu's monopolization of economic development as well as the poor livelihood of lower class. Since the Meiji government was founded, political parties and the zaibatsu had already had close relations. When in the Taisho period, the political donations from the zaibatsu was an important source of income for political parties to join the elections. Hence, the policies were always in favour of the zaibatsu and the zaibatsu succeeded in monopolizing the economic development at that time. For example, *Mitsui* 三井, *Mitsubishi* 三菱, *Sumitomo* 住友 and *Yasuda* 安田 were the 'Big Four zaibatsu' at that time. Japan's economy was mainly controlled by them. Apart from the zaibatsu's monopolization, the livelihood of the lower class was poor. Take workers as an example. They had low salary but long working hours. Worse still, they did not enjoy any social welfare, lacking support. Moreover, the rising land taxed posed a heavy burden to the farmers. Some of them even became tenants. The poor livelihood of the peasants was a hotbed for nurturing discontent, giving rise to the riot such as the *Rice Riot* 米騷動 in 1918, which was caused by the precipitous rise in the price of rice and the poor living condition at that time. Therefore, the feature was the monopolization of the zaibatsu and the poor living conditions of the lower class.

Socially, Japan had limited freedom in the society. It is true that Japan in the Taisho period was a country with constitutional monarch. The *Meiji Constitution* 明治憲法 also stated that people had the freedom of speech, assembly and press. But such human rights and freedom could only be enjoyed when in circumstance that peace was not harmed and jeopardized. The government always capitalized on the word peace with ambiguous excuse to suppress the freedom of Japanese. People's rights was limited. In 1925, the government even introduced the *Peace Security Preservation Law* 治安維持法. Though the initial purpose of the law was to limit the anti-emperor discussion and communism, the law was subsequently used by the government to mute the dissenting voice. The freedom of Japanese was limited. Hence, though Japan in the Taisho period allowed Japanese to enjoy freedom, the freedom was of limited scope.

Educationally, the education level and education standard of Japan were high in the Taisho period. As a matter of fact, the education level was not only the highest in Asia, it was also on par with that of Western countries, including the US and Europe. Since Japan carried out compulsory education policy in 1907, the national enrollment rate reached 97%, and further increased to 99% in 1920. It showed that Japan's education level was not only far ahead of the other Asian countries, but also on par with the Western countries. Japan could almost provide universal education. In addition to enhancing the education level, the academic standard was also rose. Rapid development could be seen in Physics, Medicine and Astronomy. For example, *Hideyo Noguchi* 野口英世 was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1914 and 1915 owing to his contributions to medicine. Also, *Mori Ogai* 森鷗外 and *Natsume Soseki* 夏目漱石 became leading writers in the world and were very famous outside Japan. Thus, the high education level and academic standard were the characteristics of Japan's education in the Taisho period.

Militarily, the great military strength was a distinctive feature of Japan in the Taisho period. Japan had a well-equipped military force which was strong enough to resolve internal disputes, defend the country against external threats and even invade other countries. For Navy, since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Japan had started research and development of advanced warships. With the large sum of money invested, the development of naval technology was rapid. In 1922, Japan even finished the building of the world's first standard *aircraft carrier* 航空母艦 named *Hosho* 鳳翔號. Its naval strength was on a par with that of the Western powers. In the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 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. For army, Japan introduced conscription before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After setting up military academies, learning German military training methods and buying weapons from Germany, there were 13 infantry divisions equipped with modern weapons in Japan in 1906. The strength of Japanese army was too great to ignore. The modernized military force allowed Japan to not only resolve internal and external disputes but also expand its territory. For example, it defeated Russia in 1905 (*Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭) and conquered a large piece of land. It transformed into a power that achieved military modernization. Therefore, the great military strength was the biggest characteristic of Japan's military aspect.

Diplomatically, although Japan enjoyed a high international status in the Taisho period, it was targeted against by the west. Starting from the early 20th century, Japan was already a world power. For instance, the formation of the *Anglo-Japanese Alliance* 英日同盟 in 1902 and Japan's being one of the *permanent members* 常任理事國 of the League of Nations showed that Japan exerted huge influence in international affairs. This reflected that Japan enjoyed high international status. However, while enjoying high status, Japan was targeted against by the West. Take the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議(1921) as an example. Japan was forced by the US and Britain to return the interests in Shandong, harming Japan's colonial interests. Moreover, Japan passed the *Immigration Act* 種族法案 of 1924 to ban immigration from Asian countries, including Japan, to the States. It was explicitly a discrimination against the Japanese.

Generally speaking, Japan in the mid-1930s was becoming modernized. Although it gradually realized a modernized system, some traditional thoughts still existed. Therefore, to a small extent it was a modernized country.

Words: 1,127

**'Militarism was a loss rather than a gain to Japan up to 1945.' Comment on the validity of this statement.**

As a military spirit, militarism bears a definition that all decisions related to society and the nation are based on military concerns. It encourages using armed force to solve problems and supports expansionist foreign policy. The rise of militarism took place in Japan in the 1930s and had significant impact on Japan in political, economic, social, military and diplomatic aspects. But such impact harmed rather than benefited Japan. Therefore, the statement is valid.

Politically, militarism led to continuous coups and assassinations and loss of democracy, doing harm to Japan. The militarists supported eradication of corrupt politicians by assassinations and establishment of a military dictatorship. As a result, several coups and assassinations took place in Japan, including the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 in which Prime Minister *Inukai Tsuyoshi* 犬養毅 was assassinated by members of the *Brotherhood of Blood League* 血盟團 in 1932, and the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事件 in which Imperial Japanese Army officers killed former Prime Minister *Saito Makoto* 齋藤實. More importantly, these coups and assassinations interrupted the process of democratization in Japan and gradually made it a military dictatorship. For example, after the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件, party politicians were not dared to challenge the military and almost all Prime Ministers were generals or the Genro. This marked the end of party politics. In 1940, the militarists even established the *Imperial Rule Assistance Association* 大政翼贊會 as a replacement of all other political parties. Japan genuinely became an autocratic nation ruled by one-party military dictatorship. It is clear that militarism brought Japan to the dark ages and harmed it greatly.

Economically, militarism wrecked Japan's economy and did harm to the country. The militarists gave priority to military development when distributing national resources and kept increasing Japan's military expenses. In 1938, the *National Mobilization Law* 國家總動員法 was passed to allocate 70% of its national budget for wars. The proportion further rose to 99% in 1944. However, with the allocation of excessive resources for military uses and increase in military production, Japan was short of different materials and experienced devaluation and inflation. Its economy was hugely damaged. Worse still, Japan lost its momentum at the late stage of war and US bombings caused huge economic destruction. The US dropped two atomic bombs on *Hiroshima* 廣島 and *Nagasaki* 長崎 in 1945, directly destroying two important cities of Japan. As a result, Japan was economically strained. In 1945, the Japanese Central Bank owed debts that were equivalent to 204% of Japan's GDP, which showed that Japan's economy was on the brink of collapse. It is apparent that militarism did great harm to Japan's economy.



In social aspect, militarism brought Japan under coercion and did harm to it. Militarism supports a curb on human rights and freedom, and absolute obedience to the government. For education, priority should be given to indoctrinating patriotic ideas and nurturing military personnel. As a result, after the militarist takeover in the 1930s, they immediately made the Japanese society a suppressive one. As for education, the militarist government did not only carry through military trainings in schools (1938), it also fired teacher who promoted human rights and liberal ideas. A strong grip was added on education. In addition, all activities in the society came under the militarist government's scrutiny. Strikes were banned and all publications must gain approval from the military before publishing. Worse still, the militarists used the *Peace Preservation Law* 治安維持法 to oppress dissidents. Akira Iwasaki 岩崎昶, a film producer who was arrested in 1941 for infringement of this law, serves as an example. Freedom of speech, publication and other kinds was greatly suppressed. Therefore, what the militarists did to Japan was harmful.

In diplomatic aspect, militarism led to diplomatic isolation of Japan and did harm to it. The militarists advocated territorial expansion for resources and manifestation of national strength. But its aggression would cause deterioration of its relationship with the neighbouring countries. For example, Japan launched the *July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident* 七七事變 in 1937 and caused the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War. After that, Japan declared its policy of setting up the '*Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere*' 大東亞共榮圈 and aggressively invaded Southeast Asian countries on the pretext of driving out the Western influence there. Japan's relationship with these countries worsened as a result. In addition, it launched a sudden attack on the *Pearl Harbour* 珍珠港 in the US in 1941, triggering a war between them. Japan became the enemy of many countries and ran into isolation with poor foreign relations with Asian countries. Besides, Japanese militarists took some outrageous actions during wars. For instance, they murdered 200-300 thousands Chinese civilians and disarmed combatants in the *Nanjing Massacre* 南京大屠殺 of 1938. Because of that, Japan's relationship with the neighbouring Asian countries remained bad. It is clear that militarism damaged Japan's foreign relations and did great harm to it.

There are claims that militarism benefited Japan, but they are not convincing.

Some said that militarism benefited rural economy of Japan. The militarists proactively promoted agricultural reforms. For example, after the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 in 1932, the militarists petitioned for peasants around the country, demanding a 3-year deferment of peasants' loan payment and improvement of water conservation in rural areas. This improved the rural economy. However, it should be harm rather than benefit if all its pros and cons are evaluated. As the militarists started a war on China in 1937, many males were enlisted in the army and the rural working population decreased sharply, as did the agricultural production. Besides, large amount of crops were handed in as provisions for soldiers and this caused food shortages in rural areas. Moreover, the mass printing of banknotes in wartime led to hyperinflation and further threatened peasants' livelihood. It is clear that the militarists promoted Japanese rural economy for a short period of time, but the wars coming afterwards made peasants' livelihood even worse. It did harm rather than benefited Japan.

Some claimed that in military aspect, militarism benefited Japan. Militarism supports military buildup for territorial expansion and promoted Japanese military capabilities. For air force, Japan produced as much as 10430 *A6M Zero Fighters* 零式戰鬥機 (during the Pacific War). Japan was therefore strong enough to conquer more than half of Asia and its military strength reached its peak. However, Japanese militarists waged the Pacific War that only led to the defeat of Japan. In the post-war period, Japan was forced to demilitarize and banned from maintaining any armed forces. This was great harm to the country. At the late stage of WW2, the Japanese was losing ground and eventually surrendered in 1945. After that, Japan was taken over by the SCAP 盟總政府, which demolished military plants and prohibited it from having an army. Japan thus lost its military capability and relied on the US heavily for protection. Therefore, despite the fact that Japan's military was in peak conditions because of the militarists, they brought the country constraints on military development and harmed rather than benefited Japan.

In conclusion, militarism did not only bring the Japanese society under coercion and autocracy, but it also hindered the economic, military and diplomatic development of Japan, doing great harm to the island country. Therefore, the statement is valid.

Words: 1,171

Select one country and discuss its impact on the continent to which it belonged in the period 1900-49.

Since Japan rose as a power in the late 19th century, it had brought enduring impact on Asia in political, economic, social, military and other aspects in the first half of the 20th century. The essay is going to discuss both positive and negative impact of Japan on Asia in different aspects.

Politically, Japan greatly infringed the sovereignty of many countries. After the successful Meiji Restoration in the late 19th century, Japan displayed its aggression against other Asian countries. For example, it forced Korea to sign the *Japan–Korea Annexation Treaty* 日韓合併條約 in 1910, depriving it of autonomy. Besides, Japan made several attempts to meddle in China's internal affairs. For instance, it intimidated and lured *Yuan Shikai* 袁世凱 into signing the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條 in 1915 in order to make China a protectorate of Japan. After that, it put *Puyi* 溥儀 on the throne and established a puppet regime called *Manzhouguo* 偽滿洲國 to intervene in China's domestic affairs and strengthen its influence there. Moreover, Japan also interfered in the internal affairs of Southeast Asian countries. It announced the policy of setting up the '*Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere*' 大東亞共榮圈. Japan superficially aimed at driving out the western countries, but it started invasions relentlessly and established pro-Japanese regimes around Southeast Asia. This resulted in blatant violation of sovereignty of other Asian countries, which was apparently a negative impact.

In political aspect, Japanese aggression also stimulated the rise of communism in Asia. In the first half of the 20th century, Japan relentlessly invaded other Asian countries, including China in 1937 and Southeast Asian countries in 1940. The original political situation was changed completely and the communists took the chance to promote their ideology. The aggression became the indirect factor facilitating the spread of communism in Asia. With respect to China, after the KMT's several encirclement campaigns against the CCP, there left only 4 thousand communists in 1937 before Japan's full-scale attack on China. However, the *July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident* 七七事變 staged by Japan in 1937 gave the KMT no choice but to give up its policy of '*stabilizing the country before resisting foreign invasion*' 攘外必先安內 and offered the CCP a window of opportunity. The communists made an effort to extend their influence when the KMT was busy resisting Japanese aggression and they managed to turn the tables at the closing stage of the war. Similar situation appeared in *Korea* 朝鮮 and *Vietnam* 越南 as well, and communist regimes were then unavoidably installed in these countries. Japanese aggression provided a breeding ground for communism, whose influence increased greatly after the war. It is clear that Japanese invasions assisted in the rapid spread of communism in Asia.

Economically, Japan greatly hindered economic development in Asia. In order to stimulate domestic economic development, Japan ceaselessly started invasions to get their resources. Many Asian countries became the prey of Japan and their economic resources were drained by it. For example, by virtue of the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條(1915) signed with China, Japan was granted the right of mining in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, being able to seize resources from China. As for Southeast Asia, Japan announced the *New Order in East Asia* 東亞新秩序 in 1938 and expressed interest in Southeast Asian countries. It surely depleted resources there and took away economic interests from them. More importantly, Japan brought about even greater economic devastation to Asia during WW2. The prolonged war led to shutdown of factories, damages to farmland and economic stagnation. The losses were catastrophic. For China alone, Japan had caused direct losses of US\$100 billion and indirect losses of US\$500 billion. It did great harm to other Asian countries and gave rise to their ailing economy. Therefore, Asian economy suffered much from Japan.

In military aspect, Japan drew Asia into wars. Japan was eager to expand its territory in the first half of the 20th century for economic interests and status as a power. It thus started invasions and wars, drawing the continent into wars. For example, as early as 1904 it launched a sudden attack on Russian army in *Lushun* 旅順 and sparked the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭, in which Northeast China turned into battlefield of the powers and became war-torn. The *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變(1932) caused wars and suffering in the Northeast part of China and the Shanghai area respectively. Japan's full-scale invasion against China starting from 1937 even dragged it into the eight-year war of resistance. After that, Japan further invaded other parts of Asia. Starting from 1940, it invaded Southeast Asian countries on the pretext of driving out Western imperialism. It also invaded *Hong Kong* 香港 in 1941 and these caused ceaseless warfare and countless deaths. More than 18 million casualties were caused in China only. It is true that Japan exerted irreversible and catastrophic impact on Asia. Therefore, Japan caused prolonged wars in Asia and harmed the continent greatly.

Despite its catastrophic impact on Asia, it cannot escape notice that Japan also brought some positive impact.



Politically, Japanese aggression indirectly promoted decolonization in Asia. It is true that Japan relentlessly invaded Asian countries on the pretext of establishing the 'Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere' 大東亞共榮圈 and liberating Asian countries by driving out Western imperialistic countries. Nevertheless, Japan defeated the Asian colonial governments established by Western countries like Britain and France and proved that even an Asian country was able to kick the Western powers out of Asia. This encouraged other Asian countries to overthrow colonial rule and gain independence, leading to a trend of decolonization. For example, *Indonesian* 印尼 armed groups adopted guerrilla warfare against Dutch rule and the pressure made the Netherlands recognize its independence in 1949. *Vietnam* 越南 also chose the method of war against France and gained independence in 1954 as well. Eventually, the trend of decolonization swept across Southeast Asia and most Asian countries became independent successively in the post-war period. Therefore, Japanese aggression indirectly led to decolonization and gave positive impact.

In social aspect, Japanese aggression promoted unity among people within their own countries. Japan started a number of invasions in the first half of the 20th century and caused disturbance to other countries. Therefore, people were all united in different countries against Japan and this favoured national unity. The most typical example was the KMT and CCP from China. The two parties had their relationship broken in the 1920s and the former launched five encirclement campaigns against the latter in the early 1930s. However, Japanese aggression intensified constantly with events like the *September 18<sup>th</sup> Incident* 九一八事變(1931) and *January 28<sup>th</sup> Incident* 一二八事變(1932). The two parties consequently put down their ideological differences. The CCP made the *August 1 Declaration* 八一宣言 in 1935 to call for national unity and end of civil war so as to resist Japanese invasion jointly. After the *July 7<sup>th</sup> Incident* 七七事變 in 1937, the KMT gave up the policy of 'stabilizing the country before resisting foreign invasion' 攘外必先安內 and formed the Second United Front with the CCP for resistance against Japan. These showed that Japanese aggression facilitated national unity in Asia.

To conclude, in political, economic, social, military and other aspects, Japan brought about profound impact on Asia, which was mostly negative and made Japan difficult to develop a peaceful and sincere relationship with the neighbouring countries.

Words: 1,189



## To what extent could the 1920s be regarded as a turning point in Japanese history? Explain your answer with reference to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 1920s was a decade of significant importance to Japan. With the sweeping changes in Japan during these ten years, the 1920s was a turning point in Japanese history to a large extent. This essay is going to discuss the changes in political, economic and diplomatic aspects, and examine the continuities in educational and military aspects.

Politically speaking, Japan was in its transition to democracy before the 1920s and moved towards militarism after that, showing that the decade was a turning point. Before the 1920s, Japan was taking its course of democratization. For example, the *First Constitution Protection Movement* 第一次護憲運動 in 1913 pressurized the government to abolish the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制, which protected the Cabinet from military intervention. In 1925, the *General Election Law* 普通選舉法 was also promulgated to give all men aged 25 or above the right to vote, greatly enhancing the representativeness of the lower house. However, since the mid-late 1920s, the militarists were on the rise against the backdrop of the incompetency of political parties, as exemplified by the rise to presidency of militarist leader *Tanaka Giichi* 田中義一 in 1927. In the 1930s, militarism further corroded Japan's politics and became the ruling ideology. For instance, the *May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident* 五一五事件 of 1932, after which generals occupied the position of Prime Minister, marked the end of party politics. After the *February 26<sup>th</sup> Incident* 二二六事件 in 1936, the military was again able to manipulate the Cabinet with the restoration of the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law*. In 1940, the *Imperial Rule Assistance Association* 大政翼贊會 was established as a replacement of all other political parties, making Japan genuinely a country ruled by one-party dictatorship. In comparison, in terms of the direction of development, before the mid-1920s, Japan was moving towards democracy with greater power for the Cabinet and more rights for the people; however, after the mid-1920s, democratization in Japan lost its momentum, the rise of militarism followed and Japan subsequently became a militarist country. Therefore, the decade was a turning point for Japan's politics.

Economically speaking, the change from rapid development to recession in Japan's economy proved the period concerned a turning point. Before the 1920s, the Japanese economy thrived and boomed. Japan took over colonial interests in Northeast China after defeating Russia in the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭 of 1904-05, and monopolized the Chinese market during the First World War when the Western powers were preoccupied with wars. These opportunities led to the surge in trade and substantial economic development. However, in the 1920s, the Western powers returned to the competition for the Chinese market, and there were several economic crises for Japan, including the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 of 1923 costing approximately US\$30 billion, the *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 of 1927 leading to the closure of more than 30 banks, and the *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 of 1929 with many factories shut down. As a result, Japan's economy was ailing in the early 1930s with as many as 3 million people unemployed. The invasion of China did bring Japan more resources, but its total war effort against China since 1937 had caused a surge in military spending, which accounted for a whopping 99% of its national budget in 1944. Coupled with wartime destruction, Japan's economy was overwhelmed and slipped into recession. In comparison, in terms of development trend, Japan's economy developed rapidly and promisingly before the 1920s, but it suffered a downturn after several economic crises in the 1920s and remained on decline due to war efforts in the late 1930s. Therefore, the 1920s was a turning point for Japan's economy.

Diplomatically speaking, Japan's diplomatic preference changed from capitalist countries to totalitarian countries and this transition proved the decade a turning point. Before the 1920s, Japan was an ally of many capitalist states as exemplified by the *Anglo-Japanese Alliance* 英日同盟 established in 1902. Japan was also one of the *Permanent Members* 常任理事國 of the Council of the *League of Nations* 國聯 (1920) whose membership was predominantly capitalist. However, since the 1920s, other capitalist countries showed increasing suspicion and discrimination against Japan owing to its growing national strength. For example, Japan was forced to give up its concessions in Shandong at the *Washington Conference* 華盛頓會議 (1921-22), and Japanese people were denied immigration to America together with other yellow-skinned people according to the *American Exclusion Act* 排外法案 (1924). The unfair treatment led to growing hostility between Japan and capitalist countries, which aggravated their relationship as illustrated by Japan's withdrawal from the League in 1933, and promoted the rise of militarism in favour of a more friendly relationship with other totalitarian countries. For example, Japan formed the *Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis* 柏林—羅馬—東京軸心 with Germany and Italy in 1937 to formally confirm their partnership. Since then, Japan cooperated with other totalitarian countries and fought the Second World War against capitalist countries. In comparison, in terms of foreign relations, Japan remained close and friendly relationship with capitalist countries by the 1920s; however, after being repeatedly discriminated by capitalist countries in the 1920s, Japan became friendly with totalitarian countries and even fought the Second World War against capitalist countries. This was a fundamental change in Japan's diplomatic preference.

From the above discussion, there were fundamental changes in Japan in political, economic and diplomatic aspects. However, the decade was not a turning point in educational and military aspects.

In educational aspect, Japan had high education standard and emphasized indoctrination before and after the 1920s, and the decade was thus not a turning point. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Japan already had a high education level with its compulsory education extended from 4 to 6 years in 1907, as represented by its national enrolment rate of 97%. Also, the Japanese government attempted to promote loyalty and patriotism through indoctrination. For example, the *Imperial Rescript on Education* 教育敕語 stated that education was not a self-improvement process but the service provided by the individuals to the state. In the 1920s, Japan's education continued to develop and the scope was extended to tertiary education. By 1931, the title of doctor was granted to about 9000 people. In addition, the military takeover led to a tighter grip on education as illustrated by the unconsented introduction of military trainings at schools and dismissal of teachers promoting human rights and liberal thoughts. In comparison, education in Japan remained at a high level before and after the 1920s and the scope of educational development further extended from elementary education to tertiary education. Such extension was based on the existing foundation and did not constitute a turning point. Also, the Japanese government had absolute control over education throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, the 1920s was a decade of continuity instead of a turning point.

In military aspect, Japan had always been developing its military power actively and the decade showed continuities instead of changes. Before the 1920s, Japan already had an aspiration for military build-up. As for navy, Japan had started research and development of advanced warships since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In terms of army, there were 13 infantry divisions equipped with modern weapons in Japan in 1906. The strength of Japanese army was too great to ignore and allowed Japan to defeat Russia in the *Russo-Japanese War* 日俄戰爭(1904-05). In the 1920s, despite the rise of party politics, Japan's devotion to military build-up continued unabated as proven by the completion of the world's first standard aircraft carrier named *Hosho* 鳳翔號 in 1922. As Japan entered the 1930s, its military development sped up even more with the military takeover and its further invasion of China. For example, the *National Mobilization Law* 國家總動員法 was passed in 1938 to allocate 70% of its national budget for military purposes, greatly enhancing Japan's military strength as exemplified by the 10430 *A6M Zero Fighters* 零式戰鬥機 produced (during the Pacific War). Japan reached the peak of its military strength. In comparison, in terms of military development, Japan placed great emphasis on military build-up before and after the 1920s. With the substantial resources provided, Japan was powerful in military terms. Since Japan only further promoted its military development after the 1920s without fundamental changes, the decade was therefore a period of continuity instead of a turning point.

In conclusion, despite continuities in educational and military aspects, Japan in the 1930s showed drastic changes in political, economic and diplomatic aspects and was clearly different from what it had been in the 1920s. Therefore, the 1920s was a turning point to a large extent.

Words: 1389



**‘There were more continuities than changes with respect to the development of Japan in the first half of the 20th century.’**

**Comment on the validity of this statement.**

Japan experienced dramatic changes in the first half of the 20th century, going from party politics to militarist dictatorship and to the SCAP occupation after its defeat in the Second World War. Each of these periods caused enormous changes to Japan’s development and brought about a new outlook of the country. Therefore, there were more continuities than changes with respect to Japan’s development in the first half of the 20th century. This essay is going to discuss this topic in political, economic and diplomatic aspects.

In terms of political continuities, Japan remained a monarchy throughout the first half of the 20th century. From *Emperor Meiji* 明治天皇 in the early 20th century to *Emperor Taisho* 大正天皇 in the period 1912-26 and his successor *Emperor Showa* 裕仁天皇, the Emperor was always the supreme leader of Japan. Despite that the SCAP government stripped the Emperor of his power after occupying Japan in 1945, monarchy was retained as a political characteristic that existed throughout the period concerned.

In terms of changes, Japan's political development changed from a democratic one to an autocratic one and eventually back to democratization. In the early 20th century, Japan was gradually democratized politically, as exemplified by the *First Constitution Protection Movement* 第一次護憲運動 in 1913 that compelled the Japanese government to abolish the *Military Ministers to be Active-Duty Officers Law* 軍部大臣現役武官制 and rid the Cabinet of military control. In addition, in 1925, the *General Election Law* 普通選舉法 was passed to grant the right to vote to men aged 25 or above, facilitating democratic development. However, in the mid-late 1920s, the corruption of party politics led to the rise of militarism. For instance, the *May 15 Incident* 五一五事件 of 1932, after which the post of prime minister had been filled solely by military personnel, marked the end of party politics. In 1940, the *Imperial Rule Assistance Association* 大政翼贊會 was established to replace all political parties and officially make Japan a one-party dictatorship that was extremely autocratic. It was until Japan's defeat in the Second World War in 1945 that the SCAP government occupied the country and introduced democratization measures, including enacting the *Showa Constitution* 昭和憲法, increasing the power of the House of Representatives and granting the right to vote to all adult men and women, to lay a proper foundation for democracy in Japan.

In comparison, there were more changes than continuities in Japan in political aspect. In terms of monarchy, despite superficial continuity of the monarchical system, the Emperor lost his power according to the *Showa Constitution* 昭和憲法 of 1947 and had since been merely a ceremonial symbolic role no longer enjoying actual power. In addition, in terms of changes, Japan's politics experienced different changes in the period concerned, going through democratic development, militarist rule with autocracy and the return of democratization in the SCAP period. Its development was characterized by these ups and downs. Therefore, there were clearly more changes than continuities regarding Japan's political development.

In terms of economic continuities, the zaibatsu monopolized the Japanese economy for a long period of time in the first half of the 20th century. Since the restoration of the Meiji imperial rule in 1868, the government had had a close relationship with the zaibatsu due to their significant contributions to the *anti-bakufu movement* 倒幕運動. Also, during the era of party politics in the early 20th century, political donations from the zaibatsu were the major sources of campaign contributions. The zaibatsu took advantage of their close relationship with the government to make huge profits and even established a monopoly on the economy. For example, in 1929, the five biggest banks, owned by the zaibatsu *Mitsui* 三井, *Mitsubishi* 三菱, *Sumitomo* 住友, *Yasuda* 安田 and *Daiichi* 第一, controlled 34.5% of Japan's deposits. Before 1946, a small group of financial cliques controlled significant parts of the Japanese economy. This was a distinct characteristic of Japan's economy in the first half of the 20th century.

In terms of changes, Japan's economic development changed from rapid expansion to recession and eventually to recovery. Before the 1920s, Japan's economy thrived and its exports greatly increased due to its monopolization of the Chinese market when the Western powers were preoccupied with the First World War. However, in the 1920s, with the return of the Western powers to the Chinese market and different economic crises such as the *Great Kanto Earthquake* 關東大地震 of 1923, *Bank Crisis* 銀行危機 of 1927 and *Great Depression* 經濟大蕭條 of 1929, the Japanese economy was ailing and more than 3 million people were unemployed. It was true that Japan's invasion of China made more resources available to the former; nevertheless, Japan's full-scale invasion of China beginning in 1937 led to a surge in military spending, which made up of as much as 99% of its national budget in 1944, and overwhelmed the Japanese economy. In addition to wartime destruction, Japan experienced economic recession as a result. However, towards the end of the 1940s, the SCAP government aided Japan to rebuild its economy by providing loans of US\$2 billion and promulgating the *Land Reform Act* 土地改革法 (1946) to release farmland, reviving Japan's economy after it reached rock bottom.

In comparison, there were more changes than continuities in economic aspect. In terms of the *zaibatsu* 財閥, they did exercise a monopoly on the Japanese economy for a long period of time but they all collapsed after the SCAP government enacted the *Anti-Monopoly Act* 禁止壟斷法, *Enterprise Reorganization Act and other anti-zaibatsu regulations* 企業再建整備法, which contributed to a major turning point in Japan's course of development. Also, in terms of changes in development, Japan's economic development was characterized by ups and downs, going from prosperity to recession and finally bouncing back from rock bottom. Therefore, there were also more changes than continuities regarding Japan's economic development.

In terms of diplomatic continuities, Japan's relationships with the neighboring countries remained strained. There had been long-standing hostility between Japan and countries such as China and Korea. For example, in 1910, Japan forced Korea to sign the *Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty* 日朝合併條約, which upset the whole nation and made the Korean people resistant to Japanese rule. Meanwhile, Japan also forced China to accept the *Twenty-One Demands* 廿一條 in 1915 and acquired the concessions in *Shandong* 山東, China at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, attracting fierce criticisms from the Chinese people. In 1939, Japan even staged the *July 7 Incident* 七七事變 and started its full-scale invasion of China. The two countries became belligerent and their relationship could not be worse.

In terms of diplomatic changes, Japan changed its allies from capitalist countries to Fascist countries, and eventually back to members of the capitalist bloc. In the early 20th century, Japan was friendly to capitalist countries. For instance, Japan formed the *Anglo-Japanese Alliance* 英日同盟 with Britain in 1902, and joined the League of Nations, a predominantly capitalist organization, as one of the four *permanent members* 常任理事國 of the Council. However, after the 1920s, Japan became increasingly powerful and attracted skepticism as well as discrimination from capitalist countries, as exemplified by the *Immigration Act* 排外法案 of 1924 to ban immigration to America from Asian countries, including Japan. This resulted in increasing hostility between Japan and capitalist countries, which prompted the former to withdraw from the League in 1933 and ally itself with Fascist countries. Subsequently, Japan formed the *Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis* 柏林—羅馬—東京軸心 with Italy and Germany in 1937 and fought in the Second World War as part of the Axis Powers against capitalist countries such as Britain and the US. After its defeat in 1945, Japan was occupied by the U.S.-led SCAP government and joined back the capitalist bloc as an important buffer against the spread of communism in Asia.

In comparison, there were again more changes than continuities in diplomatic aspect for Japan. In terms of its relationships with the neighboring countries, they were strained but not immune to change. As for Japan-China relations, before Japan staged the *September 18 Incident* 九一八事變 in 1931, their relations remained stable and never became so bad that the two countries would go to war. It was Japan's repeated invasions of China in the 1930s that worsened their relations to a point of no return. Also, from a holistic perspective, Japan under militarist rule in the period 1932-45 experienced a major shift in foreign policy from being friendly to capitalist countries to making Fascist allies. This shift altered the direction of Japan's diplomatic policy and caused significant changes in diplomatic aspect. Therefore, there were more changes than continuities regarding Japan's diplomatic development.

In conclusion, in the first half of the 20th century, Japan experienced different changes in political, economic, diplomatic and other aspects, which fundamentally changed Japan into a distinctly different nation. Therefore, what the question suggests is not valid.

Words: 1415





## 考生答卷示範

分數：15/25(M) 分數：16/25(C)

我同意此說，因為在日本 20 世紀上半葉的發展，其政治、經濟、社會、軍事特徵確是轉變多於延續，只有教育上為延續，但整體轉變多於延續。

在政治上，日本 20 世紀上半葉是複雜多變，經歷多次政制改變。日本 20 世紀初，政治為人治而非法治因明治憲法中規定天王神聖不可侵犯，可以解散國會和擁有軍隊照見權。但是 1912 年日本即因為護憲運動而推翻軍部大臣現任武官制，軍方不可以控制議會，1917 年更出現原敬首位平民首相（雖然由首相製造機山縣有朋推上）走去民主化，進入大正時期。在 1925 年更實現了普通選舉法，應承又 5% 人口投票權增至 20% 人口、21 歲成年男性可以投票的狀態。至 1930 年，濱口雄幸遭到刺殺，32 年 515 事件犬養毅遇刺卻令日本政黨政治走下坡，至 1936 年後更復辟軍部大神現任武官制，重令軍方掌權，走向黑暗時代。由 1940 年大政翼贊會一黨專政。但至 1945 年戰後，又出現因昭和憲法（1947）而致的民主政府，三權分立定重行法治，重回民主制。故此，日本先由專制的明治時代走向大正民主，又再出現軍部一黨專政，最後在回歸至民主制，出現三次改變，成功由明治的 20 世紀初走向民主化多黨制法治的 20 世紀上半葉的盟總時期，政治特徵上出現巨大轉變。

在經濟方面，日本經歷了由盛轉衰，唯一改變。在明治年間，日本由 1905 年日俄戰爭中得到朝鮮的煤、鋼資源，在 1902 年出現全國兩萬間紡織工廠，反映其工業強盛。自一戰更因西方列強無暇中國市場，而佔據了大量利益，其火柴於中國市場更佔七成貿易市場佔有率；而日本在甲午戰爭中在華設廠權也令日本可以在中國大肆設立工廠逃離。但是至 1923 年卻出現關東大地震，令日本損失 300 億美元，由盛轉衰。在 1927 年的銀行危機也出現 30 間銀行倒閉，至 1929 年至 32 年經濟大蕭條期間更出現 300 萬人失業，民不聊生。至 1938 年更因為侵略中國而啟動《國家總動員法》，軍事開支達 70%，加速對經濟破壞，至 1944 年更達到 99%，經濟崩潰。雖然 1946 年推行土地改革法、禁止壟斷法，但在 1949 年也只令經濟回歸 1936 年水平，較 20 世紀初為差。故相較之下，日本上半葉經濟由盛轉衰，在經濟分布上，也由日本帝國時期（1900-45）的財閥壟斷（三井、住友、安田、第一、三菱）走向財閥瓦解的反壟斷法（1947）及土地壟斷走向重新分配。1946 年的土地改革法解放百姓農地。故此在經濟狀況、經濟架構上均為一大轉變。

日本社會特徵在 20 世紀上半葉也經歷了自由度、外國度、社會流動性的改變。

由於明治憲法規定人民「享有自由但不得干預和平」此一模糊規定，日本人的自由一直受限制；而日本也因為貴族（華族）、元老的存在而令社會流動性低，普遍人民生活困苦的情況。例如 1917 年出現歷史上最大的示威米騷動。至 1925 年，因《治安維持法》，日本人的自由度更低，社會主義者和民主主義這不得參選。而社會上更出現財閥、政治家勾結，例如 1925 年出現 25,000 種選舉法違反個案。至軍國主義者上台後，日本更成為狂熱軍國主義國家，教師不得宣揚自由民主，如共產主義者岩崎昶在 1940 年被憲兵拘捕。日本陷入社會自由度低、極為愛國、社會流動性低之狀態。在二戰末期更出現狂熱的神風敢死隊，如同二零年代櫻花會、血盟團等愛國情緒高漲之狀況，但有過之而無一級。至戰後，因東京法庭審判六千名軍國主義者，二十萬相關利益者及實行昭和憲法保障人民言論、集會自由及土地改革法，防止壟斷法，令日本在 20 世紀的愛國、自由度低、社會流動性差等情況被大大改變，轉為理性、自由度高、社會流動性大的社會，與題目所言相符。

在外交和軍事上，日本上半葉的政治也出現特徵相由強勢轉弱的改變。20 世紀初日本軍力強大，1905 年日俄戰爭打敗俄國，國力強大擁有過百艘戰艦，二十九萬常備陸軍，1902 年締結日英同盟，反映英國地位和日本平等。直至一戰中，日本更打敗德國得到山東和青島利益，成為戰勝國，更成為國聯常任理事國之一，地位高。至華盛頓海軍條約，更成為僅次於英美（5:5:3:1.75:1.75）的海上霸權，二零年代倫敦海軍會議中更得到 10:10:6 巡洋艦比例，成為世界第三大海軍強國。在 1928 年更有能力炸死中國軍閥張作霖，1941 年入侵東北三省成立滿州國，期間建成世上第一艘航母鳳翔號，37 年侵華，41 年進攻英美，擁有 125 艘驅逐艦、10 艘戰列艦，建立大東亞共榮圈，建立大東亞共榮圈，威脅一事。但在 1945 年戰敗後，不准其擁有軍隊，其多變外交和列強地位也被除去，於 20 世紀初強大、地位高的日本形成巨大對比，故此為一個轉變。

但是在教育方面，日本的教育水平是一個延續。日本在 1902 年已經把四年強迫教育改為六年，其基礎教育水平為亞洲第一，更出現二零年代已經擁有十萬名大學生。故此其學術成就多，例如醫學上野口英世、文學上夏目漱石，兩人均獲得諾貝爾獎提名。雖然日本在 1945 年戰敗，但也在 1946 年繼續擴充教育水平，實現九年義務教育。故此，日本上半葉的教育特徵和唯一延續，繼續保持高水平發展。

故此，我同意題目自然，因其轉變多於延續。

字數：1904

# HK

## K.W. HO

歷史 HISTORY

考場戰神 · 求敗 · 高考歷史科全卷88%分數奪A

### 【變強，首先要承認自己的不足】

K.W.HO於會考及高考期間，深知單憑學校教導不足以取得最強成績，因此不斷補習取經，進而歸納技巧，再不斷反覆驗證答題方法，最終於會考取得A級成績，更在高考以88%的求敗分數奪A！

### 【天才 · 出於勤】

歷史科只有「努力型天才」，並不存在「天賦型天才」。只要透過努力及正確方法，任何人均可以於歷史科獲取佳績。K.W.HO出身於天水圍一所band 2中學，歷史科在中四時候僅取得中游成績，但往後透過不斷積極求學，以及鑽研答題要求及方法，最終於高考取得88%的求敗成績，誰與爭鋒？

### 【專注 · 極至】

K.W.HO除了高考歷史科獲A外，高考通識科亦以Straight A(三份卷全A)的完美姿態奪A。然而，K.W.HO斷然放棄學生人數較歷史科多近10倍的通識科<sup>^</sup>，專注鑽研、任教歷史科。原因僅單純出於興趣及責任，希望專心致志地教好一科、教好每一個學生，這才是問心無愧。

### 【革命 · 顛覆所有】

於高考過後，K.W.HO內心有一個很強烈的念頭，就是將他對歷史科所有的研究毫無保留地公諸於世。於是，K.W.HO於19歲時開設了K.W.HO\_History Blog (<http://cyruzho.mysinablog.com/>)，記錄他在高考2年來點滴積累的論文、考試心得，供人免費觀看。在他不斷堅持下，累積超過500篇文章，瀏覽人次高達165萬。於2015年，K.W.HO感覺到單純以「網站分享」已經到達了瓶頸，必須有更強大的力量支持方能完成他的革命。所以，K.W.HO加盟英皇教育，親身將答題技巧教授予同學，徹底改變同學對於讀歷史科的思維模式！

### 【戰績 · 有誰可比？】

連續4年(2016-2019年)蟬聯全港最多DSE歷史科5+、5\*\*學生  
歷史科市場領導! 4年合共打造過百名5\*\*學生!  
大幅拋離坊間其他導師!

2017年有重考門生由Level 2跳升至5\*\*，創造重考傳奇!  
2016年有門生僅用10個月時間新修歷史科取得5\*\*，開創新修傳奇! <sup>^</sup>  
<sup>^</sup>根據學生向英皇教育提供的數據或資料分析



K.W. Ho



kwhohistory

