

# Meiji period

The **Meiji period** ( 明治時代, *Meiji-jidai*), also known as the **Meiji era**, was a [Japanese era name](#) ( 年号, *nengō*, lit. "year name") after [Keiō](#) and before [Taishō](#). This period started in September 1868 and ended in July 1912.<sup>[1]</sup> During this time, the emperor was [Meiji-tennō](#) ( 明治天皇 ).<sup>[1]</sup>

## [History of Japan](#)

The [nengō](#) *Meiji* means "Enlightened Rule"<sup>[2]</sup> or "Enlightened Government".<sup>[1]</sup>

## Events of the *Meiji* period

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The years in which Meiji was the Japanese monarch [comprise](#) this modern period or era.<sup>[3]</sup>

- **1868** (*Meiji 1*): [Meiji Restoration](#); the [capital of Japan](#) moved from Kyoto to Tokyo.<sup>[1]</sup>
- **1889-1890** (*Meiji 22-23*): [Constitution of the Empire of Japan](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- **1894-1895** (*Meiji 27-28*): [First Sino-Japanese War](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- **1904-1905** (*Meiji 37-38*): [Russo-Japanese War](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- **30 July 1912** (*Meiji 45, 30th day of the*

7th month): Meiji  
died. <sup>[4]</sup>

## Politics

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- **1885** (*Meiji 18*): [Ito Hirobumi](#) became 1st Prime Minister<sup>[5]</sup>
- **1888** (*Meiji 21*): [Kuroda Kiyotaka](#) became 2nd Prime Minister<sup>[6]</sup>
- **1889** (*Meiji 22*): [Yamagata Aritomo](#) became 3rd Prime Minister<sup>[7]</sup>
- **1891** (*Meiji 24*): [Matsukata Masayoshi](#) became 4th Prime Minister<sup>[8]</sup>
- **1892** (*Meiji 25*): Ito became 5th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>
- **1896** (*Meiji 29*): Matsukata became 6th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>
- **1898** (*Meiji 31*): Ito became 7th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>
- **1898** (*Meiji 31*): [Ōkuma Shigenobu](#) became 8th Prime Minister<sup>[10]</sup>
- **1898** (*Meiji 31*): Yamagata became 9th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>
- **1900** (*Meiji 33*): Ito became 10th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>
- **1901** (*Meiji 34*): [Katsura Tarō](#) became 11th Prime Minister<sup>[11]</sup>
- **1906** (*Meiji 39*): [Saionji Kinmochi](#)

Periods	
<a href="#">Paleolithic</a>	before 14,000 <a href="#">BC</a>
<a href="#">Jōmon</a>	14,000 – 300 BC
<a href="#">Yayoi</a>	300 BC – 300 <a href="#">AD</a>
<a href="#">Kofun</a>	300–538
<a href="#">Asuka</a>	538–710
<a href="#">Nara</a>	710–794
<a href="#">Heian</a>	794–1185
<a href="#">Kamakura</a>	1185–1333
<a href="#">Kenmu Restoration</a>	1333–1336
<a href="#">Muromachi</a> ( <a href="#">Ashikaga</a> ) <a href="#">Nanboku-chō</a> <a href="#">Sengoku</a>	1336–1573
<a href="#">Azuchi-Momoyama</a> <a href="#">Nanban trade</a>	1573–1603
<a href="#">Edo</a> ( <a href="#">Tokugawa</a> ) <a href="#">Sakoku</a> <a href="#">Convention of Kanagawa</a> <a href="#">Bakumatsu</a>	1603–1868
<b>Meiji</b> <a href="#">Boshin War</a> <a href="#">Restoration</a> <a href="#">First Sino-Japanese War</a> <a href="#">Boxer Rebellion</a> <a href="#">Russo-Japanese War</a>	1868–1912
<a href="#">Taishō</a> <a href="#">World War I</a>	1912–1926
<a href="#">Shōwa</a> <a href="#">Financial crisis</a> <a href="#">Militarism</a> <a href="#">World War II</a> <a href="#">Occupation</a> <a href="#">Economic miracle</a> <a href="#">Post-occupation</a> <a href="#">Bubble economy</a>	1926–1989
<a href="#">Heisei</a> <a href="#">Lost Decade</a> <a href="#">Great Hanshin earthquake</a> <a href="#">Great East Japan earthquake</a> <a href="#">Imperial transition</a>	1989–2019 (planned)
<a href="#">Reiwa</a>	2019 (planned)
Topics	
<a href="#">Currency</a> · <a href="#">Earthquakes</a> · <a href="#">Economy</a> · <a href="#">Education</a> · <a href="#">Empire</a> · <a href="#">Historiography</a> · <a href="#">Military</a> · <a href="#">Naval</a> · <a href="#">Post-war</a>	
Glossary · Timeline	

became 12th Prime Minister<sup>[12]</sup>

[v](#) • [t](#) • [e](#)

- **1908** (*Meiji 41*): Katsura became 13th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>
- **1911** (*Meiji 44*): Saionji became 14th Prime Minister<sup>[9]</sup>

## Gallery

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [The 15-year-old Emperor Meiji, moving from Kyoto to Tokyo, end of 1868, after the fall of Edo.](#)

The 15-year-old [Emperor Meiji](#), moving from [Kyoto](#) to Tokyo, end of 1868, after the fall of Edo.

- [Formal beginning of the Meiji Constitution, 1889. Woodblock print by Toyohara Chikanobu.](#)

Formal beginning of the [Meiji Constitution](#), 1889. Woodblock print by [Toyohara Chikanobu](#).

- [One yen coin of 1870 \(Meiji 3 \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_\), both sides.](#)

- One yen coin of 1870 (*Meiji* 3 ), both sides.
- [First Meiji one-yen banknote, 1871.](#)

First Meiji one-[yen](#) banknote, 1871.

## Related pages

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- [List of emperors of Japan](#)
- [Japanese era name](#)

## References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. ↑ [1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6](#) Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 624. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.
2. ↑ Dean, Meryll. (2002). *Japanese Legal System*, p. 55.
3. ↑ [GlobalSecurity.org, Japanese years](#). Retrieved 2012-12-15.
4. ↑ Meyer, Eva-Maria (1999). *Japans Kaiserhof in der Edo-Zeit: unter besonderer Berucksichtigung der Jahre 1846 bis 1867*. Lit. p. 186. ISBN 978-3-8258-3939-0.
5. ↑ Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 404. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.
6. ↑ Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 578. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.
7. ↑ Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 1038. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.
8. ↑ Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 618. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.
9. ↑ [9.0 9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4 9.5 9.6](#) Prime Minister of Japan and Cabinet (*Kantei*), "[Prime Ministers in History, 1st-30th \(1885-1934\)](#)". Retrieved 2012-4-29.
10. ↑ Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 748. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.
11. ↑ Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 494. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.

- <sup>1</sup> Nussbaum, Louis-Frédéric (2002). *Japan Encyclopedia*. Harvard University Press. p. 808. ISBN 978-0-674-01753-5.

## Other websites

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Media related to **Meiji era** at Wikimedia Commons

- [National Diet Library](#), "The Japanese Calendar" -- [historical overview plus illustrative images from library's collection](#)

Meiji	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	
	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887

Meiji	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32th	33th	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th
	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905

Meiji	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th
	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912

Preceded by:  
*Keiō*

Era or *nengō*:  
**Meiji**

Succeeded by:  
*Taishō*

v · t · e		Japanese era names ( <i>Nengō</i> )
<b>Legendary Period</b>		
<b>Kofun period</b>		
<b>Asuka period</b> <b>538-710</b>		<a href="#">Taika</a> 645-650 · <a href="#">Hakuchi</a> 650-654 · <a href="#">Shuchō</a> 686-686 · <a href="#">Taihō</a> 701-704 · <a href="#">Keiun</a> 704-708 · <a href="#">Wadō</a> 708-715
<b>Nara period</b> <b>710-784</b>		<a href="#">Reiki</a> 715-717 · <a href="#">Yōrō</a> 717-724 · <a href="#">Jinki</a> 724-729 · <a href="#">Tenpyō</a> 729-749 · <a href="#">Tenpyō-kanpō</a> 749-749 · <a href="#">Tenpyō-shōhō</a> 749-757 · <a href="#">Tenpyō-hōji</a> 757-765 · <a href="#">Tenpyō-jingo</a> 765-767 · <a href="#">Jingo-keiun</a> 767-770 · <a href="#">Hōki</a> 770-781 · <a href="#">Ten'ō</a> 781-782 · <a href="#">Enryaku</a> 782-806
<b>Heian period</b> <b>784-1185</b>		<a href="#">Daidō</a> 806-810 · <a href="#">Kōnin</a> 810-824 · <a href="#">Tenchō</a> 824-834 · <a href="#">Jōwa</a> 834-848 · <a href="#">Kashō</a> 848-851 · <a href="#">Ninju</a> 851-854 · <a href="#">Saikō</a> 854-857 · <a href="#">Ten'an</a> 857-859 · <a href="#">Jōgan</a> 859-877 · <a href="#">Gangyō</a> 877-885 · <a href="#">Ninna</a> 885-889 · <a href="#">Kanpyō</a> 889-898 · <a href="#">Shōtai</a> 898-901 · <a href="#">Engi</a> 901-923 · <a href="#">Enchō</a> 923-931 · <a href="#">Jōhei</a> 931-938 · <a href="#">Tengyō</a> 938-947 · <a href="#">Tenryaku</a> 947-957 · <a href="#">Tentoku</a> 957-961 · <a href="#">Ōwa</a> 961-964 · <a href="#">Kōhō</a> 964-968 · <a href="#">Anna</a> 968-970 · <a href="#">Tenroku</a> 970-973 · <a href="#">Ten'en</a> 973-976 · <a href="#">Jōgen</a> 976-978 · <a href="#">Tengen</a> 978-983 · <a href="#">Eikan</a> 983-985 · <a href="#">Kanna</a> 985-987 · <a href="#">Eien</a> 987-988 · <a href="#">Eiso</a> 988-

	<p>990 • <a href="#">Shōryaku</a> 990-995 • <a href="#">Chōtoku</a> 995-999 • <a href="#">Chōhō</a> 999-1004 • <a href="#">Kankō</a> 1004-1012 • <a href="#">Chōwa</a> 1012-1017 • <a href="#">Kannin</a> 1017-1021 • <a href="#">Jian</a> 1021-1024 • <a href="#">Manju</a> 1024-1028 • <a href="#">Chōgen</a> 1028-1037 • <a href="#">Chōryaku</a> 1037-1040 • <a href="#">Chōkyū</a> 1040-1044 •</p> <p><a href="#">Kantoku</a> 1044-1046 • <a href="#">Eishō</a> 1046-1053 • <a href="#">Tengi</a> 1053-1058 • <a href="#">Kōhei</a> 1058-1065 • <a href="#">Jiryaku</a> 1065-1069 • <a href="#">Enkyū</a> 1069-1074 • <a href="#">Jōhō</a> 1074-1077 • <a href="#">Jōryaku</a> 1077-1081 • <a href="#">Eihō</a> 1081-1084 • <a href="#">Ōtoku</a> 1084-1087 • <a href="#">Kanji</a> 1087-1094 • <a href="#">Kahō</a> 1094-1096 • <a href="#">Eichō</a> 1096-1097 • <a href="#">Jōtoku</a> 1097-1099 • <a href="#">Kōwa</a> 1099-1104 • <a href="#">Chōji</a> 1104-1106 • <a href="#">Kashō</a> 1106-1108 • <a href="#">Tennin</a> 1108-1110 • <a href="#">Ten'ei</a> 1110-1113 • <a href="#">Eikyū</a> 1113-1118 • <a href="#">Gen'ei</a> 1118-1120 • <a href="#">Hōan</a> 1120-1124 • <a href="#">Tenji</a> 1124-1126 • <a href="#">Daiji</a> 1126-1131 • <a href="#">Tenshō</a> 1131-1132 • <a href="#">Chōshō</a> 1132-1135 • <a href="#">Hōen</a> 1135-1141 • <a href="#">Eiji</a> 1141-1142 • <a href="#">Kōji</a> 1142-1144 • <a href="#">Ten'yō</a> 1144-1145 • <a href="#">Kyūan</a> 1145-1151 • <a href="#">Ninpei</a> 1151-1154 • <a href="#">Kyūju</a> 1154-1156 • <a href="#">Hōgen</a> 1156-1159 • <a href="#">Heiji</a> 1159-1160 • <a href="#">Eiryaku</a> 1160-1161 • <a href="#">Ōhō</a> 1161-1163 • <a href="#">Chōkan</a> 1163-1165 • <a href="#">Eiman</a> 1165-1166 • <a href="#">Nin'an</a> 1166-1169 • <a href="#">Kaō</a> 1169-1171 • <a href="#">Jōan</a> 1171-1175 • <a href="#">Angen</a> 1175-1177 • <a href="#">Jishō</a> 1177-1181 • <a href="#">Yōwa</a> 1181-1182 • <a href="#">Juei</a> 1182-1184 • <a href="#">Genryaku</a> 1184-1185</p>
<p><b><u>Kamakura period</u></b> <b>1185-1333</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Bunji</a> 1185-1190 • <a href="#">Kenkyū</a> 1190-1199 • <a href="#">Shōji</a> 1199-1201 • <a href="#">Kennin</a> 1201-1204 • <a href="#">Genkyū</a> 1204-1206 • <a href="#">Ken'ei</a> 1206-1207 • <a href="#">Jōgen</a> 1207-1211 • <a href="#">Kenryaku</a> 1211-1213 • <a href="#">Kempo</a> 1213-1219 • <a href="#">Jōkyū</a> 1219-1222 • <a href="#">Jōō</a> 1222-1224 • <a href="#">Gennin</a> 1224-1225 • <a href="#">Karoku</a> 1225-1227 • <a href="#">Antei</a> 1227-1229 • <a href="#">Kangi</a> 1229-1232 • <a href="#">Jōei</a> 1232-1233 • <a href="#">Tenpuku</a> 1233-1234 •</p> <p><a href="#">Bunryaku</a> 1234-1235 • <a href="#">Katei</a> 1235-1238 • <a href="#">Ryakunin</a> 1238-1239 • <a href="#">En'ō</a> 1239-1240 • <a href="#">Ninji</a> 1240-1243 • <a href="#">Kangen</a> 1243-1247 • <a href="#">Hōji</a> 1247-1249 • <a href="#">Kenchō</a> 1249-1256 • <a href="#">Kōgen</a> 1256-1257 • <a href="#">Shōka</a> 1257-1259 • <a href="#">Shōgen</a> 1259-1260 • <a href="#">Bun'ō</a> 1260-1261 • <a href="#">Kōchō</a> 1261-1264 • <a href="#">Bun'ei</a> 1264-1275 • <a href="#">Kenji</a> 1275-1278 • <a href="#">Kōan</a> 1278-1288 • <a href="#">Shōō</a> 1288-1293 • <a href="#">Einin</a> 1293-1299 • <a href="#">Shōan</a> 1299-1302 • <a href="#">Kengen</a> 1302-1303 • <a href="#">Kagen</a> 1303-1306 • <a href="#">Tokuji</a> 1306-1308 • <a href="#">Enkyō</a> 1308-1311 • <a href="#">Ōchō</a> 1311-1312 • <a href="#">Shōwa</a> 1312-1317 • <a href="#">Bunpō</a> 1317-1319 • <a href="#">Gen'ō</a> 1319-1321 • <a href="#">Genkyō</a> 1321-1324 • <a href="#">Shōchū</a> 1324-1326 • <a href="#">Karyaku</a> 1326-1329 • <a href="#">Gentoku</a> 1329-1331 • <a href="#">Genkō</a> 1331-1334<sup>#</sup> • <a href="#">Shōkyō</a> 1332-1334<sup>℣</sup></p>
<p><b><u>Nanboku-chō period</u></b> <b>(Northern Court)</b> <b>1336-1392</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Kemmu</a> 1334-1338 • <a href="#">Ryakuō</a> 1338-1342 • <a href="#">Kōei</a> 1342-1345 • <a href="#">Jōwa</a> 1345-1350 • <a href="#">Kannō</a> 1350-1352 • <a href="#">Bunna</a> 1352-1356 • <a href="#">Enbun</a> 1356-1361 • <a href="#">Kōan</a> 1361-1362 • <a href="#">Jōji</a> 1362-1368 •</p>

	<a href="#">Ōan</a> 1368-1375 • <a href="#">Eiwa</a> 1375-1379 • <a href="#">Kōryaku</a> 1379-1381 • <a href="#">Eitoku</a> 1381-1384 • <a href="#">Shitoku</a> 1384-1387 • <a href="#">Takei</a> 1387-1389 • <a href="#">Kōō</a> 1389-1390 • <a href="#">Meitoku</a> 1390-1394 <sup>‡</sup>
<b>Nanboku-chō period</b> <b>(Southern Court)</b> <b>1336-1392</b>	<a href="#">Kammu</a> 1334-1336 • <a href="#">Engen</a> 1336-1340 • <a href="#">Kōkoku</a> 1340-1346 • <a href="#">Shōhei</a> 1346-1370 • <a href="#">Kantoku</a> 1370-1372 • <a href="#">Bunchū</a> 1372-1375 • <a href="#">Tenju</a> 1375-1381 • <a href="#">Kōwa</a> 1381-1384 • <a href="#">Genchū</a> 1384-1392 <sup>‡</sup>
<b>Muromachi period</b> <b>1333-1573</b>	<a href="#">Ōei</a> 1394-1428 • <a href="#">Shōchō</a> 1428-1429 • <a href="#">Eikyō</a> 1429-1441 • <a href="#">Kakitsu</a> 1441-1444 • <a href="#">Bun'an</a> 1444-1449 • <a href="#">Hōtoku</a> 1449-1452 • <a href="#">Kyōtoku</a> 1452-1455 • <a href="#">Kōshō</a> 1455-1457 • <a href="#">Chōroku</a> 1457-1460 • <a href="#">Kanshō</a> 1460-1466 • <a href="#">Bunshō</a> 1466-1467 • <a href="#">Ōnin</a> 1467-1469 • <a href="#">Bunmei</a> 1469-1487 • <a href="#">Chōkyō</a> 1487-1489 • <a href="#">Entoku</a> 1489-1492 • <a href="#">Meiō</a> 1492-1501 • <a href="#">Bunki</a> 1501-1521 • <a href="#">Eishō</a> 1504-1521 • <a href="#">Daiei</a> 1521-1528 • <a href="#">Kyōroku</a> 1528-1532 • <a href="#">Tenbun</a> 1532-1555 • <a href="#">Kōji</a> 1555-1558 • <a href="#">Eiroku</a> 1558-1570 • <a href="#">Genki</a> 1570-1573
<b>Momoyama period</b> <b>1573-1600</b>	<a href="#">Tenshō</a> 1573-1592 • <a href="#">Bunroku</a> 1592-1596 • <a href="#">Keichō</a> 1596-1615
<b>Edo period</b> <b>1600-1868</b>	<a href="#">Genna</a> 1615-1624 • <a href="#">Kan'ei</a> 1624-1644 • <a href="#">Shōhō</a> 1644-1648 • <a href="#">Keian</a> 1648-1652 • <a href="#">Jōō</a> 1652-1655 • <a href="#">Meireki</a> 1655-1658 • <a href="#">Manji</a> 1658-1661 • <a href="#">Kanbun</a> 1661-1673 • <a href="#">Enpō</a> 1673-1681 • <a href="#">Tenna</a> 1681-1684 • <a href="#">Jōkyō</a> 1684-1688 • <a href="#">Genroku</a> 1688-1704 • <a href="#">Hōei</a> 1704-1711 • <a href="#">Shōtoku</a> 1711-1716 • <a href="#">Kyōhō</a> 1716-1736 • <a href="#">Genbun</a> 1736-1741 • <a href="#">Kanpō</a> 1741-1744 • <a href="#">Enkyō</a> 1744-1748 • <a href="#">Kan'en</a> 1748-1751 • <a href="#">Hōreki</a> 1751-1764 • <a href="#">Meiwa</a> 1764-1772 • <a href="#">An'ei</a> 1772-1781 • <a href="#">Tenmei</a> 1781-1789 • <a href="#">Kansei</a> 1789-1801 • <a href="#">Kyōwa</a> 1801-1804 • <a href="#">Bunka</a> 1804-1818 • <a href="#">Bunsei</a> 1818-1830 • <a href="#">Tenpō</a> 1830-1844 • <a href="#">Kōka</a> 1844-1848 • <a href="#">Kaei</a> 1848-1854 • <a href="#">Ansei</a> 1854-1860 • <a href="#">Man'en</a> 1860-1861 • <a href="#">Bunryū</a> 1861-1864 • <a href="#">Genji</a> 1864-1865 • <a href="#">Keiō</a> 1865-1868
<b>Modern Japan</b> <b>1868-present</b>	<a href="#">Meiji</a> 1868-1912 • <a href="#">Taishō</a> 1912-1926 • <a href="#">Shōwa</a> 1926-1989 • <a href="#">Heisei</a> 1989-2019 • <a href="#">Reiwa</a> 2019-present
<sup>‡</sup> The Northern pretenders did not recognize the Genkō era. Gentoku was used in the Northern Court until 1332. <sup>℞</sup> The Shōkyō era was recognized only by the Northern pretenders, not by the Southern Court.	

‡ Upon reunification of the Northern and Southern Courts in 1392, Genchū was discontinued. Meitoku was used until 1394.

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