



The Political Economy of East Asia

(BPEP-SHU 9042)

Monday & Wednesday
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm
Room N202

Instructor: JING QIAN

NDB Field Trip

- Departure from campus*
 - 1:30 pm SHARP, School Bus Stop
 - Bus + cabs/minivan**
- **BRING YOUR ID!!!**
- Return at approx. 4pm

Group Project

- Complete the Group Formation Form by 11:59pm on Saturday, February 7
- If already have a complete group (4-5 ppl)
 - Only one member need to submit on behalf of the group
- If cannot find groupmates yet
 - Don't worry, submit the form and I will assign groups



First-Quiz: How It Works

- Host on Brightspace
- Available between (China Standard Time):
 - Start: Saturday, February 7, at 8:00AM
 - End: Monday, February 9, at 11:59PM
- Duration: 30 minutes
 - Pick anytime to start, (auto)submit in 30 minutes
- Important notes:
 - Plan ahead, check batteries, internet, drinks, etc.
 - No guarantees of immediate email response from me during your quiz

First-Quiz: What to Expect

- Total time: 30 minutes
- Question format:
 - 20 multiple-choice questions
- Roughly*
 - 70% coming directly from lectures & slides
 - The rest from readings

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

The quiz is OPEN-BOOK

- What you can do
 - ✓ Check slides, textbooks, readings.
 - ✓ Check your notes.
 - ✓ Access online materials using search engines and Wikipedia.
- What you **ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT DO**
 - Communicate (in any form) with classmates who has not taken the quiz
 - Record/Save the quiz questions in any form
 - Use any GenAI to similar tools to help you with the quiz

As a student in NYU Shanghai, I pledge that:

- I will perform honestly all my academic obligations. I will not represent the words, works, or ideas of others as my own; will not cheat; and will not seek to mislead faculty or other academic officers in their evaluation of my course work or in any other academic affairs.
- I will behave with decorum and civility, and with respectful regard for all members of the University—faculty, staff, and fellow students— our guests, and members of our wider communities.
- I will abide by NYU Shanghai and by NYU rules of conduct and policies on academic integrity and by the special requirements of any individual course of study or other academic activity.
- I will endeavor earnestly to uphold the values, standards, and ideals on which our university community depends and call on others to do so.

<https://shanghai.nyu.edu/content/academic-integrity>

<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/academic-policies/standards-conduct/standards-conduct.pdf>

Resources

- Lecture slides
- Textbook and other required readings
- Additional Office Hours (sign-up at: jingqian.org/PEEAclass/officehour)
 - Friday, Feb 6
 - ✓ 10:00am – 12:00pm
 - *Also by appointment*

In the "Political Economy Process" model presented in class, which three factors are identified as the "Foundations" that shape political incentives and economic policies?

- A) Globalization, Technology, and Culture
- B) History, Geopolitics, and Political Institutions
- C) Supply, Demand, and Market Equilibrium
- D) Democracy, Capitalism, and Individualism
- E) Natural Resources, Labor, and Capital

According to the comparison of political institutions, why did the Japanese Shogunate view the Chinese "Tribute System" differently than the Korean Joseon Dynasty did?

- A) Japan lacked a written language, unlike Korea.
- B) Korea was a decentralized warrior state, while Japan was a centralized bureaucracy.
- C) Tribute was seen as symbolic subordination that undermined the Shogun's internal status, whereas it reinforced Korean royal legitimacy.
- D) Japan was physically connected to the Chinese mainland, while Korea was an island.
- E) Korea had already industrialized by 1793.

We discussed two key designs for comparative political economy. Which design would be most appropriate when comparing Japan and China, where the systems are largely different (history, ideology, stage of development) but share a "Common Choice" of state-led industrial policy?

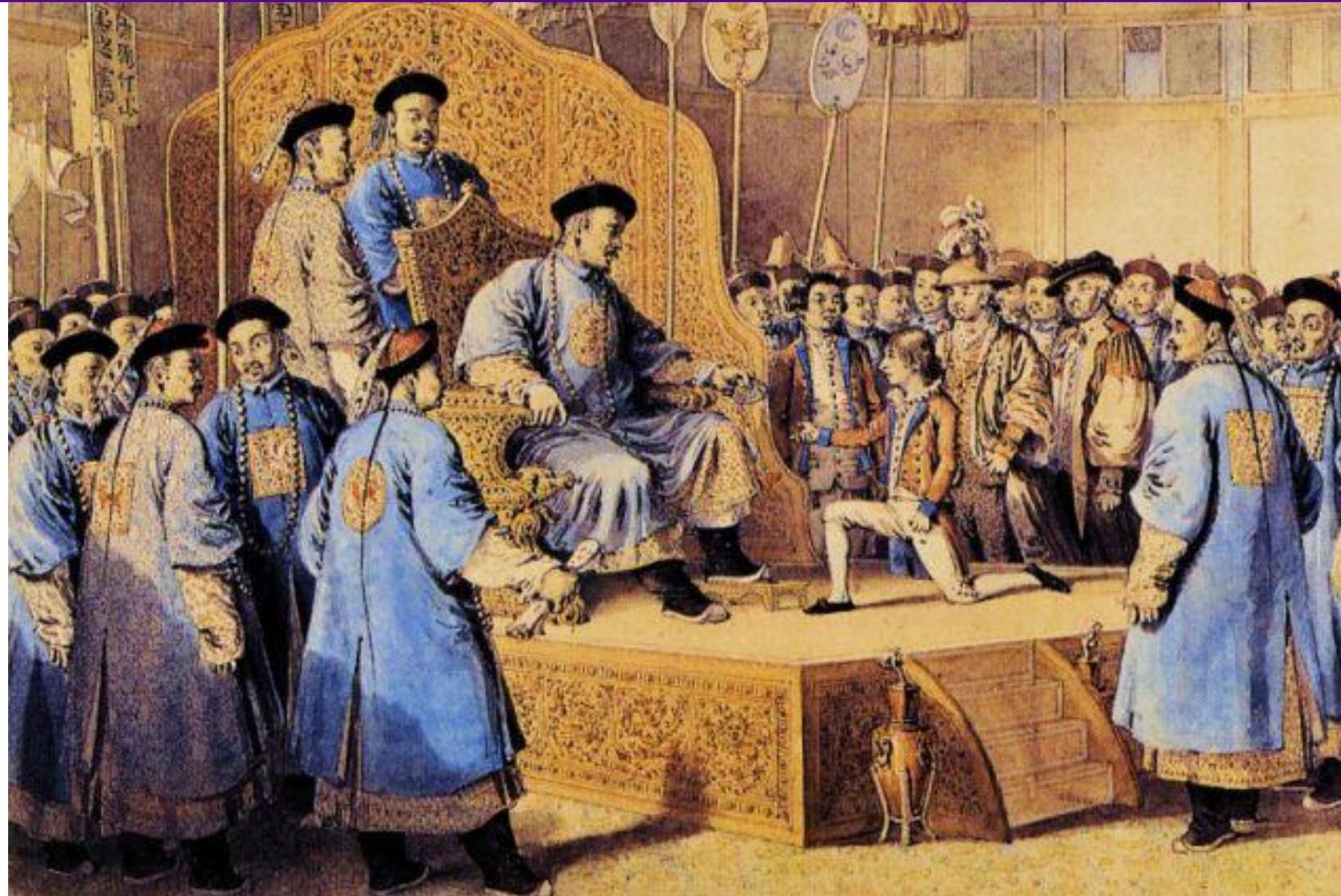
- A) Most Similar Systems Design (MSSD)
- B) Random Control Trial (RCT)
- C) Qualitative Interviewing Design (QID)
- D) Most Different Systems Design (MDSD)
- E) Rational Choice Theory

Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the New Development Bank?

- A) Brazil
- B) Algeria
- C) China
- D) Pakistan
- E) South Africa

Let's Continue

The Macartney Embassy (1793)



Macartney's Gifts



George III's Requests



George III
(1760 – 1820)

- ✖ • Permanent diplomatic presence in Beijing
- ✖ • Expansion of trade ports to Ningbo, Chusan, and Tianjin
- ✖ • A “Warehouse” island near Chusan
- ✖ • A “Depot” in Canton for British traders
- ✖ • Reduced tariff for goods moved between Canton and Macao
- ✖ • Fixed and transparent tariff and taxes on British goods

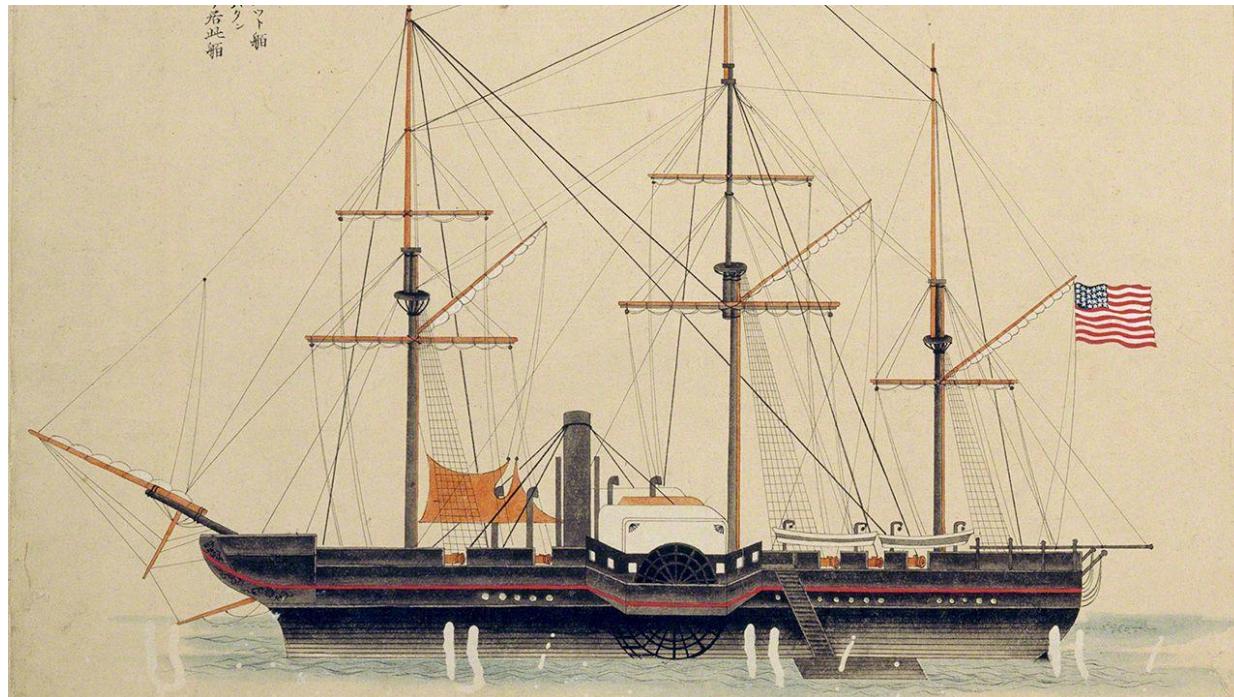
Qianlong's Letter to George III



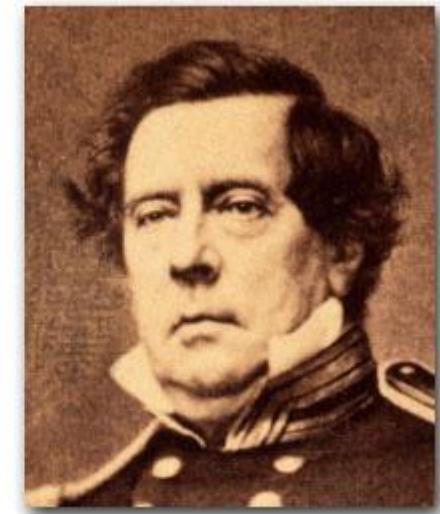
We have never valued ingenious articles
nor do we have the slightest need of your
country's manufactures

Our Celestial Empire possesses all things in
prolific abundance and lacks no product within
its borders. There is therefore no need to import
the manufactures of outside barbarians in
exchange for our own produce.

Matthew C. Perry's Arrival at Japan (1853)



“Black Ship”

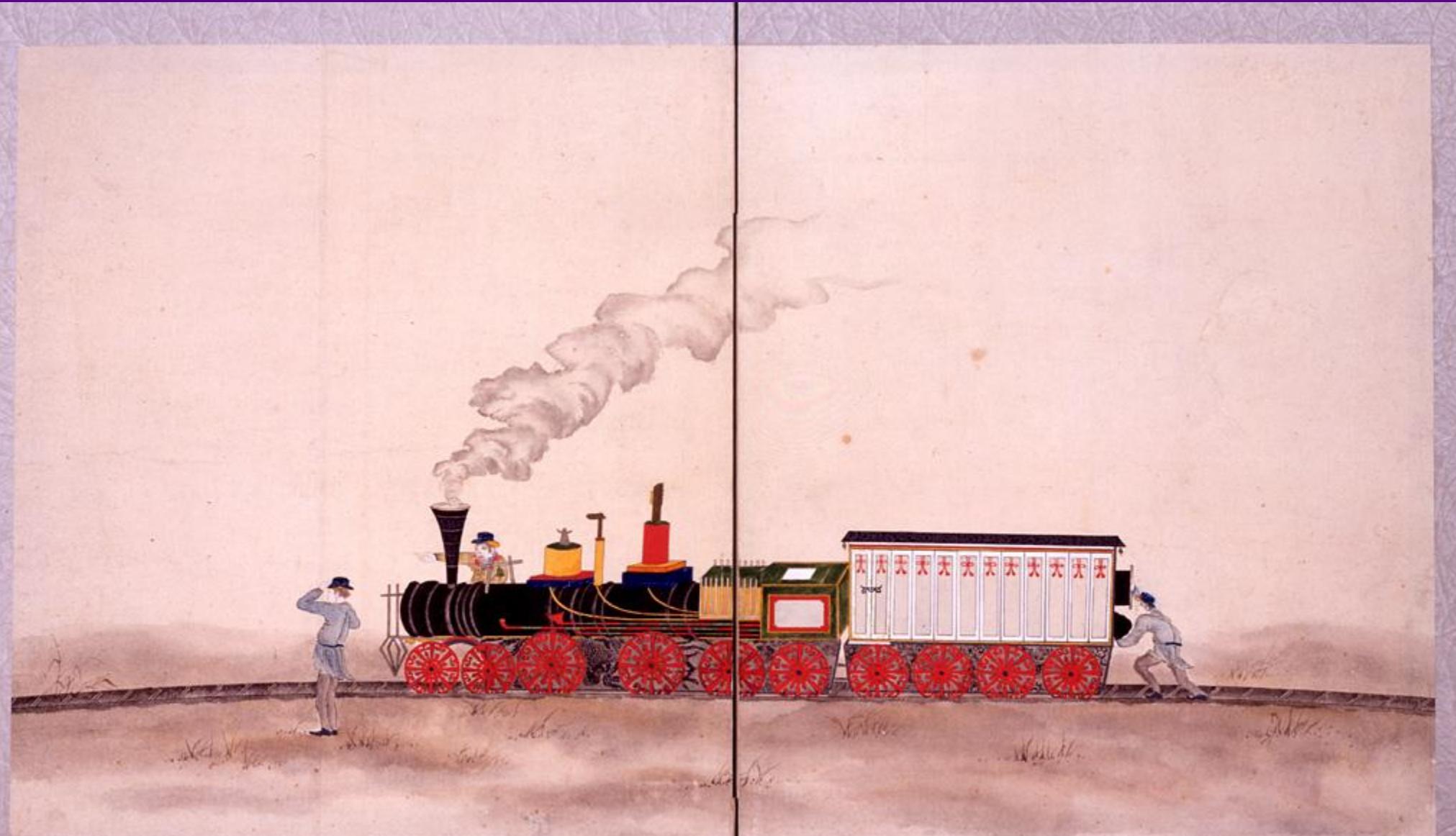


Matthew C. Perry
(1794 – 1858)

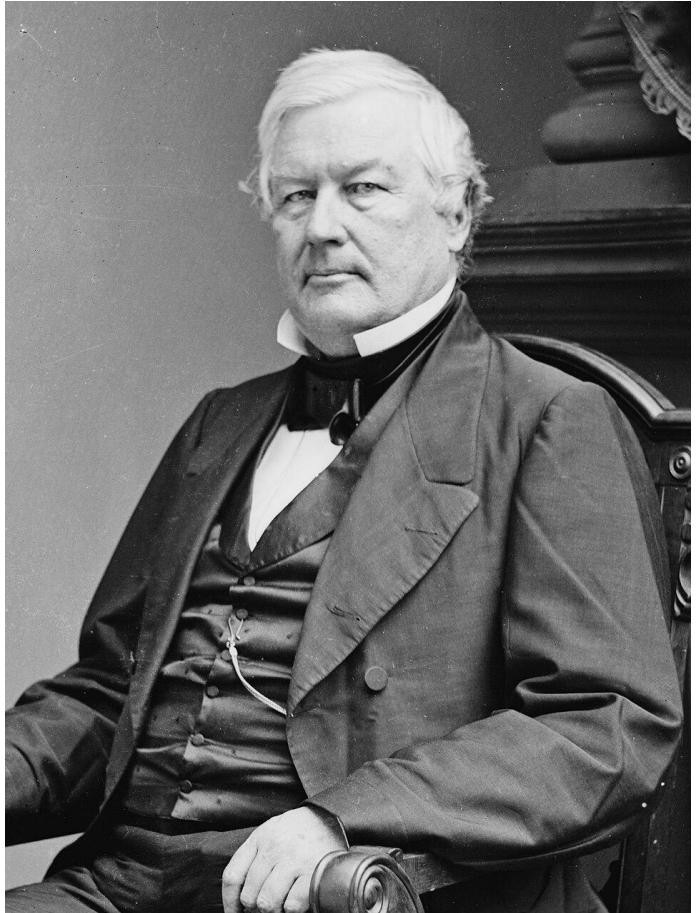
Perry's Gifts



The Miniature Locomotive



Fillmore's Requests



Millard Fillmore
(1800 – 1874)

- Free trade between the United States and Japan
- Protection for shipwrecked Americans
- Provisioning and coal stations

Japan's Reactions

The “Black Ship” Shock

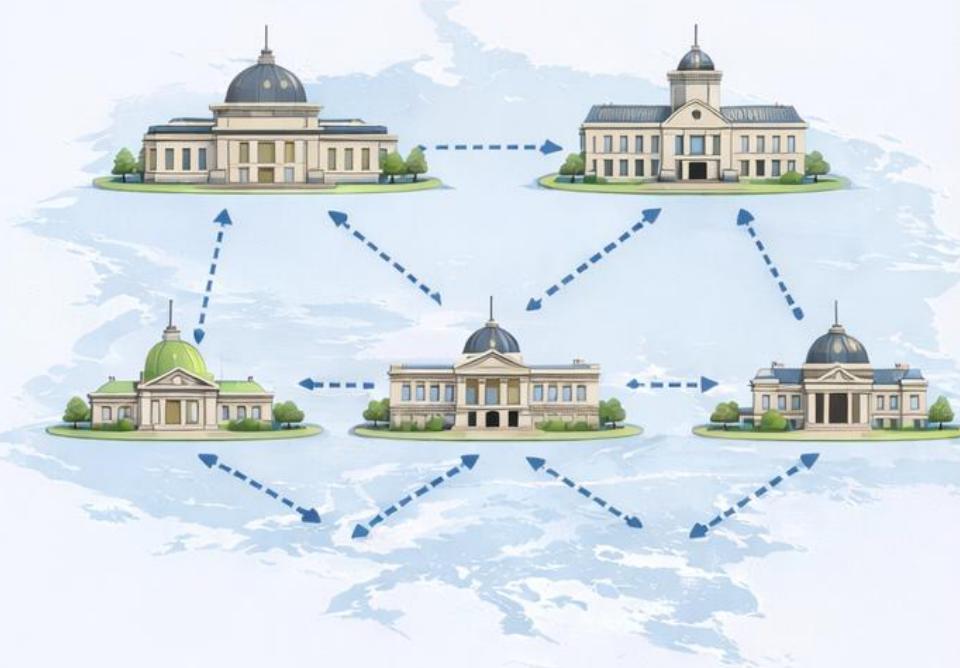
- The Shogunate knew they could not win a naval battle
- Intense internal debate on how to respond



What If the Two Systems Met?

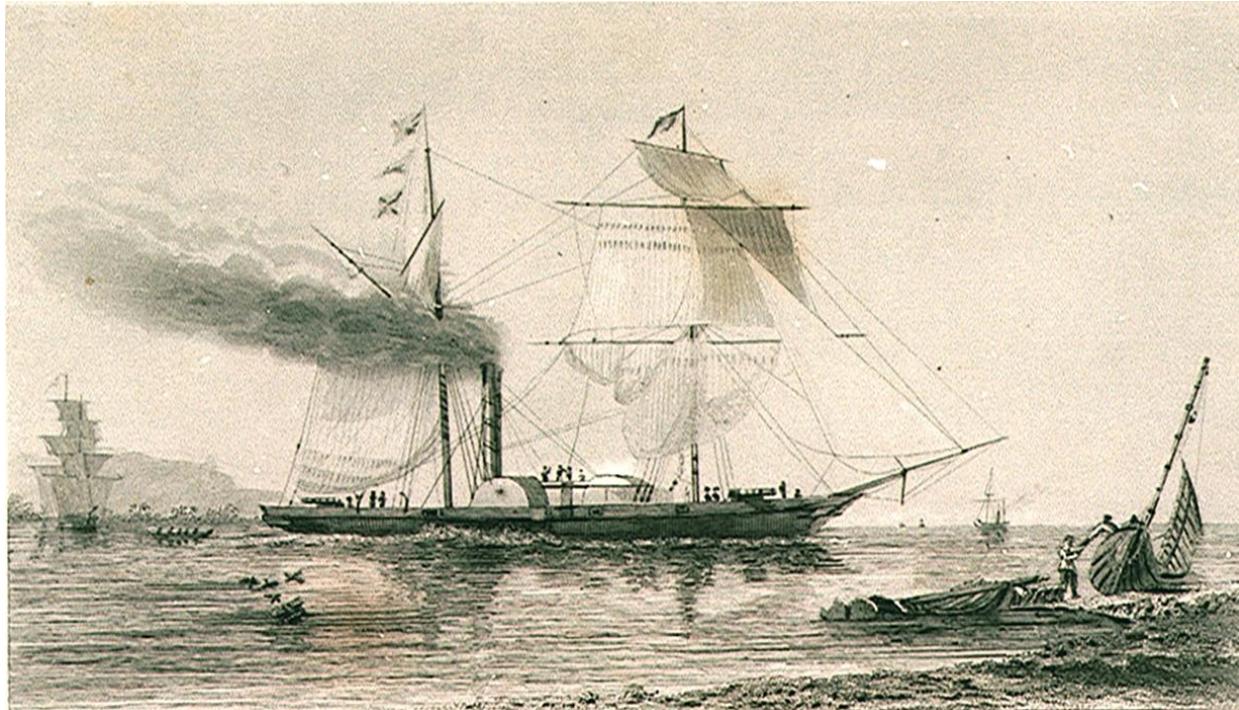


Chinese World Order (Tributary System)



Westphalian System

A Tale of Two Fleets



“Nemesis”

First Opium War

First Opium War

- Trade imbalances
 - High demand for Chinese silk, tea, and porcelain
 - Low Chinese interest in Western products
- The gradual addition to opium in Qing China offered a potential path to correct the trade imbalance
- The British East India Company monopolized the opium cultivation in India in late 18c -> actively engaged in the opium trade
- The amount of opium imported to China increased from 200 chests in 1729 to about 1,000 chests in 1767, and further to 10,000 in the 1820s
- The balance of payment was for the first time in favor of Britain when China imported 40,000 chests opium in 1838

First Opium War

- Qing decided to ban the opium trade in 1839
- Britain sent the royal navy to China, and the two sides fought a series of battles in 1840~1842, with victory on the British side
- **The Treaty of Nanjing (1842)**
 - Opened five trade ports
 - Allowed extra-territorial jurisdiction
 - Ceded Hong Kong to Britain
 - 21 million dollars in reparation

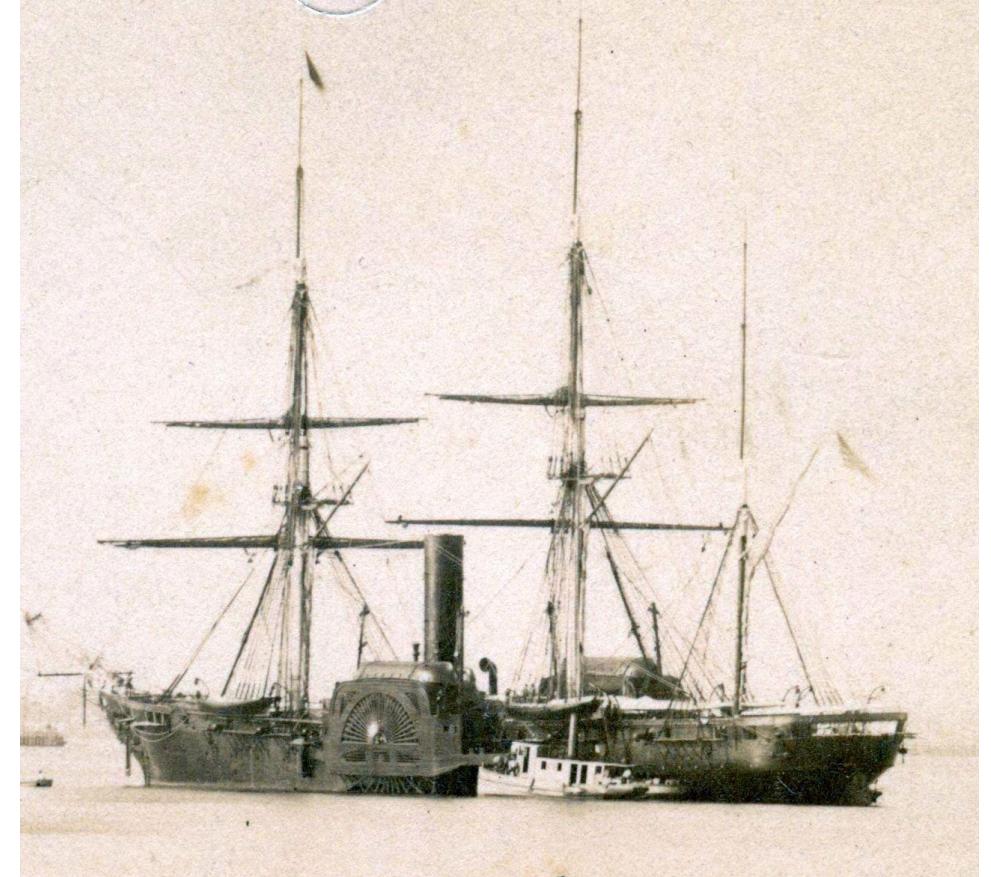


Second Opium War

- Britain demanded renegotiation of the Nanjing Treaty
- British & French joint forces attacked and occupied Canton in late 1857
- Qing forces' major defeat in Tianjin and Beijing
- Looting of the Old Summer Palace in 1860
- Tianjin Treaties (1858) and the Beijing Convention (1860)
 - Legalized opium trade
 - Opened Yangzi River
 - Permitted Christian missionaries
 - Allowed foreign residence in Beijing



A Tale of Two Fleets



Susquehanna
Perry's "Black Ship"

Convention of Kanagawa (1854)

First treaty between the U.S. and Japan

- Opened two ports for provisioning U.S. ships (Shimoda & Hakodate)
- Guaranteed humane treatment of shipwrecked American Sailors
- Allowed a U.S. consulate in Japan (first foreign official presence)
- Marked the end of Japan's seclusion

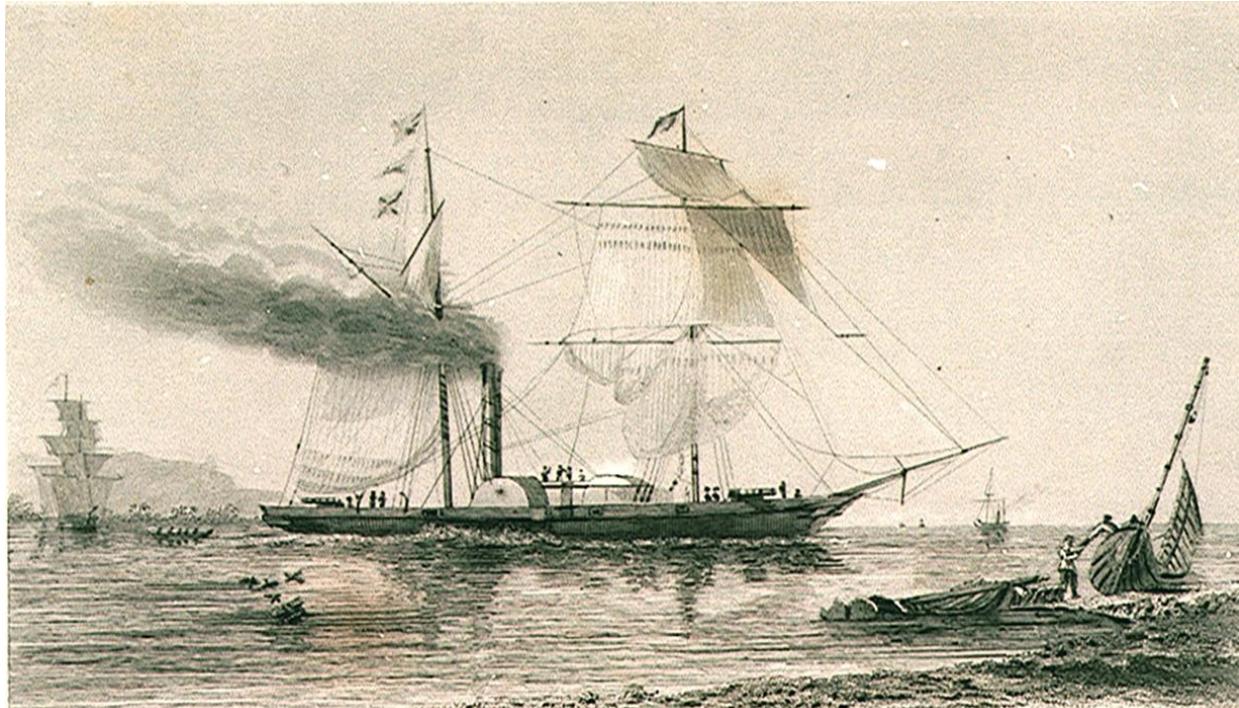
The 1858 Treaty of Amity & Commerce (Harris Treaty)



Townsend Harris
(1804-1878)

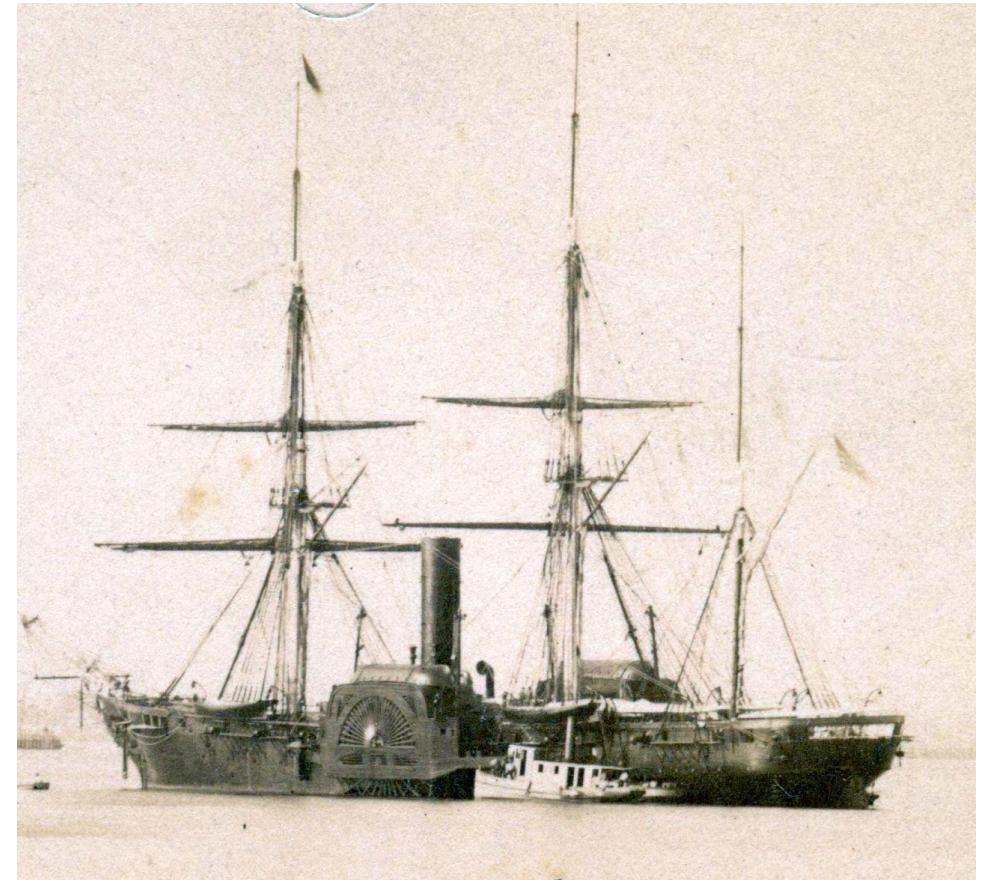
- Opened five major ports to U.S. trade
 - Edo (Tokyo), Kobe, Nagasaki, Niigata, Yokohama
- Granted extraterritoriality: Americans exempt from Japanese law
- Fixed low import/export tariffs -> Japan lost tariff autonomy
- Guaranteed freedom of missionary activity
- Established most-favored-nation (MFN) clause

A Tale of Two Fleets



“Nemesis”

First Opium War



Susquehanna

Perry's “Black Ship”

China

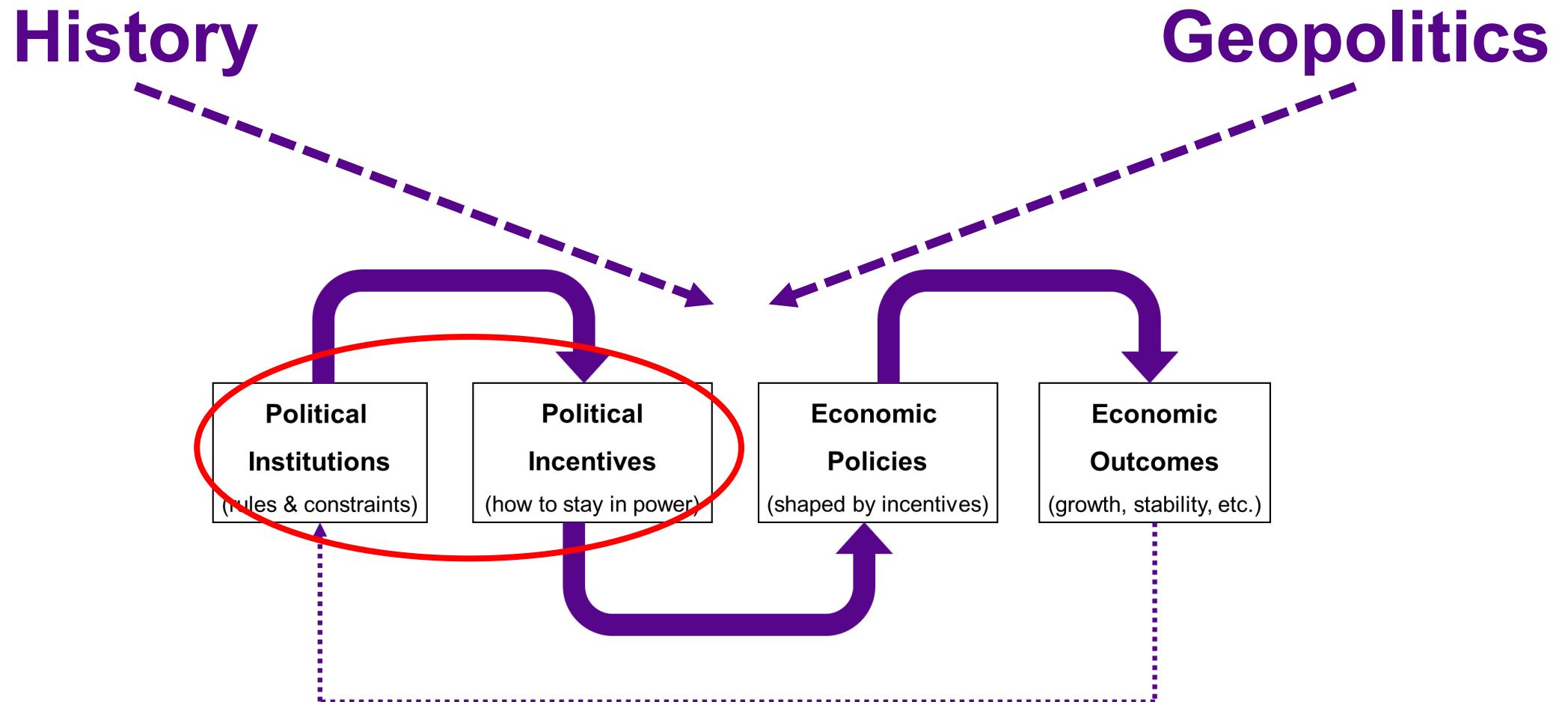
- Self-Strengthening Movement (1860s)
- First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
- Scramble for Concessions (1890s-1900s)
- Boxer Uprising & 1901 protocol
- Collapse of Qing Dynasty (1911)



Japan

- Meiji Restoration (1868)
- Renegotiating the unequal treaties (1890s)
- First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
- Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)
- Colonized the Korean peninsula (1910)

The Political Economy Process



Geopolitics



China

- The “Big Prize”
- But too large for one Western power to conquer
- “Spheres of influence”

Japan

- A “coaling station”
- Isolationist island
- American Civil War (1861-1864)

History

China

- Ti-Yong
- Chinese essence, Western utility (中体西用)
 - Take Western weapons
 - Keep Chinese ideology
- Confucian orthodoxy left unchanged

Japan

- Datsu-A Ron (Goodbye Asia)
- Borrowing from China -> Borrowing from the West
 - Westernization as a survival strategy

Political Institutions

China

- Monolithic meritocracy
- Ke-Ju and Confucian scholar-official elite
- Firing Confucian bureaucrats = destroying legitimacy

Japan

- Tokugawa system = decentralized domains
- “Black Ships” as windows of opportunity to overthrow the Shogun
- Competition between local powers

Western Colonialism in East Asia

The economic rationale of colonialism

- Controlling valuable trade routes brings enormous profits
- Securing raw materials and overseas markets for domestic industrial production
- Addressing the problem of trade imbalance

The political rationale of colonialism

- Providing support for overseas commercial and military operations
- Competing for the sphere of influences and the international status

Thank You!

