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Industrialization in Japan and Russia DBQ

1/13/2020

During the 19th century, Japan and Russia were going through a substantial industrialization process to be caught up with the western powers. Before industrialization, both countries were lacking in technology and modern ideas. The western powers had modern and advanced technologies that made their nations very specialized. In Japan, the United States military leader, Matthew Perry made the Japanese accept treaties, which allowed for a stronger relationship between the United States and Japan. Furthermore, this made Japan not isolated anymore and the commercial treaties made Japan open their borders. This would end the Tokugawa period and start the Meiji Restoration. Then, in Russia, something that helped them industrialize was when Russia lost a battle against the Ottomans. After this defeat, emperor Alexander II of Russia developed plans to industrialize and took action. He took the first steps for his nation to industrialize. Alexander II got rid of the serfs which made Russia get out of their feudal age. Russia would begin to industrialize after they got out of their feudal age.

During the 19th century in both nations, Russia and Japan had advanced very correspondingly. This is proven by both nations evolving from an agricultural economy to an industrialized economy. Moreover, both nations had developed many new technologies through a combination of innovative ideas and trained artisans. Also, in general, both nations had a top-down industrialization process as well. On the other hand, some differences would be the labor system. The working class had varied working conditions of the people in both states. Industrialization has impacted the working jobs and some states mistreated their people.

A factor that industrialization had an impact in both Russia and Japan would be their government systems. During the end of Tokugawa Period, the shogunate system began to fade away. In addition, in Russia, the end of the feudal period began to modernize Russia. In both nations, the end of a government system caused the state to be in prosperity and industrialize. The industrialization made the two nations economically stable and profited the nations. This is because it made the nations more important and well-known globally. In document two, the former prime minister of Japan, Count Okuma Shigenobu, had explained about some of the ideas adopted by the Meiji government to trigger an Industrial period. For instance, there were processes to trigger an industrial revolution. Those processes are to build an educational system for the youth, establishing factories, an establishment of a bank, and new technology and machinery for textile production. These ideas were from Count Okuma Shigenobu. These ideas were taken since Japan developed rapidly, which was witnessed by the rest of the world. Then, in document one, the Russian finance minister, Sergey Witte had written the Witte System. The Witte System pushed for the Industrialization of Russia. It stimulated the economic development of Russia and the construction of railroads was vital for the success of the Witte System. More things such as the support of high tariffs and renovating the state bank is shown in this letter to Tsar Nicholas II. Witte believes that the tariffs on imports will make people buy local products and will make the nation more thriving. Furthermore, in document six, it talks about a Russian merchant who went through the prosperity of Russia. Pavel Buryshkin thinks Russia as a whole has developed and grew as a nation through mining, ironworks, sugar production, and textiles. Also, policies were made that stemmed from the industrialization of the nation. This document depicts the impact industrialization has had on people and their perception of changes that happened at the time. These perceptions made people become more of a nationalist towards their own state. The industrialization has caused this to happen since if it weren’t for all of the technology and machinery, then people wouldn’t see the development of their own country. Also, this is very similar to the industrial development of Japan and their policies. It is evident that both Russia and Japan went through indistinguishable processes of industrialization commenced by the people and the government.

Both Russia and Japan had industrialization based on their government, the opinion of the people were very different and were assorted. In document five, Japanese women working in silk factories during the 20th century were pretty content and satisfied with the working conditions they had. In most of the categories in the chart, the workers’ impressions were average to good. The only impression that was somewhat bad was the treatment of ill workers. From the data, a conclusion can be made that most of the workers enjoyed the working conditions. Then, in document four, Russian workers were on strike because they did not enjoy working at their jobs. The people quit and were very discontent with the working conditions. The workers believed they were being mistreated and suffering from their jobs. This was from a Russian socialist, S. I. Somov. Socialists are generally opposed to factories and thinks that the working class will solve all of their work-related problems with revolts. So far, Russia thinks that the working conditions are horrible, and Japan thinks that the working conditions are manageable and are satisfied. Next, in document seven, there is more evidence of the working conditions in Russia and the people’s opinion. A Russian physician, M. I. Pokzovskaya, has published an article about the working conditions of women in Russia on an international women’s suffrage organization in the 20th century. She claimed that women have to work from 10 to 11.5 hours on weekdays and sometimes even 16 to 18 hours on Saturdays in factories. When women refused to work overtime, they were fired and replaced by younger females to work for them. This would keep happening since there are always new people to replace the old workers with. In both Russia and Japan, the working conditions were very different, and this had caused different opinions from the people through the process of modernizing and industrialization. In general, industrialization had caused these people in Russia and Japan to have such contrasting opinions on the working conditions due to the government system and establishment of factories.

Overall, the biggest difference during the industrial revolution between the two nations are the working conditions and working-class contentment. But there were also many similarities such as the economic shift and advancement in both states. Industrialization has had a major impact on both of these nations. Indubitably, many social and economic patterns are made and are repeated to benefit the affected state.