

# United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

## United States Decisions About Japan

### Purpose:

Analyze United States-Japanese policies after World War II.

### Target Grade Level: 9

### Essential Questions:

1. Why would Japan allow a foreign country to make new policies?
2. What were some positive and negative consequences of the United States' intervention?
3. Which changes would have the most positive effect on future relations between United States and Japan? Why?

### Rationale:

Cooperation and sensitivity to needs of people and their culture.

### Materials:

- Political cartoons and posters depicting new democratic principles on overhead from John Dower's *Embracing Defeat*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co./New Press, 1999  
(available at your local library or The Institute for Japanese Studies, [japan@osu.edu](mailto:japan@osu.edu), 614-292-3345)
- Changes in Japan During the American Occupation (Handout A)
- Analysis Chart on Positive and Negative Consequences and Alternatives (Handout B)
- Background info: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2124.html>

### Activities:

1. Students analyze cartoons and posters and discuss the visual implications of U.S. assistance, which are recorded on the board.
2. Class discusses and records on the Positive and Negative Consequences of United States' occupation in Japan (Handout A) and the Analysis

## United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

### United States Decisions About Japan

Chart (Handout B). Through brainstorming, students will derive alternative methods such as occupy Japan shorter or longer time, invest money to rebuild Japan, refuse to get involved, imprison officials, destroy the zaibatsu (family owned corporations), etc.

3. Using the handout, students will classify changes in Japan according to the following:

Reforms - action taken to create a democratic nation and a desirable future

Retribution - action taken to make Japan pay for its militaristic past

Revenge - action taken to make Japan pay for its militaristic past

Rapprochement - action designed to restore cordial relations between the United States and Japan

4. Discuss the student responses on Handout A. It may be that an activity may have served more than one of the above purposes.

### Assessment:

Observation of small group work and discussion of whole class

### Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 11

Analyze the consequences of World War II.

*This lesson was originally developed by Dr. Betty Barclay Franks, teacher, Maples Heights City Schools, Ohio for the publication Learning About Our World: Japan. These lessons were revised for this publication by Teresa A. Bica, Supervisor of Elementary Student Teachers at Kent State University.*

# United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

## United States Decisions About Japan

### Handout A (pg. 1)

## Changes in Japan During the American Occupation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Classify the changes, using the alphabet of the term, according to the following:

**A. Reforms** - action taken to create a democratic nation and a desirable future

**B. Retribution** - action taken to make Japan pay for its militaristic past

**C. Revenge** - action taken to punish the Japanese people for its militaristic past

**D. Rapprochement** - action designed to restore cordial relations between the United States and Japan

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Place a military person in charge of the country (General Douglas MacArthur appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Dissolve Japan's armed forces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Dismantle military bases.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Destroy war supplies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Disband nationalistic civilian and military organizations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Hold war crime trials (25 convicted, 7 including General Tojo executed, 700 imprisoned).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Commute sentences of lesser criminals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Abolish the secret police (Kenpei-tai).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Remove or exclude from office all persons who in one capacity or another had been influential in promoting militarism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Deprive Japan of its empire. (Okinawa under U.S. control; Manchuria returned to China; Korea jointly occupied).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Make the Emperor subject to the "will of the people".
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Allow labor unions to organize and bargain collectively with management.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Abolish the peerage except for some members of the royal family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Write and ask the Emperor to approve a new Constitution, which would make him a figurehead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Continue Parliamentary form of government, but have the lower house of the Diet elect the Prime Minister from its membership.

# United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

## United States Decisions About Japan

### Handout A (pg. 2)

- \_\_\_\_\_16. Guarantee equal rights for women
- \_\_\_\_\_17. Include a clause renouncing war
- \_\_\_\_\_18. Guarantee collective bargaining to labor
- \_\_\_\_\_19. Remove restrictions on political, civil, and religious liberties on grounds of race, nationality, creed, or political opinion.
- \_\_\_\_\_20. Appropriate money to assist Japan in rebuilding. .
- \_\_\_\_\_21. Sign peace treaty and return sovereignty to the people of Japan.
- \_\_\_\_\_22. Provide low interest loans to tenant farmers so they can purchase land.
- \_\_\_\_\_23. Break up Zaibatsu (family monopolies and industrial combinations).
- \_\_\_\_\_24. Censor movies and textbooks (no militarism and nationalism).
- \_\_\_\_\_25. Institute educational reform (co-ed schools, establish a 6-3-3 system).

# United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

## United States Decisions About Japan

### Handout B

### Analysis Chart

ALTERNATIVE	POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES		NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES	
	Immediate	Long-Range	Immediate	Long Range