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## **HISTORY OF CHINA AND JAPAN (1840-1949)**

*By: Prieti Gupta*

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# QUESTION PAPER

(June – 2019)

(Solved)

## HISTORY OF CHINA AND JAPAN 1840-1949

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note: This question paper has **three** sections. The students have to attempt any **two** questions from **Section I**, any **four** questions from **Section II** and any **two** short notes from **Section III**.

### SECTION-I

**Q. 1. Write a critical note on the causes of the Opium Wars. What was their significance?**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 27, 'Background'.

**Q. 2. Was the Meiji Restoration of 1968 a revolution? Discuss.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 43, 'The Meiji Restoration'.

**Q. 3. Discuss the role of the State in the economic modernization of Japan.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 55, 'The Initial Phase of Economic Development', 'Building the Infrastructure' and Page No. 57, 'Assessment'.

**Q. 4. What led to the emergence of the 'New Culture' movement in China after the Revolution of 1911? What was the role of the intellectuals in this movement?**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-28, Page No. 130, 'The 1911 Revolution and The 'New Culture'.

### SECTION-II

**Q. 5. Discuss the significance of the self-strengthening movement.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-15, Page No. 69, 'The Self-Strengthening Movement'.

**Q. 6. Write a note on Ching Reforms.**

**Ans.** In the atmosphere of imposed unequal treaty by Imperialist powers and the developing internal crisis, the Ch'ing governments made some attempts during the 19th century by organizing a series of programme of reform. The Self Strengthening Movement, 1898 Reform movement and the Hundred Days Reform were among them. Because of the efforts made by the Ch'ing rulers in order to overcome the

crisis, the scholars considered this particular period as an era of 'restoration'.

During the mid of 19th century, the Ch'ing government was surrounded by the external challenges created by the Western powers and internal challenges generated by the Taipings and other rebellion groups. In order to overcome this crisis, the Ch'ing state and government embarked upon a programme of reforms. Tungchi was the reign title of the Chinese Emperor in November 1861, thus, this period (1861-1874) referred as the Tungchi Restoration, which adhered to two policy components, which were the Restoration of Ch'ing power (chung hsing) and Self Strengthening (trugiang).

By the idea of restoration the Ch'ing power, it meant to restore the glory by implicating the Confucians rule back to the society. While the essence of the Self Strengthening laid in adopting the limited or minimal modernization policy. This policy initially stressed on only establishing the armaments industries but later on it included the areas of education and communication with the growth of other industries.

**Q. 7. Analyse the significance of the Russo-Japanese War.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-19, Page No. 89, 'Russo-Japanese War'.

**Q. 8. Discuss the social structure of Japan in the Tokuguwa period.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 13, 'Tokuguwa Social Structure'.

**Q. 9. Account for the rise of militarism in Japan in the Inter-War period.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-23, Page No. 106, 'Military Displeasure with Political Parties'.

**Q. 10. Discuss the achievement of the Second United Front in China.**

**Ans.** The Second United Front was the alliance between the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang, or KMT) and Communist Party of China (CPC) to resist the Japanese invasion during the Second Sino-Japanese War, which suspended the Chinese Civil War from 1937 to 1941. The Second United Front was successful from the point of view of the Communists in China. This was because it created the ground for a successful revolution, unification and independence of China. There emerged a correlation of social and political forces in which the working class and the peasantry became the leading actors and Communists the dominant political force in the Chinese revolutionary movement. The Chinese revolutionary movement was an integral portion of the relationship between the and the KMT and their war against Japan. This was because the decision to form broad popular fronts in order to isolate the most reactionary imperialist forces was not a strategy specific to China. It was adopted in all countries seeking national liberation or fighting against German fascism. Japan, who took over almost the whole of China at this time was also on the side of Germany, while England, and France were not. So, the United Front formed for the Second time in China, was directed against Japan. In this way, the formation of the Second United Front brought about a re-alignment of social and political forces in China. However, this was very different from the First United Front.

**Q. 11. Briefly discuss the economic development in Japan after the First World War.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-20, Page No. 95, 'The State of Economy'.

**Q. 12. Discuss the economic, political and social framework adopted by the Communists in China after 1949.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-35, Page No. 162, 'New Regime : Economic, Political and Social Framework'.

### SECTION-III

**Q. 13. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Confucianism**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 20, 'Confucianism'.

**(b) The Red Army**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-33, Page No. 151, 'The Red Army's Role'.

**(c) Fukuzawa Yukichi**

**Ans.** Fukuzawa Yukichi was a Japanese author, writer, teacher, translator, entrepreneur, journalist, and leader who founded Keio University, a newspaper and the Institute for Study of Infectious Diseases. Fukuzawa was an early Japanese advocate for reform. Fukuzawa's ideas about the government work, and the structure of social institutions made a lasting impression on a rapidly changing Japan during the Meiji period. Fukuzawa is regarded as one of the founders of modern Japan. Fukuzawa's writings played a large role in the introduction of Western culture into Japan. Fukuzawa was one of the most influential people ever that helped Japan modernize into the country it is today. He never accepted any high position and remained a normal Japanese citizen for his whole life. By the time of his death, he was revered as one of the founders of modern Japan.

**(d) The Diet**

**Ans. The Diet:** The National Diet is Japan's bicameral legislature. It is composed of a lower house called the House of Representatives, and an upper house, called the House of Councillors. Both houses of the Diet are directly elected under parallel voting systems. In addition to passing laws, the Diet is formally responsible for selecting the Prime Minister. The Diet was first convened as the Imperial Diet in 1889 as a result of adopting the Meiji Constitution. The Diet took its current form in 1947 upon the adoption of the post-war constitution, which considers it the highest organ of state power. The houses of the Diet are both elected under parallel voting systems. Generally, the election of Diet Members is controlled by statutes passed by the Diet.



# Sample Preview of The Chapter

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# HISTORY OF CHINA AND JAPAN (1840-1949)

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SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND POLITY



## Land and People (East Asia)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Every country has its own specific characteristics regarding its ecological system, climatic conditions, land, people etc. In this chapter, we will study about geographical and social characteristics of East Asia. Although, scholars have different opinion about Eastern Asian people and their land, but we will emphasize on certain common characteristics, which are helpful in understanding the culture, ecology and pattern of relationship within the region and with its neighbourhood. After discussing East Asia in the broader regional context, specificity, land, people, environment, ecology etc. we will study about main eastern countries i.e. China and Japan.

### **CHAPTER AT A GLANCE**

#### **EAST ASIA: IN THE CONTEXT OF SPACE AND TIME**

While defining East Asia as a region of sub-continent, we take into account the culture of common origin as it acts as a binding force between different cultures of different countries. Also, to understand East Asia in extended way, it is necessary to understand its temporal and spatial developments alongwith the influence of outside culture. We will study significantly about China and Japan as they play very influential role in the development of East Asia. Ancient river valley civilizations extended their culture through Central Asia to China and then to Korea and Japan and also through

sea routes. Also, the role of geographical conditions cannot be neglected while discussing the background of cultural development.

**Situating East Asia in the Broader Regional Context:** Although, it is difficult to specify the exact geographical proportion of the Asian continental region, but broadly it is categorized into three regions. These are:

1. Eastern peninsular area
2. The region of the south-east
3. A central mainland region

The Eastern Region of Asia covers the Bering Straits on the Arctic circle and the Malyan Archipelago in the southwards. The mountain ranges are extended from the coastal region of the Bering Straits to the sea of Okhotsk in the south-west. These ranges are responsible for the severe hardship on the people as the winter is long and in its extreme conditions, while the growing season is very short here. Because of these natural features, the region has its own identity.

East Asia in the broader region context, includes South-east Asia also. Most of the part of the East Asian continent belonged to that civilization (in racial terms), which has arisen from the Ancient China. Cultural values, linguistic connection, religion, geographical conditions, etc. of this region have its full impact on the outside world particularly in the context of South-east Asia and Central Asia.

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**Specificity of the Region:** The Central Region of East Asia is structurally different from the northern and southern region. Apart from the coastal region of 1750 km, it includes highlands from the Great Khingan and mountain ranges of the Tibetan border. The central mainland region contains the only river system including rivers the Amur, the Hwang-Ho, the Yangtze, etc. The countries of the East Asia are Eastern Siberia, China, the Mongolian People's Republic, North and South Korea, Japan, etc. While in the South East Asia, the main countries are the Philippines, Indonesia, the Malay Peninsula, the Indian sub-continent, etc. China and Japan are the main focus of our study as they dominate in the East Asia.

**Land and Environment:** The valley of the Amur and Hwang-Ho make the passes through the Northern region of Central Asia and from west to east over Jehol but the access through the plateau of Tibet is difficult. Structurally, it is easy to pass from north to south than from east to west. The communication in the areas including river systems is comparatively easier, that is why they are well developed. For example, the region around Hwang-Ho and the plains of Yangtze are more developed in terms of communication.

Japan is geographically an isolated region with temperate climate conditions due to continent wind. Its arc shaped stretch of islands causes the cool and temperate regions in the North of Hokkaido and the semi-tropical climate in the Southern Ryukyu Islands. Though, the warm air flowing up the east and west coast reduces the extreme effect of cold but the snowfall happens in Hokkaido and western side of Honshu. The mountainous region of Japan lies in Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. Because of lying on the path of typhoons and a deep submarine trench off the eastern coast, Japan faces numerous earthquakes and existence of volcanoes. One of the biggest large plain of Japan is around Tokyo known as Kanto plain and other is around Osaka known as Kansai plain. The cultivated land of Japan is due to narrow river valleys and alluvial coastal plains, but flood is a common problem here. Due to the presence of hilly region, the communication is quiet difficult. Japan is full of vegetation and forests.

The environment of any region is based on its climatic conditions, soil conditions, hydrography, soil culture, etc. The climate of East Asia is determined by its land mass. In winter, the air becomes very cold bringing dry weather to the southern and eastern region of the continent. In summer, the warm and moist air over the Central Asia brought rain, which is responsible

for the intensive cultivation and agricultural pattern that is different from Europe. The primary crops of East Asia are rice and soyabean, the principal animals are Chicken and Water buffalo. Besides rice, fish is the important food item of Japan.

**PEOPLE AND ECOLOGY**

The predecessor of Homo Sapiens in East Asia is Sinanthropus supposed to live around 400,000 B.C., whose remains were discovered in 1927 in a cave around Peking. Some of the features of Sinanthropus, such as shovel shaped incisor teeth are similar to Mongoloid man, which were found in the history of East Asia including Japan. The skin colour of Mongoloids ranges from light to dark as we move from north to southern areas. Straight black hairs, flat faces and dark eyes are other characteristic features of Mongoloids.

We know that ecology is a science that deals with human beings and their relation with the environment. The environment depends on the temperature and atmosphere of the particular area. The most of the region of East Asia is full of vegetation but due to difference in the pattern of temperature and rainfall, diversity can be observed in vegetation in different region of East Asia. This diversity of vegetation and climatic changes affect the culture of that region. For example, the cold air in Siberia and Central Asia is responsible for extreme cold long winter and drought period during winter. So these climatic changes at different latitudes and altitudes affect the plant life. These features also help in originating some new varieties of plant such that common millet, Indian millet, Himalayan barley, potato oat, etc. Other distinct plants of East Asia are soyabean, Chinese sugarcane, mulberry, etc.

The most popular language of East Asia belonged to Sinic (Sino-Tibetan) family, which has a little resemblance to Indo-European family (i.e. the language spreads in most of the Europe). The Sinic family of language is popular in China, Tibet, Thai, Laos, Burma and Vietnam. Because of the migration of Chinese to other parts, Sinic family has developed large subdivisions. Another large linguistic family of East Asia is the Austronesian, popular in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, aborigines of Taiwan.

**HABITS, SOCIETY AND CULTURE**

As a community, the people of East Asia have their own style of living, which can be easily recognized. Their style includes use of porcelain utensils, chopstick etc. in their eating habits, a good taste of furnishing along with interest in painting and literature. Another important feature of Chinese community is the system of writing

to communicate with each other despite of difference in language, while the language of Japan and Korea is poly-syllabic. The family matter a lot in Chinese culture. The family follows the patriarchal system, authoritarian in nature and provides security to each person of the community. Worship of elderly persons and ancestors is common. The authoritarian system of family forms a base in social, political and domestic life. For example, the role of emperor is same to that of the father in the family.

Both China and Japan have their unique social, economical and political cultures discussed in later chapters.

### **EAST ASIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD**

The East Asian region was connected through the long and difficult routes i.e. silk route across the Asian land mass and maritime silk route through the Indian Ocean as told by the historians. The impact of Chinese civilization and culture has spread to its neighbouring regions through Korea and Japan and in the southern regions such as Indonesia and Indo-Chinese peninsula, which is responsible for the similarities in the culture of the different regions of East Asia.

The important oldest cities, for example, Loess lands of Shansi, Shensi and Hunan, of the Chinese civilization were situated in the eastern part of China and were the major centres of Chinese united state. Its ancient capital Changah and Loyang were also situated there. The Chinese culture was spread to its neighbouring areas through these centres. The contact of China with its south-east region was through Thailand, which was extended from south-west Yunnan to Kweichow. The south-east Asia was the meeting point of Mahayana and Hinayana (two division of Buddhism). Mahayana was spread through Asia and central China whereas Hinayana was spread from India and Himalayan region. The Indo-Chinese region of Indo-Pacific peninsula is extended from the mountains of Burma on the western border of the Pacific to the deep valleys of river near Singapore from the southern end. The deltaic plains of Tongking, the south-east Asian peninsula, all these regions surround East Asia.

As the time passed by, some of these regions got split and became the parts of the neighbouring states but the bordering regions have cultural similarities among them. The economic relationship between East Asia and its neighbouring state has developed making symbiotic relations.

Because of the geographical position, China has been emerged out as the central focus of East Asia civilization. Japan is an isolated country that is why Chinese influence reached much later there. Japan has established its dominancy in political and social region only in late half of 19th century.

### **CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q. 1. Discuss, how you situate East Asia in the broader regional context?**

**Ans.** In the broader regional context, the East Asia is broadly divided into three categories, which are Eastern Peninsular region, South-east region and Central mainland region. The Eastern Peninsular region includes mountain ranges extended from the Bering Strait to the south-west corner of the sea of Okhotsk. These ranges reduce the accessibility to the land behind them and detained maritime influence to narrow coastal stripes. The region of South-east Asia emerges as a major centre of the Asian continent because of its geographical location, linguistic connection and cultural values. The influence of East Asian region spread to the outside world because of race, colour, religion and civilization particularly in the context of South-east Asia and Central Asia. Thus, the similarity and affinity of relations of these regions were established in the broader regional context.

**Q. 2. List the characteristics of family system.**

**Ans.** The people of East Asia as a community give values to the family system or we can say that family was centre of life in East Asia. In the family, a proper regards were given to ancestors and elderly persons. Although, it was a male dominated society but security was provided to each and every person. The family system follow authoritarian pattern which was observed in their social, domestic and political life also. The role of king was similar to that of the father or head in the family.

■ ■

## Society and Polity: China



### **INTRODUCTION**

Traditional Chinese social and political system is recognized as a complex and developed agrarian society. The society includes different categories such as gentry, peasants and merchants to perform different tasks, which suggests the presence of highly developed state structure with remarkable sophistication. Their respective roles in the Chinese community will be discussed in this chapter. The status, power and the role of the emperor and of bureaucrats in Chinese society is necessary to understand the nature of pre-modern Chinese state. Another important discussion of this chapter is to discuss crisis and decline in the China's social and political system during the 19th century, its causes and impacts. The factors responsible for the declination during the late of 18th and early 19th century will be also studied in this chapter.

### **CHAPTER AT A GLANCE**

#### **A DEVELOPED AGRARIAN SOCIETY**

Dependence of most of the population of China on agriculture shows the agrarian nature of society. The population was broadly divided into landlords and the peasants. The owners of land i.e. landlords did not cultivate the land by themselves but get the income from their lands, which were cultivated by the peasants community. China was not merely simple agrarian society. It had been developed as a strong state organization. The construction of roads, huge dams, well developed irrigation network system present during as early as the first millennium BC confirms its complex and developed social order. During 10th century AD, the growth in commercial farming and in inter-regional trade played a remarkable role in the growth of economy in China. These factors were also responsible for the increased number of urban centres, for the spread of literacy particularly among upper class and for the

increased migration within regional or from overseas. Thus, the Chinese civilization is considered as the most advanced society in the world.

**The Gentry:** In the traditional China, the society was divided into three major categories. These were the gentry class, the peasant class and the merchant class. Among them the gentry class was considered as the most dominant class. Landlords, the wealthy people, generally belonged to this class. They did not cultivate the land by themselves but gave their land on rent to the peasant class. Often the rent was taken as  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the value of the crops. As the time passed by, the gentry class began to move in other fields also. Their educational status and prestigious lifestyle had started distinguishing them from the common class. The new age generation of gentry class started taking interest in education and soon the status began to measure through scholar degree obtained in various state level examinations. The person, who topped in examinations, was appointed as the officials under royal government, which was considered as the biggest achievement in the society. The families having high official member could easily expand their land and wealth as they are provided with the full support and protection from the government. Either landlords or the officials, both the gentry class had got special social and political importance. The non-officials gentry members were treated as the social elite at the district level as their support was must for the stability of the imperial government.

The non-officials gentry members participated in the constructions and the maintenance of public works and were associated with charitable trust. They helped in resolving disputes among local people and played the role of intermediaries between the common man and royal officials. Some of them were also associated with the defence academy to watch the protection of their areas.