

Japan isolation

AIM: Why did Japan choose to become an isolated country?

Do Now:

- 1) What would be the benefits for a country to be isolated from the rest of the world?
- 2) What would be the disadvantages for a country to be isolated from the world?



Japanese Poetry: Haiku

► Poem by Basho

summer grasses
all that remains
of warrior's dreams

What is your initial responses to the poem, its imagery and meaning?

Who are the warriors?

What do you think of when you hear the term "samurai"?

This poem was written by a Japanese poet named Matsuo Basho who is considered a master of haiku poetry. He was born in 1644 to a samurai family and is one of the most famous poets of the Edo Period. The Edo period, also called the Tokugawa Period, lasted from 1603 until 1867 and was the last feudal era in Japan. During this time, the country was peaceful, stable, and prosperous. Basho's poems appealed to all classes of people, from samurai to commoners.

Edo Period and the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603 -1868)

- ▶ during the peaceful 250 years of the Edo Period, the samurai's skills of warfare were not needed, and many of them became artisans or farmers or became idle. While they maintained their official status as samurai, they were often looked down upon by merchants and commoners who benefitted from Edo's thriving economy.
- ▶ The Edo Period was a time of rapid urbanization and economic growth in Japan when the samurai class maintained great status but was surpassed economically by commoners, particularly the rising merchant class, due to newfound wealth and prosperity. It was simultaneously a time of order and of change. While Edo underwent dramatic changes economically and culturally, it maintained a firm hold on the traditional social and political structure, which forbade mobility between social classes. The Edo Period is considered the pre-modern period in Japan.

Arts Flourish

- ▶ Haiku - Japanese poetry 5-7-5-syllable, 3-line verse poetry. This poetry presents images rather than ideas.
- ▶ kabuki theater - Actors in elaborate costumes, using music, dance, and mime, performed skits about modern life
- ▶ woodblock prints - Art that depicted social life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oidE2SSDczw>

Walking along
my shadow beside me
watching the moon

Sodo





Contact between Europe and Japan

▶ Portuguese sailors and merchants sailed to Japan. They hoped to involve themselves in Japan's trade with China and Southeast Asia.

▶ Portuguese traded

▶ clocks

▶ Eyeglasses

▶ Tobacco

▶ Firearms

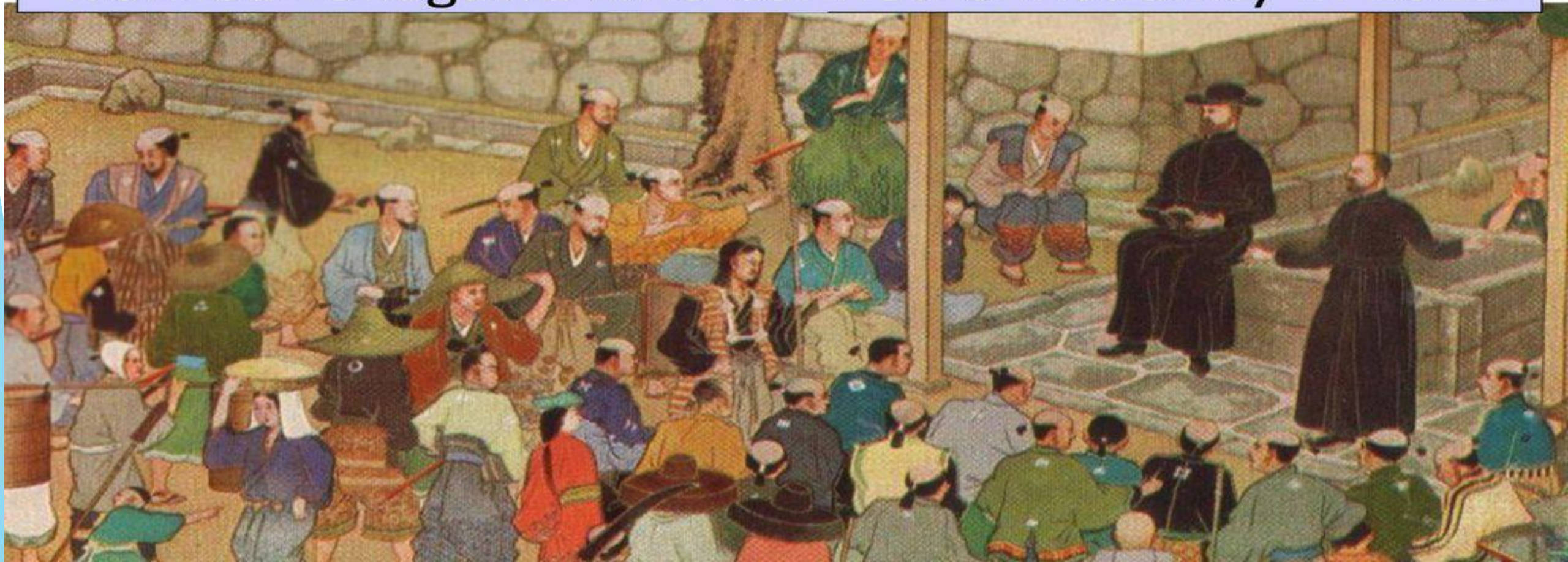
▶ Japanese merchants, eager to expand their markets, were happy to receive the newcomers and their goods. Daimyo were particularly interested in the Portuguese muskets and cannons



European merchants & missionaries first arrived in Japan in the mid-1500s

Japanese shogun enjoyed trade with Europeans & were fascinated by their military & technologies

But the rapid conversion of Japanese to Christianity worried Tokugawa who banned Christianity in 1619



Christian Missionaries in Japan

- ▶ By the year 1600, other European missionaries had converted about 300,000 Japanese to Christianity. Missionaries, actively seeking converts, scorned traditional Japanese beliefs and sometimes involved themselves in local politics. Ieyasu banned Christianity and focused on ridding his country of all Christians. Ieyasu died in 1616, but repression of Christianity continued off and on for the next two decades. In 1637 some 30,000 peasants, led by dissatisfied samurai, shook the Tokugawa shogunate. Because so many of the rebels were Christian, the shogun decided that Christianity was at the root of the rebellion. After that, the shoguns ruthlessly persecuted Christians. European missionaries were killed or driven out of Japan. All Japanese were forced to demonstrate faithfulness to some branch of Buddhism. These policies eventually eliminated Christianity in Japan and led to the formation of an exclusion policy

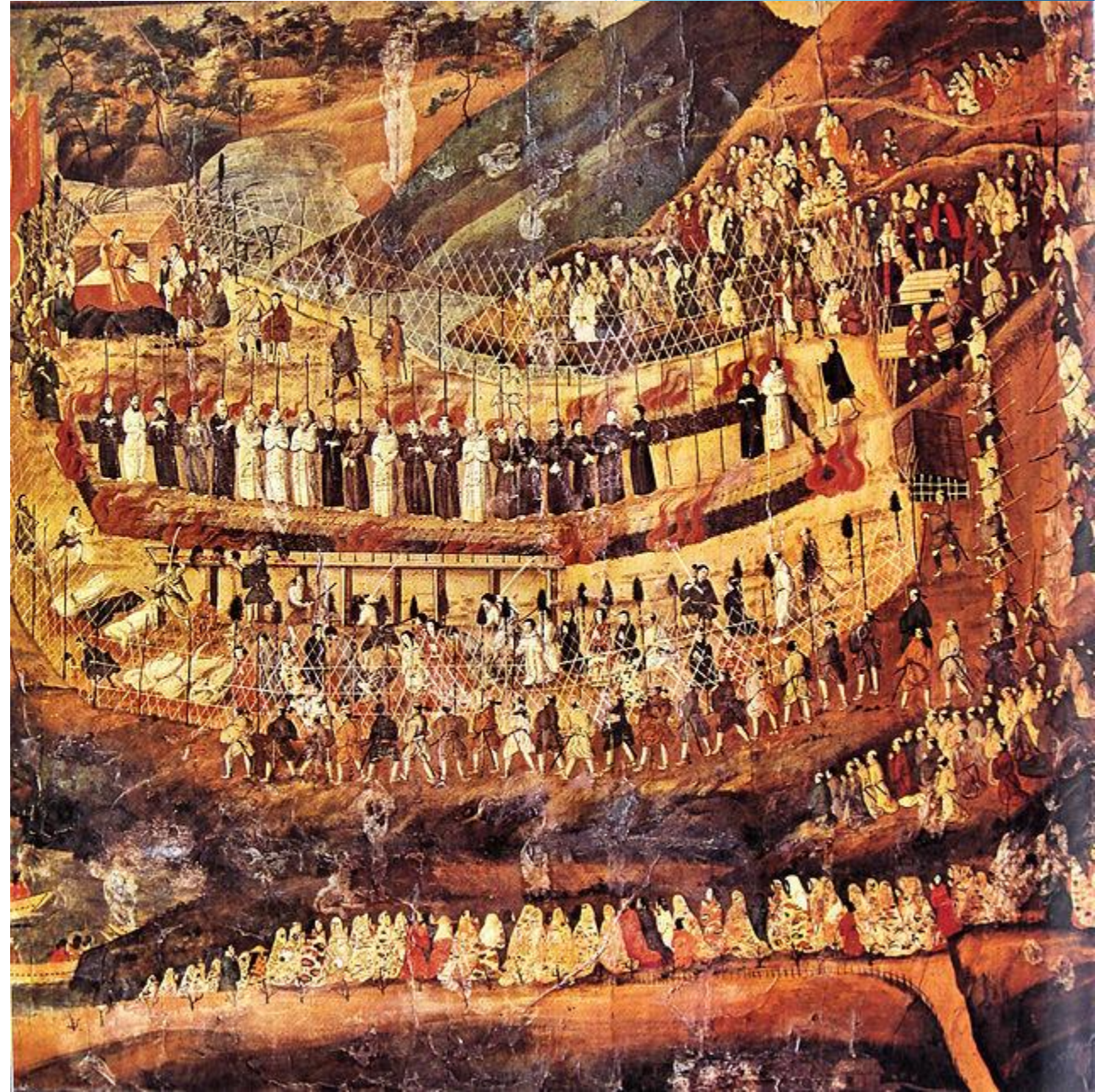
Closed Country Policy

▶ 1639 - Japan instituted a

“Closed Door Policy”

▶ For more than 200 years, Japan remained basically closed to Europeans. In addition, the Japanese were forbidden to leave, so as not to bring back foreign ideas. Japan would continue to develop, but as a self-sufficient country, free from European attempts to colonize or to establish their presence.

Read over Japan's Isolation Policy



To protect Japan from European influences, Tokugawa Shogunate banned all foreign merchants & missionaries

By 1639, Japan adopted a “closed country policy” & Japan entered an era of isolation that lasted for 200 years



Nagasaki Bay



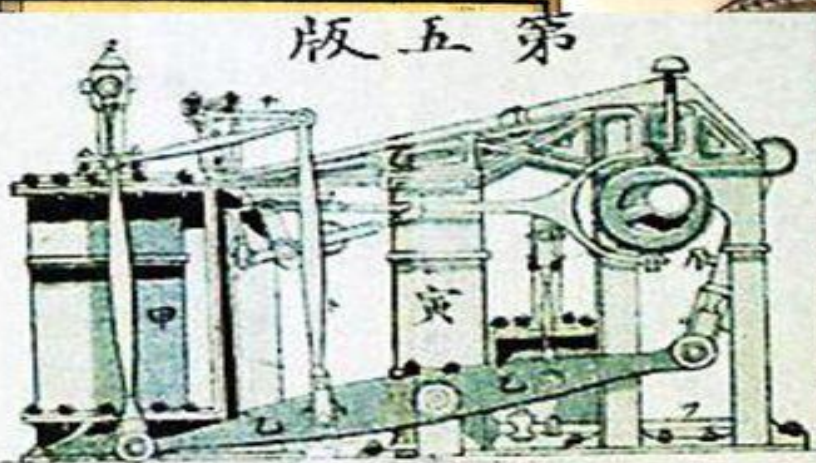
Deshima

Dutch Ships

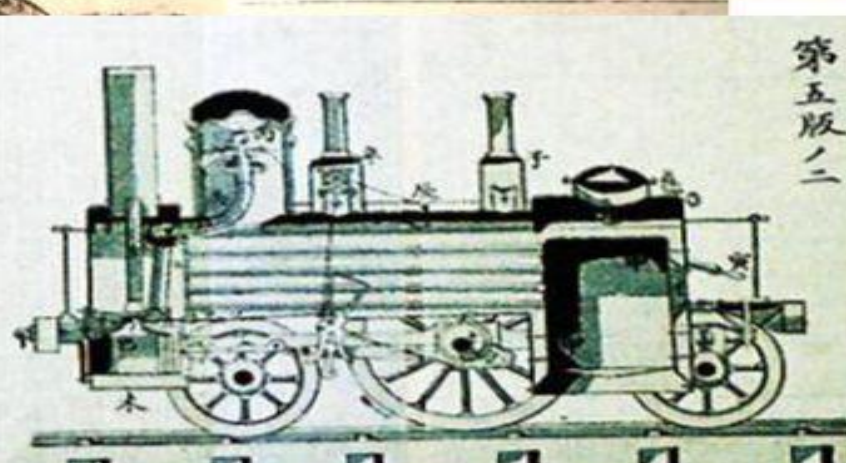
During this era of isolation, the Japanese allowed one port at Deshima in Nagasaki Bay to remain open but only to Dutch & Chinese merchants

The Japanese did more than trade with the Dutch, they also learned from them about new Western ideas

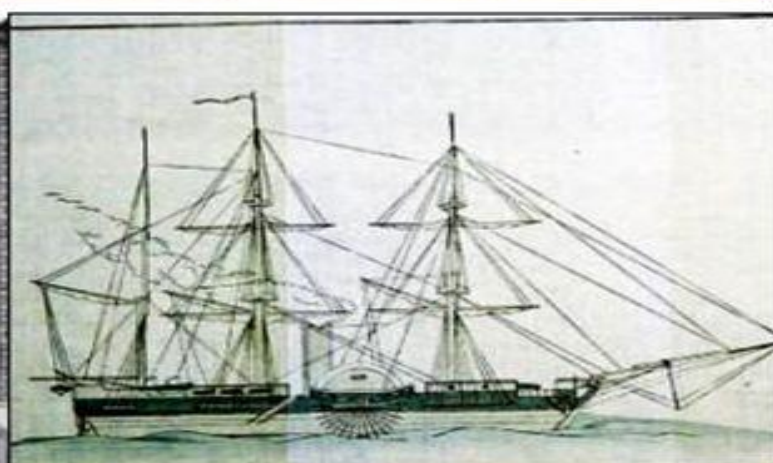
These “Dutch studies” helped Japan learn about some of the new scientific & industrial technologies in Europe



M Steam engine, 1845



Anat Railroad, 1845



E Steamboat, 1845

America enters Japan

- ▶ Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States Navy, commanding a squadron of two steamers and two sailing vessels, sailed into Tôkyô harbor. The American Navy was too strong, and the Japanese had to agree to terms of trade with the Americans. This was the end of the Tokugawa shogunate as a new centralized government would take over with the Emperor again as a figurehead.

