

Przeczytaj tekst, z którego usunięto zdania. Wybierz takie, które w najbardziej logiczny sposób uzupełnią kontekst artykułu.

Two factors led to the end of samurai: the urbanization of Japan, and the end of isolationism. As more and more Japanese moved to the cities, there were fewer farmers producing the rice needed to feed the growing population. (1)

- a) *Under the feudal structure that was arising in Japan, the samurai owed military service and loyalty to the emperor.*
- b) *The life of luxury enjoyed by the shoguns and many lords - called daimyos - started to wear away at the economic system.*

Many Japanese, including lower class samurai, grew dissatisfied with the shogunate because of the worsening economic conditions. Then, in 1853, the U.S. ships sailed into Edo Bay. Commodore Matthew Perry had arrived to deliver a message from American president Millard Fillmore to the emperor, who still existed as a figurehead, (2)

- a) *even though the shoguns really ruled the country.*
- b) *still the samurai required loyalty and work from the peasants who served them.*

Fillmore wanted to open Japan ports for American ships and to establish trade relations with Japan. Perry delivered his message and left telling the Japanese he would return after a few months. After Perry's visit opinions in Japan were split. Some wanted to deny the American offer, maintain isolationism, and stay with their ancient traditions. (3)

- a) *The many samurai would conduct warfare against each other, which caused disruption to the society.*
- b) *Others, however, realized that Japan could never stand up to the better technology of the westerners.*

They proposed opening up Japan to learn everything they could from the Americans, ending isolationism and becoming a world power. Ultimately, the shogunate decided to open Japanese ports for American resupply, and later to trade. The emperor refused to agree to the treaty. (4)

- a) *Because he was just a figurehead, the shogunate went ahead with the treaty anyway.*
- b) *Consequently, the shogun required the various samurai to spend money lavishly on armed forces in order to remain in a high state of readiness for battle.*

Several groups of rebellious samurai who refused to accept any changes, supported the emperor and began a civil war against the shogun. Surprisingly, they overthrew the shogun, (5)

- a) *thus ending the Tokugawa period and restoring the emperor to power.*
- b) *furthermore, there arose a bitter dispute over succession to the throne within the imperial family.*

The samurai took positions of leadership, controlling the government from behind the new emperor, a young boy called Meiji. The power of the daimyos was taken away as the government seized their land. With no one to pay the many samurai, the government decided to offer them bonds based on their rank. (6)

- a) *Rich farmers appeared who switched from rice to high-profit commercial crops and engaged in local money-lending, trade, and small-scale manufacturing.*
- b) *As they received fixed revenues from the government, their upkeep was a tremendous financial burden for the whole nation*

- there were about 2 million samurais at the time. The Meiji government started a slow process to progressively abolish this social class. Most of their salaries were diminished or cancelled, and the ones that remained had to convert them into government bonds. (7)

- a) *This affected low and high-ranking samurai differently, but had the same result.*
- b) *However, the shogun wished to free his government from the influence of bureaucracy.*

Each class either used the bond to invest in land or start a business, or realized they didn't have enough income to support themselves, and returned to the land as farmers or to the cities as workers. The samurai no longer had an important role to play in Japan. Finally, in 1876, the emperor banned samurai from wearing their swords, (8)

- a) *as opposed to destroying the power of the warriors.*
- b) *which led to the creation of a drafted standing army.*

The final bell had tolled for the samurai - they no longer existed. Though there were some rebellions as samurai in outlying provinces resisted, all the samurai eventually adopted new roles in Japanese society, as their nation moved into the Industrial Age.