Overthrowing the Shogunate
Naïyū Gaikan: “Troubles at Home, Dangers from Abroad”

- Troubled 1830s: Tempō Crisis
- Perry’s visits: 1853 and 1854
“Dangers from Abroad”

- Tokugawa troubles coincide with the “Age of High Imperialism” in the West

- 1858, establishment of British Indian Empire (a.k.a the Raj)
First Opium War

- 1839-1842: ends in Chinese defeat
- 1842: Treaty of Nanking
  - treaty port system
  - loss of tariff autonomy
  - extraterritoriality
  - most favored nation clause
- Model for future “unequal treaties”
Matthew C. Perry

- July 8~17, 1853: first visit to Urage
- Navy man; better prepared
- Lucky timing?
- Drop off Fillmore’s letter
  - “I’ll be back”
- March, 1854: larger, lengthier visit
American Motives?

- Original oil crisis
- Shrinking space
  - California, 1848
- Manifest Destiny
“Black Ships”
Bakufu Decision-making

- leyasu/Hidetada (#2): inner circle
- lemitsu (#3): formal system of senior councillors (rōjū) and junior councillors (wakadoshiyori)
  - Both dominated by fudai daimyo
  - Group decision led by “Head Councillor”
Bakufu Response

#13 Iesada, “Potato Shōgun” (r. 1853-58)

Abe Masahiro (Head Councilor)
Head Councillors

- Abe Masahiro (1843-55)
  - Need to respond to calls for jōi ("Expel the barbarians!")
  - Fear of West
  - Catastrophic decision: ask for everyone’s opinion

- Signs Convention of Kanagawa (1854) without consensus
Convention of Kanagawa

- March 31
  - Open Shimoda and Hakodate
  - End of Seclusion
- 1858: Treaty of Amity and Commerce
  - Similar to Treaty of Nanking
Broader Consequences

- End to bakufu-han balance of power
- Reversal of shogun-emperor role
- Nationalist consciousness among people
- Competition and division within domains
Bakufu Strikes Back

- Another head councillor
  - Ii Naosuke (1858-60), Hikone daimyo (*fudai*)
  - Succeed after predecessor’s missteps over Harris Treaty controversy
  - Ii: no more nice guy vs. anti-foreign activists
  - Ansei Purge (1858-59): high-level arrests and executions
March 3, 1860:
Edo Castle, Sakuradamon

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If You Can’t Beat Them…

- Bakufu: post-li appeasement
- 1862: move to “united court and camp”
  - Kazunomiya marries shogun Ieshige (#14)
- Council of elders reformed: key daimyo appointed as shogunal advisers
- Alternative attendance relaxed
  - hostages returned
  - funds used for domainal defense
Troubles in Kyoto

- 1862-63: hot-headed loyalists converge
  - A city of agitation,
  - conspiracy, and assassinations
- 1863, Emperor Kōmei demand expulsion
- Shogun visits the city (unprecedented)
  - Get’s an impossible date: May 10, 1863
Chōshū at War

- Anti-bakufu by tradition
- Wealthy and reformist
- Domain split: reformists vs. conservatives
  - Early 1863: reformist victory
  - Eager to implement expulsion order
  - May 10 (July 25, 1863 in Western calendar)
Battles of Shimonoseki (1863 and 1864)
Other Battles

- Fall 1863, Chōshū driven from Kyoto
  - Satsuma-Aizu alliance
- Fall 1864, First Chōshū Expedition
- 1864~65: bakufu reinvigorated
  - Alternate attendance reinstated
  - Aizu troops occupy Kyoto
  - Military reforms
Lessons Learned

- Satsuma and the Richardson Affair (Sept 14, 1862): an unfortunate encounter on Tōkaidō between Shimazu Hisamitsu and 4 British tourists

- August 1863: bombardment of Kagoshima
Beginning of the End

- 1865: reformist coup in Chōshū
- 1866: Second Chōshū Expedition
  - Tokugawa routed
  - Secret Sat-Chō Alliance
  - Iemochi (#14) dies > Yoshinobu (#15, Keiki)
- January 1867, Emperor Kōmei dies
  - 15yr old Mutsuhito on the throne
Final Maneuvers

• November 9, 1867

• Yoshinobu returns the patent of office
Final Maneuvers

- January 3, 1868
  - Sat-Chō coup in the name of “Restoration”
  - May 3, 1868 Edo castle handed over by Katsu Kaishū (Rintarō)
  - Era name changed: Meiji (“Enlightened Rule”)