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CUET · HISTORY · CLASS XI · CODE 314

Paths to Modernisation

CUET unit: World History — Background

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Snapshot

- East Asian states — China, Japan, Taiwan and Korea — took **divergent paths to modernisation** from the early nineteenth century to the present.
- It contrasts **Japan's elite-driven, capitalist modernisation under the Meiji Restoration (1868)** with **China's revolutionary, Communist-led transformation (1949)** culminating in Deng Xiaoping's 1978 market reforms.
- It also tracks **Taiwan's land-reform-driven growth** and **South Korea's export-oriented industrialisation** under Park Chung-hee, ending in democratisation through the June Movement (1987).
- CUET tests this chapter for **dates, slogans, terms (Zaibatsu, Diet, San min chui, Four Modernisations), and cause-effect reasoning** between modernisation and nationalism.

Detailed Notes

2.1 Core concepts

- East Asia in the early 19th century was dominated by China under the **Qing dynasty (1644–1911)** while Japan, a small island country, appeared isolated; yet within decades Japan modernised and defeated China (1894) and Russia (1905), while China was thrown into turmoil (NCERT Introduction, p. 153).
- **Historiography of the region** is rich: Sima Qian (145–90 BCE) is considered the greatest historian of early China; the Meiji government in 1869 set up a bureau to write a victor's version of the Restoration; scholars like Naito Konan, Joseph Needham and George Sansom shaped modern English scholarship (NCERT pp. 153–154).
- **Geography:** China is a vast continental country with three river systems (Huang He, Yangtse/Chang Jiang, Pearl); the dominant ethnic group is Han, the major language Putonghua. Japan is a string of islands — Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku, Hokkaido — over 50% mountainous, with Ainu and Korean minorities (NCERT Introduction, pp. 155–156).
- **Japan's political system before Meiji:** emperor ruled from Kyoto but lost power to shoguns by the 12th century; from 1603 to 1867 the **Tokugawa family held the shogunate**, with the country divided into over 250 domains under **daimyo**; the

- samurai** were the ruling warrior class who alone could carry swords (NCERT "The Political System", p. 156).
- Late-16th-century changes laid the base for modernisation: peasants were disarmed; daimyo were ordered to live in domain capitals; land surveys identified taxpayers and graded productivity. Edo became the **world's most populated city**, with Osaka and Kyoto also large, fostering a commercial economy and a merchant culture (NCERT p. 156).
 - **The Meiji Restoration (1868)**: Commodore Matthew Perry's arrival in 1853 forced Japan to sign a treaty (1854) opening trade; in 1868 a movement removed the shogun, the Emperor was brought to Edo (renamed **Tokyo — "eastern capital"**), and the slogan "**fukoku kyohei**" (**rich country, strong army**) was adopted (NCERT "The Meiji Restoration", pp. 157–158).
 - The Meiji state built an "**emperor system**", issued the **Imperial Rescript on Education (1890)**, made schooling compulsory (near universal by 1910), imposed military service on men over 20, and enacted the **Meiji Constitution in 1889** creating the **Diet** (parliament, German term) with restricted franchise (NCERT pp. 158–161).
 - **Modernising the economy**: Japan's first railway between Tokyo and Yokohama was built in 1870–72; modern banking launched in 1872; Mitsubishi and Sumitomo grew via subsidies; large family-controlled business houses called **Zaibatsu** dominated the economy till after WW II (NCERT "Modernising the Economy", p. 160).
 - **Industrial workers**: manufacturing workers grew from 700,000 (1870) to 4 million (1913); over half of modern-factory workers were women, who organised Japan's **first modern strike in 1886**; **Tanaka Shozo** led the first anti-pollution agitation against the **Ashio Mine** in 1897 (NCERT pp. 160–161).
 - **Aggressive nationalism**: between 1918 and 1931 popularly elected PMs formed cabinets; from 1899 only serving generals/admirals could be ministers; militarism, colonial expansion (Taiwan 1895, Korea 1910) and fear of the West led to wars and ultimately defeat by 1945 (NCERT "Aggressive Nationalism", p. 161).
 - **Westernisation vs Tradition**: **Fukuzawa Yukichi** urged Japan to "expel Asia"; **Miyake Setsurei** argued each nation must develop its special talents; **Ueki Emori** led the Popular Rights Movement demanding constitutional government (NCERT pp. 162).
 - **Post-1945 Japan**: US-led Occupation (1945–47) demilitarised Japan and introduced **Article 9 ("no war clause")**; Zaibatsu were dismantled, women voted in 1946; the **1964 Tokyo Olympics** and Shinkansen bullet trains symbolised re-emergence (NCERT pp. 164–165).
 - **China's modern path**: marked by three groups — early reformers (Kang Youwei, Liang Qichao), republican revolutionaries (Sun Yat-sen), and the Communist Party (CCP) — striving for sovereignty and equality (NCERT p. 165).

- **The Opium War (1839–42):** Britain used force to expand opium trade; the East India Company sold Indian opium in China to balance the Britain–India–China **triangular trade** in silver, tea, silk and porcelain (NCERT pp. 165–166).
- The **Chinese examination system**, requiring an **eight-legged essay (pa-ku wen)** in classical Chinese, was abolished in **1905** for being irrelevant to the modern world (NCERT box, p. 167).
- **Republic of China:** The Manchu empire was overthrown in **1911**; **Sun Yat-sen** founded the Guomindang and gave the **Three Principles (San min chui)** — nationalism, democracy, socialism (regulating capital, equalising landholdings) (NCERT pp. 167–168).
- The **May Fourth Movement (4 May 1919)** protested the post-war peace conference; it called for saving China through modern science, democracy and nationalism, and led to demands like abolishing foot-binding (NCERT p. 168).
- **Chiang Kai-shek** led the Guomindang after Sun's death, advocating secular Confucianism and militarisation; he prescribed "four virtues" for women — chastity, appearance, speech and work (NCERT p. 168).
- **Rise of CCP:** Founded in **1921**; **Mao Zedong** based revolution on the **peasantry**, unlike traditional Marxism; the **Jiangxi soviet (1928–34)**, the **Long March (1934–35) of 6,000 miles to Yanan**, and a new marriage law followed (NCERT "Rise of CCP", pp. 171–172).
- **New Democracy (1949–65):** PRC established 1949; **Great Leap Forward (1958)** with backyard steel furnaces and people's communes; by 1958, 26,000 communes covered 98% of farm population (NCERT pp. 172–173).
- **Cultural Revolution (1965):** Mao launched the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution; the **Red Guards** attacked old culture, customs and habits; ideology trumped expertise; it severely disrupted the economy and education (NCERT "Conflicting Visions", p. 173).
- **Reforms from 1978:** Deng Xiaoping declared the **Four Modernisations** — science, industry, agriculture, defence; the 1978 wall-poster "The Fifth Modernisation" demanded democracy; **Tiananmen Square protests (1989)** were suppressed (NCERT "Reforms from 1978", pp. 173–174).
- **Taiwan:** Chiang Kai-shek fled there in 1949 with US\$300 million in gold; the Cairo Declaration (1943) restored sovereignty to China; **land reforms** modernised the economy so that **by 1973 Taiwan's GNP was second only to Japan in Asia**; martial law was lifted in 1987 (NCERT "Story of Taiwan", pp. 174–175).
- **Korea:** the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910) ended when Japan annexed Korea in 1910; liberation in **August 1945** was followed by division along the **38th parallel**; the **Korean War (1950–53)** ended in armistice; **Park Chung-hee's** state-led, export-oriented model (from 1963) and the **Saemaul (New Village) Movement (1970)** drove rapid growth; the **June Democracy Movement of 1987** secured direct

elections; Korea joined OECD in 1996 and overcame the 1997 IMF crisis via the **Gold Collection Movement** (NCERT "Story of Korea", pp. 175–179).

2.2 Definitions to memorise

Term	Definition	Page
Daimyo	Domainal lords who ruled over 250 domains under the shogun	156
Samurai	Warrior class; ruling elite who served the shoguns and daimyo	156
Fukoku kyohei	Meiji slogan — "rich country, strong army"	158
Zaibatsu	Large business organisations controlled by individual families, dominating the Japanese economy till after WW II	160
Diet	Japanese parliament, established under the Meiji Constitution (1889); the word is German	161
Moga	"Modern girl" — symbol of gender equality and cosmopolitan culture in 1920s Japan	163
San min chui	Sun Yat-sen's "Three Principles" — nationalism, democracy, socialism	167–168
Pa-ku wen	The "eight-legged essay" in classical Chinese required in the imperial exam, abolished in 1905	167
New Democracy	1949 PRC programme — alliance of all social classes, distinct from "dictatorship of the proletariat"	172
Four Modernisations	1978 CCP goals — science, industry, agriculture, defence	173
Saemaul Movement	Korean New Village Movement (1970) to modernise rural sector	177
Yusin Constitution	1972 Korean constitution under Park Chung-hee giving president absolute authority	177
Shogun	Military ruler of Japan (1192–1867); the Tokugawa held the office 1603–1867	156
Meiji	"Enlightened rule"; the emperor's reign-name from 1868; the era that modernised Japan	157
Edo / Tokyo	Old shogunal capital renamed "eastern capital" in 1868	158
Sun Yat-sen	Founder of the Republic of China; gave the Three Principles (San min chui)	167–168
Mao Zedong	Communist leader; led the Long March; founded PRC in 1949	171–172
Deng Xiaoping	CCP leader who launched the Four Modernisations in 1978	173
Chiang Kai-shek	Guomindang leader who fled to Taiwan in 1949	168

Term	Definition	Page
Long March	6,000-mile CCP retreat from Jiangxi to Yanan (1934–35)	172
Tiananmen Square	Beijing square where 1989 pro-democracy protest was suppressed	174
Great Leap Forward	1958 Mao programme of backyard furnaces and people's communes	172
Cultural Revolution	1965 Mao-led mass campaign of Red Guards against "old culture"	173
Park Chung-hee	Korean military strongman (1963–79); state-led export industrialisation	177
38th parallel	Line dividing North and South Korea after 1945	175
Korean War	1950–53 war between North (Soviet/Chinese-backed) and South (US-backed) Korea	175
Opium War	1839–42 war between Britain and Qing China over British opium trade	165–166
Imperial Rescript on Education	1890 Meiji decree on loyalty and education	161
Article 9	"No war clause" of post-1945 Japanese Constitution	164
Sima Qian	(145–90 BCE) greatest historian of early China	153

2.3 Diagrams / processes to remember

- **Map 1: East Asia** — locates China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan; useful for placing the three Chinese river systems and the four main Japanese islands (NCERT p. 155).
- **Triangular trade diagram (Opium Trade)** — Britain ↔ India ↔ China flow of opium, silver, tea/silk/porcelain (NCERT p. 166).
- **Map 2: The Long March** — 6,000-mile route from Jiangxi to Shanxi (Yanan), 1934–35 (NCERT p. 172).
- **Timeline (pp. 170)** — parallel Japan/China dates: 1603 Tokugawa, 1854 Treaty, 1868 Meiji, 1889 Meiji Constitution, 1894–95 Sino-Japanese War, 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War, 1910 Korea annexed, 1911 end of Qing, 1919 May Fourth, 1921 CCP founded, 1934 Long March, 1949 PRC, 1966 Cultural Revolution.
- **Writing Japanese** — Kanji (Chinese characters), Katakana, Hiragana (the last considered feminine, used by Heian women writers) (NCERT p. 159).
- **Process — Meiji modernisation cycle:** (1) 1853 Perry's "Black Ships" force opening; (2) 1854 Treaty signed; (3) 1868 Meiji Restoration, shogun removed, emperor moved to Tokyo; (4) compulsory education + military service introduced; (5) 1870–72 first railway Tokyo–Yokohama; (6) 1872 modern banking; (7) Mitsubishi & Sumitomo subsidised into Zaibatsu; (8) 1889 Meiji Constitution + Diet; (9) 1890

Imperial Rescript on Education; (10) 1894–95 Sino-Japanese War, 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War, 1910 Korea annexed.

- **Process — CCP rise to power:** (1) 1921 founded; (2) 1927 break with Guomindang; (3) 1928–34 Jiangxi Soviet experiment; (4) 1934–35 Long March to Yanan; (5) 1937–45 united front against Japan; (6) 1949 founding of PRC; (7) 1958 Great Leap Forward; (8) 1965 Cultural Revolution; (9) 1978 Four Modernisations; (10) 1989 Tiananmen.
- **Process — Park Chung-hee growth model in Korea:** (1) 1961 coup; (2) 1962 first Five-Year Plan; (3) state directs banks and big business (chaebol); (4) export-led industrialisation in textiles, steel, ships, chemicals; (5) 1970 Saemaul rural movement; (6) 1972 Yusin Constitution centralises power; (7) 1979 Park assassinated; (8) 1987 June Democracy Movement.

2.5 Timeline / Key events

Year / Period	Event	Significance
1392–1910	Joseon Dynasty in Korea	Long-lived East Asian polity (NCERT p. 175)
1603	Tokugawa shogunate begins	Beginning of the Edo period (NCERT p. 156)
1644–1911	Qing dynasty rules China	Last imperial dynasty (NCERT p. 153)
1839–42	First Opium War	Britain forces Qing China into unequal treaties (NCERT pp. 165–166)
1853	Commodore Perry's "Black Ships" arrive in Japan	Forced opening of Japan (NCERT p. 157)
1854	Treaty opens Japan to trade	End of seclusion (NCERT p. 157)
1868	Meiji Restoration; shogun removed; emperor moves to Tokyo	Beginning of Japanese modernisation (NCERT p. 158)
1870–72	First railway Tokyo–Yokohama	Modern infrastructure (NCERT p. 160)
1872	Modern banking introduced in Japan	(NCERT p. 160)
1886	First modern strike in Japan by women workers	(NCERT p. 161)
1889	Meiji Constitution; Diet established	Constitutional government (NCERT p. 161)
1890	Imperial Rescript on Education	(NCERT p. 161)
1894–95	Sino-Japanese War; Japan acquires Taiwan	(NCERT p. 174)
1897		(NCERT p. 161)

Year / Period	Event	Significance
	Tanaka Shozo leads anti-pollution movement against Ashio Mine	
1904–05	Russo-Japanese War; Japan defeats a European power	(NCERT p. 153)
1905	Chinese imperial examination system abolished	End of pa-ku wen (NCERT p. 167)
1910	Japan annexes Korea	(NCERT p. 175)
1911	Manchu (Qing) empire overthrown	Republic of China founded (NCERT p. 167)
1919 (4 May)	May Fourth Movement in Beijing	Birth of modern Chinese nationalism (NCERT p. 168)
1921	CCP founded	(NCERT p. 171)
1934–35	Long March (Jiangxi to Yanan, 6,000 mi)	CCP regroupes (NCERT p. 172)
1943	Cairo Declaration restores Taiwan sovereignty to China	(NCERT p. 174)
1945 (Aug)	Japan surrenders; Korea liberated; US Occupation of Japan begins	(NCERT p. 164)
1949	PRC founded; Chiang flees to Taiwan	(NCERT pp. 172, 174)
1950–53	Korean War	Korea divided at 38th parallel (NCERT p. 175)
1958	Great Leap Forward; 26,000 people's communes	(NCERT p. 172)
1964	Tokyo Olympics; Shinkansen bullet train	Japan's post-war re-emergence (NCERT p. 165)
1965	Cultural Revolution launched	(NCERT p. 173)
1970	Saemaul (New Village) Movement in Korea	(NCERT p. 177)
1972	Yusin Constitution in Korea	(NCERT p. 177)
1978	Deng's Four Modernisations	China's market reform begins (NCERT p. 173)
1987	Korean June Democracy Movement; martial law lifted in Taiwan	(NCERT pp. 174, 178)
1989	Tiananmen Square protests suppressed	(NCERT p. 174)
1996	South Korea joins OECD	(NCERT p. 178)

Year / Period	Event	Significance
1997	Asian financial crisis; Korea's Gold Collection Movement	(NCERT p. 179)

2.4 Common confusions / NTA trap points

- **Three Principles attribution:** Sun Yat-sen (not Mao, not Chiang) gave the San min chui — nationalism, democracy, **socialism** (NOT communism).
- **Four Modernisations vs Three Principles:** Four Modernisations (Deng, 1978: science, industry, agriculture, defence) are often confused with Sun Yat-sen's Three Principles or with the "Fifth Modernisation" (Democracy) demanded in the wall-poster.
- **Meiji Constitution date:** enacted in **1889**, not 1868 (which is the Restoration year) or 1890 (which is the Imperial Rescript on Education).
- **First railway in Japan: Tokyo-Yokohama, 1870-72** (frequently confused with later lines or with the Shinkansen of 1964).
- **Zaibatsu vs Diet:** Zaibatsu = business houses; Diet = parliament. NTA likes swapping these.
- **Long March direction:** From Jiangxi (south) to Shanxi/Yanan (north) — NOT the reverse.
- **Korean division:** Along the **38th parallel** (not the 49th, which is North America's border), with Soviets in the North and the UN/US in the South.
- **Article 9 ("no war clause")** is part of the post-1945 Japanese Constitution under US Occupation, NOT the Meiji Constitution.
- The **Diet** is the Japanese parliament (from German **Reichstag**), NOT to be confused with the Indian "diet" — NCERT explicitly notes the German origin.
- Saemaul Movement (1970, Korea) ≠ Great Leap Forward (1958, China) ≠ Four Modernisations (1978, China) — distinct rural-modernisation campaigns.
- Sino-Japanese War **1894-95** vs Russo-Japanese War **1904-05** — both Japanese victories but different decades.

Practice MCQs

PYQ Alignment

CUET History papers have consistently drawn 5–7 MCQs per year from this chapter, with a particular focus on **Meiji-era terminology (Zaibatsu, Diet, fukoku kyohei, Article 9), Sun Yat-sen's Three Principles, the Long March, and Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernisations**. Statement-based and match-the-following questions linking events to dates (1868, 1889, 1911, 1919, 1949, 1978) and the parallel Japan–China timeline on p. 170 are especially common. PYQ archive: </pyq/history>.



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