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**Russian Japanese War and the Rise of Japan to Power**

Dissertation submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of *Master* in  
Literature and Civilization.

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## **Declaration of Originality**

I hereby declare that this submission is my work and that, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which has been accepted for the qualification of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution.

Date: 25/08/2021

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a vertical stroke, positioned to the right of the 'Signature:' label.

## **Dedication**

I humbly dedicate this piece of work to my family who supports me in everything, mostly my parents. To my sister who helped me finish this project, and most of all to the Almighty Allah who gives me strength and good health while doing this.

## *Acknowledgements*

*My thanks go to my supervisor Dr. A. MOUSSAOUI for his help in completing this research work.*

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this research work is to provide a historical overview of the Russian-Japanese War (1904-1905). It aims to offer an in-depth look into the roots of this conflict by studying events before the war, as well as to evaluate both the political and economic situations of the two belligerents previous to the war. It also tends to study the courses of this war by focusing on the most crucial battles, as well as investigate the primary repercussions of this armed fight. Finally, another aim of the current research is to examine the factors that contributed to Japan's rise as a world power. Henceforth, the current research work relies on a historical research approach to study this war. The results obtained demonstrate that the war started as a result of a rivalry in interests between Russia and Japan over the Korean peninsula. After Japan's victory in the First Sino-Japanese War, China gave Japan sovereignty of the Liaodong Peninsula. Russia, Germany, and France compelled Japan to restore it to China in the so-called Triple Intervention. Following that, Russia secured a lease for the land, making Japan feel threatened by the region's conflict of interests and preparing for war. The conflict began in 1904 and ended in 1905, with the Japanese triumphing over the Russians. This decisive battle exacerbated domestic dissatisfaction in both nations, sparking the Russian Revolution of 1905, the rise of Japan also sent resonances across the world. Moreover, this analytical work resorts to the conclusion that the Russian Japanese War was simply one stage in the series of events that led to Japan's rise as a world power.

**Keywords:** Russian Japanese War; Conflict; Rivalry; Korean Peninsula; belligerents; Fight; Sino-Japanese War; Triple intervention; Rise; World power.

## Table of Contents

<b>Declaration of Originality</b> .....	I
<b>Dedication</b> .....	II
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	V
<b>Abstract</b> .....	IV
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	V
<b>List of Figures</b> .....	VIII
<b>List of Acronyms</b> .....	IX
<b>List of Appendices</b> .....	X

### General Introduction

<b>General Introduction</b> .....	01
-----------------------------------	----

### Chapter 1. The Pre-War Period

1.1. Introduction.....	05
1.2. The Early Tension between Japan and Russia.....	05
1.3. The Political and Economic Conditions of Russia and Japan prior to the War.....	08
1.3.1. Russia.....	08
1.3.2. Japan.....	09
1.4. First-Sino Japanese War.....	12
1.5. Treaty of Shimonoseki.....	13
1.6. Triple Intervention.....	15
1.7. The Boxer Rebellion.....	16
1.8. Anglo-Japanese Alliance.....	16
1.9. Pre-War Negotiations.....	16
1.10. Conclusion.....	19

### Chapter 2. The Russian Japanese War

2.1. Introduction.....	21
2.2. The Russian Japanese War Objectives.....	21
2.2.1. The Japanese Objectives.....	21
2.2.2. The Russian Objectives.....	22
2.3. Russia and Japan on the Eve of the War .....	22
2.4. The Beginning of the War.....	23
2.5. The Most Important Battles.....	23

2.5.1. Battle of Port Arthur .....	24
2.5.2. Battle of Yalu River.....	25
2.5.3. Battle of Nanshan .....	26
2.5.4. Battle of Yellow Sea .....	27
2.5.5. Battle of Liaoyang.....	28
2.5.6. Battle of Sandepu.....	29
2.5.7. Battle of Mukden.....	30
2.5.8. Battle of Tsushima.....	32
2.6. Treaty of Portsmouth and the End of the Russo-Japanese War.....	33
2.7. Consequences of the War and Its Significant.....	34
2.8. The Impact of the War on Colonial World.....	36
2.9. The Impact of the War on China and Korea.....	37
2.10. World War Zero.....	38
2.11. Conclusion.....	41

### **Chapter 3. The Emergence of Japan as a World power**

3.1. Introduction.....	43
3.2. Prior to the War.....	43
3.2.1. The Meiji Restoration.....	44
3.2.2. Renegotiate the Unequal Treaties.....	45
3.2.3. The First-Sino Japanese War .....	47
3.2.4. Japan in the Eyes of President Theodore Roosevelt.....	48
3.3. After the war.....	48
3.3.1. Remaking Japanese Military Image.....	49
3.3.2. Agreements with Other Powers.....	50
3.3.2. The Territorial Gains .....	50
3.3.4. Versailles Conference of 1919 .....	51
3.4. Conclusion.....	51

### **General Conclusion**

General Conclusion.....	54
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### **References**

References.....	58
Summary.....	65
الملخص.....	67

Résumé..... 69



## List of Figures

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Fig. 1.1.</b> Tran Siberian Railway.....	8
<b>Fig. 1.2.</b> Shunpanrou Hall, Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi prefecture, Honshu, Japan, where the Treaty of Shimonoseki was signed in 1895.....	15
<b>Fig. 2.1.</b> Battle of Port Arthur.....	24
<b>Fig. 2.2.</b> Japanese and Russian soldiers in fierce battle at Chiu-tien-Ch'eng, Manchuria (the battle of Yalu River).....	25
<b>Fig. 2.3.</b> Imperial Russian ship hit in the "Battle of the Yellow Sea".....	27
<b>Fig. 2.4.</b> Battle of Liaoyang.....	29
<b>Fig. 2.5.</b> Battle of Mukden.....	31
<b>Fig. 2.6.</b> Battle of Tsushima.....	32
<b>Fig. 2.7.</b> Theodore Roosevelt (centre) with peace envoys from Russia and Japan at the signing of treaty of Portsmouth.....	33

## **List of Acronyms**

US: United States of America

USA: United States of America

WWII: World War Two

MFN: Most Favored Nation

UK: United Kingdom

# **List of Appendices**

**Appendix A:** First Sino Japanese War

# **General Introduction**

## **General Introduction**

The Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) is a military dispute in which a triumphant Japan forced Russia to relinquish its East Asian expansionist policies, making it the first Asian state to defeat a European power in modern history. Russia had forced China into leasing the strategically vital port of Port Arthur in 1898. As a result, it took control of the port. In addition, in 1896, Russia formed an alliance with China against Japan, winning the right to build the Trans-Siberian Railroad over Chinese-controlled Manchuria to the Russian port of Vladivostok, acquiring control of a significant swath of Manchurian land.

Despite the fact that Russia had completed the Trans-Siberian Railroad, it still lacked the transportation infrastructure needed to supplement its Manchurian military forces with adequate troops and supplies. Japan, on the other hand, had gradually increased its army since the 1894 conflict with China, and by 1904 had surpassed Russia in the number of ground soldiers in the Far East. After Russia failed to follow through on a promise to remove its soldiers from Manchuria in 1903, Japan felt it was time to attack.

The war started on February 8, 1904, when Japan launched a surprise attack against Russian-held Port Arthur on the Manchurian coast. Russia confronted numerous losses as it battled Japan, while also waging a revolution on the home front. The war formally ended on 5 September by signing the Portsmouth treaty, the negotiations took place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and were brokered in part by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.

The Russian-Japanese War was the first significant battle of the twentieth century in which an Asian country successfully fought against a European state; this terrible struggle in the western Pacific altered Asia's balance of power and laid the ground for World War One. Following its triumph over Russia in 1905, Japan gained international recognition as a force to be reckoned with and Asia's undisputed leader.

The purpose of this research work is to provide a historical overview of the Russian Japanese war, then to investigate and analyze the reasons behind the emergence of Japan as a world power. The following objectives are intended: firstly, to shed light on the main causes that led to the conflict between the two belligerents. Secondly, to know the results that occurred after this war, especially since it was for the first time a yellow race won against the white race. Finally, to provide a glimpse of the Russian-Japanese war's role in Japan gaining global recognition.

## General Introduction

The present research seeks to answer the following questions:

- 1- What were the underlying causes of The Russian Japanese War?
- 2- How was the “Small” nation of Japan able to defeat the "Giant" nation of Russia?
- 3- What were the impacts of the Russian-Japanese War?
- 4- What led to the emergence of Japan as a world power?

The following research hypotheses are suggested for the above research questions:

- The conflict arose from a competition between Russia and Japan for control of Korea and Manchuria. Japan took the Liaodong Peninsula from China after the First Sino-Japanese War, but European forces compelled Japan to return it. Following that, China leased it to Russia. The Russo-Japanese War began when Japanese warships assaulted Russian warships off the coast of the peninsula at Port Arthur.
- Because Japan was located much closer to Port Arthur, the Japanese were able to dispatch ships considerably faster and replenish those ships in a matter of days, whereas Russian ships struggled to get to the battle.
- The conflict exacerbated domestic dissatisfaction in both nations, sparking the Russian Revolution of 1905. Japan would also solidify its position as a worldwide power. It shifted the power balance in East Asia as well as Europe and as the first defeat of a European state by an Asian force; it posed a direct challenge to global conceptions of white, European superiority, offering encouragement to colonial people worldwide.
- Japan became a world power due to: the reforms of the Meiji Restoration, the First-Sino Japanese War and also by renegotiating the unequal treaties. The Russian Japanese war was only one phase in the chain of events that led to the emergence of Japan as a world power not the most significant.

This research work will use historical research to provide a deeper understanding of the Russian-Japanese war and investigate Japan's rise to power. It will involve a data compendium from different historical periods in which the emphasis will be on identifying the international reasons for the outbreak of the Russian Japanese war followed by a short description of the war itself. Consequently, the national and international effects of the war itself will be analyzed, to finally provide a detailed analysis of the emergence of Japan to power.

## **General Introduction**

This research work comprises of three chapters:

The first chapter is devoted to the pre-war period which will help in a better understanding of how this war begun, in addition to the political and economic conditions of Russia and Japan prior to the war.

The second chapter will focus on the war itself, it will be mostly concerned with the courses of the war, the most important battles, and the results of this armed conflict on a global scale.

The third chapter is devoted to the emergence of Japan as a world power by analyzing the main causes that contributed to Japan's gaining of global power.

# **Chapter 1**

## **The Pre-War Period**



**1.1 Introduction**

The Russo-Japanese War was a military conflict that fought between the Russian Empire and the Japanese Empire from 1904 to 1905, for mastery in northeast Asia specifically for control of Korea and Manchuria. It was the first contemporary conflict in which an Asian country stood against a European power. This brutal conflict in the western Pacific changed the balance of Asia and set the stage for World War 1. So why it even happened! This chapter aims to provide, an overview of the most significant events preceding the Russian-Japanese conflict that contributed in some manner to the war's foundation. We will also analyze the political and economic situations of the two belligerents immediately before the war, so that we may comprehend the conditions and position in which the two nations were before.

**1.2 The Early Tension between Japan and Russia**

The Russo-Japanese War was, from a broad historical viewpoint, a flashpoint of sustained friction between the two rising powers. For decades, the Russian empire had invaded the East from the West, while it has expanded by Japan from the East. For 30 years, in the path of the coast of Asia. Maybe the most unforgettable conflict between them is the conflict between these two countries in the killing regions of Korea and Manchuria (Kowner, 2006).

Until the nineteenth century, Russia and Japan knew nothing about each other, mainly because in the previous two centuries, the interaction between Japan and Europe had been severely limited. The Tokugawa government in Japan started to shut itself off from European rule during the 1620s and 1630s, afraid of the presence of Catholic missionaries and of the states that supported them. The Protestant Dutch were the only Europeans allowed to trade with Japan after 1638, and they were confined to the port of Nagasaki. Japanese vessels' departures to foreign countries were also significantly curtailed. Information about the outside world in Japan for the next two centuries was largely limited to what could be understood by the Netherlands and the Chinese, while knowledge of Japan in Europe was extremely incomplete (Wilson & Wells, 1999).

The two belligerents were increasing empires that appeared to spread outward to new regions and extend their borders throughout the pre-modern period. There were centuries of Russian yearning for territorial expansion into East Asia. The territory of

Russia reached as far as the Ural Mountains in the 16th century. Russian explorers crossed the Amur River in less than a century (Kowner, 2006).

At around the same time, under the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the expedition forces of Japan by Ermak strove to seize Korea and even China. For almost three centuries, their failure ended Japanese participation in Asian affairs. Fear of European-Christian intervention in internal affairs forced the Tokugawa dynasty's second shogun to a policy of isolation. During that time, Japan continued to follow a policy of non-involvement in Asian affairs, except to accept a small number of Chinese and Korean merchants, as well as regular trips to the port of Nagasaki by Dutch merchant ships. For the time being, Japan's need for a territorial extension has been fulfilled by gradual advances to the north in the northern portion of the Honshu mainland and the Ezo Islands (Kowner, 2006).

A castaway, Dembei, found by the Russian explorer Vladimir Vasil' evich Atlasov on Kamchatka in 1697, was the first Japanese known to have visited European Russia and eventually brought to Moscow. The presence of Dembei encouraged the first Russian attempts to enter Japan, which, however, remained ineffective until 1739, when some Russians stepped foot on soil in Japan. For the next fifty years, however, Russian intervention was limited to the Kurile Islands and Hokkaido in the area of Japan. The Russians entered Nagasaki only in 1804, but their trade opportunities were rejected. Exactly a century before the Russo-Japanese War, the tension between these two nations arose for the first time (Wilson & Wells, 1999).

In the following half-century, Russian-Japanese relations settled down, while Russian visits continued to be banned by Japan. In February 1854, under the command of Commodore Matthew Perry, an American flotilla managed to compel the shogun regime to end Japan's long period of isolation. The first three prewar Russo-Japanese Treaties were signed by Russia and Japan a year later, which included a temporary agreement on Sakhalin's division. A revolt called the Meiji Restoration broke out in Japan in 1868, during which the shogun system was replaced by a peripheral oligarchy of young samurai. As a result, the Japanese country has entered into an accelerated modernization process (Kowner, 2006).

During much of the second half of the 19th century, Russia and Japan maintained stable relations, while both of them at the same time strengthened their hold in the region. Russia established the town of Vladivostok in 1860. Nonetheless, they kept looking for an

open port of their own, so they kept attempting to push southwards. Japan and Russia concluded a trade agreement in 1875, which once again formed their mutual borders. The Japanese oligarchy quickly explored ways not to prevent the invasion of Japan by Western forces, but to improve its position in the eyes of the West. The inability to reform the unequal agreements signed by the shogunal representatives after the country's opening led many in Japan to believe that the way to restore national respect was to develop new relations with their East Asian neighbors, China and Korea. Japan faced internal pressure to capture Korea. In 1874, a Japanese naval force landed in Formosa (Taiwan) and forced Korea's opening in 1876. By annexing the Ryukyu Islands in the southwest, the Bonin (Ogasawara) Islands in the south, and the Kuril Islands in the north, Japan extended its territory during the 1870s (Kowner, 2006).

Japanese military activities worried the Chinese, who decided to restore their now-weakened influence on Korea, and the 1880s were marked by a growing struggle in that country between China and Japan. From Japan's viewpoint, any attempt thereafter by a foreign power to take control of Korea was to be considered a *casus belli*. Such a power was China in 1894 and Russia a decade later. To prevent such escalation in Korea, in 1885 Japan and China signed the Tientsin [Tianjin] Convention. The status quo between Russia and Japan began to show cracks in 1891, the year the Russians announced the laying of the Trans-Siberian Railway from European Russia to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of about 9,200 kilometers. Russians often defined this project as a cultural mission—bringing civilization in general and Christianity in particular to the peoples of Asia. However, it was too expensive an enterprise for purely cultural purposes. This ambitious project, with all its branches, was to change the face of East Asia (Kowner, 2006).

As the trans-Siberian line was built, it was clear that its military objectives had far-reaching consequences. Once finished, the line was required to aid the rapid engagement of the armed units in East Asia. However, in St Petersburg and in the capitals of European researchers saw it as a starting point for Russian expansion in East Asia. The Russian Crown Prince Nicholas, who set out for an extended trip to East Asia in 1890, showed great interest in the project. He was eventually to Vladivostok, where he was meant to be the cornerstone of the terminal. Three years later, Tsar Nicholas II visited Japan on his way to Japan. A fanatical police officer (the Otsu Incident) attacked him there, which could have affected his attitude to Japan (Kowner, 2006).



Fig.1.1. Tran Siberian Railway (Adopted from Ahn, 2020)

### 1.3 The Political and Economic Conditions of Russian and Japan prior to the War

#### 1.3.1 Russia

Occupying a vast plain without natural defenses such as seas and mountains. Russia long equated security with expansion protecting earlier territorial acquisitions by adding new ones. From 1850 prevented from expansion to the west by Germany and Austria Hungary and to the south by the British and French shorting up of the Ottoman Empire, the tsars turned their attention to central Asia and the Far East (Jukes, 2002).

Russia has been pursuing an expansionist agenda throughout Europe and Asia since Peter I (the Great). He was not only the Tsar Emperor and Autocrat of all Russians but also the Grand Duke of Finland and the King of Poland. To take it a step further, Russia has had goals in Manchuria since Ivan the Terrible's time. With Putin's annexation of Crimea, this strategy is still in effect today (Simpson, 2015).

While France, the United Kingdom, and, to a lesser degree, Germany, were expanding into Africa and Southeast Asia, Russia was moving east. Russia began building a railway network to Vladivostok in the absence of a support network to sustain the area. The Royal Navy supported the British Empire, thus it's only natural that the Russians have a naval presence in the region. Because the naval base in Vladivostok was only active during the summer, a year-round port was needed. For decades, Russia has been seeking to acquire access to an ice-free port in the Far East. This finally came to fruition with a twenty-five year lease of Liaotung Peninsula with the strategic naval base of Port Arthur at the southern tip. The Russian Empire succeeded with its expansion into the Far East and their ice free naval base but the Empire of Japan, was not so amenable to the current state of affairs (Simpson, 2015).

As for economic conditions, economic life in Russia was going on the pattern of the middle ages. Russia lagged behind the European Industrial Revolution until 1820, and it also lagged behind the progress of capitalist Europe. There were no factories before that year only a little, but the industry began to advance after the Liberation Act in 1821, which abolished slavery and forced labor, and when the industrial renaissance in Germany after its unification and Japan emerged as a modern country, the interest in Russia was intensified by industrialization, so the industry advanced at wide paces, but of course, it did not reach the level of other western countries, so the economy remained basically agricultural, and trade was also lagging behind in analogy to the western countries. Also, the nature of trade was indicative of its delay. Russia used to import coal, chemicals, armed machinery, textiles, and various manufactures. Its exports were limited to primary crops such as grains, flax, wood, fur, leather, and milk extracts, which are the same crops, exported by the colonies and small agricultural countries (Ramadan, 1997).

### **1.3.2 Japan**

The political system of Japan is one of the ancient systems in the world due to the young experiences it has been through in its long history. The last period in Japan's history is the Edo period, which extended between "1603-1868" before the coming of Meiji in 1868. It started with the soldier Tokugawa after he ended the reign of the emperor and gave himself the title of Shogun (Ishaya Odisho, 2008).

The Meiji period came and brought about great political and cultural changes, and many researchers assert that the Meiji sought to advance the country and keep up with the times. In general, we can call the Meiji reform a revolution, which led to a change in the system of government. Meiji moved away from military tyranny and the feudal system and turned towards the bourgeois system, thus ending feudal and military autocracy and paving the way for capitalism (Al-qawzi & Hallaq, 2001).

The Japanese fleet was reorganized in the style of the British fleet, the educators took the American roads, the courts of justice and Japanese laws applied the French and German measures, and in 1889, it became a constitutional state with an elected parliament. The Japanese industry was reorganized very quickly, and the missions of students were deported abroad to study Western artistic styles. The Japanese foreign policy soon began to follow the colonial approach of colonial countries. The presence of the Russians beside them in Eastern Siberia prompted them to pay more attention to the armed forces, and the number of the army in the year 1890 reached about 240 thousand soldiers, while the navy was established in 1887. Multiple religions have also contributed to the acquisition of these people's high advantages in building a society whose children cling to the land until worship, devoted to work, and sanctify it. Children obey their parents, the young obey their elders, and the people respect the ruling authority until holiness (Ramadan, 1997).

The Western colonial presence began to increase dangerously in the middle of the nineteenth century in Southeast Asia on the Japanese borders. Japan did not spare itself of some of its effects, as it was forced to conclude treaties by virtue of which it granted maritime and judicial privileges to countries with a colonial presence in the Pacific Ocean, such as the United States of America and Britain. It was also forced to subject its tariffs in favor of trade in these countries. During this period, Japan realized that its old system had been removed by restoring the imperial authority of the central authority and began the process of modernization (Al-qawzi & Hallaq, 2001).

Japan became an imperialist country since the beginning of the twentieth century, ruled by a monopolistic bourgeois class, and the foreign policy that Japan followed during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century contradicted (Al-qawzi & Hallaq, 2001).

Japan adopted a formal constitution for the first time in 1889 after a cabinet was established. The emperor nominated its members, the council began preparing for the text

of a new constitution, its articles were inspired by the German constitution, and his place became French that collects several powers at once, and with this good constitution the Japanese guaranteed freedom of movement, convergence and joining associations and equality in obtaining any job (Ishaya Odisho, 2008).

Japan continued its development, occupying the Ogasawara Islands, which were under American rule. Then it took control of Rikyu and obtained the path of negotiations over the Kuril Islands, which the Russians had some facilities on, and abandoned Sakhalin Island to Russia. In February 1876 under a commercial treaty with the King of Korea, that gave the Japanese the right of access to the three ports of Korea. Moreover, Japan seized the opportunity of turmoil in Korea in 1894 to land its forces in this kingdom subject to the Chinese empire, and in 1895, the Japanese occupied Korea and South Manchuria and succeeded in landing in Farmouza and they sought to attack Beijing and in 1895 acquired Liaotung Island in Manchuria Southern (Ramadan, 1997).

The Japanese economy was dependent on manufacturing industries, which are evidence of economic development at the expense of agriculture on the other hand. Moreover, this is what strengthens the direction of the commercial and economic relationship of Japan in world trade to be of the type of exchange that started importing raw materials, transforming them into manufactured goods, and re-exporting them (Darwich, 1998).

Foreign trade plays an important role for emerging countries, so in the case of Japan, the foreign market has become an urgent necessity, but on the other hand, the domestic market developed in parallel rapidly due to the growth of the purchasing power of the Japanese. The second phenomenon inherent in the Japanese economic renaissance is the intense financial concentration in the hands of a narrow group of institutions. The Japanese economy has become dependent on huge financial institutions and few capabilities (Darwich, 1998).

Japan needed a large amount of food, so it had to search for it either in Indochina, which is famous for cultivating rice, or in Manchuria, which is famous for cultivating wheat and soybeans but Japan preferred Manchuria due to geographical factors (Al-qawzi & Hallaq, 2001).

**1.4 First Sino Japanese War**

In the mid 19th century, China and Japan, with their populations of 400 and 44–45 million people respectively, were the largest countries in the Far East. Despite their differences, they shared numerous similarities. Both were fairly well-developed feudal states where social and economic conditions were comparable to those of medieval Europe. In both countries, the emperor, surrounded by the aura of divinity, held supreme power. In reality, that power was limited by the influence of local feudal lords and officials. Finally, both countries adopted policies of isolationism, locking themselves away from the outside world in the belief of their own superiority and perfection. Both China and Japan had contact with European countries in the 16th century and had even traded with them, but these relationships were limited and subject to severe restrictions. That state of affairs continued until the mid-19th century, when the Western powers finally forced both countries to become more open to the outside world. Thus, they disturbed the peace Japan and China had enjoyed for centuries and forced their leaders to act in response to the new developments. Both countries chose to go in completely different directions, which had a considerable effect on their subsequent histories. The conflict that erupted between China and Japan in 1894 demonstrated which of those roads had been the more successful (Olender, 2014).

The Sino-Japanese War began on July 25, 1894, when Japanese warships assaulted two Chinese ships off the coast of Asan, Korea. On August 1, 1894, the official declaration of war was made (See Appendix A). The Japanese army defeated China in this conflict and scored a major victory. Japan destroyed the Chinese army in September 1894 at Pyongyang, the present North Korean capital, and occupied the city of Lushun (Port Arthur) on November 21st, owing to its vastly superior military might. The Japanese soldiers also conquered Weihaiwei (Weihai), a city in Shandong Province, in early February 1895. During the naval campaigns, the Japanese navy achieved superiority against the Chinese. On March 26, 1895, the Japanese took the control of the Pescadores (Penghu) islands located off the western coast of Taiwan. Japan achieved superiority against China on all fronts and the Japanese troops posed a threat to Beijing over Southern Manchuria. These developments were an indicator of the fact that the war was over for China. Witnessing that its capital was in danger, China requested US mediation. First, an armistice was signed on March 30, 1895, and then the Peace Treaty of Shimonoseki was



signed on April 17, 1895, formally ending the war. With the signing of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, the Japanese were granted the same privileges as the European countries obtained in their relations with China (Birbudak, 2017).

The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, which lasted roughly 8 months, and the subsequent Treaty of Shimonoseki enabled Japan to participate in Far East affairs as a major force alongside western powers for the first time. With the ratification of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, however, Japan, as the legitimate owner of Manchuria, was unavoidably drawn into a confrontation with Russia and other imperialist European powers vying for control of the same territory (Birbudak, 2017).

This victory cemented the position of Japan as an empire and a force with which to reckon. The radical reforms and industrialization of the Meiji government transformed Japan, and the First Sino-Japanese War was seen as evidence of the expanding sphere of power of the country. It was the beginning of Japan's pursuit of a more aggressive role in foreign policy, and territorial expansion that lasted until World War II (Pain, 2003).

### **1.5 Treaty of Shimonoseki**

Treaty of Shimonoseki also known as (Treaty of Maguan) is a treaty of peace that ended The Sino Japanese War; it was signed on April 1895 between the Empire of Japan and the Qing Empire. Under the term of this argument, china was required to accept the independence of Korea and to cede Taiwan, the Pescadores, and The Liaodong Peninsula to Japan. In addition, to pay Japan an allowance of 200,000,000 taels (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2020) as the text of the treaty show, as follows:

#### **“Article 1**

“China recognizes definitively the full and complete independence and autonomy of Korea, and, in consequence, the payment of tribute and the performance of ceremonies and formalities by Korea to China, in derogation of such independence and autonomy, shall wholly cease for the future.”

#### **“Article 2**

“China cedes to Japan in perpetuity and full sovereignty the following territories, together with all fortifications, arsenals, and public property thereon:

(a) The southern portion of the province of Fêngtien within the following boundaries:

The line of demarcation begins at the mouth of the River Yalu and ascends that stream to the mouth of the River An-ping, from thence the line runs to Fêng-huang, from thence to Hai-cheng, from thence to Ying-kow, forming a line, which describes the southern portion of the territory. The places above named are included in the ceded territory. When the line reaches the River Liao at Ying-kow, it follows the course of the stream to its mouth, where it terminates. The mid-channel of the River Liao shall be taken as the line of demarcation

This cession also includes all islands appertaining or belonging to the province of Fêngtien situated in the eastern portion of the Bay of Liao-Tung and the northern portion of the Yellow Sea.

(b) The island of Formosa, together with all islands appertaining or belonging to the said island of Formosa.

(c) The Pescadores Group, that is to say, all islands lying between the 119th and 120th degrees of longitude east of Greenwich and the 23rd and 24th degrees of north latitude.”

**“Article 4**

“China agrees to pay to Japan as a war indemnity the sum of 200,000,000 Kuping [Gubing] taels; the said sum to be paid in eight installments. The first installment of 50,000,000 taels to be paid within six months, and the second installment of 50,000,000 to be paid within twelve months....”

The Shimonoseki Treaty marked a significant turning point and change in power that formed Asia's history and indeed the world (Treaties, conventions, etc., between China and foreign states, 1917).

The treaty of Shimonoseki offered Japan political and territorial benefits that which were to play a major role in the region's foreign relations. Japan was granted a new power base from which to negotiate with Korea, the acquisition of Taiwan, and the cession of Liaotung including Port Arthur. However, because of the triple intervention, this had to be abandoned, less frequently notes the trade provisions for all that these were the starting

point for an equally important shift in Japan's role in East Asia. The agreement granted China's economic and legal rights to Japan equal to those already owned by European powers (Beasley, 1992).



**Fig.1.2** Shunpanrou Hall, Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi prefecture, Honshu, Japan, where the Treaty of Shimonoseki was signed in 1895 (Adopted from Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d)

## **1.6 Triple Intervention**

Due to the shift in the balance of power, Russia feared for its sphere of influence because Japan suddenly gained the Liaodong peninsula harboring the very strategically located Port Arthur. Russia had set its own sights on this peninsula and managed to bring Germany and France together to support its protests under the term of Triple Intervention (Triple Intervention, n.d).

The Triple Intervention was a political crisis between Japan and three political great powers (France Britain and Russia) in the aftermath of the First-Sino Japanese War. In this, triple interference, Russia managed to force Japan to abandon its argument that Japan's arm was twisted to reverse the Liaodong peninsula back to China. This contributed to the growth of bitter competition between Japan and Russia, and paved the way for the Russians to seize the region three years later (Triple Intervention, n.d).

**1.7 The Boxer Rebellion**

By 1900, another upheaval in China upset the status quo on which Russian and Japanese policies both relied. This upheaval was the Boxer Rebellion. Instigated by a secret society, the revolt was directly against foreigners in China. Although the Chinese government ostensibly stood on the side of law and order, in practice its officials encouraged the Boxers (Westwood, 1986) Russia had previously dispatched 177,000 troops to Manchuria, ostensibly to safeguard its under-construction railroads. The forces of the Qing Empire and the Boxer Rebellion were unable to stand up to such a huge army and were expelled from Manchuria (Jukes, 2002) After the Boxer Rebellion, 100,000 Russian soldiers were stationed in Manchuria. The Russian troops settled in and despite assurances, they would vacate the area after the crisis, by 1903 the Russians had not established a timetable for withdrawal and had actually strengthened their position in Manchuria (Pain, 2003).

**1.8 Anglo Japanese Alliance**

Great Britain started the Boer war in 1899 and eventually discovered it much more difficult than anticipated. It was globally isolated by the end of 1901 and feared that Russia would take advantage of its difficulties to conquer India, or at least in competing with China on the markets. Japan similarly remained isolated and worried about the headway of Russia in Manchuria and Korea, yet still burning about the acts of Nicholas across the Liaotung Peninsula. Japanese fears increased when Russian soldiers attacked Manchuria, during the Boxer Rebellion of 1901. In 1900, count Tadasu Hayashi was named as a longtime supporter of Japanese Military expansion, to head the Japanese legation, and advocated an English Japanese Collaboration to give Japan support against the European Countries. The British demonstrated their responsiveness and on 30 January 1902, an alliance treaty was concluded. Britain was only pushed into war if any country joined Russia in initiating a war against Japan. Both Hayashi and Tsar Nicholas argued that Japan would not attack Russia without the treaty (Jukes, 2002).

**1.9 Pre-war Negotiation**

Japanese political chief Itō Hirobumi has begun talks with the Russians. He found Japan too small to eliminate the Russian militarily, so he offered to grant Russia control of

Manchuria in return for Japanese control of North Korea. In the meantime, Japan and Britain concluded the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in 1902, aiming to limit naval rivalry by holding Vladivostok and Port Arthur's Russian Pacific seaports out of full use. The alliance with the British implied, in part, that if during any war against Japan any country allies itself with Russia, then Britain would join the war on the side of Japan. Russia could no longer rely on either Germany or France to obtain assistance without the possibility of British participation in the battle. Japan felt free to start warfare with such an alliance if required (Fiebig-von Hase, 2003).

On 28 July 1903, in St. Petersburg, the Japanese minister was ordered to show the opinion of his country opposing the consolidation proposals of Russia in Manchuria. The Japanese minister delivered the following paper on 12 August to serve as the basis for further negotiations: (Correspondence regarding the negotiations between Japan and Russia, 1903).

1. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese and Korean empires and to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in those countries.
2. Reciprocal recognition of Japan's preponderating interests in Korea and Russia's special interests in railway enterprises in Manchuria, and of the right of Japan to take in Korea and of Russia to take in Manchuria such measures as may be necessary for the protection of their respective interests as above defined, subject, however, to the provisions of article I of this agreement.
3. Reciprocal undertaking on the part of Russia and Japan not to impede development of those industrial and commercial activities respectively of Japan in Korea and of Russia in Manchuria, which are not inconsistent with the stipulations of article I of this agreement. Additional engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the eventual extension of the Korean railway into southern Manchuria so as to connect with the East China and Shan-hai-kwan-Newchwang lines.
4. Reciprocal engagement that in case it is found necessary to send troops by Japan to Korea, or by Russia to Manchuria, for the purpose either of protecting the interests mentioned in article II of this agreement, or of suppressing insurrection or disorder calculated to create international complications, the troops so sent are in no case to exceed the actual number required and are to be forthwith recalled as soon as their missions are accomplished.

5. Recognition on the part of Russia of the exclusive right of Japan to give advice and assistance in the interest of reform and good government in Korea, including necessary military assistance.
6. This agreement to supplant all previous arrangements between Japan and Russia respecting Korea.
7. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire (Correspondence regarding the negotiations between Japan and Russia, 1903).

On 3 October, in Japan, the Russian Minister, Roman Rosen, introduced the Russian counter-proposal to the Japanese government as the basis for the negotiations, as follows:

1. Recognition by Russia of Japan's preponderating interests in Korea and of the right of Japan to give advice and assistance to Korea tending to improve the civil administration of the empire without infringing the stipulations of article.
2. Engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the commercial and industrial undertakings of Japan in Korea, nor to oppose any measures taken for the purpose of protecting them so long as such measures do not infringe the stipulations of article I.
3. Recognition of the right of Japan to send for the same purpose troops to Korea, with the knowledge of Russia, but their number not to exceed that actually required, and with the engagement on the part of Japan to recall such troops as soon as their mission is accomplished
4. Mutual engagement not to use any part of the territory of Korea for strategically purposes nor to undertake on the coasts of Korea any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation in the Straits of Korea
5. Mutual engagement to consider that part of the territory of Korea lying to the north of the 39th parallel as a neutral zone into which neither of the contracting parties shall introduce troops.
6. Recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as in all respects outside her sphere of interest.
7. This agreement to supplant all previous agreements between Russia and Japan respecting Korea (Correspondence regarding the negotiations between Japan and Russia, 1903).

Negotiations then followed, but the Japanese government had learned by early January 1904 that Russia was not involved in addressing the problems of Manchuria or Korea. Rather, Russia's objective was to buy time for more military build-up through negotiation. On 13 January 1904, however, Japan suggested a plan under which Manchuria would be outside the sphere of Japanese control and, mutually, outside Russia's Korea. No formal reaction had been issued by 4 February 1904 and, on 6 February, Kurino Shinichiro, the Japanese ambassador, had invited Count Lamsdorf, the Russian foreign minister, to resign. On 6 February 1904, Japan broke diplomatic ties with Russia (Koda, 2005).

### **1.10 Conclusion**

The Russian-Japanese war of 1904-1905 was probably the first modern war that altered the history of warfare. Its ending had long-term effects that made the First World War and the second world wars unavoidable. After Japan prevailed against China in 1895, Japan's fight with Russia began; Russia was attempting to rob them of this win. By exercising its power alongside France and Germany, Russia managed to drive Japan out of the indemnity owned to them by China. As tensions rise between them, Japan allied with Britain and waged war. On 08 February 1904, Japan declared war however according to the Russian sources the announcement was received on the next day, so Russia considered it as an act that violated the rules of war. The Japanese assault on the armies of the Russian Empire at Port Arthur marked the beginning of the Russian-Japanese war, which ended with the victory of Japan. This war was one of the turning points in modern history and in the history of modernizing Japan, even though the first and the second world wars overshadowed it.

# **Chapter 2**

## **The Russian Japanese War**



**2.1 Introduction**

Russia and Japan entered the war on February 6, 1904, with talks over Manchuria and Korea collapsing. At Port Arthur, 10 Japanese torpedoes targeted the Russian Pacific Fleet. During the war, multiple sea battles took place, many happening in the Liaodong Peninsula (north of the Yellow Sea where Port Arthur is located), and in the seas around Korea, Japan, and northeast China. The conflict concluded on 5 September 1905, when both Russia and Japan signed the Portsmouth Treaty. This chapter will elucidate the Russian Japanese War, elaborate on the events and battles that took place during the war chronologically, analyze the consequences of the Russian Japanese War, and draw a conclusion elucidating how this war could fairly be considered the modern era's first true world war.

**2.2 The Russian Japanese War Objectives****2.2.1 The Japanese Objectives**

The Japanese goals have been clear and defined for a long time: to ensure control over Korea and to remove the involvement of Russia in Manchuria. The Russian armed forces, both the Army and Navy, were the presumed strategic center of gravity. Military goals were directly extracted from this source. Japan already had an edge in strategic positioning because of its geography. Well-positioned to isolate the theater by maritime force alone, by sheer proximity, the government could ensure local control of the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea. There was no such benefit for Russia; its power base and its logistical lifeline reached further to the West. The Japanese Navy had to seize control of the Yellow Sea to ensure that the sea lines of communication between Korea and Manchuria remained open before this could happen. Indeed, these were broad tasks, but those were led by an orderly collection of political goals. They were also closely aligned with the military means available to the government (Hamby, 2004).

Equally crucial was the understanding of this association of goals by Japanese commanders in the field. Before any battle, Admiral Togo, Commander of the Japanese Fleet, knew that he had to carefully husband his capital ships and not risk his properties in one fleet engagement while control of the Yellow Sea from Vladivostok or the Russian Baltic Fleet was still threatened. He realized that Japan did not have the resources to

replace its defeats and that the war would be lost without its fleet. In the same vein, before leaving for Manchuria, Marshal Ôyama, commander of the Japanese ground forces, told Navy Minister Yamamoto, "I will take care of the fighting in Manchuria, but I count on you as the man to decide when to stop." In this terrible gamble, the men who exerted the power of the Japanese military knew what their government wanted to achieve and risked all for it (Hamby, 2004).

### **2.2.2 The Russian Objectives**

The Russians struggled to do the same. All that could be done, after failing to carefully identify the national interest in the region, was to protect what it possessed: Port Arthur, the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Vladivostok, and the Yalu timber concession. However, the political intent was obvious. Russian forces had to keep control over Manchuria and repel the advancing Japanese decisively. Obviously, the Japanese government's will to continue battling was the strategic center of gravity, but this was never established or isolated for the attack. The resulting military goals and policy were not nearly so obvious. In order to achieve the strategic goal, Russia had to challenge the possession of the sea in order to deny it to the Japanese. As the fleet had no orders to do anything but establish a presence in Vladivostok, Chemulpo in Korea, and Port Arthur in Manchuria, this was hard to achieve. The surprise of Japan's war against them stopped Russia from forming a cohesive military policy quickly (Hamby, 2004).

### **2.3 Russia and Japan on the Eve of the War**

There was a significant gap between Russia and Japan in possible capabilities on the eve of war in 1904. The overall population of Russia in 1904 was around 125,000,000, while Japan had a population of just 67,273,000. This large demographic gap in military personnel was equally present. The Russian military strength before the war was around 1,160,000 soldiers, while the Japanese forces numbered just 218,000. In comparison, there were sixty-four warships in the Russian navy, although there were just thirty-four in the Japanese navy. And while Japanese military spending far outstripped Russia's in 1904, it was \$89.5 million to \$66.9 million. In industrial production, Russia has surpassed Japan. As of 1904, Russia produced 2,766,000 tons of iron and steel annually, while Japan generated just 60,000 tons. Overall, Japan's 1904 composite national potential was ranked by the Correlates of War Project as 0.0545 and Russia's as 0.1132. This ranking indicates

that Japan had 5.45 percent of the world's material capabilities in 1904, while Russia had 11.32 percent (Mainardi, 2019).

#### **2.4 The Beginning of the War**

Japan began the war against Russia with the surprise assault on Port Arthur in February 1904, and it makes the reason that at this moment they were attacking. First, the capacity of the Trans-Siberian Railroad was not optimal, even though the railroad around Baikal Lake had not yet been built, and it was only in 1905 that the Russian fleet in the east reached its height. At the beginning of the war, the Russian fleet had numerical dominance over the Japanese fleet, perhaps seven to six battleships, while the Russian fleet was expected to have at least twelve battleships a year later. Japan's primary objective was to block sea routes and to prevent Russian ships, whether military fleets or cargo ships, from joining the Russian fleet via the Pacific. Following the removal of its diplomatic delegation from Tokyo in February, the Japanese commander, Togo Heihachirô, held a meeting with his fleet captains and decided to send the main fleet to Port Arthur and to send a small naval force to Chemulpo to defend the army's landing activity. The Japanese commander Uryu Sotokichi sent a polite letter to the Russian commander Vsevolod Rudnev, the letter informed neutral vessels of his intention to wage a naval battle before destroying the Russian ships. A few hours earlier at Port Arthur, the Japanese main fleet had launched an assault on Port Arthur, and this surprise attack in the middle of the night marked the beginning of the Russian-Japanese war. After the ships had been sunk, the Japanese were able to quickly place their troops on land (House of History, 2019. 5:38 7:14).

Russia thought it was a joke and Japan would not do anything; if war came, Nicholas was assured of victory. That would be the triumph of driving the naysayers of his nation into one proud country. Russia would win by having three times the population, five times the army, and almost unlimited resources. Yes, it was on the completely opposite side of the country, but Russia would win because they were European and Europeans do not lose.

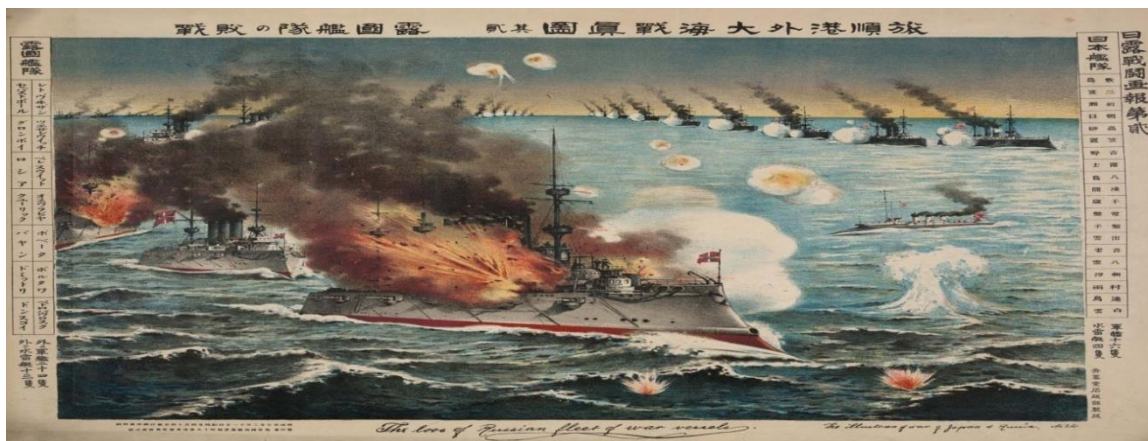
#### **2.5 The Most Important Battles**

The Japanese Navy opened hostilities with a surprise attack on February 8 1904 by attacking the Russian Eastern Fleet at Port Arthur, China. Resulting in several land and sea battles, including:

### 2.5.1 Battle of Port Arthur

The Battle of Port Arthur was the first clash between Russia and Japan in the Russo Japanese war. It started with an unexpected night assault on the Russian armada by a group of Japanese warships and it continued the next morning with the engagement of the critical surface warriors. The war ended in a stalemate, and skirmishing off the coast of Port Arthur continued until May 1904. The war in Manchuria and Korea was framed in the broader context of the Russian Empire's and Japan's conflicting territorial ambitions. Despite the fact that neither side won, the fight catapulted Japan onto the international stage. Those who believed that European power was unstoppable were surprised by Japan's subsequent defeat of Russia (New World Encyclopedia, n.d.).

The evening of 8 February 1904, the Japanese armada opened the conflict with an unexpected attack by a torpedo destroyer on Russian boats at Port Arthur. The attack severely damaged the Tsesarevich and Retvizan, Russia's biggest warships in the Far East, as well as the 6,600-ton Pallada cruiser. The next morning, these assaults developed into the battle of Port Arthur. There followed a series of indecisive maritime interactions during which Commander Togo was unable to target Russia's ships successfully, as the batteries of the harbor were defending them. Moreover, the Russians were reluctant to leave the vast ocean harbor. Following the passing of Admiral Stepan Osipovich Makarov on 13 April 1904, the original attacks had a psychologically devastating effect on Russia, while the actual fighting in Port Arthur was indecisive and war-oriented. The Japanese took the initiative while the Russians waited in the harbor. Such commitments covered a Japanese landing near Incheon in Korea. The Japanese Imperial Army could cross the Yalu River in Russian occupied Manchuria in late April under Kuroki Itei (Jukes, 2002).



**Fig.2.1.** Battle of Port Arthur (Adopted from Torajiro, 1904)

### 2.5.2 Battle of Yalu River

When Kuroki made to cross the Yalu, the first ground battle of the war started on 1 May. Under General Zasulich He was up against a smaller Russian force, led by General Zasulich that waged a genuinely fruitful guerilla war and was eventually defeated. However, during the retreat, a portion of Zasulich's army was surrounded and forced to surrender after suffering heavy casualties. As a result, the Battle of the Yalu is widely regarded as a Russian defeat, the first time an Asian force defeated a European power in a match played on equal footing. Japan's victory at Yalu also pushed Russia out of Korea, allowing Japan to advance into Manchuria (Wilson & Wills, 1999).

The defeat of the Russian Eastern Detachment removed the idea that the Japanese would be a quick foe, that the war would be brief, and that the success of Russia would be conclusive. This war was also the first battle in decades to be an Asian win over a European power and reflected the failure of Russia to equal Japan's military capability. Japanese forces advanced on the Manchurian coast at several stages and, in a succession of engagements, drove the Russians back into Port Arthur. The ensuing combat, including the Battle of Nanshan on 24 May 1904, was marked by heavy Japanese casualties, mainly due to attacks on fortified Russian positions (Connaughton, 1998).



**Fig.2.2.** Japanese and Russian soldiers in fierce battle at Chiu-tien-Ch'eng, Manchuria (the battle of Yalu River) (Adopted from Hibino, 1904)

**2.5.4 Battle of Nanshan:**

The fight of Nanshan was one of several bloody field engagements fought during the Russo-Japanese War. It took place on May 24–26, 1904, over a two-mile-wide defensive line across the narrowest portion of the Liaodung Peninsula, encompassing the approaches to Port Arthur and on the 116-meter-high Nanshan Hill, near the present-day Jinzhou District, and north of Dalian, Liaoning, China.

During a severe thunderstorm on May 24, 1904, the Japanese Fourth Division, headed by Lieutenant General Ogawa Mataji, attacked the walled town of Chinchou (modern-day Jinzhou District), immediately north of Nanzan hill. Despite being guarded by just 400 soldiers and outdated weaponry, the Fourth Division was unable to break its gates on two attempts. At 05:30 on May 25, 1904, two battalions of the First Division assaulted separately, eventually overcoming the fortifications and capturing the town (Kowner, 2007). After securing his flank, General Oku could launch the major attack on the entrenched Russian soldiers on Nanshan Hill. Due to inclement weather, the attack was rescheduled for the next day. Oku launched a lengthy artillery barrage from Japanese gunboats offshore on May 26, 1904, followed by infantry attacks by all three of his divisions. Using explosives, Maxim machine guns, and barbed wire obstacles, the Russians inflicted significant losses on the Japanese during successive attacks. The Japanese had failed to overcome the well entrenched Russian lines by 18:00, after nine tries. Oku had used up all of his reserves, and both sides had used the majority of their artillery ammunition (Kowner, 2007).

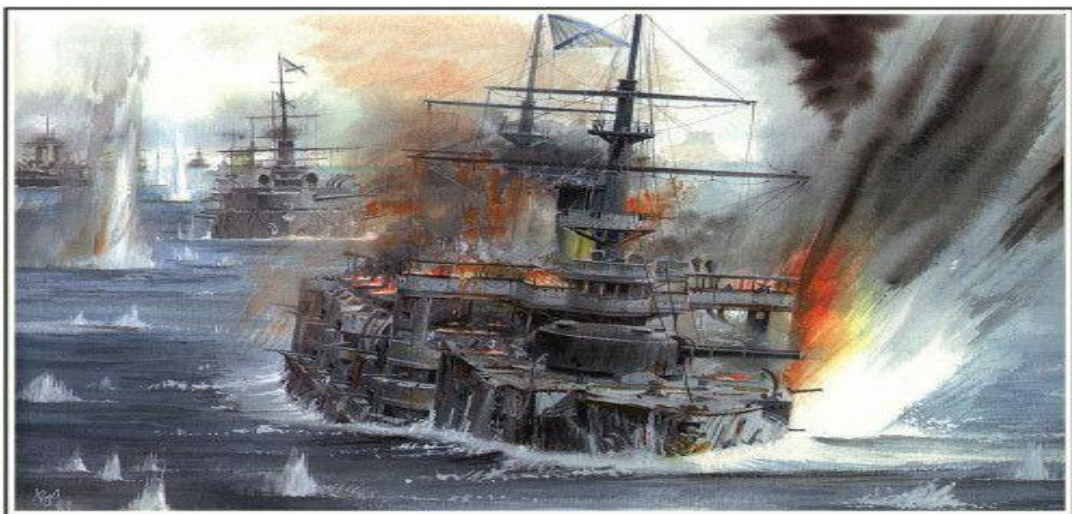
Colonel Tretyakov was astounded to see that the uncommitted reserve units were in full retreat and that his remaining ammunition stores had been blown up on General Fok's orders. Fearing a Japanese landing between his position and the safety of Port Arthur, Fok was caught off guard by a flanking attack by the depleted Japanese Fourth Division along the west coast. In his haste to leave the fight, Fok had failed to inform Tretyakov of the retreat order, leaving Tretyakov in the perilous situation of being encircled, with little ammunition and no backup force ready for a counter-attack. Tretyakov was forced to direct his forces to retreat to the second defensive line. The Japanese flag was flying from the peak of Nanshan Hill around 19:20. Tretyakov, who had fought admirably and lost just 400 men during the engagement, lost 650 additional troops in his unsupported withdrawal back to the main defensive lines surrounding Port Arthur (Kowner, 2007).



### 2.5.3 Battle of Yellow Sea

The Combat of the Yellow Sea was the second land battle of the Russian-Japanese War, and it took place on August 10, 1904, between the maritime forces of Russia and Japan, resulting in an important victory for Japan. Right now, the Imperial Japanese Navy was barricading the Russian-involved port city known as Port Arthur. This fight resulted when the Russian armada positioned at Port Arthur endeavored to break the Japanese bar. Neither side strategically won the fight, which finished when the Russian maritime powers withdrew back to into port; notwithstanding, this was an essential triumph for Japan as the bar of Port Arthur proceeded (Forczyk, 2009).

Under the order of Admiral Wilgelm Vitgeft, the Russian armada arranged another breakout on 23 June 1904. The objective was to get through and join Vladivostok he would wait for reinforcement and stay in a better defended and better-supplied position. He sailed with his flagship, the Tsesarevich, in all six battleships, four cruisers, and 14 torpedo boat destroyers at dawn, 10 August 1904. Admiral Tōgō deployed four battleships, 10 cruisers, and 18 torpedo boat destroyers. At 12:15 mutual visual contact was followed by artillery duels 8 miles away, a long-distance at that time. Togo successfully crossed Vitgeft's T, pounded the Russian line for 30 minutes, and managed to hit the Tsesarevich's bridge, killing the admiral instantly. Confusion among her fleet soon arose and the flagship was only saved by the intervention of Retvizan, which drew the Japanese fire on him. He took command of the crippled fleet and decided to turn back home to Port Arthur. He was then given the insurance of the reinforcement from the redeployed Baltic fleet (Forczyk, 2009).



**Fig.2.3.** Imperial Russian ship hit in the "Battle of the Yellow Sea" (Adopted from Pinterest, n.d)

**2.5.5 Battle of the Liaoyang**

After trapping the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, Japan's troops launched the ground war. As they disembarked on the Liaodong peninsula and in Korea, the assaults were unstoppable on the battlefield, isolating the Russian detachment at Port Arthur and rolling back Tsarist fortifications at the Yalu River, Motien Pass, Nanshan, Telissu, and Wa-fang-kou. The Japanese were approaching Liaoyang from the south and southeast by the beginning of August, preparing for what both leaders, troops, and military observers felt would be the war's final, decisive battle. Liaoyang was an unusual engagement in two ways. First, it was the first battle of the war in which the top Japanese and Russian commanders assumed direct control of their forces; previously, lower-level officers had led troops in combat. Second, both Japanese Field Marshal Iwao Oyama and Russian General Alexei Kuropatkin were fighting on the ground they had chosen and according to plans they preferred. Both commanders were consequently confident about their prospects prior to battle (Grauer, 2016).

Japan launched its first assault on the Russian position on 26 August. The 2nd and 4th armies attempted to force the Russians back toward the Advanced Position but were checked by Zarubaiev's Southern Group. Kuropatkin, adhering to his battle plan, then ordered all units to retreat to the Advanced Position. Heavy rain, fog, mist, and the broken nature of the terrain prevented the Russians' completing the retreat until 29 August, and the Japanese, tired from the first clash of the battle as well as their month-long march to Liaoyang, did not pursue closely (Grauer, 2016).

The Japanese launched their second major attack of the battle on the morning of 30 August. Having received mistaken intelligence early in the day suggesting the defenders were retreating from Liaoyang, Kuroki ordered almost two-thirds of his men to prepare for a crossing of the Tai-Tzu that night so that they might assault the Russian rear and lines of communication. Facing almost no Russian opposition during the crossing or the following day, they quickly established a beachhead on the north bank (Grauer, 2016).

Kuropatkin, recognizing the shifting locus of the primary battlefield threat, decided at this point to conduct a giant enveloping maneuver to surround and then crush Kuroki's flanking attack. Reports of ammunition shortages on the Main Position made the prospect of such a delay untenable, however, because the time it would take to recapture Manju



Yama and crush the Japanese forces north of the Tai-Tzu would likely be sufficient for the attackers on the southern portion of the battlefield to overrun Russian lines there. Caught on the horns of this dilemma – to attack Kuroki in the east and risk disaster in the south or reinforce the Main Position and risk the 1st Army attacking his rear and lines of communication – Kuropatkin gave up the battle at Liaoyang as lost and ordered a general retreat northwards toward Mukden (Grauer, 2016).



**Fig.2.4.** Battle of Liaoyang (Adopted from Kurz & Allison, n.d)

### 2.5.6 Battle of Sandepu

On the 19th of January, Kuropatkin directed the Second Manchurian Army to launch an offensive in attempt to outflank General Oku's Japanese Second Army and push it back across the Taitzu River before Nogi's Third Army arrived. Gripenberg, on the other hand, was not permitted to commit all of his forces; Kuropatkin confined him to three divisions, as well as the 1st East Siberian Army Corps and cavalry. Because the Japanese were aware of these preparations, Yama reinforced his left flank. Kuropatkin later blamed Gripenberg's early movements for alerting the Japanese (Jukes, 2002).

The fight began on January 25, 1905, with an attack by the 1st Siberian Rifle Corps against the fortified hamlet of Heikoutai, which the Russians captured with heavy

casualties. The Russian 14th Division, which was supposed to attack the defended town of Sandepu, failed to coordinate with the 1st Siberian Division and instead attacked the next day, January 26. Hampered by a lack of maps, reconnaissance, and poor weather conditions, including occasional blizzards, the Russians attacked the wrong village, occupying the neighboring hamlet of Paotaitzu, which was subjected to a heavy artillery barrage and counterattack from Sandepu, which was occupied in strength by the Japanese 5th Division. Rather than rushing to their aid, Gripenberg falsely reported to Kuropatkin that Sandepu had been kidnapped and ordered his troops to rest on January 27. The rest area given to Stackelberg's troops, however, was in Japanese control, and despite standing instructions, Stackelberg ordered his men to assault. Stackelberg was forced to retreat after losing 6000 soldiers (Jukes, 2002).

By the morning of January 28, Gripenberg discovered that he was isolated from Kaulbars by the settlement of Sandepu, preventing any attempt to join forces. He pushed on continuing the attack despite the fact that he outnumbered the Japanese defenses by seven divisions to five divisions. Kuropatkin, who behaved with his customary caution and hesitancy, disagreed with his choice and ordered Gripenberg's men back. Stackelberg proceeded to charge, defying instructions once more, and captured part of Sandepu hamlet with the assistance of Mishchenko's cavalry. Meanwhile, with Gripenberg's permission, the Russian 10th Army Corps under General Konstantin Tserpitsky was able to secure positions to the rear of Sandepu. Despite the favorable circumstances, Kuropatkin removed Stackelberg of command for insubordination and requested that Gripenberg retreat once more. The explanation eluded the advancing Russian soldiers, whose morale was high after what looked to be a successful attack for the first time since the war began (Juke, 2002).

Ōyama then mounted a major counteroffensive on 29 January 1905, and by mid-morning, had retaken Heikoutai (Connaught, 1988).

### **2.5.7 Battle of Mukden**

The Engagement of Mukden was the final ground battle of the Russian-Japanese War, which took place at Mukden (northeast China) from February 20 to March 10, 1905. With over 500,000 soldiers involved, it was one of the largest battles prior to the First World War. After the Russian loss at Liaoyang, General Alexei Kuropatkin reassembled in Mukden, amassing a force of roughly 260,000 soldiers. The Japanese were ready to

reallocate their Third Army to follow Field Marshal Oyama Iwao's march, expanding his force to a comparable magnitude, following their victory at the Battle of Port Arthur at the start of the New Year. Oyama went out to destroy the Russian soldiers at Mukden with Japan's entire ground forces engaged (Bunting, 2021).

The Russian defense line stretched for 90 miles (145 kilometers), with soldiers dug into trenches behind barbed wire. Beginning on February 20, the Japanese tried to surround the Russians by assaulting both flanks, but suffered heavy losses from machinegun and artillery fire. The Japanese finally made inroads on Russia's right, prompting Kuropatkin to order troops across from the left on March 7. The movement of too many soldiers to such a vast front, however, caused confusion. Oyama, knowing that Russian forces were preoccupied with this strategic problem, directed his forces to redouble their offensive efforts. Kuropatkin was forced to flee in a shambles, leaving his injured and provisions behind (Bunting, 2021).

Mukden was the war's last ground campaign, and both sides were exhausted. The setback at Mukden had stoked popular resentment in Russia, which had taken the nation to the verge of revolt. The Russians made peace on Japan's terms after another setback in the naval battle of Tsushima (Bunting, 2021).



Fig.2.5. Battle of Mukden (Adopted from gettyimages, n.d)

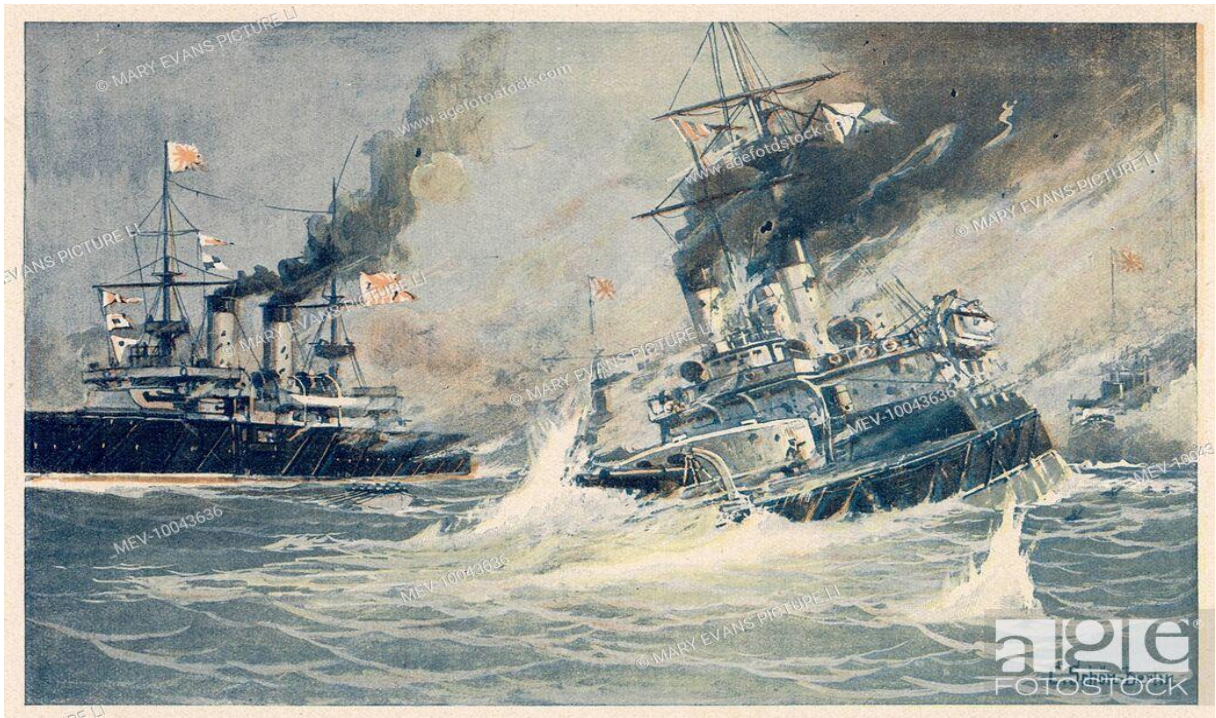


### 2.5.8 Battle of Tsushima

The Russian Baltic Fleet has been almost lost in the battle of Tsushima Strait during the Russian-Japanese war. Just ten of 45 Russian warships survived the decisive defeat, which persuaded Russian leaders that further opposition to Japan's colonial plans for East Asia was futile (History.com Editors, 2019).

Russian Tsar Nicholas II assumed that under Admiral Zinovy Rozhdestvensky, the Russian Baltic fleet could contest the dominance of Admiral Togo at sea, but over 30 Russian ships were destroyed or seized during the two-day Tsushima Strait Battle on the 27 of May. The staggering string of Japanese victories convinced Russia to recognize the peace brokered by US President Theodore Roosevelt in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in August. Russia viewed Japan as the dominant power in Korea and lost Port Arthur, the southern part of Sakhalin Island, and the Liaotung Peninsula to Japan in the Treaty of Portsmouth (History.com Editors, 2019).

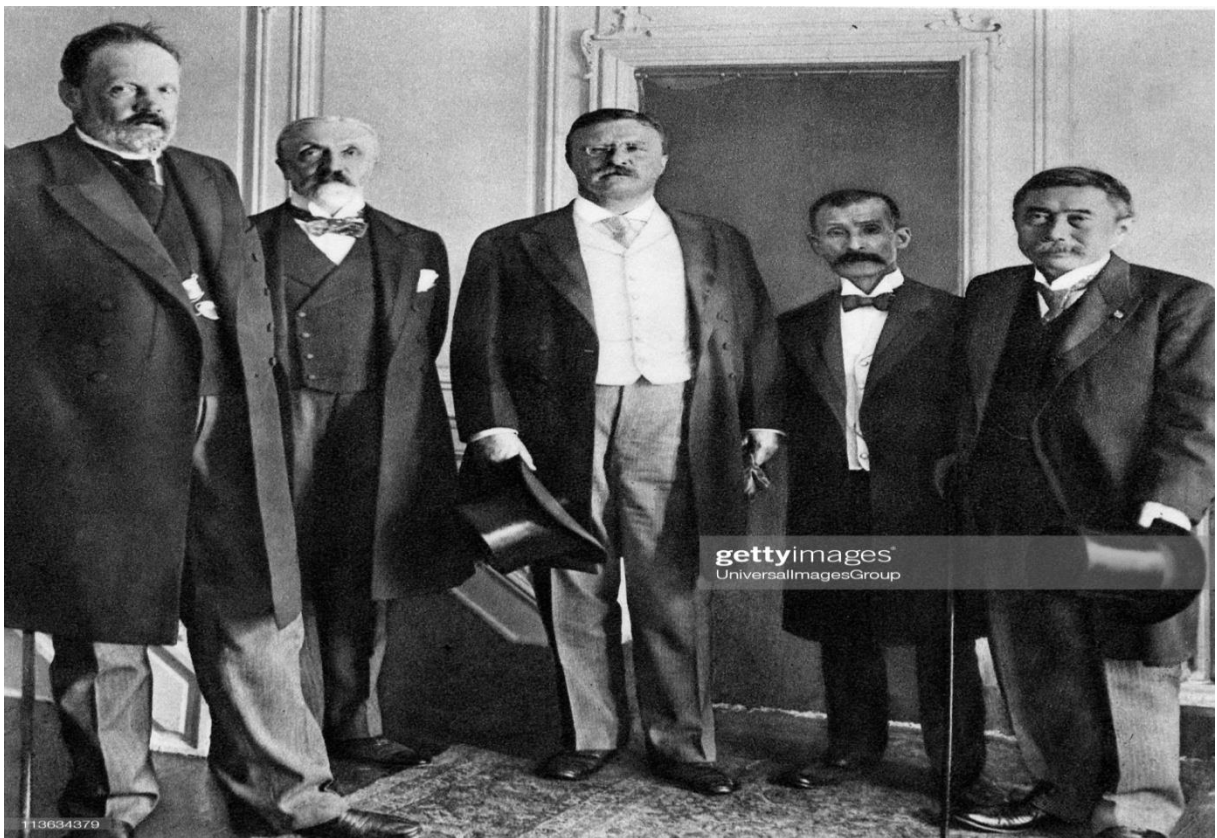
Japan ended the war as the largest new non-Western world power, focusing on greater territorial expansion. In either event, Russia's military's catastrophic performance in the war was one of the immediate causes of the Russian Revolution of 1905 (History.com Editors, 2019).



**Fig.2.6.** Battle of Tsushima (Age Fotostock, n.d)

## 2.6 Treaty of Portsmouth and the End of the Russo Japanese War

The Portsmouth Treaty formally ended the 1904-2005 Russian-Japanese War. The trades took place in August in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and were overseen in part by US President Theodore Roosevelt. The Treaty eventually awarded Japan sovereignty of Korea and a substantial portion of South Manchuria, including Port Arthur and the rail network that connected it to the rest of the area, as well as the southern part of Sakhalin Island; Russian troops were decreased close there, but they were not compelled to pay Japan's battle expenditures. Because neither nation was able to prolong the war comfortably, they were both compelled to compromise on the peace conditions. The Japanese people nevertheless thought they had won the war and argued that the lack of compensation was an insult. In Tokyo the terms of the deal were published, a brief outbreak of demonstrations and riots took place. The Russians were also unhappy, angered at the fact that they gave away half the Sakhalin (The Treaty of Portsmouth and the Russo-Japanese War, 1904–1905, n.d).



**Fig 2.7.** Theodore Roosevelt (centre) with peace envoys from Russia and Japan at the signing of the Treaty of Portsmouth (Adopted from gettyimages, 1905)

The Portsmouth Treaty was the final real event in a period of collaboration between the US and Japan, which begun in 1868 with the Meiji Restoration. Concurrence between the two Pacific nations has somewhat increased throughout the next years. Conversely, following the Treaty Japanese relations with Russia strengthened. While Roosevelt's mediation and personal pressure on the Moscow and Tokyo leadership to reach the final agreement were questionable, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to moderate the discussions and advocate for peace (The Treaty of Portsmouth and the Russo-Japanese War, 1904–1905, n.d).

### **2.7 Consequences of the War and Its Significant**

The war cemented Japan as the main force in Korea and Manchuria and was the first international political opportunity for a modern-Asian state to contend against a European Power equally or better. The Japanese modernization rhetoric, which had maintained since the Meiji Restoration of 1868 that Japan should catch up with European nations and eventually join them as an equal on the international arena, was pushed into decisive conflict with European Oriental perceptions of Japan. At best, these perceived Japan as relatively petty and politically irrelevant outside Asia, at the worst as a 'yellow danger' threatening to completely envelop and destroy European civilization. The consequences of Japan's triumph over Russia in 1905 varied from a fundamental shift in Asia's power balance to a stark challenge to prevalent conceptions of white, European superiority across the world (Wilson & Wells, 1999).

The conflict may also be considered a watershed moment in military history. It was a war on a scale never seen before in history, with more losses, more money spent, and more men fighting for longer periods of time than any other contemporary conflict. Large numbers of journalists, observers, and specialists from Russia, Japan, and non-belligerent countries followed the soldiers and warships across the fight, lured by a 'thrilling and spectacular' artillery duel, the dynamics of the lengthy siege at Port Arthur, or even the chance to compare sanitary standards in military hospitals (Wilson & Wells , 1999). Tsushima was a one-of-a-kind battle, According to J. N. Westwood (1986) Because of the large number of would-be authors and diarists there; it probably produced more eyewitness reports than any previous significant maritime combat. The Russo-Japanese War, therefore, produced a plethora of data for both eventual use and immediate consumption, and military agencies all over the world attempted to learn from it. Also R. M.

Connaughton (1988) in his book *Rising Sun and Tumbling Bear*, have stressed the military significance of the Russo-Japanese War as a forerunner to World War I, and a sense of enthusiasm over the war's military features can still be found today.

The conflict had a heavy toll on both sides, causing civil turmoil in both countries. Many Japanese people thought that the peace treaty robbed them out of the spoils of victory. Riots raged for days, and officials declared martial law. In Russia, the news of loss appeared to validate the political opposition's criticism of the despotic regime's incompetence. Discontent at military embarrassment and monetary disturbance, compounded by the homegrown shortfall of the soldiers, depended upon by the system to control homegrown dissent, uplifted social turmoil. Influxes of oppositional action finished in the Revolution of 1905, in which Complaints by liberals, socialists, workers, peasants, ethnic minorities, and surprisingly a few officers and mariners, for instance on the Black Sea armada's warship Potemkin, compelled the Tsar to award Russia her first parliament (Peeling, 2021).

The disgrace of loss led to a long-standing military reform that brought Russia's capacity in accordance with its status as a Great Power, a program interrupted by the First World War breakout. Furthermore, military disgrace fueled currents of nationalism and pan-Slavism that culminated in the outbreak of war in 1914. The Russian-Japanese conflict also had an important international component. Some experts called it "World War Zero," owing to its worldwide repercussions. In East Asia, this shifted the balance of power, brought Japan to the ranks of the major forces, and aroused anti-imperialists across Asia. The triumph of an Asian country against a Europe-wide force has smashed delusions in the West and European and US military officials have pored over their observers' reports. However, incorrect conclusions have often been reached, for example, that the future conflict will be brief and mobile and won by enthusiastic offensives, lessons that had to be promptly unlearned as the First World War developed (Peeling, 2021).

If there was any worldwide importance to the Russian-Japanese Conflict, it did not originate out of the armed conflict, political ties, or monetary help during the war, but in its impact. While these were closely linked to Russia's downfall and Japan's growth, they had a far-reaching impact on a variety of countries, territories, and sectors. In addition, these consequences not only entail unimaginable feelings such as dread, happiness, and jealousy but also affect the economy and militant organizations of every country and their

distribution of power with one other in the early twentieth century. This influenced Europe's stability, particularly Russia, the US-Japan balance, and the territorial status quo in north-eastern Asia (Kowner, 2007a).

## **2.8 The Impact of the War on Colonial World**

The war's greatest influence on the colonial world was psychological rather than geographical. The conflict enthralled colonial subjects all around the world, from Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent to the Middle East. When a revolutionary Sun Yat-sen, who was later to be the Republic of China's first provisional chairman for several years, was traveling through the Suez Canal during the conflict, he was stopped by a local guy who asked whether he was Japanese. "The delight of this Arab, as the offspring of a great Asian race," Sun observed, "was boundless." Sun's astute assessment came at the pinnacle of a significant turning point in the history of the colonial world: a non-European power using modern technology might beat a European power. From then on, the triumph was connected with a push for more active and conscious nationalism movements across colonial Asia. . This first big break with long-held notions of higher "West" and lower "East" ushered in a new attitude, with Japan serving as a good example. Nationalist and revolutionary ideologies might flourish in the promise of eventual manifestation with such a worldview (Kowner, 2007a).

Aside from the happiness of the Russian failure, the Arab nationwide movements, most of them still under the sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire, considered the conflict as a sign that their freedom was soon also to be won. In Iran, to the east, a revolution erupted, putting a constitutional government in power for the first time. Two years after another revolt erupted in the Ottoman Empire, the conflict spurred the young Turks to revolt in 1908, by instilling in them the notion that they had the power to deal with Western colonialism (Kowner, 2007a).

The impact of Japanese achievement had a huge psychological impact even on India, as it energized the environment and instilled in the country a sense of optimism and hope for the future, Jawaharlal Nehru remembered his youthful delight at the Japanese victory. He composed that in India they "greatly reduced the sense of powerlessness from which many of us experienced" He composed further that an incredible European force had



been crushed and, hence, Asia could in any case overcome Europe as it had done previously (Sareen, 2007).

Indeed, even Gandhi around then in South Africa was intrigued by Japan and told individuals that, other than applauding the Japanese triumphs, they ought to get familiar with the mysteries of Japanese achievement (Sareen, 2007). He added:

“When everyone in Japan, the rich and the poor, came to believe in self respect, the country became free. She could give Russia a slap in the face and today Japan’s flag flies very high in the world. In the same way, we must, too, need to feel the spirit of self respect. Having remained in bondage for a long time like a caged parrot, we cannot realize what honor and freedom are.” (Sareen, 2007. pp, 242-243).

## **2.9 The Impact of the War on China and Korea**

The year of 1905 was such a crucial year in the history of China. The imperial court permitted the study of foreign constitutions and hired a committee to move internationally and conduct research on the subject, this was the initial move toward setting up an established government, it was then decided that the traditional examination for public services should be abolished. This erased the main advantage of Confucian politics and damaged the motivation to study classics. As a consequence modern education has been expanded more quickly and mainly relying upon the Japanese context, as well as the founding of an education ministry, there were more students have been sent to study in Japan. For the first time many academics and intelligentsia started joining in military colleges and even enlisting as soldiers. Under the guidance of Sun Yat-sen, China’s first modern type of political group was founded in 1905 (Schiffrin, 2007).

The term "Nationalism and Modernization" may be used for all these events in China after the commencement of conflict in its northeast regions. Obviously, the triumph of Japan in the Russo-Japanese War was not responsible for all of these events. In 1901, following the Boxer Rebellion and the invasion of the foreign force, the first measures towards reform and modernization had already been made through the crown. Since the latter decade of the nineteenth century, when both reformist and revolutionary groups appeared, nationalist awareness had been growing. However, there is no question that

Japan's triumph in 1905 acted as a catalyst or acceleration, increasing the speed and breadth of all of these advances. As the conflict stirred up Indian and other Nationalist Asian movements, China was affected more immediately and intensely (Schiffrin, 2007).

The war had unquestionably the largest influence on Korea. This underdeveloped and politically feeble country was progressively losing its power until it was eventually seized by Japan in 1910. Following the war, the Japanese felt as secure as they could to dominate practically every area of Korean society and began to send colonists without international criticism. They accurately decided that no nation was able to prevent them from colonizing Korea and that they did not falter to mercilessly fulfill their ambitions within less than five years. From the Korean perspective, the conclusion of the Russian-Japanese War marked the start of protracted repression and a systematic effort to erase their sense of identity for a period that only concluded with Japan's collapse in 1945. The invasion of Korea has laid severe wounds on the nation's mentality till now. The separation between Korea and the Soviet forces during the 35 years of Japanese occupation enabled a territorial partition of Korea, which was no less political, as the capitalist government in the south and communist dictatorship in the north established accordingly. To this day, the two states of the Korean peninsula are divided along political lines. Not only does their strong enmity put peace in the area under threat, but both countries still oppose Japan for their occupation. Moreover, North Korea has never restored diplomacy with Japan and still seeks reparations for its people's suffering during the colonial period (Kowner, 2007a).

### **2.10 World War Zero**

Historians claimed that the Russo-Japanese War of 1904 to 1905 was the first real 'global war' of the Modern Age. Many refer to the trans-hemispheric aspect of the fight, including its employment as proof of the mass armed forces, sophisticated tactics, and armament of the 20th century. The 19 months-long fight that took the lives of over 100,000 people clearly presages the tragedy and immense destruction of the Great War that just a decade later would follow (World War zero-More incredible facts about the Russo-Japanese War, 2015).

If the Russian-Japanese concept of World War Zero is to be accepted, it must also be seen as a 'total war' – a phenomenon from the 20th century that impacts all aspects of economic, cultural, and policy life of a nation and once the hostilities have stopped, transforms the politics and societies of the two warriors. Naturally, the notion of a 'total

war' isn't new to conflict history. It can trace back at least to the period of the French and Napoleon Revolutions, if not back to the thirty-year war, and to the military revolution of Gustavo Adolphous's. The 19th century, in fact, saw brief conflicts and clashes which had to do with the greater aims of national unity or imperial expansion. What distinguishes the Russian-Japanese War from the concept of the "total war" imperial war was the multitude of factors that range from the frontal to the back relationship, to the lethal killing fields that were their zone of struggle, to the methodologies used to finance the Manchurian war on the financial markets in London, Paris and New York. In this connection, the Russian-Japanese war looked more like the First World War than anything that had happened before, including the recent Spanish-American and Boer conflicts. With this as a foundation, realizing the widespread influence of the Russo-Japanese Conflict on the belligerent nationalities as well as on world history broadens comprehension of the war not just in military and diplomatic terms, but also in socio-cultural terms (Steinberg, 2008).

Since its inception, military observers, journalists, and analysts (and later military historians) have seen the Russian-Japanese War as a regional struggle, which has resulted in an unexpected outcome. Because the conflict took place on the other side of the world between a feeble large European military and a growing Asian country, they first ignored the lessons that may be learned from the war's after-action studies. Then these lessons became part of the history of a battle that paled in comparison to the horrors of World War I in terms of scale, scope, and impact. The war's legacy, on the other hand, weighed profoundly on world history. Even if everyone missed the immediate lessons to be learned from the new, higher lethality of the twentieth-century battlefield, the Japanese victory forever altered the image that people of color, the world's colonized people, had of their Imperial masters due to the impact it had on political history. Japan's victory put them on the path to building an Asia for Asians, while the people of Asia recognized that a new military force had established its authority in their part of the world (Steinberg, 2008).

The inability of the Great Powers to act on the lessons of the Russo-Japanese War in a timely manner demonstrates the foolishness of the leaders and nations of the Belle Epoch (the period of comfortable well-established life in Europe before World War I). In terms of military force, all of the belligerents mobilized nearly 2.5 million soldiers and armed them with advanced weaponry produced by late-nineteenth-century industrial production. These weapons were not only better than those previously utilized in fighting history, but they could also be made available more than ever to military installations. This alone

necessitated resource management to an unparalleled level in the history of the civil-military matrix. It demonstrated the necessity for competent management at all levels, from raw material procurement and manufacturing through military recruiting, training, supply, and leadership. By necessity, the requirements of this "modern" battlefield forged a relationship between the military front and civilian rear closer than anyone had considered possible at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In fact, by the beginning of the twentieth century, the marvels of the Industrial Revolution had pitched warfare to a higher level; to wage war necessitated a firm relationship between the government, industry, and the rest of the economy (Steinberg, 2008).

The battlefield of the early 20th century was significantly more deadly than before. This increased killing capacity resulted directly from the development of contemporary firearms, ranging from quick arms to machine guns and more precise carbines. Moreover, most army commanders intended to control the battlefield on an operational and tactical level as Moltke had achieved in Sedan with these weapons systems. The Strategic Planners did not envisage what they had obtained in 1904-5: lengthy commitments that lasted for days across enormous battlefields (Geographically), commitments that ultimately delivered no conclusive victory, but tremendous losses. The capabilities of fleets were similarly revolutionized by the change in military weaponry. The navies of the Great Powers believed they had the capabilities to fight a decisive battle in Mahanian terms, one that would culminate with the victorious power dominating the sea, with the construction of iron-clad, steam-driven ships with large-caliber guns and heavy armaments, the immediate precursors to the H.M.S. Dreadnought. Science also had a crucial part in reorganizing battlefields in the twentieth century, whether via the introduction and development of naval mines and torpedoes or increased communication (telephone) and transportation (railroad) capacities. Be it on the ground or on the sea, the military capabilities of the 20th century first arose on the peninsula Liaodung, and in the Yellow Sea, theater for Russo-Japanese war activities (Steinberg, 2008).

Therefore, the Russian-Japanese war featured all the components that historians recognized during the First World War. It had its beginnings tied to the imperial growth of European powers, its warfare was filled with industrial revolution weaponry and ammunition, and neither the civilian nor the military leadership had been prepared for the conflict really taking place in Manchuria. With the end of hostilities, both nations had terrible financial and political implications, and nongovernmental agencies were necessary

to help victims and reestablish a seemingly stable situation in the region in which the fighting had a place. Furthermore, as was the case with the events in 1919 at Versailles, Portsmouth's peace process would leave as many problems as possible unsolved and therefore plant the seeds for future conflicts. Historians will debate the validity of the Russo-Japanese War as World War Zero, and both pro and con arguments will be strong. The fact that the Russo-Japanese War was a modern twentieth-century struggle with significant evidence demonstrating the direction in which the Great Powers' internal and external policies were leading the rest of the globe cannot be questioned. Unfortunately, the conclusion of these policies may be regarded to have done little good for the growth and growth of modern civilization, since they were the precursor to the twentieth century's century of complete struggle (Steinberg, 2008).

### **2.11 Conclusion**

The Japanese surprised the Russian navy and won an early win in 1904 when they assaulted the Russian fleet at Port Arthur before the formal declaration of war was received in Moscow. The two armies engaged in Korea and the Sea of Japan throughout the next year, with the Japanese gaining substantial, though expensive, wins. On both sides, war losses were heavy. The Russians lost 60,000 men and the Japanese 41,000 men in the battle of Mukden. Military expenses were also expensive. By 1905, these casualties combined with the economic burden of funding the war drove the two nations to try to bring hostilities to a conclusion. The Japanese requested the negotiation of a peace deal between US President Roosevelt and representatives from both nations met in the New Hampshire region of Portsmouth in 1905. Japan's triumph against Russia changed the country's international status, boosting it to the status of great power and allowing it to become a more important player in East Asia and the Pacific.

# **Chapter 3**

## **The Emergence of Japan as a World Power**

**3.1 Introduction**

From February 1904 to September 1905, foreign media covered the various stages of the Russo-Japanese War, which was at odds with many politicians and military experts' forecasts. While many expected Tsar Nicholas II's forces to win quickly, everyone was astonished by the Russian army's succession of setbacks at the hands of Japanese forces, who had established themselves as a regional force in the area. The Portsmouth Treaty was signed between the Russians and the Japanese on 5 September 1905 which lasted more than a year and six months and resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. Moreover, this accord has helped Japan grow and emerge as a regional authority. The Russian-Japanese War thrust Japan into the world's notice as a power to be considered and as Asia's undisputed leader. Russia's defeat was considered as a smack in the face for all of Europe; it was the first loss of a major European state since the Mongols. While the war was significant to Japan, it was not necessary for the country to acquire the amount of recognition it did after the war, because Japan had already a powerful economy and military due to the Meiji Restoration reforms. The purpose of this chapter is to look at how the Russo-Japanese war aided Japan in earning international recognition and respect from Western nations.

**3.2 Prior- to the War**

The present study on the Russo-Japanese War portrays the conflict as a watershed moment in Japan's development. It was the first time in history that a non-western nation beat a western one. As a result, historians regard the war as the turning moment in Japan's history. This claim is valid in the sense that, prior to the war, most people in Europe and the United States still thought Asian countries were inferior. However, the leaders of these countries acknowledged Japan's growth, and as a consequence, Japan had earned the respect of the world's leaders before the war (Garrett, 2017).

The Russo-Japanese War highlighted Japan's military prowess; the world had come to acknowledge Japan as a formidable force on both the Asian and global stages. By 1900, the Japanese Shogunate's unjust treaties had all been undone. Extraterritoriality for all foreign nations had ceased, and Japan had agreed to a number of alliances that benefited both Japan and the other countries (Garrett, 2017).

Historians are right in claiming that the Russo-Japanese War gave Japan international recognition; yet, the war was not essential for Japan to demonstrate its strength. Before the war, Japan had shown signs of development and transformation. The war's end was merely a result of the Meiji Restoration's continuous changes. The war was won as a result of events that occurred when Japan opted to align its government and military with that of Western countries (Garrett, 2017).

Kenneth Scott Latourette outlined this idea in his book *The Development of Japan* (1918) in the beginning, Latourette declared that he wrote the book to help people in the West to understand Japan better so that World War II may be avoided. Latourette sees the Russo-Japanese Conflict as a turning point in Japan's evolution as a nation, rather than a war that had a major influence on the world stage right away.

### **3.2.1 The Meiji Restoration**

By 1868, (As mentioned in chapter one) the Tokugawa shōgun, who dominated Japan throughout the feudal period, had lost power, and the emperor had reclaimed the throne. The emperor adopted the name Meiji for his rule, and the event is now known as the Meiji Restoration (The Meiji Restoration and Modernization, n.d).

When the Meiji emperor was reinstated as Japan's leader in 1868, the country was militarily weak, mostly agrarian, and technologically backward. Hundreds of semi-autonomous feudal lords ruled the region. Western powers, Europe, and the United States had pushed Japan to sign treaties that limited its authority over its own international commerce and mandated that offenses against foreigners in Japan be punished in Western courts rather than Japanese courts (The Meiji Restoration and Modernization, n.d).

However the government of Japan underwent a major change during that period: feudal separatism gave way to centralized bureaucracy, social order was re-established, a conscripted army replaced the samurai house-band in order to establish the ultimate instrument of authority, factories were created, trade encouraged, and the West's education system was fostered. As a result, Japan was able to gain a place among the strong and "enlightened" countries of the globe within a century. "Enrich the country and strengthen the military" was the slogan of this era (Beasley, 2018).

In 1868, the Meiji administration published the Charter Oath, which informed the country of these developments. This brief paper detailed the new government's aims and



goals, laying the groundwork for all subsequent reforms in the decades to come. Yuri Kimimasa, an official of the Fukui fief, is said to have composed the original text (Meiji Period in Japan, n.d).

- By this oath we set up as our aim the establishment of the national weal on a broad basis and the framing of a constitution and laws.
- Deliberative assemblies shall be widely established and all matters decided by public discussion.
- All classes, high and low, shall unite in vigorously carrying out the administration of affairs of state.
- The common people, no less than the civil and military officials, shall each be allowed to pursue his own calling so that there may be no discontent.
- Evil customs of the past shall be broken off and everything based upon the just laws of Nature (Meiji Period in Japan, n.d).

According to Beasley in his book “*The Meiji Restoration*” The Meiji Restoration was the process through which Japan established a government that was both willing and able to reform. In this sense, the Restoration has the same significance for Japan as the English Revolution has for England or the French Revolution has for France; it represents the starting point for present Japanese history.

Japan's ambitious ascension to a worldwide power began with the Meiji Restoration (Steger, 2018).

### **3.2.2 Renegotiate the Unequal Treaties**

During the 1850s when the Edo era (the final period of traditional Japan, a time of internal peace, political stability, and economic growth under the shogunate) came to end , Japan concludes a number of treaties with the West as it opened up to the globe. Exchanges to revise these agreements were made between the 1870s and 1890s on the basis of the recognition that they were unjust. This was the most challenging diplomatic task in the early and middle years of the Meiji government's existence (Iokibe, n.d). The Kanagawa Treaty is one of these unequal treaties; it was Japan's first pact with a Western nation, and it was not a commercial treaty because there were no strong objectives for commerce at the time. The pact established two ports at Shimoda and Hakodate, guaranteed coal supply, and assured Japanese help to shipwrecked US personnel. However, a key feature of the pact, and one of the reasons it was later dubbed one of the unequal treaties, was the

inclusion of a unilateral most-favored-nation (MFN) clause. The second treaty, known as the Harris Treaty, had a significantly greater reach than the Kanagawa pact. Its main provisions included the opening of five trading ports in Edo (Tokyo), Kobe, Nagasaki, Niigata, and Yokohama; extraterritorial rights for Westerners, which meant that Japanese law could not be applied to foreigners in Japan; the opening of markets in Tokyo and Osaka; exchange of domestic and foreign currencies; and a unilateral MFN clause (Atsumi & Bernhofen, 2011).

Similar to the accords signed by the United States and Japan, The Treaty of Yedo was signed on Aug. 26, 1858, in Edo (now Tokyo) by six Japanese delegates and Britain's Earl of Elgin. When approved in 1859, this treaty established diplomatic and commercial contacts between the two nations. It also promised that a representative of the British government would be authorized to live in Yedo in the future (Cortazzi, 2008). The treaty while not as one-sided as the treaty with the United States, still emphatically preferred Great Britain. And by preferring Great Britain the settlement exhibited that Japan was peered downward on as a country. The agreement was not equivalent since Great Britain didn't have similar regard as it did for different nations in the west (Garrett, 2017).

After that they signed “the treaty of commerce and navigation” in 1894 at London; It was "based on principles of equality and mutual advantage" and was "better balanced" than the previous "Yedo Pact." The new treaty terminated the United Kingdom's extraterritoriality in Japan. Citizens of the United Kingdom were now subject to Japanese law. The “Treaty of Commerce and Navigation” marked Japan's ascension to a new degree of international recognition. Japan was seen as an equal rather than a subordinate country by the United Kingdom. The agreement was signed 10 years before the start of the Russo-Japanese Conflict, demonstrating that the war had no bearing on the deal. While the war had an influence on Japan's worldwide stature, it was the country's development from inside that catapulted them into the world scene (Treaty of commerce and navigation between Japan and Great Britain, 1911).

In 1878 the USA consented to a treaty on Tokyo's conditions, but it was not to enter into force until the other nations made comparable concessions. This was something Europe refused to undertake. Finally, in 1894, Great Britain, whose commerce was greater and whose citizens in Japan were more numerous and resistant to change than any other Western country, signed a treaty in the amended form wanted by Japan, followed by the

United States. Over the next three years, the other powers followed suit. Extraterritoriality was abolished in 1899, as were consular courts and foreign "settlements," and Western people were subject to Japanese laws and courts (Latourette, 1918) in a symbolic sense. It indicated that Japan was seen on an equal footing by Western countries. To show equality with the West, Japan did not need to conduct a war.

On July 29, 1905, Japan sought a new deal with the United States, dubbed "The Taft-Katsura Agreement," in which Count Katsura, Japan's prime minister and foreign minister, held a "talk" with a personal representative of Roosevelt, who was not a member of the department of state. In a telegraph on 31 July 1905, opinions voiced on behalf of President Roosevelt were affirmed. The memorandum is of particular relevance since it was a detailed declaration of policy to which President Roosevelt had freely committed himself at least six months previously (Dennett, 1959). At the moment, it appeared like either Russia or Japan would win the war. While Japan had won the initial engagements, Russia's Baltic Fleet had been dispatched but had yet to reach the Pacific. President Roosevelt developed the strategy in the Taft-Katsura Agreement six months before July, implying that the results of the war had little impact on his choice (Garrett, 2017).

Japan was regarded quite differently in the Katsura Accord than it had been in the prior agreements. According to the Katsura Accord, Japan has no hostile intentions against the Philippines. The primary principle of Japan's international strategy, according to Second Count Katsura, is to maintain general peace in the Far East. Japan believed that allowing Korea to negotiate with other nations would force Japan to go to war again. Taft recognized that Japan had legitimate rights (Dennett, 1959). The United States considered Japan as an equal to the United Kingdom, and all of this happened before the Russian Japanese War.

### **3.2.3 The First Sino Japanese War**

From August 1, 1894 to April 17, 1895, (As it is mentioned in chapter one) the Chinese Qing dynasty fought the Meiji Japanese Empire over who should dominate Korea, resulting in a resounding victory for Japan. As a consequence, Japan expanded its sphere of influence to include the Korean Peninsula, as well as Formosa (Taiwan), Penghu Island, and the Liaodong Peninsula (Szczepanski, 2019). According to many historians The First Sino Japanese War marked the emergence of Japan as a major world power, one of them is Peter Duus in his article *The Takeoff Point of Japanese Imperialism* (1983) According to

him if one insists on a key point in the development of Japanese imperialism, and it should be the first Sino-Japanese War (1894–5). It is because, for the first time in three centuries, Japan engaged on a major combat expedition outside of Japan, with the goal of gaining a continental footprint. And the war with Russia was simply one stage in a series of events that led to the establishment of the Japanese Empire, not necessarily the most important (153).

### **3.2.4 Japan in the Eyes of US President Theodor Roosevelt**

President Theodore Roosevelt was naturally thrilled to see Japan safeguarding American interests in Asia. As his concerns about Russian expansion grew, as did his sense of the administration's powerlessness, he began to look to Japan as a counterbalance to Russian influence on Asia's mainland. Roosevelt had long maintained that Japan was the country "most threatened" by Russian development, and that Japan, not the US or any other European state, would have to "fight with Russia for the control of the destiny of Asia." Even before the first shot of the Russo-Japanese War was fired, Roosevelt recognized Japan as a great nation (Neu, 1966).

### **3.3 After the War**

As the winner of the Russo-Japanese War, Japan had a very unique and varied fate. With triumph came a new standing as a world power, a rise in regional nationalism, and, eventually, Japan's entry into world war two as one of the Axis Powers. The Japanese Empire sought to be a world power with dignity and rank, and it was not let down. Multiple agreements were negotiated with international powers such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, ensuring that the country received the status it wanted. Japan had acquired a level of strength and influence not thought imaginable in fewer than forty years, from the Meiji Restoration to the conflict with the Russian Empire. This rise established a standard for other countries to follow. Following Imperial Japan's resounding triumph over a Western force, a new wave of Asian nationalism arose. "Asians might build up their country's military and economic might to a very advanced level," according to the model set by Japan. With the rise of European colonization over Southeast Asia, there was a gleam of optimism that these countries may achieve. However, this optimism was of limited duration, because the great forces remained and were not known at the time; the Japanese Empire would eventually put most of these colonial properties under the banner of the "rising sun." Finally, the most important outcome of the Russo-Japanese Conflict is

the relationship between the war and the events leading up to World War II. It's vital to remember that after the war, Russia refused to pay any of its war bills, causing mayhem in Japan. "One may argue that Japan's path to WWII began not when it won the Russo-Japanese War, but when it lost the peace," To take it a step further, the Russo-Japanese War implanted in Japan the notion that it might become a great power, leading to an increase in militarism. Japan's newfound global prominence is like an aphrodisiac, with the country unwilling to stop at Korea. It was enamored with its own powers and craved more. It believed that militarism would give it the edge it needed to pursue bigger ambitions and, ultimately, an advantage over the US (Simpson, 2015).

### **3.3.1 Remaking Japanese Military Image**

Like with any other conflict, brings with it some honors and rewards that come with victory, this is no exception in the case of the Russian Japanese war. In his article, "*Becoming an Honorary Civilized Nation: Remaking Japan's Military Image during the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905* (2001), Rotem Kowner stated that prior to the Russian Japanese War" The West mocked Japan's cultural backwardness, seeing its people in general and warriors in particular as weak, childish, and feminine." However, Japan ultimately gained the respect and recognition it sought from the West after defeating the Russians.

In the Russo-Japanese War, the image of the Japanese, particularly in the eyes of the tsar, Nicholas II, was crucial. Nicholas saw the Japanese as feminine, weak, and genetically inferior, a perspective that caused him to underestimate the Japanese national spirit and military capability, influenced by what he saw on his visit to Japan in 1891 and preexisting preconceptions. As the conflict progressed, his cognitive bias caused him to make erroneous strategic judgments, which contributed to the Russian disaster (Kowner, 2001).

In an attempt to explain the Japanese victory, Westerners first stressed the regular soldier's strong spirit. As Lieutenant General Sir Ian Hamilton, the senior British observer during the war wrote in May 1904, "When war was declared, the Japanese were unquestionably formidable. They were courageous, disciplined, energetic, well-organized, and fairly administered" (Kowner, 2001).

The Japanese soldier, according to British writer Frederick McKenzie, “reads diligently and follows the movement of the globe in the same way as the brightest bombardier in Dover Castle.” Many observers were taken aback by the Japanese soldier's noble resolve to die. As the fighting around Port Arthur heated up in August, Hamilton mentioned that the Japanese soldier was prepared to sacrifice on the battleground for his country “not in the hope of reaping some glorious reward, but in the hope that he may be worthy of those who have gone before him, and that his example may usefully guide the unknown generations who are to follow him in the afterlife” (Kowner, 2001).

### **3.3.2 Agreements with other powers**

Following the war with Russia, Japan was able to forge a number of mutual agreements with foreign nations, therefore fortifying its "unique position" in northeast Asia. Reestablishing their relationship in 1905 and again in 1911, Great Britain remained Japan's most important partner. Despite rising tensions and skepticism, the US accepted Japanese hegemony in Korea in exchange for Japan's acknowledgment of its sovereignty over the Philippines, in two agreements struck in 1905 and 1908. Late in 1906, Japan initiated talks with France on a joint accord, and three months later, it began talks with Russia as well. The discussions in St Petersburg were a rapid and unexpected fulfillment of Sergei Witte's vision, which he had expressed just a year and a half earlier in Portsmouth, of a future alliance with Japan. Eventually, Japan signed an agreement with France (the Franco-Japanese agreement) in June 1907, and the first round of accords with its former arch-enemy was concluded in July. The Russo-Japanese Agreement of 1907 confirmed the Treaty of Portsmouth, maintained China's territorial integrity and an open-door economic policy inside its borders, and included a secret protocol delineating each nation's zone of responsibility in Manchuria. For the first time, Russia completely acknowledged Japan's interests in Korea and even pledged to non-interference, while Japan responded by recognizing Russian interests in Outer Mongolia (Kowner. 2007b).

### **3.3.3 The Territorial Gains**

In territorial terms, Japan gained control of the southern half of Sakhalin and the southern tip of the Liaotung Peninsula in Manchuria after the end of the war with Russia. Japan was permitted to deploy troops in southern Manchuria to defend the rails and concessions along the South Manchuria Railway after the Treaty of Portsmouth and subsequent agreement with China in late 1905. The agreement led to the formation of the

Kwantung Army (Kantgun), Japan's military garrison in Manchuria, which was essential in Japanese interfering in Manchuria, and the final seizure of the entire province in 1931. Korea, Japan's prized possession, remained independent for a while, but not for long. In the years that followed, Japan became increasingly confident in its ability to conquer Korea without fear of Western intervention. It made its most daring move for full control of the Korean peninsula in November 1905, compelling a Korean official to sign the Protectorate Agreement, despite the fact that there was still no consensus in Tokyo regarding the desired policy toward Korea at the time. Ito Hirobumi, the first resident-general in Korea, for example, opposed annexation and considered his duty as a reform mission. However, Katsura Tar's return to power, the retirement of Ito Hirobumi and his death, and the obstinate Korean opposition to the Japanese presence eventually culminated in the ultimate annexation of Korea in 1910. This was Japan's most significant territorial and demographic gain until the early 1930s, and it bolstered Japanese confidence even further (Kowner, 2007b).

### **3.3.4 Versailles conference of 1919**

The favorable representation of the Russo-Japanese War is due to a number of factors. One of them is the conviction expressed by many significant individuals that Japan had finally joined the ranks of the great powers as a result of its victory in 1905. This sense of acceptability by the dominating countries was bolstered when Japan was named as one of the five main winners in the First World War at the Versailles conference in 1919, despite its little participation. The Russo-Japanese War became part of the traditional narrative of Japan's rise to power and prestige, and none of Japan's significant successes since the 1850s has been seen as greater than victory over Russia (Wilson, 1999).

### **3.4 Conclusion**

The Russo-Japanese War was a pivotal event in world history. It was the first time a nation from Asia had defeated a Western force. However, the conflict is unimportant in terms of Japan's international recognition. The process of gaining international recognition had already started. The US and the UK have opted to join equal alliances with Japan beforehand. Japan had renounced the Shogunate's unequal treaties by 1900. Following the Meiji Restoration, Japan saw significant military and economic reforms. The people in Europe and the United States may have realized Japan's might after the Russo-Japanese

War, but their leaders understood it before the conflict. As a result of these reforms, Japan acquired Western recognition.



# **General Conclusion**

## General Conclusion

The Russian-Japanese War is a military conflict between the empire of Japan and the Russian Empire from February 1904 to September 1905, which captivated the globe and had a significant influence on both countries. Wary of Russian dominance in Korea, Japan assaulted the Russian navy at Port Arthur, causing a sequence of setbacks for Russia, including the loss of their Baltic fleet after a seven-month trip, which echoed in the 1905 revolution. In the meanwhile, Japan's victory furthered its objective of keeping Europe and America apprehensive of East Asia. The war demonstrated to the Europeans that Japan was no longer an agricultural and isolationist feudal society, but rather a sophisticated and military power capable of conquering Russia in open combat.

As stated before this research work was carried out in order to enrich information about the Russian-Japanese war, and it also serves to provide a summary and a historical database for readers about the causes and results of this battle. The Russo-Japanese war is a conflict that we seldom hear about, but it is one that I am really interested in. I believe that, amid the complicated web of alliances, conflicts, and events that led to World War I, the internal unrest that led to the formation of the Soviet Union, and Imperial Japan's aim of absolute Far Eastern domination, this war is largely ignored by modern historians, which is a pity.

The results of this study demonstrate that the conflict sprang from Russia and Japan's desire for control of Manchuria and Korea. By the late nineteenth century, the Japanese had swiftly upgraded their military forces, allowing them to pursue an expansionist agenda. They launched an offensive on the Chinese in 1894, capturing Taiwan and bringing Korea under their control; they also seized the Liaodong peninsula. However, Russia, France, and Germany intervened and forced them to return it to China. This coercive strategy compelled the Japanese to join the British-Japanese alliance in 1902. Meanwhile, the Russians were looking for a warm port on the Pacific, and they wanted to expand into the fading China dynasty, as many European powers did. They leased Port Arthur from the Chinese in 1887 and began building a railway line to connect it to the Trans-Siberian railway across Manchuria. In 1900, both countries formed an eighth-nation alliance to combat the Chinese Box of rebels. However, the Russians leftover 150,000 troops in Manchuria to safeguard their railway line development and instead of returning the troops, even more troops were brought in by 1903. The increased presence of Russian traders and military in the region posed a danger to Japan, prompting the country to engage

## **General Conclusion**

in talks with Russia. They hope to stop any territorial disputes by getting Russia to recognize their ownership of Korea. Russia confident that Japan would avoid war demanded that Japan should reduce its own troop numbers in Korea. Relations with them served and Japan declared war.

The second result shows that the rivalry between Japan and Russia erupted into a conflict when diplomatic ties between Japan and Russia broke down in February 1904; the Japanese launched an attack on Port Arthur on February 8th, without prior notice. Initially, the Russians had only roughly 80000 soldiers in East Asia, but the Japanese had over 200000 well-trained and motivated forces. During peacetime, however, the Russians had approximately a million troops stationed throughout Europe. The Japanese strategy relied on the Trans-Siberian Railway's incapacity to move soldiers from Europe to the Far East in sufficient numbers to secure Japanese dominance in Asia. On land, the Japanese met with far more opposition, but on the water, they destroyed Russia. The battles of Tsushima and Port Arthur, in which the Russian fleet was severely defeated, exemplified this. The battle of Mukden brought the conflict to a close with unusually high fatality rates on both sides. And because Japan was no longer able to fight a successful land war, the battle of Tsushima and instability in Russia became the country's rescue. The war formally ended on 5 September by signing the Portsmouth treaty, the negotiations took place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and were brokered in part by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.

Another result of the study demonstrates that one of the principal repercussions of the Russian-Japanese War was that it put a stop to Russia's expansionist plans in East Asia, which were just a tiny component of its larger objective of establishing hegemony over Asia. Furthermore, Russia's defeat against a previously isolationist and feudal society only added salt to the wound; within two months of the Portsmouth Treaty, the revolution brought Russia to its knees when Nicholas II was compelled to supposedly convert Russia from an unlimited autocracy to a semi-constitutional monarchy. Japan, additionally, cemented its control over Korea in 1907, when the final king of the Yi dynasty was forced to abdicate; Korean culture and language were ruthlessly suppressed from then on, and Korea was officially annexed by Japan in 1910. Another effect of the war was that the Japanese military found itself with significantly expanded authority both at home and abroad. By the beginning of World War One Japan was recognized as a completely equal allied power. The war cemented Japan's position as East Asia's sole military and colonial

## **General Conclusion**

power. Another important impact was that it accelerated the long-term process of decolonization. This dealt a significant blow to imperialism's previous power. As the first Asian triumph over a large European force, it had a huge psychological influence in supporting decolonization across the world.

The final result shows that, although the Russo-Japanese War was such a turning point in modern Japanese history and it gave Japan international recognition, yet it was not essential for Japan to demonstrate its strength. Before the war, Japan had shown signs of development and transformation. The war with Russia was simply one stage in a series of events that led to the establishment of the Japanese Empire, not necessarily the most important.

The current study is the starting point of a further research project. In this regard, the following topics “The Russo-Japanese War and its impact on anti-colonial nationalists” “The Russo-Japanese War and its impact on Islamic peoples” could be proposed as a kind of continuation to the current study for further researchers.

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## Appendices:

### Appendix A:

#### First Sino-Japanese War



**Figure A1.** First Sino Japanese War (a scene from the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–95)  
(Adopted from Toshihide, 1894)

## Summary

The Russian-Japanese War was the first time an Asian country defeated a major European colonial state. When the expansionist goals of Japan and Russia met over Manchuria and Korea, the Tsar thought Japan would never attack. After years of preparation, Japan launched an unexpected assault on the Russian Port Arthur, on the Liaoyang Peninsula in 1904 and the conflict that followed saw Japan win significant fights against Russia. Its conclusion had long-term ramifications, contributing to the inescapability of the First and Second World Wars. On the other hand, Japan would solidify its position as a worldwide force.

The present study's significance lies down to provide a historical overview of the Russian Japanese war, then investigate and analyze the reasons behind the emergence of Japan as a world power. The following objectives are intended: firstly, to shed light on the main causes that led to the conflict between the two belligerents. Secondly, to know the results that occurred after this war, especially since it, was for the first time a yellow race won against the white race. Finally, to provide a glimpse of the Russian-Japanese war's role in Japan gaining global recognition. To solve the research problematic, four major questions were asked:

- 5- What were the underlying causes of The Russian-Japanese War?
- 6- How was the "Small" nation of Japan able to defeat the "Giant" nation of Russia?
- 7- What were the impacts of the Russian-Japanese War?
- 8- What led to the emergence of Japan as a world power?

To conclude this research, four research hypothesis were formulated:

- The conflict arose from a competition between Russia and Japan for control of Korea and Manchuria. Japan took the Liaodong Peninsula from China after the First Sino-Japanese War, but European forces compelled Japan to return it. Following that, China leased it to Russia. The Russo-Japanese War began when Japanese warships assaulted Russian warships off the coast of the peninsula at Port Arthur.
- Because Japan was closer to Port Arthur, they were able to dispatch ships considerably faster and replenish those ships in a matter of days, whereas Russian ships struggled to get to the battle.

- The conflict exacerbated domestic dissatisfaction in both nations, sparking the Russian Revolution of 1905. Japan would also solidify its position as a worldwide power. It shifted the power balance in East Asia as well as Europe and as the first defeat of a European state by an Asian force; it posed a direct challenge to global conceptions of white, European superiority, offering encouragement to colonial people worldwide.
- Japan became a world power due to: the reforms of the Meiji Restoration, the First-Sino Japanese War and also by renegotiating the unequal treaties. The Russian-Japanese war was only one phase in the chain of events that led to the emergence of Japan as a world power, not the most significant.

The current work consists of three chapters. To begin with, the first chapter is devoted to the pre-war period which will help in a better understanding of how this war began, in addition to the political and economic conditions of Russia and Japan prior to the war. The second chapter will focus on the war itself, it will be mostly concerned with the courses of the war, the most important battles, and the results of this armed conflict on a global scale. The third chapter is devoted to the emergence of Japan as a world power by analyzing the main causes that contributed to Japan's gaining of global power.

The study results demonstrated that the war started as a result of a rivalry in interests between Russia and Japan over the Korean peninsula. After Japan's victory in the First Sino-Japanese War, China gave Japan sovereignty of the Liaodong Peninsula. Russia, Germany, and France compelled Japan to restore it to China in the so-called Triple Intervention. Following that, Russia secured a lease for the land, making Japan feel threatened by the region's conflict of interests and preparing for war. The conflict began in 1904 and ended in 1905, with the Japanese triumphing over the Russians. This decisive battle exacerbated domestic dissatisfaction in both nations, sparking the Russian Revolution of 1905, the rise of Japan also sent resonances across the world. Moreover this analytical work resorts to the conclusion that the Russian Japanese War was simply one stage in the series of events that led to Japan's rise as a world power.

**Key-words:** Conflict, Expansionist goals, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Position, Russia, Worldwide for

## المُلخَص

تعد الحرب الروسية اليابانية المعركة الأولى التي تهزم فيها دولة آسيوية دولة استعمارية أوروبية كبرى. عندما التقى الأهداف التوسعية لليابان وروسيا حول منشوريا وكوريا ، اعتقد القيصر أن اليابان لن تهاجم أبدًا. بعد سنوات من الاستعداد، شنت اليابان هجومًا غير متوقع على ميناء بورت آرثر الروسي ، في شبه جزيرة لياويانغ في عام 1904 ، وشهد الصراع الذي أعقب ذلك فوز اليابان في معارك كبيرة ضد روسيا. كان لاختتامها تداعيات طويلة المدى ، مما ساهم في حتمية الحربين العالميتين الأولى والثانية. من ناحية أخرى ، ستعزز اليابان مكانتها كقوة عالمية

تكمُن أهمية الدراسة الحالية في تقديم لمحة تاريخية عن الحرب الروسية اليابانية ، ثم التحقيق في الأسباب الكامنة وراء ظهور اليابان كقوة عالمية. تهدف الأهداف التالية إلى: أولاً ، تسليط الضوء على الأسباب الرئيسية التي أدت إلى الصراع بين الطرفين المتحاربين. ثانيًا ، لمعرفة النتائج التي حدثت بعد هذه الحرب ، خاصة أنها كانت ولأول مرة ينتصر فيها العرق الأصفر على العرق الأبيض. أخيرًا ، لتقديم لمحة عن الدور الذي لعبته الحرب الروسية اليابانية في اكتساب اليابان اعترافًا عالميًا. لحل مشكلة البحث، تم طرح أربعة أسئلة رئيسية:

1- ما هي الأسباب الكامنة وراء الحرب الروسية اليابانية ؟

2- كيف استطاعت دولة اليابان الصغيرة هزيمة دولة روسيا "العلاقة" ؟

3- ما هي آثار الحرب الروسية اليابانية ؟

4- ما الذي أدى إلى ظهور اليابان كقوة عالمية ؟

لحل مشكلة هذا البحث تم صياغة الفرضيات التالية:

- نشأ الصراع من منافسة بين روسيا واليابان للسيطرة على كوريا ومنشوريا. استولت اليابان على شبه جزيرة لياودونغ من الصين بعد الحرب الصينية اليابانية الأولى، لكن القوات الأوروبية أجبرت اليابان على إعادتها. بعد ذلك، قامت الصين بتأجيرها لروسيا. بدأت الحرب الروسية اليابانية عندما هاجمت السفن الحربية اليابانية السفن الحربية الروسية قبالة ساحل شبه الجزيرة في بورت آرثر.

- نظرًا لأن اليابان كانت أقرب إلى بورت آرثر ، فقد تمكنوا من إرسال السفن بشكل أسرع وتجديد تلك السفن في غضون أيام ، بينما كافحت السفن الروسية للوصول إلى المعركة

- أدى الصراع إلى تفاقم الاستياء المحلي في كلا البلدين ، مما أدى إلى اندلاع الثورة الروسية عام 1905. ومن ناحية أخرى ، عززت اليابان مكانتها كقوة عالمية. لقد غيرت ميزان القوى في شرق آسيا وكذلك أوروبا، وكانت أول هزيمة لدولة أوروبية على يد قوة آسيوية؛ لقد شكل هذا تحديًا مباشرًا للمفاهيم العالمية للتفوق الأوروبي الأبيض، حيث قدم التشجيع للشعوب المستعمرة في جميع أنحاء العالم.

- أصبحت اليابان قوة عالمية بسبب: إصلاحات استعادة مييجي، والحرب اليابانية الصينية الأولى وأيضًا من خلال إعادة التفاوض على المعاهدات الغير المتكافئة. لم تكن الحرب الروسية اليابانية سوى مرحلة واحدة في سلسلة الأحداث التي أدت إلى ظهور اليابان كقوة عالمية وليست الأكثر أهمية.

يتكون العمل الحالي من ثلاثة فصول. تم تخصيص الفصل الأول لفترة ما قبل الحرب والتي ستساعد في فهم أفضل لكيفية بدء هذه الحرب، بالإضافة إلى الظروف السياسية والاقتصادية لروسيا واليابان قبل الحرب. أما الفصل الثاني فسيركز على الحرب نفسها، وسيهتم في الغالب بمسارات الحرب، وأهم المعارك، ونتائج هذا الصراع المسلح على نطاق عالمي. الفصل الثالث مكرس لظهور اليابان كقوة عالمية من خلال تحليل الأسباب الرئيسية التي ساهمت في اكتساب اليابان القوة العالمية.

أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن الحرب بدأت نتيجة التنافس في المصالح بين روسيا واليابان على شبه الجزيرة الكورية. بعد انتصار اليابان في الحرب الصينية اليابانية الأولى، منحت الصين اليابان السيادة على شبه جزيرة ليودونغ. أجبرت روسيا وألمانيا وفرنسا اليابان على إعادتها إلى الصين فيما يسمى بالتدخل الثلاثي. بعد ذلك، حصلت روسيا على عقد إيجار للأرض، مما جعل اليابان تشعر بالتهديد من صراع المصالح في المنطقة والاستعداد للحرب. بدأ الصراع عام 1904 وانتهى عام 1905 بانتصار اليابان على الروس. أدت هذه المعركة الحاسمة إلى تفاقم الاستياء المحلي في كلا البلدين، مما أدى إلى اندلاع الثورة الروسية عام 1905، كما أدى صعود اليابان إلى أصداء في جميع أنحاء العالم. علاوة على ذلك، يلجأ هذا العمل التحليلي إلى استنتاج مفاده أن الحرب اليابانية الروسية كانت مجرد مرحلة واحدة في سلسلة الأحداث التي أدت إلى صعود اليابان كقوة عالمية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الصراع، الأهداف التوسعية، اليابان، كوريا، منشوريا، مكانة، روسيا، قوة عالمية



## Résumé

La guerre Russo-japonaise est la première bataille dans laquelle un pays asiatique bat un grand état colonial européenne. Lorsque les objectifs expansionnistes du Japon et de la Russie se sont rencontrés autour de la Mandchourie et de la Corée, le tsar a cru que le Japon n'attaquerait jamais. Le Japon a lancé un assaut inattendu sur le port russe Arthur, sur la péninsule de Liaoyang en 1904. Ainsi, le conflit qui s'ensuivit a permis au Japon de remporter de grandes batailles contre la Russie. Sa conclusion a eu des répercussions à long terme, contribuant à l'impératif des Première et Seconde Guerres mondiales. D'autre part, le Japon renforcera son statut de puissance mondiale.

La présente étude a permis de fournir un aperçu historique de la guerre russo-japonaise et d'étudier et d'analyser les raisons de l'émergence du Japon en tant que puissance mondiale. Les objectifs suivants sont visés : d'une part, de mettre en évidence les principales causes qui ont conduit au conflit entre les deux belligérants. D'une d'autre part, de connaître les résultats survenus après cette guerre, d'autant plus que c'était pour la première fois que la race jaune l'emportait sur la race blanche. Finalement, elle est pour objet de donner un aperçu du rôle que la guerre russo-japonaise a joué dans la reconnaissance mondiale du Japon. Pour résoudre le problème de recherche, quatre questions principales sont posées:

- 1- Quelles sont les raisons de la guerre russo-japonaise ?
- 2- Comment la "Petite" nation du Japon a-t-elle pu vaincre la "Géante" nation de la Russie ?
- 3- Quels sont les impacts de la guerre russo-japonaise ?
- 4- Qu'est-ce qui a conduit à l'émergence du Japon en tant que puissance mondiale ?

Pour conclure cette recherche, quatre hypothèses de recherche sont formulées :

- Le conflit est né d'une compétition entre la Russie et le Japon pour le contrôle de la Corée et de la Mandchourie. Le Japon a pris la péninsule de Liaodong à la Chine après la première guerre sino-japonaise, mais les forces européennes ont obligé le Japon à la rendre. Par la suite, la Chine l'a loué à la Russie. La guerre russo-japonaise a commencé lorsque des navires de guerre japonais ont attaqué des navires de guerre russes au large des côtes de la péninsule à Port Arthur.

- Comme le Japon était plus proche de Port Arthur, ils ont pu envoyer des navires plus rapidement et reconstituer ces navires en quelques jours, tandis que les navires russes luttèrent pour se rendre au combat.
- Le conflit a exacerbé le mécontentement intérieur des deux nations, déclenchant la révolution russe de 1905. Le Japon a également consolidé sa position de puissance mondiale. Il a modifié l'équilibre des pouvoirs en Asie de l'Est ainsi qu'en Europe et en tant que première défaite d'un État européen par une force asiatique ; il a directement contesté les notions universelles de suprématie blanche européenne, encourageant les peuples colonisés du monde entier.
- Le Japon est devenu une puissance mondiale grâce : aux réformes de la restauration Meiji, à la première guerre sino-japonaise et aussi à la renégociation des traités inégaux. La guerre russo-japonaise n'était qu'une phase dans la chaîne des événements qui ont conduit à l'émergence du Japon en tant que puissance mondiale, et n'est pas la plus importante.

Le présent travail se compose de trois chapitres. Pour commencer, le premier chapitre est consacré à la période d'avant-guerre qui aidera à mieux comprendre comment cette guerre a commencé, en plus des conditions politiques et économiques de la Russie et du Japon avant la guerre. Le deuxième chapitre se concentrera sur la guerre elle-même, il portera principalement sur le déroulement de la guerre, les batailles les plus importantes, et les résultats de ce conflit armé à l'échelle mondiale. Le troisième chapitre est consacré à l'émergence du Japon en tant que puissance mondiale en analysant les principales causes qui ont contribué à l'accession du Japon à la puissance mondiale.

Les résultats de l'étude ont démontré que la guerre a commencé à la suite d'une rivalité d'intérêts entre la Russie et le Japon sur la péninsule coréenne. Après la victoire du Japon dans la première guerre sino-japonaise, la Chine a accordé au Japon la souveraineté de la péninsule de Liaodong. La Russie, l'Allemagne et la France ont contraint le Japon à le restituer à la Chine dans le cadre de la « Triple intervention ». Suite à cela, la Russie a obtenu un bail pour le terrain, faisant se sentir le Japon menacé par le conflit d'intérêts de la région et se préparant à la guerre. Le conflit a commencé en 1904 et s'est terminé en 1905, avec le triomphe des Japonais sur les Russes. Cette bataille décisive a exacerbé le mécontentement intérieur des deux nations, déclenchant la révolution russe de 1905, la montée du Japon a également envoyé des résonances à travers le monde. De plus, ce travail d'analyse aboutit à la conclusion que la guerre russo-japonaise n'était qu'une étape dans

l'enchaînement des événements qui ont conduit à l'ascension du Japon en tant que puissance mondiale.

**Mots-clés** : Conflit, Corée, Force mondiale, Japon, Mandchourie, Objectifs expansionnistes, Position, Russie.

