

**Chapter 1 : First Sino-Japanese War - Wikipedia**

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In the years following the Meiji Restoration of and the fall of the shogunate , the newly formed Meiji government embarked on reforms to centralize and modernize Japan. Korean politics[ edit ] In January , King Cheoljong died without a male heir, and through Korean succession protocols King Gojong ascended the throne at the age of He also pursued an isolationist policy and was determined to purge the kingdom of any foreign ideas that had infiltrated into the nation. The Queen also allied herself with political enemies of the Daewongun, so that by late she had mobilized enough influence to oust him from power. In , the King sent a mission to Japan that was headed by Kim Hong-jip , an enthusiastic observer of the reforms taking place there. During the talks with the Americans, the Chinese insisted that the treaty contain an article declaring that Korea was a dependency of China and argued that the country had long been a tributary state of China. S president in a letter that Korea had special status as a tributary state of China. Korea, later signed similar trade and commerce treaties with Great Britain and Germany in , with Italy and Russia in , and with France in Subsequently, commercial treaties were concluded with other European countries. The political discourse over the two were interlinked, as the German military adviser Major Jacob Meckel stated, Korea was a "a dagger pointed at the heart of Japan". There was a choice of adopting a passive role which required the cultivation of reformist elements within Korean society and rendering them assistance whenever possible, or adopting a more aggressive policy, actively interfering in Korean politics to assure that reform took place. Japan in the early s was weak, as a result of internal peasant uprisings and samurai rebellions during the previous decade, the country was also struggling financially with inflation as a result of these internal factors. Imo Incident Woodblock print depicting the flight of the Japanese legation in In , the Korean Peninsula experienced a severe drought which led to food shortages, causing much hardship and discord among the population. Korea was on the verge of bankruptcy, even falling months behind on military pay, causing deep resentment among the soldiers. Min in turn handed the matter over to his steward who sold the good rice he had been given and used the money to buy millet that he mixed with sand and bran. The distribution of the alleged rice, infuriated the soldiers. On July 23, a military mutiny and riot broke out in Seoul , the enraged soldiers headed for the residence of Min Gyeom-ho, who they had suspected of having swindled them out of their rice. He had assumed that this would serve as a warning to the other agitators. After overpowering the guards, they released not only the men who had been arrested that day by Min Gyeom-ho but also but many political prisoners as well. The original body of mutineers had been swelled by the poor of the city and other malcontents, as a result the revolt had assumed major proportions. As the flames quickly spread, the members of the legation escaped through a rear gate, where they fled to the harbor and boarded a boat which took them down the Han River to Chemulpo. Taking refuge with the Incheon commandant, they were again forced to flee after word arrived of the events in Seoul and the attitude of their hosts changed. They escaped to the harbor during heavy rain and were pursued by Korean soldiers. Six Japanese were killed, while another five were seriously wounded. The following day, after the attack on the Japanese legation, the rioters forced their way into the royal palace where they found and killed Min Gyeom-ho, as well as a dozen other high-ranking officers. The queen narrowly escaped, however, dressed as an ordinary lady of the court and was carried on the back of a faithful guard who claimed she was his sister. The Chinese then deployed about 4, troops to Korea, under General Wu Changqing, which effectively regained control and quelled the rebellion. However, tensions subsided with the Treaty of Chemulpo , signed on the evening of August 30, In the aftermath of rebellion, the Daewongun was accused of fomenting the rebellion and its violence, and was arrested by Chinese and taken to Tianjin. It also gave the Chinese substantial advantages over the Japanese and Westerners and also granted them unilateral extraterritoriality privileges in civil and criminal cases. One was a small group of reformers that had centered around the Gaehwadang , Enlightenment Party which had become frustrated at the limited scale and arbitrary pace of reforms. Kim Ok-gyun, while studying in Japan, had also cultivated friendships

with influential Japanese figures and became the de facto leader of the group. Although the members of the Sadaedang supported the enlightenment policy, they favored gradual changes based on the Chinese model. This was also partly a matter of opportunism as the intervention by Chinese troops led to subsequent exile of the rival Daewongun in Tianjin and the expansion of Chinese influence in Korea, but it also reflected an ideological disposition also shared by many Koreans toward the more comfortable and traditional relationship as a tributary of China. Hence, rather than the major institutional reforms such as the adaptation of new values such as legal equality or introducing modern education like in Meiji Japan, the advocates of this school of thought sought piecemeal adoptions of institutions that would strengthen the state while preserving the basic social, political, and cultural order. Gapsin Coup In the two years preceding the Imo incident, the members of the Gaehwadang had failed to secure appointments to vital offices in the government and were unable to implement their reform plans. In August, as hostilities between France and China erupted over Annam, half of the Chinese troops stationed in Korea were withdrawn. Kim Ok-gyun and his comrades approached King Gojong, falsely stating that Chinese troops had created a disturbance and escorted him to a small palace, the Gyoengu Palace, where they placed him in the custody of Japanese legation guards. They then proceeded to kill and wound several senior officials of the Sadaedang faction. The radical point reform proposal stated that the following conditions be met: Consequently, even before the reform measures were made public, within three days the coup was suppressed by the Chinese troops who attacked and defeated the Japanese forces and restored power to the pro-Chinese Sadaedang faction. The surviving Korean coup leaders, including Kim Ok-gyun, escaped to the port of Chemulpo under escort of the Japanese minister Takezoe. From there they boarded a Japanese ship for exile in Japan. The treaty restored diplomatic relations between the Japanese and Koreans. The two parties succeeded in concluding the Convention of Tianjin on May 31, They also pledged to withdraw their troops from Korea within four months, with prior notification to the other if troops were to be sent to Korea in the future.

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*The First Sino-Japanese War (25 July - 17 April ) was fought between the Qing Empire and the Empire of Japan, primarily for influence over Korea. After more than six months of unbroken successes by Japanese land and naval forces and the loss of the port of Weihaiwei, the Qing government sued for peace in February*

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