



Lesson Plan to accompany the story
"Ulysses S. Grant in China."

RIVALRY OF JAPAN & CHINA

As empires expand and consolidate their positions, they often come into conflict with other regional powers, or powers with aspirations of expansion. This has occurred across the globe since the dawn of civilization. From the first civilizations in the Middle East, across the mountains of South America, the city-states of Greece, the various tribes of Europe, North America, and Africa, and the kingdoms of Asia, vied for power across millennia.

The rivalry and conflict between China and Japan is similar, but also more complex. China, historically, saw itself as the greatest of civilized nations, and all others subservient. Japan, an island nation close to China, learned a great deal from the larger, older nation. As the two countries expanded, their growth resulted in regional rivalry. China saw itself as the seat of civilization, but Japan had aspirations of expansion, and by the nineteenth century had developed and modernized to Western standard far more successfully.

With colonial ambitions on mainland Asia, the two countries came to blows over the kingdom of Korea. Long a protectorate of China, Japan's own imperial ambitions had made forays there before. In 1894 the first Sino-Japanese War began. In 1895, Japan arose the victor, and a new age in Asian imperial ambitions was born.

The two nations would consistently be opposed for the twentieth century. Japan conquered and occupied Manchuria in the early twentieth century. The results of this action led to the Second Sino-Japanese War, which led into World War II. Following the war, China reformed into a Communist Republic, while Japan also reformed once again. Now a staunch ally of the Western, anti-Communist powers, the two remain opposed for ideological and cultural reasons.

ASSIGNMENT

Please visit these sites and answer two questions:

<https://www.e-ir.info/2019/04/10/evolution-of-sino-japanese-relations-implications-for-northeast-asia-and-beyond/>

<https://asiasociety.org/china-korea-and-japan-forgiveness-and-mourning>

<https://www.e-ir.info/2013/11/04/chinese-and-japanese-responses-to-the-west-during-the-19th-century/>

- 1) What differences led to Japan's development along Western industrial standard, and why did China fail to follow suit until much later?
- 2) What were the results of the First Sino-Japanese War?

Length: your essay should be roughly 300 words

