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| **Aim:**  | **Date:** |
| **Key Words** |  |
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**World War II 4 – Occupation of Japan (1947)**

**A. Japan at the end of WWII**

August 6: The atomic bomb, "Little Boy" is dropped on Hiroshima.
August 9: Another atomic bomb, "Fat Man" is dropped on Nagasaki.
August 15: Japan accepts the terms of Unconditional Surrender.

Sept 2: Japan formally signs terms of surrender (V-J Day).

Sept 8: U.S. General Douglas MacArthur takes control of Japan.

Economics - Sixty-six (66) bombs were dropped in Japan in addition to the two atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan was now bankrupt. Inflation caused the prices of items to go up to 12 times in just three years.

Politics - Emperor Hirohito was seen as the divine ruler who received his powers from God. Due to this divine leadership, he could do what he wanted, without being questioned.

Social Affairs - Nobles owned a majority of the land while farmers had to work on the land. Women were not allowed into the world of politics and they had limited rights.

*What were some problems in Japan after WWII?*

*Should the goal of the United States be to help Japan or punish the country? Explain.*

**B. U.S. Occupation**

At the end of World War II Japan was occupied by the Allied Powers, led by the United States. General Douglas MacArthur was put in charge of the occupation. According to the terms of surrender, Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese government must do whatever General MacArthur and the Americans in occupied Japan told them to do. The Japanese were not trustworthy of the Allies and feared that occupation forces would rape Japanese women. Thus, the Japanese organized a brothel system. When MacArthur closed the brothels in 1946, it is estimated that more than 25% of the occupying forces had sexually transmitted diseases.

"By profession I am a soldier and take pride in that fact. But I am prouder -- infinitely prouder -- to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build; the father only builds, never destroys. The one has the potentiality of death; the other embodies creation and life.”

-Douglas MacArthr

*Based on the quote, what type of leader would you expect MacArthur to be?*

**C. The Showa Constitution (1947)**

On March 6th 1946, General MacArthur announced that the Emperor of Japan (Hirohito) would present a new constitution to the Japanese people. MacArthur believed that in order for the Japanese to become a peaceful and democratic nation the government had to be changed. It was called Showa because Emperor Hirohito’s reign was called Showa or ‘enlightened person.’

*What was the purpose of the Showa Constitution?*

*What law would you expect to see in the new Constitution?*

**D. Articles of the Showa Constitution:**

With a partner, read the 5 articles below and describe each article’s purpose. Then you will rank each article from 1 to 4, in order of importance (i.e. most important = 1, second-most important = 2, third-most important = 3, least important = 4).

Article 9. Renunciation (giving up) of War. Since the Japanese people want international peace, the Japanese people forever renounce (give up) war as a right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to achieve this goal, Japan will have no land, sea, and air fighting forces.

Article 13. All of the people shall be respected as individuals. Their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will be what all laws are based on.

Article 14. All of the people are equal under the law and there shall be no discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin.

Article 15. The people have the right to choose their leaders and to get rid of them. Every adult can vote in the election of public officials.

Article 21. Freedom of speech, press and all other forms of expression are guaranteed. The government cannot censor (stop) any news from being reported.

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| *Article* | *Describe the Article in your own words (use bullet points, not full sentences)* | *Rank it’s Importance (from 1-5)* |
| 9 |  |  |
| 13 |  |  |
| 14 |  |  |
| 15 |  |  |
| 21 |  |  |

*Is Article 9 a realistic law for Japan to follow? Why/why not?*