

- 1) Did you like the reading? Why or why not?

Although I didn't find this reading as interesting as the last one (perhaps I'm not as interested in the improvement of technology through time), I did find this reading very informative. Through the explanation of why technology was so important to the Japanese government at the time, I've formed a hypothesis (that may very well be erroneous) about Japan's seemingly strange actions prior to WWII. If I'm not mistaken, Samuels's main argument is that the need for greater technology, greater riches with an emphasis on nationalism stems from the West's colonial activities. The Opium War, the subjugation of most Asian countries has understandably dredged up a sense of paranoia in Japan's leaders. Perhaps one of the reasons for the race for better technology is a fear of losing what independence Japan had at the time. Japan wanted independence, respect and the ability to be on par with the Western countries. But Japan probably overzealous in this mostly due to the fear that, if Japan were not strong, it, too, would become just another puppet country for the West. Thus, the emphasis on technology (specifically arms), technonationalism and fukoku kyohei. Thus, the mimicking of the West in the (much later) invasion of Asia.

- 2) I believe Samuels is arguing the basis of fear of the West's militaristic and imperialistic might for Japan's emphasis on technology and technonationalism. Japan sees what's going on around her (with the Opium War, the colonization of Asia, etc), realizes that, unless she can be as independent and strong as the countries of the West, she will be next. To promote independence, Japan relies on the concept of fukoku kyohei. By working on economic and technological

strength, Japan will have the technology to stand as an independent, westernized nation and will have the money to sustain its independence.

- 3) Three-note chord deals with “the pursuit of technological autonomy, diffusion, and the nurturance of Japanese industry” (pg. 54). These three all are key to Japan’s need for reassurance in the world. The basis of the article is the insecurity Japan had felt after numerous encounters with Western nations. With technological autonomy, Japan would gain independence. She would be able to counter foreign threats and keep her independence. Diffusion comes from the desire to take the West’s strength (technology) for one’s own and improve upon it. Lastly, the nurturance of Japanese industry ties the first two concepts together. Nurturance allows Japan to use the skills from the pursuit of technological autonomy and diffusion and make something of them.

- 4) Technonationalism—I see this as the entire concept of making a country’s technology stronger by, not only integrating and adapting superior foreign technologies but encouraging domestic use of these technologies. Although this method promotes independence and stimulates the economy, its drawback is the inferiority of products.

Fukoku kyohei—literally “rich nation, strong army,” this concept emphasizes the advanced technology to help national security (or at least the appearance of national security), with an equal emphasis on economic growth to maintain the status and independence of a strong nation.

Shokusan kogyo—literally “production promotion,” this concept concentrates on the stimulation of the economy by increasing Japanese industry. To increase

Japanese industry, purchases of imports were discouraged and purchase of products made in Japan greatly encouraged.

Kokusanka—encouragement of purchase of national products. For the Japanese government, this campaign included everything from songs to poems connecting a healthy, modern nation with supporting national goods over foreign goods. As far as Samuels states, the strategy large succeeded. The Japanese economy and sense of self-sufficiency certainly benefited.