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Message From The Chairs

Honourable Delegates,
It is our immense pleasure to welcome you to Sūmitsu-in, The Privy Council of Japan. As advisers to the noble Emperor, it is entirely upon you to make sure we lead our Empire to victory and ensure post-war prosperity.

As members of this council, each of you can exercise a significant degree of power— as Military Generals you have the authority to strategically deploy your men and as Navy Admirals the Imperial Japanese Navy with its superior vessels rests at your disposal, awaiting coordinated attacks on the wretched enemy. Ministers and Statesmen on the other hand, possess the unique ability to take decisive governmental action and use their expertise to make crucial suggestions. In this council, we also host the ambassadors and chief military personnel of our economically prosperous allies in the hopes of receiving their assistance when need be. Council members, the fate of Japan lies in your hands, ensure that we emerge victorious from the prodigious war ahead.

Each of you must possess a comprehensive understanding of our military and socio-economic position, in order to read between the lines and predict, to the best of your abilities, the Russians’ next move. Even with opposing views, you must not neglect the common goal we have as members of the Privy Council. To beat the Russian superpower, diplomacy and persuasion is vital in order to arrive at a consensus, be it regarding military action or plans for rebuilding. Time may not be on our side, but with quick responses to upcoming crises the possibilities are endless.

To make the cause successful is in your hands, and we hope you conquer every challenge with grace and cooperation. All the best! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Raj Yadav and Senchen Hang Subba,
Co-Chairs,
Sūmitsu-in, The Privy Council of Japan
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Prelude to war

Meiji Restoration
The Meiji Era began on October 23, 1868, after the Tokugawa Shogunate was overthrown by the secret alliance between Satsuma and Chōshū. With the modernization of the country being led by the government through the construction of railways, shipping lines, telegraph and telephone systems, the Meiji Restoration significantly improved Japan’s socio-economic and military status. These modern industries included three shipyards, ten mines, five munitions works, and fifty-three consumer industries (i.e. sugar, glass, textiles, cement, chemicals, and other important products). The heavy burden of operating dozens of diverse businesses then led to the privatization of several of these industries in 1880. This was the first large scale act of privatization of state businesses and it greatly encouraged its trade and commerce. The Samurai and Merchants who took part in said industries established major corporate conglomerates (Zaibatsu) which controlled much of Japan’s modern industrial sector. Japanese reforms under the Meiji government also gave significant priority to the creation of an effective modern national army and navy, especially naval construction. They also sent numerous military officials abroad for training and evaluation of the relative strengths and tactics of Western armies and navies.

The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95
In their competing conquests of Korea, the Japanese and Chinese governments clashed in the first Sino-Japanese War. Japan in the Meiji-era could not allow a neighbouring country (Korea) to be under Chinese influence. With a large population, a strong naval force and well-equipped military personnel, China was considered the greatest power in Asia. The Japanese, however, were able to make use of their modernized equipment and sharp tactics, ultimately defeating the Chinese even though they were outnumbered. With Japan’s newfound dominance, Japan’s sphere of influence widened. The war also caused a reorientation of Russian foreign policy, now inclined towards Asia over Europe. After the Sino-Japanese War, Russia saw Japan as a potential threat for their weakly guarded regions in Siberia.
Trans-Siberian Railway
The Trans-Siberian Railway was a project of Sergei Witte, a powerful minister in the Russian government. Witte believed that political power came from economic strength, and saw Siberia as a vulnerable region. He then planned for a railway to allow Russia to have direct contact with Siberia, harvest its natural resources, and expand trade with East Asia. From the Japanese point of view, the railway had severe implications in terms of national security as it would allow Russia to transport personnel to their eastern front with ease. In 1896 Witte would negotiate with the Chinese government and propose to expand the railroad into North Manchuria. The proposed expansion, the Chinese Eastern Railway, would shorten the length of the Trans-Siberian Railway by 800 miles. It would also make it easier for Russia to trade in Manchuria. With both nations’ desires to have control over the region, tensions were high. And so, in the year 1900, Russia sent 170,000 troops into Manchuria and occupied the entire province.
Japan during the Russo-Japanese War

International Relations
After the Boxer Rebellion and the chaos that followed, the Japanese military took advantage of the instability and incorporated a large number of liberated foreign nationals from China into its allied forces. Furthermore, recognizing the lack of European forces and allies, the Japanese government initiated talks with the British Empire that led to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. According to the terms they set, each signatory was to come to the aid of the other in the event of an attack by two or more powers, but remain neutral if the other was at war with a single power. Even before the war, British and Japanese intelligence had cooperated against Russia. They were able to gather evidence suggesting German support for Russia in an attempt to disrupt the balance of power in Europe. The British Indian Army, stationed in China and Malaysia, were also involved in intercepting and reading wireless and telegraph messages relating to the war.

Economy
In comparison to the first Sino-Japanese War, more than five times as many soldiers were sent to the Russo-Japanese War, and six times as many died. The large number of men recruited in 1904-05, as well as farm horses and cattle requisitioned, had a marked effect on agricultural and industrial production: a factor that had not been present in 1894.
A significant proportion of the war funds were raised through loans from Britain and the United States. Domestic taxes, too, were heavily increased. The considerable increases in existing land, business and consumption taxes, along with the imposition of new taxes, had particularly severe effects on the lower classes.

During the Japanese-Russo war, Japan relied heavily on traditional agriculture to finance modern industrial infrastructure. 65% of the total employment and 38% of the gross domestic product was still based on agriculture when the modern industry began to expand substantially during wartime.

Japan was also heavily invested and focused on naval development, constructing the fourth-strongest fleet in the world. Thus, Japan was able to transport forces to the Asian mainland with more ease than any other contemporary power.

**Transportation**
The main mode of transport for Japan during wartime was the navy. In fact, the Anglo-Japanese treaty even supplemented them with three battleships and five armored cruisers.

**Society**
To strengthen its hand on the battlefield and in negotiations (both for peace and access to foreign loans) it was important for Japan to create the image of a society where every man, woman and child were imbued with the values of a warrior, ever-ready to fight. These Japanese ideas of popular militarism were to rebound against themselves in the Pacific War and continue to cloud assumptions about Japanese society.
The school system was seen as the cradle of civic values. Wartime stories of heroism and tragedy fostered values of patriotism, sacrifice and service. From 1904-05, school children were exposed to certain aspects of the war, be it attendance at a local railway station to greet passing troops, collection of biographical information on local men at the front, charting of the passage of the war in classroom maps, participation in victory celebrations, or commemoration of the war through the plantation of memorial trees on the school premises.
Cabinet Members

1. Dewa Shigeto (Rear-Admiral): Baron Dewa Shigeto served as a staff officer of the western fleet in the Sino-Japanese War and was promoted to Rear-Admiral on 20 May 1900.

2. Inukai Tsuyoshi (Member of the House of Representatives): Inukai Tsuyoshi was a Japanese politician and cabinet minister. He formed the Rikken Kaishinto party in 1882 under the leadership of Okuma Shigenobu.

3. Ito Hirobumi: He was a Japanese politician who became the first Prime Minister of Japan. He was responsible for negotiations after the Sino-Japanese War and strengthening of diplomatic relations with western powers.

4. Itō Miyoji (Statesman): Itō Miyoji was a statesman in Meiji era Japan. He was an advisor to the leading oligarch Itō Hirobumi. As cabinet secretary 1892-98, he was a powerbroker between the oligarchy and the political powers.

5. Itō Sukeyuki (Imperial Japanese Navy General Staff): Itō Sukeyuki was a Japanese career officer and admiral in the Imperial Japanese Navy in Meiji-period Japan. Itō Sukeyuki had been involved in naval warfare since before the overthrowing of the Shogun, his success took him to the top of the ranks when he served as Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Japanese Fleet during the Sino-Japanese War.


7. Katsura Taro (Prime-Minister): Katsura Taro was a General who rose to prominence in the First Sino-Japanese War and was a Genrō of the Meiji government. Educated in German military strategy, he heavily influenced Japan's government during wartime.

8. Komura Jutaro (Minister of Foreign Affairs): A graduate of Harvard Law School, Jutaro served as a member of the Supreme Court before his involvement with Beijing, where he initiated plans that would lead to the first Sino-Japanese War. In 1902, Komura helped to conclude the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.
9. Kuroki Tamemoto (General): Promoted to the rank of General in November 1903, Kuroki was appointed Commander of the Japanese First Army upon the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War the following year.


11. Nozu Michitsura (Inspector General of Military Training): Having been awarded the title of Count by the Emperor after decades of military service, Nozu Michitsura (a military counselor), served in many commanding and managerial positions in the Imperial Japanese Army after the Sino-Japanese War.

12. Oku Yasukata (General): After the Emperor had been reinstated, Oku Yasukata was given the rank of Commander in the Imperial Japanese Army, and rose to the rank of General after the Sino-Japanese War. Oku refused to attend strategy and staff meetings, and thereby gained a reputation for being a brilliant tactician capable of independent action.

13. Oyama Iwao (Field Marshal): During the Russo-Japanese War he served as General-Commander of the Manchuria Army. Oyama Iwao served as a Commander for Imperial armies in battles starting in the Boshin War, and had a direct hand in establishing the Imperial Japanese Army. Trained in western tactics by the French, Oyama was selected as Commander of the Second Army in the Sino-Japanese War, and his effort earned him the position of Field Marshal.

14. Saionji Kinmochi (President of the Privy Council, Statesman): Saionji Kinmochi was a Japanese politician, statesman and twice the Prime Minister of Japan. He was elevated from Marquis to Prince in 1920. For much of his career, Saionji tried to diminish the influence of the Imperial Japanese Army in political issues. He was one of the most liberal advisors to the Emperor and favoured friendly relations with Great Britain and the United States.

15. Shinichiro Kurino (Japanese Diplomat): Kurino advised the government on international relations and strategies to increase Japan's influence to Manchuria and Korea during the Meiji era.
16. Sone Arasuke (Minister of Finance): He was a Japanese politician, diplomat and cabinet minister. Influenced by the Pre-Imperial government and a French education, Arasuke served a wide array of positions in the Japanese government and was appointed Minister of Finance during the Russo-Japanese War.

17. Takahira Kogorō (Ambassador to the United States): Takahira Kogorō was a Japanese diplomat and ambassador to the United States starting from 1900.

18. Tōgō Heihachirō (Vice-Admiral): Tōgō Heihachirō had amassed significant knowledge of modern military operations by serving in the British Navy. Upon returning to Japan, Heihachirō participated in both the Franco-Chinese and Sino-Japanese War.

19. Tokudaiji Sanetsune (Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal of Japan, Counselor): Duke Sanetsune Tokudaiji was a Japanese statesman and Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal of Japan in the Meiji period. His father was Tokudaiji Ki'n’ito and his brother was Saionji Kinmochi, later Prime Minister of Japan. He served as an adviser to the Emperor as well as an established governmental figure.

20. William Nicholson (Chief Military Attaché of the British Indian Army): Nicholson was made a Knight of Grace of the Venerable Order of Saint John on March 5 1903 and made Chief Military Attaché to the Imperial Japanese Army in Manchuria in 1904 during the Russo-Japanese War. He was responsible for advising the Japanese on modern western military doctrine.

21. Yamagata Aritomo (General): Yamagata Aritomo, was a senior-ranking Japanese military Commander, twice-elected Prime Minister of Japan, and a leading member of the Genrō, an elite group of senior statesmen, who dominated Japan after the Meiji Restoration.

22. Yoshikawa Akimasa (Cabinet Minister): He was a Japanese bureaucrat, statesman and cabinet minister, active in Meiji-period. Having been a major member of the Meiji government since 1872, Yoshikawa Akimasa accepted the position of Home Minister after his predecessor, Katsura Taro, fell ill in December of 1903.
Strategy of Operation: Army and Navy

Goals of the Army

1. The Japanese First Army was to land at Inchon, on the Korean Peninsula, and then proceed to Manchuria.
2. The Second Army was to land on the southern coast of the Liaotung Peninsula and likewise move toward Manchuria, coordinating with the advance of the First Army.
3. The Third Army was to land on and secure the Liaotung Peninsula, then capture Port Arthur.
4. The Fourth Army was to land on the northeastern coast of Po Hai Bay and proceed to Liaoyang, coordinating with the Second Army.

The General Staff of the Army in Tokyo estimated that large-scale winter operations would be difficult due to severe weather conditions. All the armies were to temporarily camp for the winter of 1904–1905, north of Liaoyang.

Goals of the Imperial Navy

1. The first mission was to destroy the Russian Pacific Fleet and secure the seas around Japan. The main Russian naval force was the East Asian Squadron, at Port Arthur; a second force was at Vladivostok.
2. The second mission was to support the landings of Army forces on the Korean and Liaotung Peninsulas. The Navy organized the Combined Fleet to bring this plan to fruition. The Combined Fleet comprised of the First Fleet (six battleships and a cruiser force) and the Second Fleet (six armoured cruisers plus other escorting cruisers).
Committee Procedure

1. **Freeze date (February 9th 1904)**
   The sequence of events before the freeze date are considered as they took place in actuality. The committee begins its first session on the freeze date, all subsequent events are determined by the actions of the delegates and discretion of the dais members.

2. **What will happen in the committee?**
   - Delegates will be presented with various challenges related to governing a state during a period of war. The updates will not be limited to the war front and will include economic and societal issues.
   - Delegates may not present/consider information after the freeze date.

3. **Implications of portfolio allocation**
   - Delegates must write communiques for actions that fall within their jurisdiction. (The Minister of Finance cannot write a communique ordering the navy to adopt a certain course of action)
   - That being said, delegates are not limited to participating in discussion of topics that fall within their jurisdiction. (The Minister of Finance can provide suggestions regarding the war and a General can provide suggestions regarding economic policy)
   - While superiors are able to exercise a great degree of power over their subordinates, the subordinates need not agree to their opinion on every matter. (Vice-Admirals may provide opposing views to that of an Admiral)
Closing Remarks

While this is the end of the study guide, it should only be the beginning of your research. We have linked an extensive map down below that covers every battle and provides an all-encompassing understanding of the war. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the dais members; we are here to facilitate an enriching MUN experience and we expect only your best efforts in return. We hope you are able to utilize your research and make wise, committee altering decisions. We expect each and everyone to come prepared and work for this to be the best committee you have been a part of. Good luck!
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