

matthew perry apush

matthew perry apush is a topic that frequently arises in the context of Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) studies, given Perry's significant role in 19th-century American history. Matthew Perry, a U.S. naval officer, is best known for his expedition to Japan in the 1850s, which opened the country to Western trade and influence after centuries of isolation. His actions had far-reaching consequences in both American foreign policy and the broader narrative of U.S. expansionism. This article explores the historical background of Matthew Perry, the details and impact of his expedition, and his lasting significance within APUSH curricula. By understanding Perry's role, students can better grasp themes of imperialism, diplomacy, and the transformation of U.S. global presence during the mid-1800s. The discussion also offers insight into how Matthew Perry's legacy is treated in APUSH lessons and exam preparations.

- Historical Background of Matthew Perry
- The Expedition to Japan
- Impact on U.S. Foreign Policy
- Matthew Perry's Legacy in APUSH Curriculum
- Key Themes and Connections for APUSH Students

Historical Background of Matthew Perry

Matthew Perry was born in 1794 into a naval family, which influenced his early career in the United States Navy. His service spanned several decades, during which he gained recognition for his leadership and expertise in steam-powered naval vessels. Perry's career coincided with a period of American expansionism and increasing interest in global trade routes. By the early 19th century, the U.S. Navy was transitioning from sail to steam power, and Perry emerged as a key figure in this technological and strategic shift. His background and experience positioned him to lead one of the most significant diplomatic missions in American history: the opening of Japan.

Early Naval Career and Achievements

Perry joined the Navy as a midshipman in 1809 and participated in the War of 1812, gaining valuable combat experience. Over the ensuing decades, he contributed to naval modernization by advocating for steam-powered ships. His command of the steam frigate USS Mississippi demonstrated his commitment to advancing naval technology. Perry's reputation as a capable and innovative officer made him an ideal choice to lead the mission to Japan, a country that had long restricted foreign contact.

Context of American Expansionism

During Perry's career, the United States was expanding territorially and seeking new markets for its goods. The concept of Manifest Destiny encouraged American expansion across the continent and beyond. The Pacific Ocean became a focal point for trade ambitions, and Japan's strategic location attracted U.S. interest. American policymakers sought to establish coaling stations and secure trade agreements in Asia, making Perry's expedition a critical step in expanding U.S. influence in the Pacific region.

The Expedition to Japan

Matthew Perry's expedition to Japan in 1853-1854 is one of the most studied events in APUSH due to its diplomatic and cultural significance. The mission aimed to end Japan's isolationist policy, known as Sakoku, which had lasted for over two centuries. Perry arrived with a fleet of modern warships, using a show of naval strength combined with diplomatic overtures to persuade Japanese officials to open their ports to American trade. This expedition resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Kanagawa, which marked the beginning of Japan's opening to the West.

Arrival in Edo Bay and Initial Negotiations

In July 1853, Perry's squadron entered Edo Bay (now Tokyo Bay), an unprecedented move that surprised the Japanese government. Perry presented a letter from President Millard Fillmore, requesting the establishment of diplomatic relations and safe harbor for American ships. Perry's approach combined firmness with a willingness to negotiate, using the presence of his "Black Ships" as leverage. The Japanese government, wary but recognizing the imbalance of power, agreed to consider the demands, leading to a temporary withdrawal of Perry's fleet to allow for deliberations.

Treaty of Kanagawa

Returning in February 1854 with an even larger fleet, Perry successfully negotiated the Treaty of Kanagawa. This treaty granted the United States several privileges, including opening two Japanese ports—Shimoda and Hakodate—to American vessels for supplies and refueling. It also ensured humane treatment for shipwrecked sailors and established a U.S. consulate in Japan. The treaty effectively ended Japan's isolation, setting the stage for rapid modernization and increased international engagement by the Japanese government.

Impact on U.S. Foreign Policy

The success of Matthew Perry's expedition had profound implications for American foreign policy and the country's role on the world stage. It marked a shift from continental expansion to overseas influence, highlighting the United States' growing interest in international diplomacy and trade. Perry's mission is often viewed as an early example of American imperialism and the use of naval power to achieve diplomatic goals. The opening

of Japan also altered the balance of power in East Asia, contributing to future geopolitical developments.

Expansion of American Influence in Asia

By securing access to Japanese ports, the United States gained a foothold in the Pacific, facilitating trade with Asia and enhancing naval capabilities in the region. This move anticipated later American actions, such as the annexation of Hawaii and involvement in the Philippines. Perry's expedition demonstrated the importance of naval strength and diplomacy in expanding U.S. interests abroad, influencing subsequent foreign policy decisions.

Precedent for Gunboat Diplomacy

Perry's use of naval power to coerce Japan into opening its doors exemplified "gunboat diplomacy," where military force or threat thereof underpinned diplomatic negotiations. This approach became a model for future U.S. interactions with less industrialized nations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The expedition underscored the connection between military strength and diplomatic success in an era of imperial competition among Western powers.

Matthew Perry's Legacy in APUSH Curriculum

Within the APUSH framework, Matthew Perry's expedition is a critical topic for understanding mid-19th century American history, foreign relations, and the broader themes of expansionism and modernization. The event is typically covered in units dealing with Manifest Destiny, American diplomacy, and the lead-up to U.S. involvement in global affairs. Perry's mission is used to illustrate the complexities of U.S. interactions with non-Western countries and the impact of technological advancements on international relations.

Inclusion in APUSH Exam and Coursework

APUSH students encounter Matthew Perry's expedition primarily in the context of U.S. foreign policy developments during the antebellum period. Exam questions may focus on the causes and consequences of the Treaty of Kanagawa, the significance of opening Japan, and the role of naval power in American diplomacy. Understanding Perry's expedition helps students analyze broader patterns of American expansion and engagement with the world.

Connections to Broader APUSH Themes

Perry's role connects to several key APUSH themes, including:

- **Expansion and Imperialism:** Demonstrating early American efforts to extend influence beyond continental borders.

- **Technology and Innovation:** Highlighting the impact of steam-powered naval vessels on diplomacy.
- **Diplomacy and Foreign Relations:** Illustrating shifts in U.S. policy toward Asia and global engagement.
- **Cultural Interactions:** Examining the clash and eventual blending of Western and Japanese societies.

Key Themes and Connections for APUSH Students

For APUSH students, the study of Matthew Perry encompasses multiple historical themes and skills. It offers a case study in how diplomacy, military technology, and economic interests intersect to shape U.S. history. Recognizing the importance of Perry's expedition aids students in understanding the United States' transition from a relatively isolated nation to an active participant in international affairs. Additionally, it provides context for later developments in U.S.-Asia relations and the broader narrative of American imperialism.

Skills Development Through Perry's Expedition

Analyzing Matthew Perry's mission helps students develop critical thinking and historical analysis skills, such as:

1. Evaluating primary source documents, including treaty texts and presidential correspondence.
2. Understanding cause and effect relationships in historical events.
3. Comparing different perspectives on U.S. expansionism and diplomacy.
4. Connecting technological advancements to political and economic outcomes.

Broader Historical Significance

The opening of Japan by Matthew Perry is a pivotal moment not only in American history but also in global history. It accelerated Japan's modernization and integration into global trade networks, which in turn influenced the balance of power in East Asia. For the United States, it marked the beginning of a more assertive foreign policy that would continue into the 20th century. Understanding this event provides students with valuable insight into the origins of modern international relations and the role of the United States within them.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Matthew Perry in the context of APUSH?

Matthew Perry was a U.S. naval officer known for his expedition to Japan in 1853-1854, which led to the opening of Japan to the West after over two centuries of isolation.

What was the significance of Matthew Perry's expedition to Japan?

Matthew Perry's expedition forced Japan to open its ports to American trade through the Treaty of Kanagawa, marking the end of Japan's isolationist policy and beginning its modernization.

In which APUSH era does Matthew Perry's expedition fall?

Matthew Perry's expedition falls within the Antebellum period, specifically during the 1850s when the U.S. was expanding its influence abroad.

How did Matthew Perry's actions impact U.S. foreign policy?

Perry's successful opening of Japan reflected the U.S. policy of expanding trade and influence in the Pacific, showcasing the nation's growing naval power and imperial ambitions.

What was the Treaty of Kanagawa and how is it related to Matthew Perry?

The Treaty of Kanagawa was the agreement between the U.S. and Japan in 1854 that opened Japanese ports to American ships, a direct result of Matthew Perry's naval expedition.

How is Matthew Perry's expedition taught in APUSH regarding American imperialism?

In APUSH, Perry's expedition is often cited as an early example of American imperialism, demonstrating the U.S.'s desire to expand its economic and strategic influence in Asia.

What were the long-term effects of Matthew Perry's expedition on Japan?

Perry's expedition ended Japan's isolation, leading to the Meiji Restoration, rapid modernization, and Japan becoming a major world power.

How did Matthew Perry's expedition influence U.S.-Asian relations?

Perry's expedition initiated formal diplomatic and trade relations between the U.S. and Japan, setting a precedent for future American engagement in Asia.

What role did technology and naval power play in Matthew Perry's success?

Perry used advanced steam-powered warships and demonstrated superior naval technology, which intimidated Japan and convinced its leaders to negotiate.

Are there any controversies associated with Matthew Perry's expedition in APUSH discussions?

Some discussions critique Perry's expedition as an act of gunboat diplomacy and imperialism that imposed Western will on a sovereign nation, raising questions about American foreign policy ethics.

Additional Resources

1. Matthew Perry and the Opening of Japan: A Diplomatic History

This book explores Commodore Matthew Perry's pivotal role in ending Japan's period of isolation in the mid-19th century. It examines the diplomatic strategies Perry employed to negotiate the Treaty of Kanagawa and the broader implications for U.S.-Japan relations. The narrative highlights the cultural and political challenges faced by both nations during this transformative encounter.

2. APUSH Prep: The Age of Imperialism and Matthew Perry's Expedition

Designed for AP U.S. History students, this book provides an in-depth overview of the Age of Imperialism with a special focus on Matthew Perry's expedition to Japan. It includes primary source excerpts, timelines, and analysis to help students understand the significance of Perry's mission within broader American foreign policy trends.

3. Opening the Door: Matthew Perry's Mission to Japan and American Expansion

This title delves into the historical context of Perry's 1853-1854 expedition, illustrating how it marked the beginning of American expansion into the Pacific. The book discusses the geopolitical motivations behind the mission and its lasting effects on international trade and diplomacy.

4. Matthew Perry: Naval Officer and Pioneer of U.S. Foreign Policy

Focusing on Perry's naval career, this biography highlights his innovative strategies and leadership in both military and diplomatic arenas. It provides insight into how his actions shaped U.S. foreign policy and contributed to America's emergence as a global power.

5. Japan and the West: Matthew Perry's Impact on East-West Relations

This book analyzes the cultural and political ramifications of Perry's arrival in Japan, emphasizing the clash and eventual blending of Eastern and Western ideologies. It also

explores how this encounter set the stage for Japan's modernization and Westernization efforts.

6. APUSH Review: Key Figures in American Diplomacy – Matthew Perry

A concise review guide for AP U.S. History students, this book focuses on key American diplomats, including Matthew Perry. It covers their major achievements, historical significance, and the outcomes of their missions, with practice questions to reinforce understanding.

7. The Black Ships: Matthew Perry's Campaign to Open Japan

Named after the American steamships Perry commanded, this book offers a detailed narrative of the expedition itself. It includes vivid descriptions of the journey, negotiations, and the reactions of Japanese officials and citizens to the unexpected arrival of Western technology and power.

8. From Isolation to Integration: Matthew Perry and the Transformation of Japan

This work examines Japan's transition from centuries of isolation to active participation in global affairs, focusing on Perry's role as a catalyst. It discusses the broader social, economic, and political changes that followed the opening of Japanese ports to foreign trade.

9. U.S. Naval History: The Legacy of Commodore Matthew Perry

This book situates Perry within the broader history of the U.S. Navy, highlighting his contributions to naval innovation and strategy. It emphasizes how his expedition to Japan signaled a new era of American naval presence in the Pacific and influenced future military and diplomatic missions.

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