

CHAPTER 6

ECONOMIC HISTORY, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE RELATIONS OF JAPAN

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1. INTRODUCTION

The History was started in in Mid-19th Century, when Japan ended its Seclusionism. In this context, Seclusionism refers integration and cross cultural interactions among community. Japanese government began to develop a plan in order to get rid of this situation. The diplomatic relationship has been started among the western countries and Japan in 1854 within this scope. Meiji created a new non feudal government in 1867. After this period of time, Japan has started to import major technology, hired engineers from abroad, educated their own people and supported their own businessman in order to obtain foreign technologies and apply them into Japanese factories (Odagiri, Odagiri and Gotō, 1996).

First contact was started among European countries and Japan in 16th centuries. Japan has several crucial resources including precious metals copper and silver. Thus, they became exporter of mining items. Japan's form of government was based on sophisticated feudal structure. First commercial activities started between Japan and Portugal through cargo shipment of both silk and porcelain which consists of the mostly Chinese goods (Odagiri, Odagiri and Gotō, 1996).

Besides, the government was tried to track the European military capacity, hence, technological development was advanced as far as possible. Their technological development was gained speed due to latecomer advantages through implementing appropriate government policies. Furthermore, government also generated a list of intellectuals and imported scholars. Scientific knowledge was also imported from both western countries and China (in the early stages of industrialization). The cost of technology and knowledge import is so low that ensure big advantage to Japan. They also created great industrial infrastructure, encouraged the investments and established the education system (Hobday and Singh, 1997).

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7. References and Notes

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