

# Being a Strategic Reader

## Strategies for Reading Your History Book

### Understanding the Big Picture

History is filled with people, events, facts, and details. Sometimes you can get lost in all the details. This is why the most important strategy to remember as you read a history textbook is to form the “big picture” of history. As you read, keep asking yourself, “What is the main idea?” When you do this, the details will make more sense.

Use the strategies shown here to help you read *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction*.

**Strategy:** Look for key terms and names, which are in dark type in the section. The text gives clues to the important terms and names in the section.

**Try This:** Read the terms. Then look at pages 108 and 109. Which of the terms appears on these pages? How did you recognize it?

**Strategy:** Read “Main Idea” and “Why It Matters Now” to begin forming the “big picture” of the section.  
**Try This:** What do you think will be the subject of this section?

**Strategy:** Look at the heads and subheads in each section to get a general understanding of the subject..  
**Try This:** Preview the head and subheads on pages 108 and 109. What do you expect to learn in this section?

**Strategy:** Look closely at the graphic organizers, art, and other illustrations in the text. Be sure to read the captions.  
**Try This:** Look at the chart under “Taking Notes.” What will you compare in the chart?

**3**

## Japan Returns to Isolation

| MAIN IDEA   | WHY IT MATTERS NOW   | TERMS & NAMES   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>ECONOMICS</b> The Tokugawa regime unified Japan and began 250 years of isolation, autocracy, and economic growth.</p> | <p>Even now, Japan continues to limit and control dealings with foreigners, especially in the area of trade.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• daimyo</li> <li>• Oda Nobunaga</li> <li>• Toyotomi Hideyoshi</li> <li>• Tokugawa Shogunate</li> <li>• haiku</li> <li>• kabuki</li> </ul> |

**SETTING THE STAGE** In the 1300s, the unity that had been achieved in Japan in the previous century broke down. Shoguns, or military leaders, in the north and south fiercely fought one another for power. Although these two rival courts later came back together at the end of the century, a series of politically weak shoguns let control of the country slip from their grasp. The whole land was torn by factional strife and economic unrest. It would be centuries before Japan would again be unified.

**TAKING NOTES**  
Comparing Use a chart to compare the achievements of the daimyos who unified Japan.

| Daimyo | Achievements |
|--------|--------------|
|        |              |

**A New Feudalism Under Strong Leaders**  
In 1467, civil war shattered Japan's old feudal system. The country collapsed into chaos. Centralized rule ended. Power drained away from the shogun to territorial lords in hundreds of separate domains.

**Local Lords Rule** A violent era of disorder followed. This time in Japanese history, which lasted from 1467 to 1568, is known as the Sengoku, or “Warring States,” period. Powerful samurai seized control of old feudal estates. They offered peasants and others protection in return for their loyalty. These warrior-chieftains, called **daimyo** (DYE•mee•oh), became lords in a new kind of Japanese feudalism. Daimyo meant “great name.” Under this system, security came from this group of powerful warlords. The emperor at Kyoto became a figurehead, having a leadership title but no actual power.

The new Japanese feudalism resembled European feudalism in many ways. The daimyo built fortified castles and created small armies of samurai on horses. Later they added foot soldiers with muskets (guns) to their ranks. Rival daimyo often fought each other for territory. This led to disorder throughout the land.

**New Leaders Restore Order** A number of ambitious daimyo hoped to gather enough power to take control of the entire country. One, the brutal and ambitious **Oda Nobunaga** (oh•dah noh•boo•nah•gah), defeated his rivals and seized the imperial capital Kyoto in 1568.

Following his own motto “Rule the empire by force,” Nobunaga sought to eliminate his remaining enemies. These included rival daimyo as well as wealthy Buddhist monasteries aligned with them. In 1575, Nobunaga's 3,000 soldiers armed with muskets crushed an enemy force of samurai cavalry. This was the first time firearms had been used effectively in battle in Japan. However,

A samurai warrior ▼

108 Chapter 3

**Japan in the 17th Century**

- Land controlled by Tokugawa or related households
- Five highways
- Daimyo boundary

▲ Himeji Castle, completed in the 17th century, is near Kyoto.

**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

- Place** Why might Edo have been a better site for a capital in the 17th century than Kyoto?
- Region** About what percentage of Japan was controlled by Tokugawa or related households when Tokugawa Ieyasu took power in the early 1600s?

Nobunaga was not able to unify Japan. He committed *seppuku*, the ritual suicide of a samurai, in 1582, when one of his own generals turned on him.

Nobunaga's best general, **Toyotomi Hideyoshi** (toh-you-toh-mee hee-dch-yoh-shee), continued his fallen leader's mission. Hideyoshi set out to destroy the daimyo that remained hostile. By 1590, by combining brute force with shrewd political alliances, he controlled most of the country. Hideyoshi did not stop with Japan. With the idea of eventually conquering China, he invaded Korea in 1592 and began a long campaign against the Koreans and their Ming Chinese allies. When Hideyoshi died in 1598, his troops withdrew from Korea.

**Tokugawa Shogunate Unites Japan** One of Hideyoshi's strongest daimyo allies, Tokugawa Ieyasu (toh-koo-gah-wah ee-yeh-yah-soo), completed the unification of Japan. In 1600, Ieyasu defeated his rivals at the Battle of Sekigahara. His victory earned him the loyalty of daimyo throughout Japan. Three years later, Ieyasu became the sole ruler, or shogun. He then moved Japan's capital to his power base at Edo, a small fishing village that would later become the city of Tokyo.

Japan was unified, but the daimyo still governed at the local level. To keep them from rebelling, Ieyasu required that they spend every other year in the capital. Even when they returned to their lands, they had to leave their families behind as hostages in Edo. Through this "alternate attendance policy" and other restrictions, Ieyasu tamed the daimyo. This was a major step toward restoring centralized government to Japan. As a result, the rule of law overcame the rule of the sword.

**MAIN IDEA**  
**Drawing Conclusions**  
 How would the "alternate attendance policy" restrict the daimyo?

*An Age of Explorations and Isolation* 109

**Strategy:** Preview the maps in each section. Think about how geography affected historical events.  
**Try This:** Look closely at the map. What does the map show?

**Strategy:** Look at charts and graphs that present ideas in visual ways.  
**Try This:** Study the chart below. What does the chart show?

**Strategy:** Use the Main Idea questions to check your understanding as you read.  
**Try This:** Read Question A. How would the details in the text help you answer the question?

### Countries Aided by the Marshall Plan, 1948–1951

| Country       | Millions of Dollars |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Great Britain | 2,826               |
| France        | 2,445               |
| Italy         | 1,316               |
| West Germany  | 1,297               |
| Holland       | 877                 |
| Austria       | 561                 |
| Belgium/Lux.  | 547                 |
| Greece        | 515                 |
| Denmark       | 257                 |
| Norway        | 237                 |
| Turkey        | 153                 |
| Ireland       | 146                 |
| Sweden        | 119                 |
| Portugal      | 51                  |
| Yugoslavia    | 33                  |
| Iceland       | 29                  |
| Other         | 350                 |

*Source: Problèmes Économiques No. 306*

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts**

- Drawing Conclusions** Which country received the most aid from the United States?
- Making Inferences** Why do you think Great Britain and France received so much aid?