

MEIJI RESTORATION IN JAPAN

Summary

This paper brings a short historical review of the Shogunate with the aim of explaining the causes of its demise. Meiji restoration is one of the most important events in the Japanese history, where the transition from one ruling system to another can be observed. This paper explains how low ranking samurai, dissatisfied with their position, and marginalized *tozama daimyos*, under leadership of domains Satsuma and Choshu, had organized coup d'état in 1868 and had started Boshin war against remaining domains who were faithful to Shogun. It is important to mention Western powers, which assisted in accelerating the events that were to come and which were responsible for the development of a paranoid, nationalist ideology. The consequences of Meiji restoration and government's successful struggles to modernize Japan in short period of time are also mentioned in the paper.

Keywords: Shogunate; Western powers; opening, Emperor's restoration; coup d'état; modernization; 19th century