

Historical Crisis Committee



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Crisis: Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905

Introduction: Welcome delegates to the THAIMUN IX Historical Crisis Committee!

The main objective of the Historical Crisis Committee is to, as an individual and as a committee, react to an ongoing series of events that will change based on the passage of time as well as your own decisions and actions. How you react will determine the events which follow. As delegates, you will be representing the key people related to the crisis; the power and authority you wield will reflect those of these people.

During the conference, we will explore the Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905). Research is important to correctly portray your character effectively and efficiently.

Summary:

The Russo-Japanese War lasted one year from February 8, 1904, to September 5, 1905.

It began when the Japanese navy fleet, led by Tōgō Heihachirō attacked the Russian squadron at Port Arthur. Viceroy and first commander in chief of Russia, Yevgeny Alekseyev, commanded the Russian fleet to not risk proceeding to sea. Admiral Stepan Makarov assumed control and harassed the Japanese fleet.

Due to Makarov's death, the Japanese fleet kept the enemy divided and confined to Port Arthur. While doing so, under the command of General Tamemoto Kuroki, they transported Japanese soldiers to the Yalu River.

The Japanese attacked on May 1 and defeated the Russian in a significant victory, thus becoming Japan's first victorious engagement against a Western country. Because of this, Tsar Nicholas II sent Aleksey Kuropatkin to command the Russian army. However, it proved a disaster as he avoided action when he had fewer troops than the Japanese Army.

More Japanese armies began to arrive, including General Nogi Maresuke who was to operate against Port Arthur. Kuropatkin was unable to hold Port Arthur and Japanese forces advanced into Liaoyang, where he remained on the defensive. Yet his efforts were to no peril, and the Japanese won with around 50,000 fewer troops.

However, the Japanese were low on resources and Kuropatkin took the offense, but both battles were a failure on both sides.

At Port Arthur, the Russians had fortified it with barbed wire and machine guns. Both the Russians and Japanese battled back and forth, but

Lieutenant General Anatoly Stessel send out a white flag and surrendered Port Arthur.

In Mukden, Kuropatkin faced Iwao Oyama and both suffered major casualties. Kuropatkin then surrendered to the north leaving Mukden to the Japanese.

The Japanese campaign of the sea would be challenged with the command of Admiral Zinovij Petrovič Rožestvenskij. Rožestvenskij traveled from the Suez canal to Cam Ranh Bay, to the China Sea, and to Pusan where Tōgō waited for him. In a two-day battle, the Baltic Fleet was destroyed in the Battle of Tsushima.

After this, United States President, Theodore Roosevelt, offered mediation at the peace conference in Kittery, Maine, U.S. The Treaty of Portsmouth was signed on September 5, 1905.

In the treaty, Japan gained control of the Liaodong Peninsula, Port Arthur, the South Manchurian Railway, and half of Sakhalin Island. Also, southern Manchuria was restored to China and Japan's control of Korea was recognized.

- The general military overview of both factions. (Ex. Existing unit types and estimated recruitment capability)

General Military Overview:

The consequences of this war concluded over approximately 2,000,000 Russian troops and 4000,000 Japanese troops in total.

The Russian army included the Baltic and Pacific fleet. The Baltic Fleet is the oldest Russian Navy formation. It was denied access to the Suez Canal and crushed by the Japanese Fleet. The Pacific Fleet is the Russian Navy fleet stationed in the Pacific Ocean. However, they were destroyed in Port Arthur.

The 16th division was an infantry division of the Imperial Japanese Army who were committed to combat in Manchuria during the war. The recruitment of this

infantry was raised from men in the surrounding area of Kyoto. The size of this infantry was 25,000 men.

This all led to approximately 38,000 deaths of Russian and 58,257 Japanese troops from the battle. There are further death caused by diseases with 18,830 Russian and 21,802 Japanese.

Background Information:

The Russo-Japanese war draws way back then the conflict between Russia and Japan itself. It started way back during the Second Sino-Japanese war which is fought between China and Japan over the expansion of Japanese territory. This war was ongoing for 8 years. Starting from 1937-to 1945.

Considering during that time, Japan had its modernization half a century before China hence it explains Japan's better economy in warfare. Consequently, this boosts Japan's confidence in expanding its territory in China. In which it was succeeded where they had conquered Manchuria and many more.

This comes into importance when China had signed the Treaty of Shimonoseki acknowledging the end of the war with China defeated and handing Manchuria over to Japan. Surprisingly, during this time Russia was in need of a warm water port as well as expanding its presence in Asia hence it see the opportunity presented between China and Japan. Furthermore, Manchuria has Arthur Port.

Not so surprisingly, Russia interfered with the Treaty of Shimonoseki with the help of the Triple Intervention's Interference acting upon by Russia, Germany, and France hence all things considered with Japan lack of warfare and economy compared to the Triple Intervention's Interference. Japan has no choice but to raise the white flag.

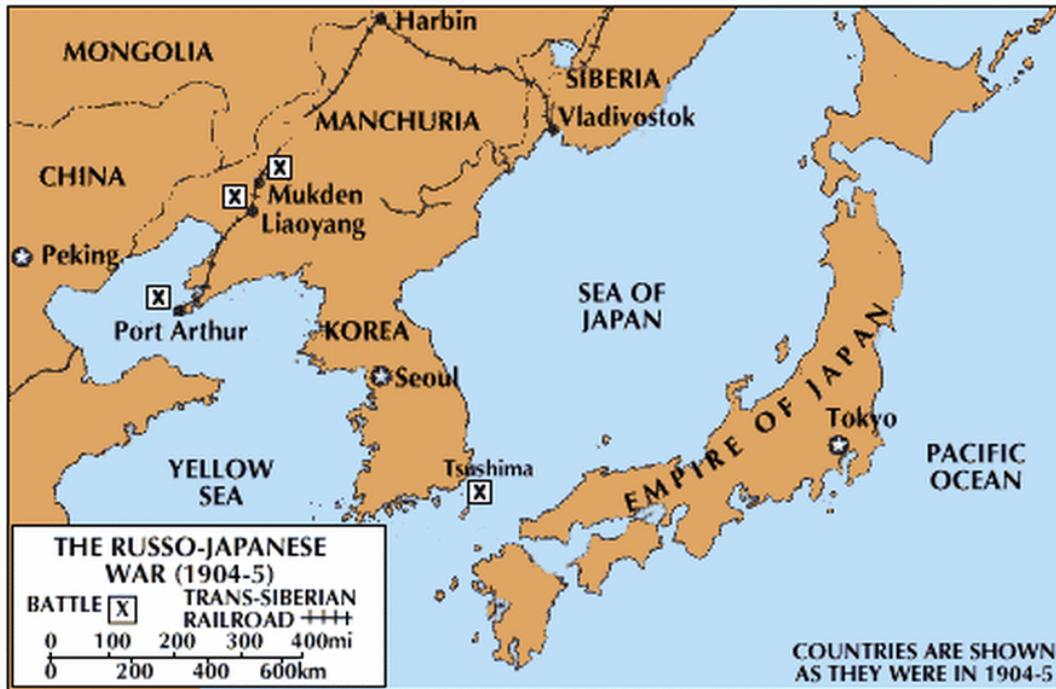
In the following months when Russia purchased two battleships from Germany. Japan view this as a threat hence this is the start of the Russo-Japanese War.

Additional Information:

Considering the Russo-Japanese war is the first war that Russia had admittedly been defeated by non-European power leading the country to lose 2 of its 3 battle naval. Consequently, this caused outrage and protest to occurred in Russia that is called the Russian Revolution of 1905. On the other side, as much as Japan would favorable with pride however the Treaty of Portsmouth did not reach their expectation over the amount of energy, effort, and people they put into it.

The aftermath of taking back a white flag home by the Russian is not helping rather it only add fuel to the situation in their country as the first-ever Russian Revolution arise. Having Russian workers, military mutinies, as well as peasants, protested against the Tsar alongside the nobility and ruling class.

During the time of Russo-Japanese war; the internal ruling between both country are polar opposite from each other. Having Russia being a Monarch country whole Japan developed an imperial system. Russia monarch ruling system follow the Official Nationality that includes Orthodoxy, Autocracy, and Nationality. This system comes to an end after the Russian Recolution. Moving on toward Japanese imperial system emerge from the Meji Restoration. This system is created for parliamentary system with the purpose of Economic and National Security. This change was implemented by the pressure of expansion in sea ground as well as the opening of foreign markets.



Key Terms:

Key Terms	Definitions
Yalu River	A river that forms the northwestern boundary between present-day North Korea and Manchuria of China.
Manchuria	Is located in mainland Asia in China. Have rich natural resources such as coal, fertile soil, and other minerals.
Second Sino-Japanese War	War battle between China and Japan over expanding of territory from Japan part and defending the territory from China's.
Triple Intervention's Interference	A diplomatic intervention from the three countries which are Russia, Germany, and France over the Treaty of Shimonoseki.

Treaty of Shimonoseki	Treaty sign between China and Japan over China defeat and Japan victory.
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Timeline:

1968	Japan entered the Meiji Restoration, as well as the formation of the Imperial Japanese Navy, demonstrated naval dominance in the region. The majority of Japan's modern navy relies upon Britain.
1860	Russia attained Vladivostok from China and convert it into a naval base in 1871.
1885	China bought two battleships from Germany.
1891	The construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad to link Moscow with Vladivostok in order to exert naval power however it wasn't the best spot as Russia demands in order to increase its existence in the Pacific.
1893	China purchased two battleships which trigger Japan hence the country bought two battleships as expected it is from Britain.
1894	China and Japan went into a war known as the Second Sino-Japanese. As a surprise, Japan won the war by mostly depending on its cruises. Having captured and taken down one Chinese battleship.
1895	The Treaty of Shimonoseki indicates the transfer of Korea to Japan while China is to surrender control of Taiwan and the Liaodong Peninsula.
23 April 1895	Knows as the Triple Intervention in which Russia asks for diplomatic support from France and Germany. In order to steam towards the Japanese port of Nagasaki in order to conquer the warm water port that Japan had won in the Second Sino-Japanese war. Considering Japan's lack of battleships, Russia won the war with much ease.
1896	China handed in a 25-year lease to Russia over the control of a warm water port (Port Arthur).

August-November 1900	Russia increased its military presence in Manchuria which Japan consider a threat to its country.
1902	Japan goes into an alliance with Britain as it's raised concerns over Russia's presence in Asia.
1903	Japan create a fleet based at Sasebo having six battleships, 10 cruisers, and 40 destroyers. Meanwhile, Russia had seven battleships, eight cruisers, and 25 destroyers at Port Arthur.
1904	Japan demands Russia to disarm Manchuria.
February 6, 1904,	Russia refuses the offer from Japan with Tsar Nikolai's legitimate command to not fire first in order to show Japan as an aggressive country.
February 8, 1904,	Japan declared war due to the late delivery, Russia considered this act as a violation of the rules of war. On the night of this say, Togo the Imperial Japanese Navy made his first move to closed in and launched torpedoes against the Russian battleships.
February 9, 1904,	At noon Japananse soldiers are within range of the Russians however the Russian was prepared and did not allow the Japanese to stand a chance as they have to turn back within 20 minutes of battles. Hence the beginning of Port Arthur.
March 7, 1904,	Admiral Stark was replaced by Admiral Makarov.
March 22, 1904,	Togo sent two battleships to the southwest side of the Liaodong Peninsula, in order to hide from the Russian in order to cause damages before Russians managed to attack back. As well as to seal the Russian Navy while the Japanese are on solid ground attacking.
April 12, 1904,	The Japanese placed 50 mines close to the harbor mouth which later proved an ambush of 5 Togo's battleships appeared and opened fire at the Russians as the Makarov sent out a sortie with 2 battleships and 4 cruisers.
May 5, 1904,	Admiral Vitgeft was appointed the new commander with a more passive that allowed the Japanese to land an army to the northeast of Port Arthur which is no beignets toward the Russian.
May 5, 1904,	Two Japanese battleships which it is the Hatsuse and

	Yashima struck mines and sunk.
May 1904,	Russians send two more squadrons from the Baltic and Black seas in order to help the Pacific fleet.
June 23, 1904,	Russians repaired Retvizan, Tsesarevich, and Pobeda and plan to break out of Vladivostok however it was stopped by Togo as he wouldn't allow the Russian to escape that easily.
August 7, 1904,	Russian damage Retvizan again as they were sailing the harbor.
August 10, 1904,	Direct order from Tsar forced Vitgeft to attempt another escape to Vladivostok. During this time Togo was unaware considering he was assisting the ground campaign. However, in the next hours, he manages to build up his fleet. Hence this continue to another battle called the battle of the yellow sea.
December 1904,	Japanese land troops captured the hill overlooking the city and fired directly towards the Russian ships leading to many ships being sunk.
January 2, 1905,	The Collapse of the city with the majority of the Russian Pacific Navy was gone.
May 1905,	<p>The new fleet commanded by Rozhdestvensky that has 7 old and 4 new battleships, alongside 6 cruisers and 9 destroyers arrive at the Indochina whose leaf during the month October in 1904. The plan to move directly to Vladivostok via the Tsushima straits</p> <p>During that time Togo repair his ships at Masan with radio-equipped scout ships that allow him to know the inevitable Russian counterattack.</p>
May 26, 1905,	<p>At night the Russian attempted to fleeth Tsushima with the help of the thick fog but was not successful as the Japanese are able to detect them.</p> <p>At 04:55 am Captain Narukawa of the Shinano Maru sent a wireless message to Togo, that allow the Japanese to know the Russian fleeth attempts.</p> <p>At 13:49 the fighting began. The Japanese Combined Fleet consisted of 5 battleships, 26 cruisers, 21 destroyers, and 43 torpedo boats.</p>

	<p>At 4:45 Admiral Togo was able to cross the Russian which lead the Japanese fleet in a perpendicular position to the northward of the Russian Fleet, which allow them the fire broadsides, while the Russians could only reply with their forward.</p> <p>By 17:45 the Russian fleet was broken and disorganized. While the Rozhestvensky was heavily injured.</p> <p>18:05: Two Russian battleships were sunk. By then Russian fleet was devastated and the battle was virtually over. However, Admiral Togo aimed for complete victory hence he continues to chase over the little remaining ships with having 21 destroyers and 37 torpedo boats.</p>
<p>May 28, 1905,</p>	<p>Admiral Nebogatov ordered the six remaining ships under his command to surrender concludes the victory toward Japan all for their evolved gunnery, faster pace, and better use of the wireless telegraph, along with tactical superiority.</p>

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