



Analytical Essay Sample

Opening Up Japan

What would it be like to hardly know anything about Japan? Two men, Matthew Perry and Ii Naosuke, were needed for us to see what Japan was really like. An American Commodore named Matthew Perry traveled to Japan to propose a treaty with the Japanese. It was called the Treaty of Kanagawa. Ii Naosuke, a native Japanese man, signed the treaty and changed Japan forever. The treaty created a bond between Japan and America, and the Japanese agreed to help American ships that wrecked on the Japanese Coast. Ii Naosuke and Matthew Perry radically changed Japan by opening it up to the rest of the world, showing the way to later trade agreements, and influencing the breakdown of the caste system (Blumberg 93).

The treaty of Kanagawa opened up two ports to America, letting the Japanese become familiar with foreigners. The ports, Shimoda and Hakodate, were not very important villages. However, that let the Americans become acquainted with common Japanese people. The men that landed in the ports were allowed to go about seventeen miles in any direction, enabling the Americans to explore more of the nation (Blumberg 93).

The treaty of Kanagawa also allowed an American consul to reside in Japan if either country felt it necessary. An American consul general named Townsend Harris was sent to negotiate a trade treaty with the Japanese. To convince the Japanese that a stronger bond was needed, Harris told them that the British were plotting against the Japanese. After several months of negotiation, they made a treaty that allowed trade between the two countries (Blumberg 112-113).

As the Japanese became more familiar with foreigners, they adopted some of their customs, which eventually led to the breakdown of the caste system. The Emperor Meiji moved the capital city from Edo to Tokyo. Emperor Meiji also destroyed the caste system. He gave the lords and samurai pensions for their loss (Blumberg 115-116).

Ii Naosuke and Matthew Perry drastically changed Japan by opening it up to the outside world, making headway to future trade agreements, and starting the destruction of the caste system. Opening up ports to America allowed the Japanese to be more familiar with foreigners. Letting an American consul into Japan let more trade agreements and treaties be made. Destroying the caste system let the Japanese have more control over their lives. The efforts of Matthew Perry and Ii Naosuke were needed to bring the Empire of Japan into the modern world, but if the Treaty of Kanagawa had never been signed, would Japan have ever become a modern country?

Works Cited

Blumberg, Rhoda. *Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1985. Print.

Level 8

This beginning level essay has the correct format with a clear thesis statement. Good facts are included, but more details would be helpful in actually proving the thesis.

Punctuation and spelling show careful work. However, some improvement in tense and pronoun usage could be improved, particularly in the first paragraph.