Challenge

Why did the United Nations take the Nazi and Japanese officials to trial on war crimes charges?
US Occupies Japan - (1945)
- Japan needed to become prosperous again
- Only way for Japan to regain control of country
- No choice
- US wanted democracy to start in Japan - not Communist

Changes in Japan
- Create a new Constitution
- Creates democratic govt
  - Emperor's power is lessened
  - Govt. based on rights
  - Natural rights: speech, religion, thought
  - Enlightenment Ideas
  - Equality
  - branches of govt: 3 equal parts
    - Montesquieu
  - Vote leader
- Setup land reform: access to land for all ppl
- Ends zaibatsu - monopolies
  - ind. by families
- Unions created - worker rights
- Accept US ideas
- American/Western ed.
Group Task

Documents C1-5, D, & E1
- Answer the Questions Below - Annotate Texts as You Read

> How is the Japanese Constitution similar to the US Constitution?

> How did the US Occupation of Japan change their society?
“Japan is an economic power today. Without the United States’ aid after the war, they would have no prosperity today.”

“The Japanese people have worked to rebuild their nation. Help and ideas from other countries alone would not have led to economic strength without Japan’s hard work.”
How to Rebuild a Nation: What Today's Policymakers Can Learn From Postwar Japan

Norwegian Blogger’s The Hyenas and the Toothless Lion

Is it possible for the USA to repeat the success of Japan and to a lesser extent Germany? Only if our leadership learns from these successes, educates Americans about what such successes entail, and publicizes to the Iraqi people what a post-Saddam future promises. A post-Saddam Iraq could prove to be the beacon of democracy along the edge of the abyss of the Middle East in the same way that Japan lit poverty-stricken, revolution-racked Eastern Asia through the Cold War. It is time for our policymakers to learn from American successes of the past - not just its failures.
Rebuilding Iraq: Japan Is No Model

Editorial

Los Angeles Times
October 17, 2002

I am doubtful that a group of heavily armed American infidels can bring "democracy" to Iraq, but I know for certain that what happened 50 years ago in Japan is no model.

According to press reports, the White House is developing a plan, modeled on the postwar occupation of Japan, to install an American-led military government in Iraq. Administration officials said Iraq would be governed by a senior American military officer, who would assume the role that Gen. Douglas MacArthur played in Japan after its surrender. The plan calls for war-crimes trials of Iraqi leaders and a transition to an elected civilian government after a few years of American occupation.

MacArthur made some strategic decisions. He retained Hirohito on the throne and had all occupation reform directives come from the emperor. The general conducted an indirect occupation. He did not replace the wartime Japanese government but kept it intact, only now taking orders from him.

The new Japanese constitution, land reform, trade unions and the attempt to open up the economy all came in the form of laws enacted by the Japanese government. If the U.S. intends to follow the Japanese model in Iraq, it will have to keep Saddam Hussein in place and work through him.

Most Americans do not understand that the Japanese people do not credit MacArthur with bringing democracy to Japan, although they do honor his memory as a postwar shogun. Democracy already existed in Japan, based on the parliamentary politics of the 1920s, before the militarists took over.