Objectives
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.
- Explain the effects of liberal changes in Japan during the 1920s.
- Analyze how nationalists reacted to Japan’s problems during the Great Depression.
- Describe how the militarists used their power in the 1930s.

Prepare to Read
Build Background Knowledge
Ask students to list what they know about Japan from the previous section and write each response on the board. Tell them that in this section, they will learn about these events from the Japanese perspective.

Set a Purpose
- **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.
- **Preview** Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.
- **Note Taking** Have students read this section using the Guided Questioning strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the table categorizing the events in Japan.

Conflicting Forces in Japan
Objectives
- Explain the effects of liberal changes in Japan during the 1920s.
- Analyze how nationalists reacted to Japan’s problems during the Great Depression.
- Describe how the militarists used their power in the 1930s.

Terms, People, and Places
Hirohito
ultranationalist
March Area of Manchuria

Note Taking
Reading Skill: Understand Effects: As you read this section, fill in the effects of two opposing outlooks in Japan in the 1920s and 1930s in a table like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflicting Forces in Japan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal in the 1920s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary Builder
Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

**Manipulate, p. 875**
- To influence skillfully, often unfairly
  - He manipulated his sister into agreeing to do his chores for the next week.
While Western powers battled in Europe, Japan expanded its influence throughout East Asia. Japan had already annexed Korea as a colony in 1910. During the war, Japan also sought further rights in China with the Twenty-One Demands. After the war, Japan took over former German possessions in East Asia, including the Shandong province in China.

Liberal Changes in the 1920s. During the 1920s, Japan moved toward more widespread democracy. Political parties grew stronger. Elected members of the Diet—the Japanese parliament—exercised their power. In 1920, all adult men, regardless of class, won the right to vote. In addition, Western ideas about women’s rights brought some changes. Overall, however, the status of Japanese women remained below that of men. They would not win suffrage, or the right to vote, until 1945.

Despite leaning toward greater democracy, political parties were manipulated by the zaibatsu (zy baht soo), Japan’s powerful businessmen. The zaibatsu influenced the government through donations to political parties. They pushed for policies that favored international trade and their own interests.

Japan’s aggressive expansion began to affect its economic relationship with the Western powers. To protect relations, moderate Japanese politicians decided to slow down foreign expansion. In 1922, Japan signed an agreement to limit the size of its navy with the United States, Britain, and France. It also agreed to leave China.

Problems Below the Surface. Behind this well-being, Japan faced some grave problems. Rural peasants did not share in the nation’s prosperity. They were still very poor. In the cities, factory workers earned low wages. Their poverty drew them to the socialist ideas of Marx and Lenin. In the cities, members of the younger generation were also in revolt against tradition. They adopted Western fads and fashions. Also, they rejected family authority for the Western ideal of individual freedom, shocking their elders.

During the 1920s, tensions between the government and the military simmered not far below the surface. Conservatives, especially military officers, blasted government corruption, including payoffs by powerful zaibatsu. They also condemned Western influences for undermining basic Japanese values of obedience and respect for authority. Although the economy grew throughout the 1920s, it experienced many highs and lows. One low point occurred when a devastating earthquake, one of the most destructive quakes in history, struck the Tokyo area in 1923. The earthquake and the widespread fires it caused resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 people and damaged more than 560,000 buildings. As many as 45 percent of surviving workers lost their jobs because as many businessses were destroyed. With help from the government, the Tokyo area gradually recovered—just as Japan faced a worldwide economic crisis.

Checkpoint How did democratic participation in Japan both grow and stagnate in the 1920s?
3. Map Skills

**Answers**

The export industry suffered, and nationalists argued that expansion could provide new resources.

**Map Skills**

1. Review locations with students.
2. Near Tokyo, Osaka, and areas to the south
3. Petroleum

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**The Nationalist Reaction/ Militarists in Power**

**Instruct**

- **Introduce** Refer students to the map on this page. Ask students to use the scale bar to compare the relative size of Japan to Manchuria. Then ask them to predict how Japan’s small size fueled its desire to expand.

- **Teach** Ask students to list reasons for ultranationalists’ discontent in the 1930s and write their responses on the board. Then ask **How did Japanese militarists rise to power in the 1930s?** (Public opinion supported foreign conquest. Unrest, caused by assassinations and plots by extremist groups, caused the civilian government to bow to military control.) Then display **Color Transparency 167: Japanese Military Build-Up, 1929–1941** and discuss the extent of Japan’s military buildup and possible implications of that action.

- **Color Transparencies, 167**

- **Quick Activity** Have students access Web Code map-2751 to take the **Geography Interactive Audio Guided Tour** and then answer the map skills questions in the text.

**Independent Practice**

Have students fill in the Outline Map of **Japanese Expansion** and label the territory Japan added between 1918 and 1934.

- **Geography Interactive Audio**
- **Guided Tour**
- **Teaching Resources, Unit 6, p. 37**

**Monitor Progress**

- **Circulate** to make sure students are filling in their Outline Maps accurately.
- **Check Reading** and **Note Taking Study Guide** entries for student understanding.

**Differentiated Instruction**

- **Advanced Readers**
- **Gifted and Talented**

**Japan’s Expanding Empire in 1934**

**The Nationalist Reaction**

In 1920, the Great Depression rippled across the Pacific, striking Japan with devastating force. Trade suffered as foreign buyers could no longer afford to purchase Japanese silk and other exports. Unemployment in the cities soared, while rural peasants were only a mouthful from starvation.

**Unrest Grows** Economic disaster fed the discontent of the leading military officials and extreme nationalists, or ultranationalists. They condemned politicians for agreeing to Western demands to stop overseas expansion. Western industrial powers, they pointed out, had long ago grabbed huge empires. By comparison, Japan’s empire was tiny.

Japanese ultranationalists were further outraged by racial policies in the United States, Canada, and Australia that shut out Japanese immigrants. The ultranationalists took great pride in their industrial achievements. They bitterly resented being treated as second-class citizens in other parts of the world.

As the economic crisis worsened, nationalists demanded renewed expansion. An empire in Asia, they argued, would provide much-needed raw materials as well as an outlet for Japan’s rapidly growing population. They set their sights on the northern Chinese province of Manchuria. This region was rich in natural resources, and Japanese businesses had already invested heavily there.

The **Manchurian Incident** In 1931, a group of Japanese army officers provoked an incident that provided an excuse to seize Manchuria. They set explosives and blew up tracks on a Japanese-owned railroad line. Then, they claimed that the Chinese had committed the act. Claiming self-defense, the army attacked Chinese forces. Without consulting their own government, the Japanese military forces conquered all of Manchuria and set up a puppet state there that they called Manzhouguo (man choo KWOO). They brought in Puyi, the last Chinese emperor, to head the puppet state. When politicians in Tokyo objected to the army’s highhanded actions, public opinion sided with the military.

When the League of Nations condemned Japanese aggression against China, Japan simply withdrew itself from the League. Then, the Japanese government nullified the agreements limiting naval armament that it had signed with the Western democracies in the 1920s. This move was designed to take military action against Japanese aggressors.

**Checkpoint** How did the Great Depression lead to calls for renewed expansion?

---

The export industry suffered, and nationalists argued that expansion could provide new resources.

**Map Skills**

1. Review locations with students.
2. Near Tokyo, Osaka, and areas to the south
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**The Nationalist Reaction/ Militarists in Power**

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**Checkpoint** How did the Great Depression lead to calls for renewed expansion?
Military in Power
In the early 1930s, ultranationalists were winning support from the people for foreign conquests and a tough stand against the Western powers. Members of extreme nationalist societies assassinated a number of politicians and business leaders who opposed expansion. Military leaders plotted to overthrow the government and, in 1936, briefly occupied the center of Tokyo.

Traditional Values Revived
Civilian government survived, but the uneasy fear of the government to accept military domination in 1937. To placate the ultranationalists, the government cracked down on socialists and suppressed most democratic freedoms. It revived ancient warrior values and built a cult around Emperor Hirohito, whom many believed was descended from the sun goddess. To spread its nationalist message, the government used schools to teach students absolute obedience to the emperor and service to the state.

More Expansion in China
During the 1930s, Japan took advantage of China's civil war to increase its influence there. Japan expected to complete its conquest of China within a few years. But in 1939, while the two nations were locked in deadly combat, World War II broke out in Europe. That conflict swiftly spread to Asia.

In 1936, Japan allied with two aggressive European powers, Germany and Italy. These three powers signed the Tripartite Pact in September 1940, cementing the powers, Germany and Italy. These three powers signed the Tripartite Pact in September 1940, cementing the

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BIOGRAPHY

Hirohito
Hirohito (1901–1989) became emperor of Japan in 1926. As emperor, according to Japanese tradition, he was the nation's supreme authority and a living god—no one could look at his face or even mention his name. In practice, however, he rarely approved the policies that his ministers formulated. Hirohito was a private man who preferred marine biology to power politics. As a result, his role in Japan's move toward aggression is unclear. Some historians believe that Hirohito did not encourage Japanese military leaders. Others assert that he was actively involved in expansionist policies. Why was Hirohito given great respect?

Study Guide

Terms, People, and Places
1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking
2. Reading Skill: Understand Effects
Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Questions below.
1. How did Japan change in the 1920s and 1930s? Why did militarists make when they came to power?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking
3. Summarize: What changes occurred in Japan in the 1920s and 1930s? Why did militarists make when they came to power?

Progress Monitoring Online
For self quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-2751

Assessment
5. Assessment
1. Sentences should reflect an understanding of each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section.
2. During the 1920s, Japan's economy grew, its government became more liberal, and it drew back from expansion. In the 1930s, ultranationalist groups took control of Japan, restricted freedoms, and renewed drives to expand.

6. Army leaders and ultranationalists promised national security, military power, and cultural greatness.

Writing About History
Outlines should reflect valid arguments organized in an effective way.

Progress Monitoring
Quick Write: Decide on an Organizational Strategy. Most persuasive essays follow this organization:
1. Introduction, including thesis statement
2. Second-strongest argument
3. Strongest argument
4. Smallest argument
5. Conclusion
Write a thesis statement based on the context of this section, and write an outline showing how you would organize your arguments.

Answers
They restricted freedoms and imposed traditional culture on the Japanese people. They also tried to expand into China.

BIOGRAPHY
According to tradition, he was a living god and the nation's supreme authority.

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