**Document 5**

**THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION**

**In Japan in 1853, people were not receiving a basic education. Farmers, merchants and soldiers had their specific training, but no education. However, between 1878 to 1897, nearly all Japanese were receiving some basic form of education equal to our version of elementary school. With this increase in education, Japan prospered, increasing the number of factories and technology used daily in the work place. Eventually, the population of Japan increased due to improved lifestyles and healthier living. Japan then looked to expand their territory into other Asian countries. With their improved technology and weapons, Japan looked to create an empire.**

**Emperor Meiji knew that in order to succeed, they needed to copy the western powers. They created factories and markets that copied exactly what the western European nations had been doing. Education now became a requirement, Japanese citizens were allowed to travel overseas, Christianity was allowed, new household technologies were implemented; every part of European culture was applied to the Japanese way of life.**

**Because of these new societal changes, Japan was able to stay independent from European and American influence. Japan experienced new economic growth, their daily and household life changed, and they appeared more and more European throughout the early 1900’s.**