

Candidate 1 evidence – Historical Issues

Introduction

41. For over 250 years, the Tokugawa family dominated the Japanese position of the shogun, thus giving them control over the country. For the most part of their reign, the Tokugawa shogunate were not faced by any major opposition to their rule and maintained a strict system across the country. ~~At the mid nineteenth century, conditions in Japan were beginning to change and historians~~ Historians have since debated how the Tokugawa family, with their decentralised style of rule, were able to successfully stay in power for as long as they did. It is possible to argue that it was the tightly enforced caste structure that dominated the lives of all Japanese people that was responsible for securing Tokugawa power, and experts including Hane have stressed its importance as a control mechanism. However, it is important

to examine the perspective that other factors, including religion and the policy of isolation, were also significant in assisting the Tokugawa reign and historians such as Hunter have supported these alternative factors. ~~Therefore~~ The caste structure was a major element of the Japanese regime throughout the Tokugawa era and was arguably strengthened further by these other factors, so therefore it can be seen that the caste structure, in combination with other control methods, was essential to the Tokugawa's ability to maintain power.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Tokugawa rule and its lengthy success cannot be explained just by one factor alone. For the duration of the Tokugawa's stable time as rulers, the caste structure achieved its aim with regards to controlling entire lives of Japanese people and the issues caused by its gradual disappearance just shows further how much the Tokugawa relied on it to help maintain strict order. On the other hand, there were other reasons that contributed to the Tokugawa's strong rule

and without religion that reinforced the beliefs the caste structure operated on and isolation to diminish the threat of foreign forces causing the Tokugawa to fall from power it is possible to argue that perhaps the caste structure would never have lasted as long or had such hold over the country. Even so, the structure itself represents the Tokugawa rule and provided them with close to complete control over all people and their lifestyle and due to this it can legitimately be set apart as the most crucial control mechanism used by the Tokugawa government.

Use of historiography

Hunter explains that "the ruling class had long viewed both religion and education as vehicles for furthering the purposes of the state" and indeed they were important in reinforcing the ideals necessary to maintain the caste structure and the Tokugawa position of authority. Nevertheless, not all religions in Japan were as beneficial to the Tokugawa family.

Candidate 1 evidence – Historical Sources

48. Source D is quite useful as evidence of the consequences of the Russo-Japanese war. The source is taken from the treaty that concluded the war between Russia and Japan which makes it useful as it was the official declaration of exactly what each country must do, give or receive after the war was ended, meaning the information will definitely be factual and accurate and consequently trustworthy.

The source mentions that Russia was forced to recognise Japan's desires in Korea which is useful in showing that one consequence of the treaty was eliminating Japan's worry that Russia would sabotage her claims over Korea. The source also mentions that both countries troops were ordered to leave Manchuria, showing a consequence that helped Japan by removing Russia from nearby Asian land but also damaged Japan's own hopes in Manchuria. The source also tells us that Japan gained Russia's base of Port Arthur which again proves a beneficial consequence for Japan as she comes back under control of this useful area for trading and defence that she had previously lost. The source is, however, made less useful by the information it misses out. The source does not mention that soon after the treaty

was signed, Japan and Russia made secret agreements to share Manchuria between them which proves that things did change after the treaty was put in place and Japan made further gains. The source also fails to mention that in Japan, many people felt the treaty did not ^{give} ~~deserve~~ Japan as much as her victory deserved, so one consequence was actually discontent. Duus argues that "imperialism...created new needs that clamored ravenously to be met", showing that in Japan people constantly wanted more. The source also doesn't mention that Japan was seen with greater respect upon beating ~~in~~ Russia and that this helped them move closer to arranging the end of the Unequal treaties as they had proven their strength against a serious power. The source also fails to

mention that by 1910, Japan was able to fully colonize Korea which shows that war with Russia paved the way for further imperialism both by clearing outside influences on Korea and showing Japan to be a strong country. The source also fails to include that despite beating Russia, Japan was still not seen entirely as equal by foreign powers and as late as 1919 was still facing issues such as the denial of a racial equality clause by members of the newly formed League of Nations. Benson and Matsumura back this up, highlighting the "unequal treatment ~~offered~~ to which the coloured races were subjected by western peoples", showing that the Russo-Japanese war had not fully succeeded in making Japan seen at the level of foreign powers.