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HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA- II  
JAPAN

(c.1868-1945)

ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE

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# ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE 1902

- RUSSIA HAD FORCED JAPAN TO GIVE UP HER RIGHTS OVER LIAOTUNG PENINSULA AND PORT ARTHUR IN ORDER TO RESTRAIN JAPAN'S IMPERIALISTIC DESIGNS. JAPAN ALSO ON THE OTHER HAND WANTED TO CURB RUSSIAN EXPANSION IN ASIA.
- THE YAMAGATA PROTOCOL OF 1896 IMPOSED SOME RESTRICTIONS ON RUSSIA AS REGARDS KOREA BUT RUSSIA REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY OF THESE. NOT ONLY THAT RUSSIA ALSO INTERFERED IN KOREA'S ECONOMY WHICH ANNOYED JAPAN VERY MUCH.
- THIS ATTITUDE WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE NISHI-ROSEN CONVENTION OF 1898 WHICH FAILED TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

- SO LONG ENGLAND WAS FOLLOWING AN ISOLATIONIST POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DID NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN ASIA. BUT RUSSIAN AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS PROMPTED HER TO ENGAGE WITH ASIAN AFFAIRS AND JAPAN WHO WAS LOOKING FOR AN EUROPEAN ALLY SOON FOUND ONE IN ENGLAND.
- THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE OF 1902 WAS WELCOMED BY GERMANY AS RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN MANCHURIA HAD ALARMED HER AS WELL.





# TERMS OF THE TREATY

- TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO IN THE 'FAR EAST'
- TO MAINTAIN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF BOTH CHINA AND KOREA AND ALSO THE 'OPEN DOOR POLICY'
- TO MAINTAIN EQUAL TERMS AMONG BOTH THE SIGNATORIES JAPAN AND ENGLAND
- AS FAR AS TRADE IN CHINA AND KOREA WAS CONCERNED
- BOTH COUNTRIES VOWED TO PROTECT EACH OTHER IN CASE OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION
- IF ONE OF THEM GOT INVOLVED IN WAR WITH ANOTHER POWER, THE OTHER WAS TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY



# SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ALLIANCE

- THIS ALLIANCE SOUGHT TO CONTROL RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM BY BOTH THE POWERS. IT WAS A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC STEP. AS FAR AS INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WAS CONCERNED, THIS ALLIANCE OF AN ASIAN POWER WITH A BIG EUROPEAN POWER INCREASED JAPAN'S PRESTIGE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.
- WITH BRITISH HELP, JAPAN'S NAVAL STRENGTH ALSO INCREASED AND HER NATIONAL PRESTIGE SOARED TO NEW HEIGHTS.
- ANY ALLIANCE BETWEEN FRANCE AND RUSSIA WAS ALSO THWARTED AND RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM CONTROLLED.
- WHETHER ENGLAND CAME OUT OF ITS ISOLATIONIST POLICY IN THE FAR EAST IS A DEBATABLE QUESTION. SOME SCHOLARS LIKE J.P.BURY, J.K. FAIRBANK, H.VINACKE CONTEND THAT ENGLAND DID COME OUT OF ISOLATION AS A RESULT OF THIS ALLIANCE. BUT HISTORIAN A.J.P. TAYLOR IS OF THE VIEW THAT IT DID NOT MARK THE END OF ENGLAND'S ISOLATIONIST POLICY, RATHER IT CONFIRMED IT.