

## Seeds of the Sakura: Living the Formation of Modern Japan.

### Introduction:

Welcome to Seeds of the Sakura. This experience explores the formation of modern Japanese society during the Meiji regime. On your left are exhibits that examine important developments in

scholars While the new leaders studied the political, economic, and social institutions of the Western powers, they selectively adopted those that suited their purposes. Political reforms in 1889 led to a new constitution which established a parliamentary government but left it accountable to the emperor

Compulsory public education was introduced to teach the skills needed for the new nation. The values included teaching a mix of Confucian and Shinto morals with loyalty to the Emperor as the foundation of a new nationalism.

In 1871, the Meiji government granted occupational freedom to citizens, including the samurai, and abolished the early modern status system, as well as the 'outcast' class. The samurai and their lords lost their feudal privileges, while the role of merchants, formerly despised as profit hungry — increased their influence. This also created widespread resistance from rural farmers who suddenly found themselves in the same category as former outcasts.

The enthusiastic adoption of new Western technologies caused an explosion of industrial productivity and diversification. Japan invested much more heavily in its own economic growth, leading to a period of economic flourishing in the country which lasted until the Great Depression. Imports and exports more than doubled between 1885 and 1905

Sanji Mut , having just finished his studies at Keijōgijuku and studying under Fukuzawa,

prized profit, yet developed a paternalistic management structure that both reflect this philosophy and improved production. Despite his tremendous successes, Sanji Muto remained grounded, believing that men should be honest and earnest. Like the samurai, who followed the ethical code of bushidō, Sanji too embodied such values as benevolence, courage, foresight, honor, humility, integrity, loyalty, and righteousness. Sanji Muto remains an unsung hero and one of Japan's earliest modern-day samurai