



BRIGHT AS THE RISING SUN: EMPEROR MEIJI AND THE MAKING OF MODERN JAPAN, 1853

Following the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the restoration of the monarchy in 1867, Emperor Meiji transformed Japan from a feudal and isolated nation off the coast of China into an industrial powerhouse projecting its power ever farther from its borders. This committee tracks how in just four short decades, Japan went from being humiliated by the incursions of Western colonial powers to besting one on the field of battle, cementing Japan as a peer competitor in Asia, and one to rival even the staid empires of old.

Delegates will experience the heady days of rebellion against the new Imperial rule, the development of industrialization and the Westernization of the country, and even Japan's expansion as it attempts to compete with the Western colonial powers slowly encircling the rest of Asia. Moreover, the substantial technological and political revolution encompassing all aspects of Japanese life offers substantial inflection points for committee movement. In a time of such dynamism, anything committee does can change the course of history. Fundamentally, delegates will play a leading role in the development both in the development of Japan as a state and as a nation.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

JOSH NEUDORF
CHAIR

THADEUS OBORA
CRISIS DIRECTOR

DEVANG LADDHA
CRISIS DIRECTOR

Thadeus is a fourth-year History and Political Science major at the University of Chicago, hailing from the western suburbs of Chicago. At the unfortunately cancelled ChoMUN XXIII, he served as Crisis Director of the Polish Second Republic, 1918, and before that, was a crisis director on the Chicago World's Fair committee, and began his ChoMUN career as an assistant chair on the Roman Senate. Thadeus also participates in staffing the high school MUN conference and the college travel team, where he allegedly helped organize possible social gatherings for a year. Outside of MUN, Thadeus enjoys reading, long strolls on the beach, watching movies, exploring Chicago's vibrant cultural and culinary scene, and researching/stressing over his final theses, which deal with the administration of the British Empire in Asia. He also maintains a large collection of vintage fountain pens and typewriters, which he buys, sells, and restores. Thadeus is immensely passionate about history, and is very much looking forward to running the Making of Modern Japan this year! If you have any questions/fun facts regarding history, Chicago, and specifically the committee, feel free to contact Thadeus at thadeusjobora@uchicago.edu, and he will get back to you.

Devang is a second year at the College majoring in Economic and Political Science. He is from Kolkata, India and loves Indian food. Devang spent last ChoMUN serving as an Assistant Chair for the Bangladesh 1971 Committee. Outside of ChoMUN, Devang travels competes on the UChicago MUN Team. He is also part of the Chicago Debate Society and the South Asian Society at the College. In his free time, Devang loves to read, watch TV shows, complain about Chicago winters and watch football (soccer for fake fans). Devang is excited to be running the Making of Modern Japan, Meiji 1853 this year. Having studied the period extensively in high school, he is looking forward to re-shaping history and having fun along the way. If you have any questions, feel free to reach him at devang@uchicago.edu.

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

SHAYNA COHEN, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL