

Notice for readers

The following presentation was made for my report on the Workshop:

**“War, Violence, Restoration: Lessons learned through the past
projecting to the present and future”
(November 26th, 2005)**

You can read this report in our Main Text for the Course LA275, “*Root of the Japanese Imperialism and Agrarian Reform*”, **p.49 - 53.**

**Root of the Japanese Imperialism
and
Agrarian Reform**

Statement of Prime Minister Murayama (August 15, 1995)

“ ... During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis, and through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations. In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology. Allow me also to express my feelings of profound mourning for all victims, both at home and abroad, of that history ...”

Understanding of the Modern History of Japan

A “*Rise of another Imperialism*” than Western Powers

or

A “*Struggle for Survival*” in the Age of Colonialism



Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

「安らかに眠って下さい 過ちは繰返しませぬから」

*“Let all the souls here rest in peace,
for we shall not repeat the evil.”*

Estimated Numbers of Victims during the War in Asian Region

China	at least	10,000,000
Korea	at least	200,000
Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia	at least	2,000,000
Indonesia	at least	2,000,000
Philippine	at least	1,000,000
India	at least	3,500,000
Malaysia, Singapore	at least	5,000
Myanmar	at least	50,000
New Zealand		11,625
Thailand		unknown
Maldives		unknown
Polynesian islands		unknown
Sakhalin, Kuril islands		unknown
---		---

Total	at least	18,820,000
--------------	-----------------	-------------------

Japan	at least	2,565,878
-------	----------	-----------



Yasukuni-Shinto-Shrine

“For the souls of 2,600,000 fallen Japanese solders ...”

Fundamental Questions

What was the *fatal mistake* of Japan?

Was the “Japanese Imperialism” *inevitable or avoidable*?

What was the *Root of the “Japanese Imperialism”*?

Fundamental Questions

What was the *fatal mistake* of Japan?

Was the “Japanese Imperialism” *inevitable or avoidable*?

What was the *Root of the “Japanese Imperialism”*?

- *A Related Question on the Postwar Reforms* -

*Which reform policy was the most effective one
for the ultimate dissolution of the “Japanese Imperialism”?*

Beginning of the Occupation (1945)



General Douglas MacArthur
Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP)

Initial “Five Basic Reforms” commanded by GHQ (Oct. 1945)

Guarantee of political rights for women

Legalization of labor unions

Democratization of education

Elimination of political autocracy

Liberalization of economic powers

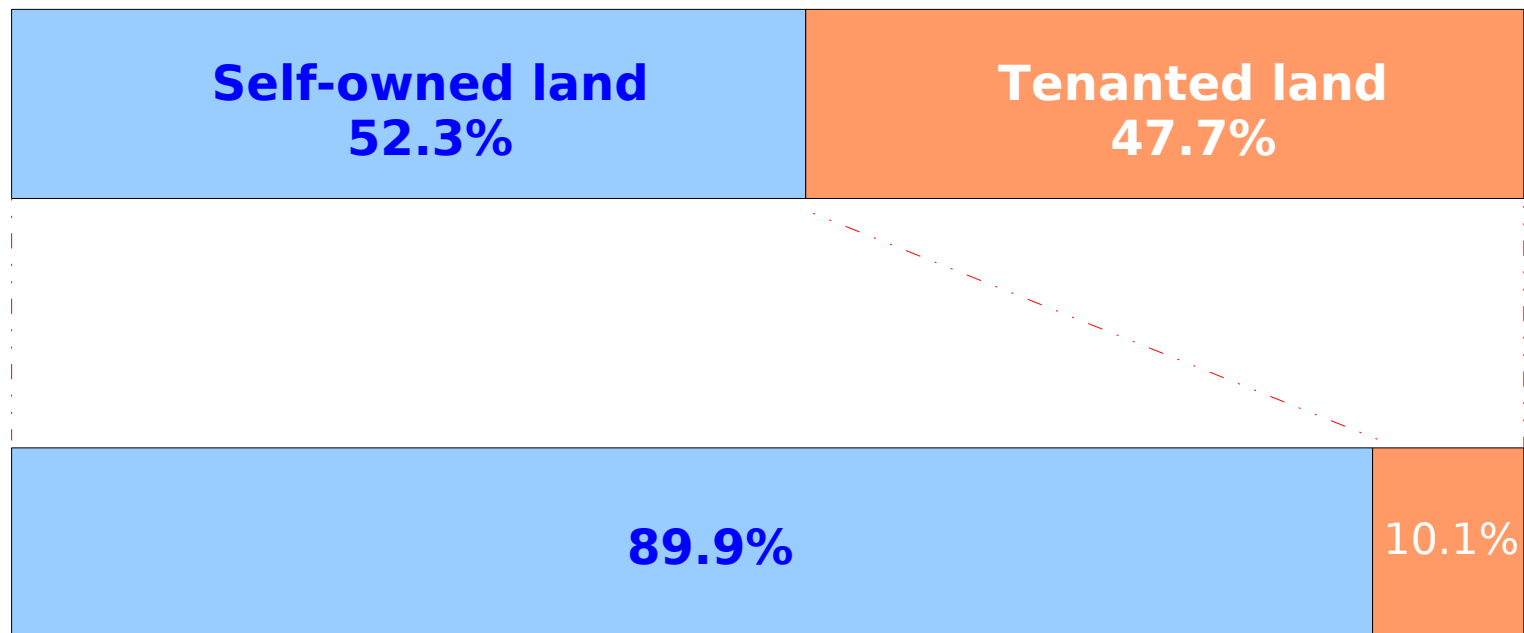
Memorandum on Agrarian Reform by GHQ (Dec. 1945)

“... The feudalistic social structure in rural areas was just the root of the Japanese militarism ...”

Main Measures of Second Agrarian Reform (Oct. 1946)

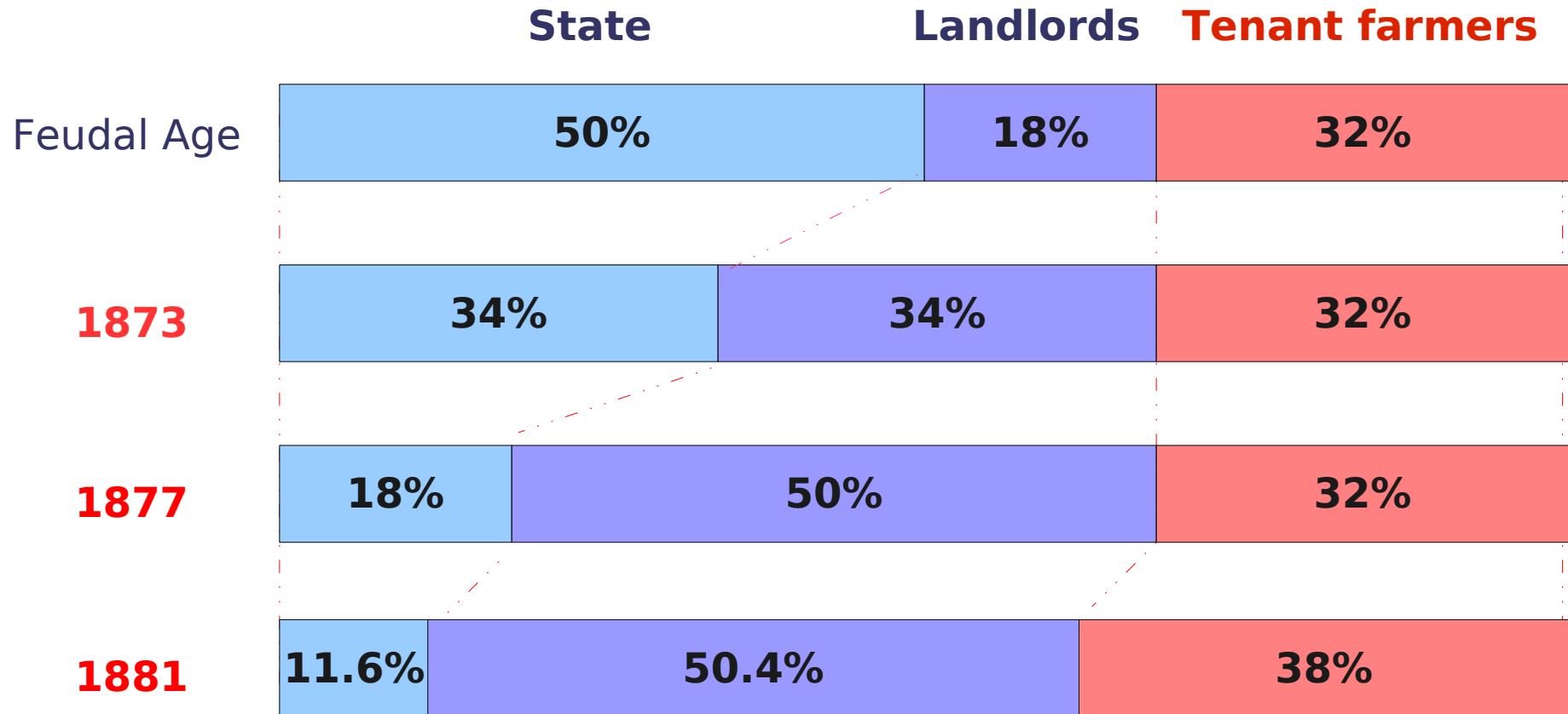
- *Prohibition of landownership for absentee landlords* and restriction of tenanted land for farming landlords (maximal 2.45 acres in the mainland, 9.8 acres in Hokkaido)
- *Compulsory acquisition of tenanted land by the state* and its distribution to former tenant farmers (up to 7.5 acres for each farming household)
- Restriction of tenancy rent and prohibition of rent paid in kind
- Contract in writing as a requirement for remaining tenancy relations

Elimination of Tenant Farming through the Agrarian Reform



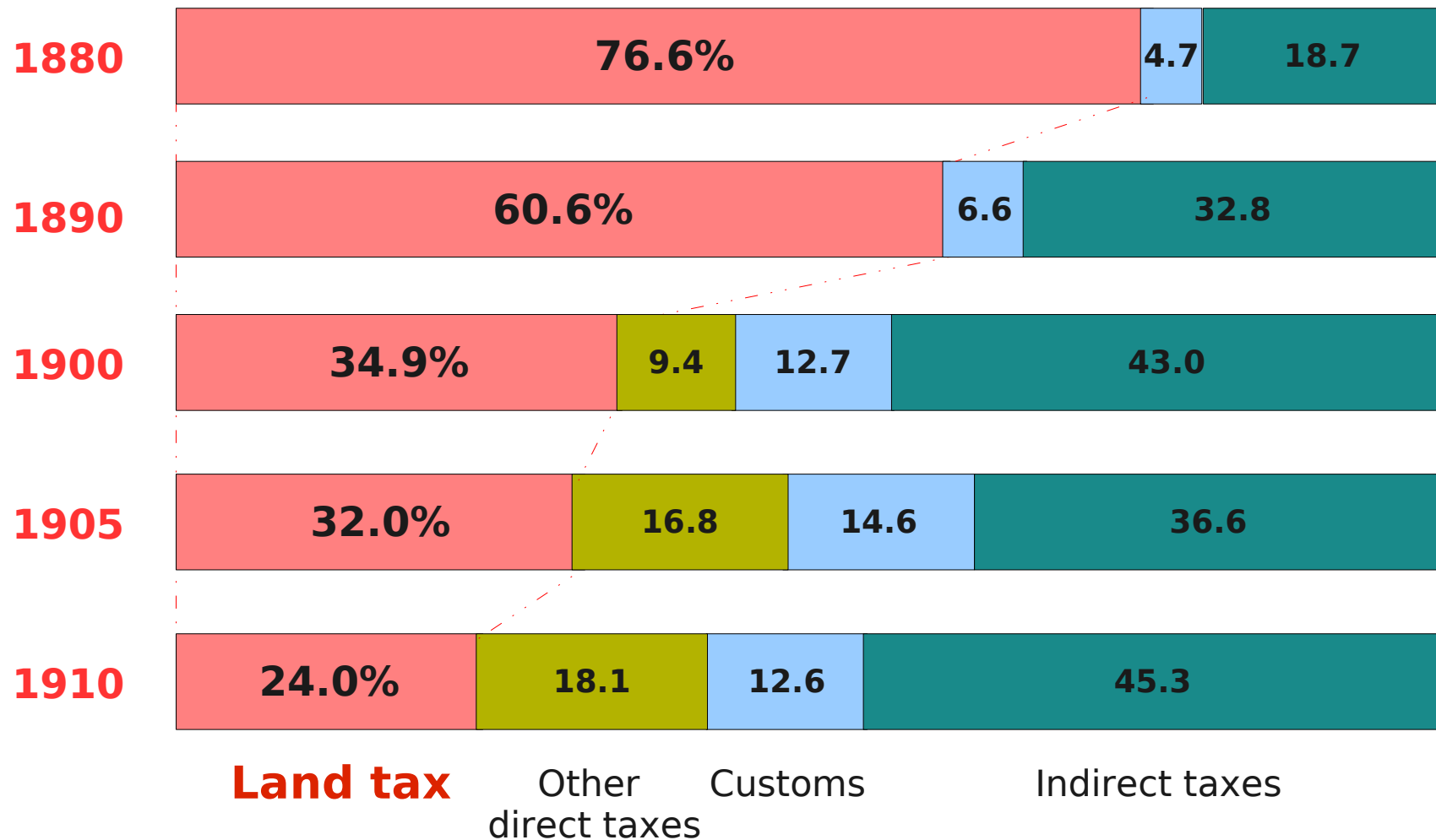
Back to the Beginning of the Modernization - - -

Distribution of Rice Harvest among State, Landlords, and Farmers



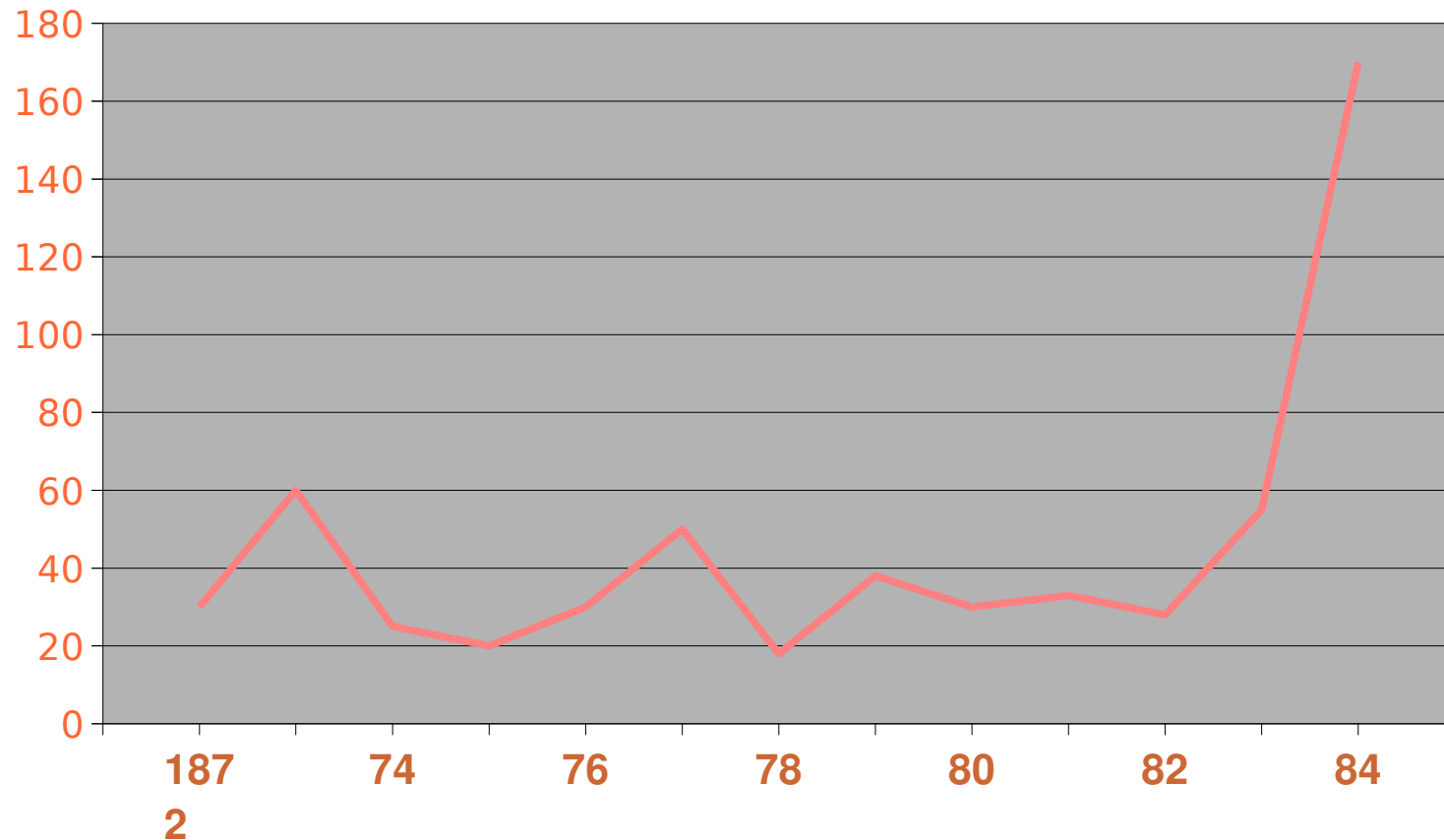
*“Tenant Farmers, suffering from **Double Exploitation** ...”*

Percentage of Land Tax in the Total Tax Revenues



“Tenant Farmers, carrying Burden of the Modernization ...”

Increase of Violence Cases of Farmers against the State



Popular Movement for Freedom and Democracy (1870s - 80s)

Alliance of rebellious *Farmers* and disappointed *Former-Samurais*

Petition for *Constitution, Parliament, and Voting Rights*

Founding first *Political Parties* in Japan

Countermeasures against Political Parties

- ♦ Establishment of *supreme decision-making organs outside the reach of political parties*
(Cabinet, New Peer, Privy Council)
- ♦ Separation of *supreme command and military affairs* from conventional political affairs
- ♦ Establishment of *supervision and direct control over the population exercised by Imperial Army and Navy*
(National Shintoism, ideological education and military training in school)

Limited Competence of Prime Minister

Who is the leader, Prime Minister or Emperor?

Article 11

The Emperor has the *supreme command* of the Army and Navy.

Article 55

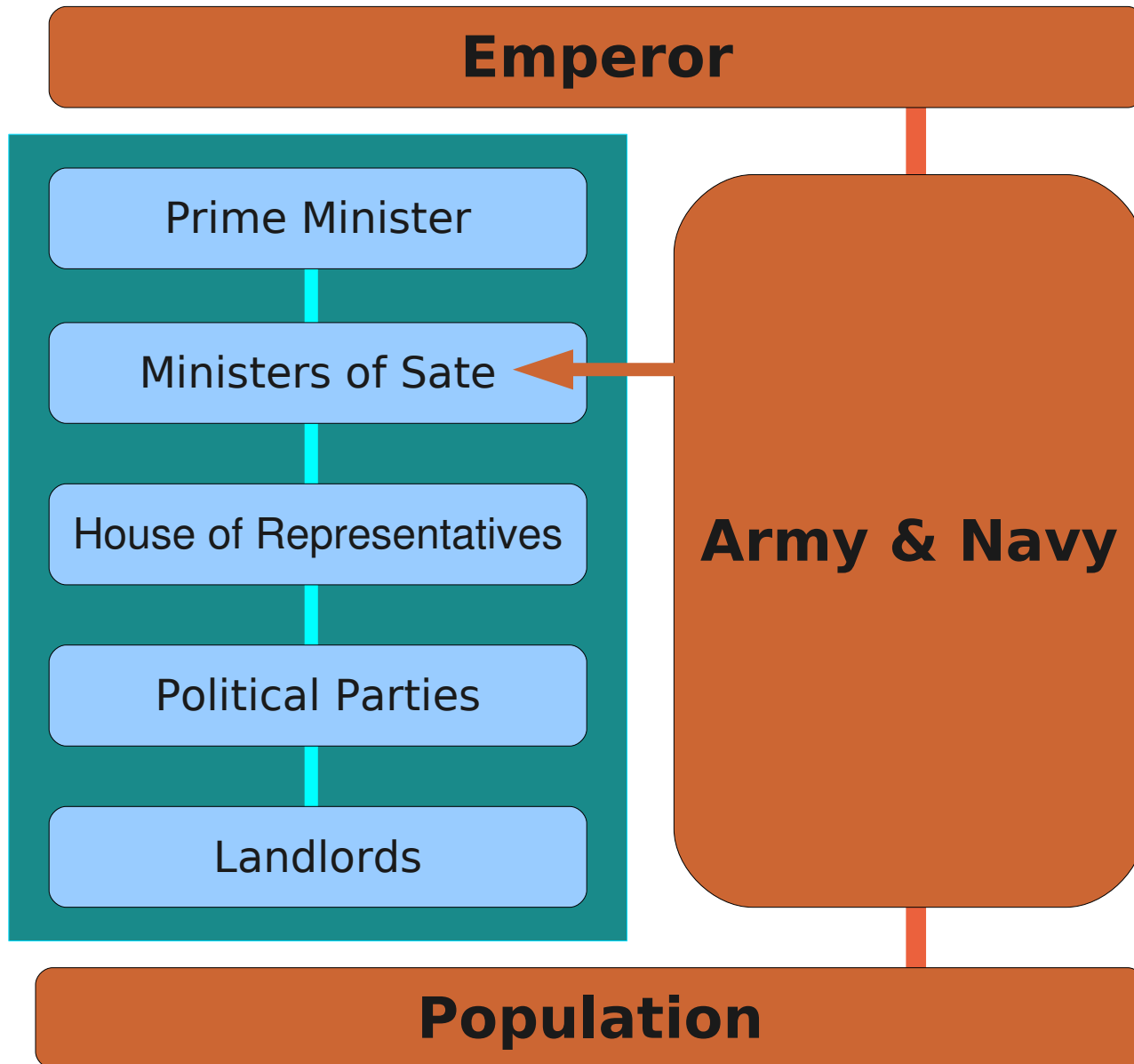
The *respective Ministers of State* shall give their advice to the Emperor, and be responsible for it.

Imperial Appointment of Ministers of Army and Navy



Tight connection between the Emperor and Imperial Army and Navy outside of constitutional democracy

Constitutional Democracy



Totalitarian Power Structure

Initial Stage of the Japanese Imperialism

- 1874 Taiwan Expedition
- 1876 Unequal Treaty of Commerce with Korea
Beginning of intervention in internal affairs
- 1879 Annexation of the Kingdom of Ryukyu
- 1888 Reorganization of Imperial Army and Navy
for foreign expedition

With consent and support of democratic wings ...

Second Stage of the Japanese Imperialism

1894 - 95	Sino Japanese War Colonization of Taiwan
1904 - 05	Russo Japanese War
1910	Annexation of Korea
1914 - 18	World War I
1918 - 22	Siberian Intervention

*Cabinet, Diet, Emperor, Army and Navy
all banded together ...*

Coincidence of Democracy and Imperialism (1870s – 1920s)

Internally: *“Progress to Constitutional Democracy”*

Externally: *“Rise of Japanese Imperialism”*

Final Stage of the Japanese Imperialism

1929 Beginning of the “*Great Depression*”

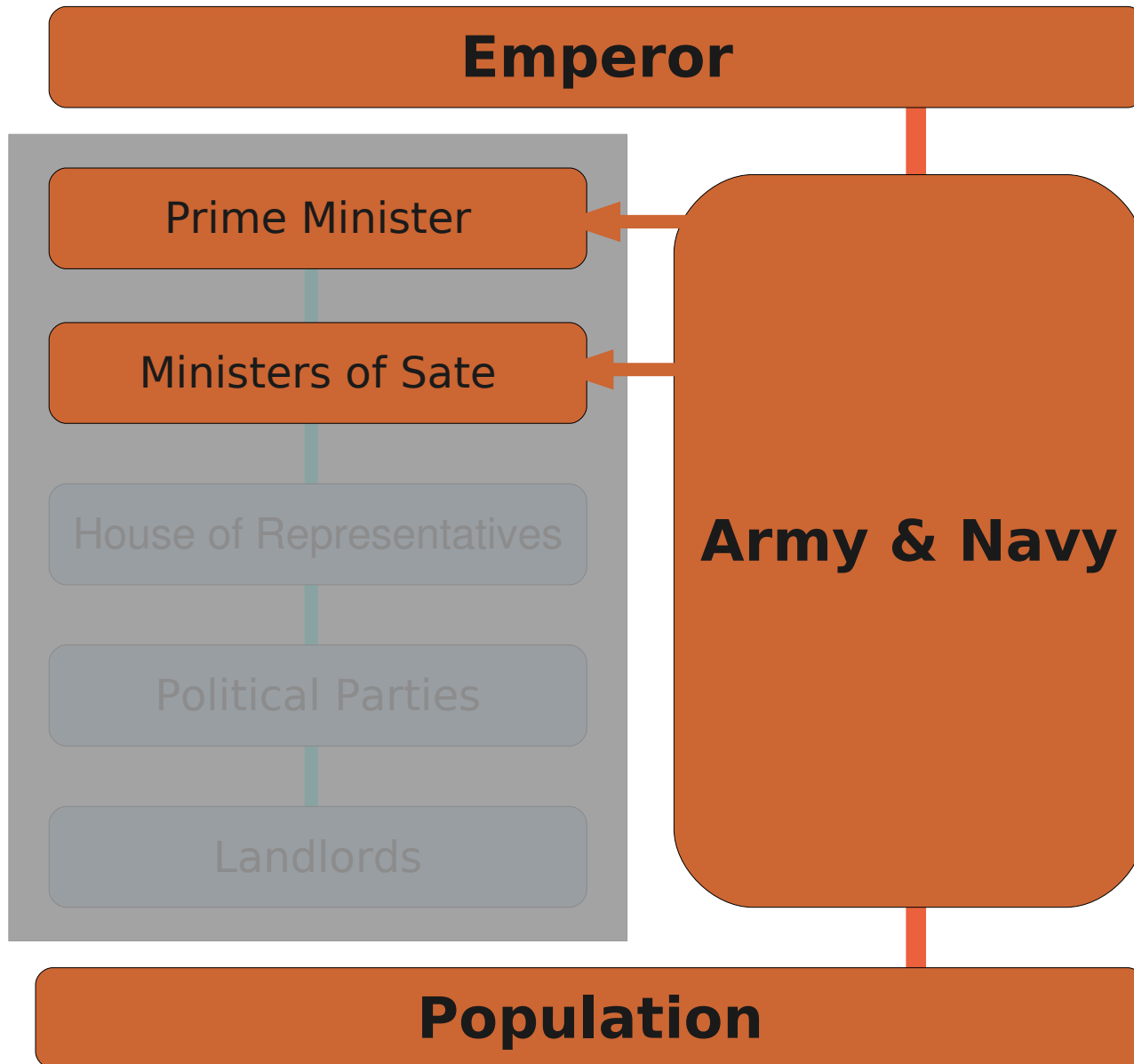
1931 Invasion in Manchuria

1932 Establishment of “*Manchukuo*”

1932 Attempted Coup of young officers of Navy
End of Party Cabinet

Constitutional Institutions ceased to work ...

Constitutional Democracy



Totalitarian Power Structure

Dissolution of the Japanese Imperialism

