

**Lecture 24**  
**The Shaping of the Meiji State**  
**or**  
**“So we restored the emperor—now what?”**

**0. Intro**

- The question of “restoration” and “modernization”
- Forming a new social space
- Nation-building 101

**1. The Meaning of the Meiji Restoration (Meiji Ishin)**

- a. What the restorationists thought
- b. What the historians think
- c. Things for you to think about

**2. Imagining a New Society**

- a. Dealing with differences in the social body
- b. Defining collective interests: **fukoku-kyōhei**

**3. Consolidating the Meiji State**

- a. Money: dissolving samurai stipends; land tax reform
- b. Power: from *han* to *ken*; conscript army
- c. Sex Appeal: symbols of authority; the Meiji Emperor

**Documents:**

- a. Imperial Oath on the Five Principles, March 1868 (Charter Oath, April 1868):
  1. Deliberative assemblies shall be widely established and all matters decided by public discussion.
  2. All classes, high and low, shall united in vigorously carrying out the administration of affairs of state.
  3. The common people, no less than civil and military officials, shall each be allowed to pursue his own calling so that there may be no discontent.
  4. Evil customs of the past shall be broken off and everything based upon the just laws of Nature.
  5. Knowledge shall be sought throughout the world so as to strengthen the foundations of imperial rule.
- b. Imperial Rescript on Education (1890) (Available for download on web site)