

## APWH

### Scored Discussion: Questioning Isolation in Japan, 1450-1750

**Assignment-** Read the provided articles and evaluate whether Japan was a “closed” country or is this notion a “durable misconception” that has been promoted by Western perspectives.

#### Articles-

Laver, Michael. *A Whole New World (Order), Early Modern Japanese Foreign Relations, 1550-1850*

Totman, Conrad. “Japan and the World, 1450-1770, Was Japan a Closed Country?”

*The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan*

#### Guiding Questions-

1. Does the pattern of isolationism effectively describe Japan during the years 1450-1770?
2. How did this time of “isolation” contribute to the development and later industrialization of Japan? How might this have been different if they never “closed” their nation?
3. How does this perception of Japan perpetuate the ideas that Europe was the savior of Japan and therefore the creator of a new “civilized” Japan?
4. As states in Totman’s article, “Why does the notion of Japan’s isolationism endure? What purpose does it serve? What interests or convictions (firm beliefs) does it perpetuate?”
5. Identify patterns/continuities in Japanese culture displayed during this period in history.

#### For the Scored Discussion-

1. Define the terms “closed” and “isolation.”
2. Annotate the articles with the purpose of answering, “Was Japan a “closed” country?” Be able to cite evidence from specific articles.
3. Create a T-chart to track your analysis to support both notions- Closed vs. Not Closed.
4. Write TWO analysis questions to discuss during the discussion.

**YOU CANNOT** participate in the discussion if you do not have the above required elements.