

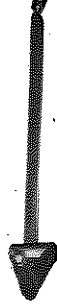
By the end of 1864 it became apparent to both domains that neither plan alone was satisfactory. After the shelling of its forts by the combined foreign fleet, Chōshū's leadership had to acknowledge the futility of expelling the barbarians. Satsuma, for its part, was dismayed by the bakufu attempts to assert its traditional supremacy in 1864-1865 by reinstating the alternate attendance system, dispatching troops to Kyoto to establish control of the court, and gaining French technical assistance to build up its own power. In this situation, the antagonism between Chōshū and Satsuma was gradually overcome by their mutual interest in preventing a reassertion of Tokugawa supremacy.

Cases of conservative opposition to modernization abound. In 1874 the British-built short railroad from Shanghai to Woosung was ripped off its bed by mobs because the locomotive ran over a spectator. Two years later the governor-general was pressured by the local gentry to buy this foreign railway and have it totally wrecked. In 1876 when Kuo Sung-tao went to Britain as a minister, the literati cruelly satirized him for leaving the land of the sages to serve the foreign devils. Kuo's diary, which praised the Western civilization as having a history of two thousand years, was condemned by the conservatives as heresy, and they forced the government to destroy its printing block. These few instances suffice to lay bare the unfavorable social and political atmosphere within which the advocates of Westernization had to operate. Considering the tremendous odds against them, it is really a wonder that they dared to espouse such an unpopular cause and that they achieved the record, however imperfect, they did!

“ 1868 ”

Problems:

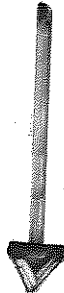
- Opposition
- Defeat



The Year of the Restoration



Meiji Japan



Modernisation

## THE CHARTER OATH, 1868

In April 1868, the Emperor issued the "Five Articles Oath", sometimes referred to as the Charter Oath. In many ways they give some indication of the future policies of the new government. What do you think of them?

1. Deliberative assemblies shall be widely established and all matters decided by public discussion.
  
2. All classes, high and low, shall unite in vigorously carrying out the administration of affairs of state.
  
3. The common people, no less than the 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.

---

Which would you say was the most important of these?

## The Charter Oath 1868

In 1868 the new Emperor Meiji issued the "Five Articles Oath", sometimes known as the Charter Oath. This set out the broad principles on which the new government would apparently be based. The 5 articles were:

1. Deliberative assemblies shall be widely established and all matters decided by public discussion.
2. All classes, high and low, shall unite in vigorously carrying out the administration of affairs of state.
3. The common people, no less than the 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.

Which of the above do you think was least likely to be carried out in practice?  
Of the remaining 4, which two were the most "revolutionary" ?