

## Reading 8a/b: *Nineteenth Century / Contemporary Review*: Worksheet

- 1) Reading 8a. Daigoro Goh, 'A Japanese View of New Japan', *Nineteenth Century* 20:168 (February 1891) pp. 267-78.
- 2) Reading 8b. Tokiwo Yokoi, "New Japan and Her Constitutional Outlook", *Contemporary Review* 74 (September 1898) pp. 446-56.

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### I. General Questions (regarding both readings)

1. What is the date and place of publication of each article? How important is this context to understanding what is written?
2. The phrase "New Japan" is used in the title to each article. How is this phrase used? Does it mean the same in both cases?
3. What is the main topic and argument of each article? What do we learn or can we surmise about the two authors from their articles?
4. What attitudes, both positive and negative, do the two articles take to Japanese social, economic and political institutions?
5. What positions, if any, do the two articles take towards the policies of the British (and other people and the British government towards Japan? What about other Western people and governments?
6. Do either of the passages reflect the modes of thought that we have termed Social Darwinism and Orientalism? If so, where and how?

### II. Specific Questions (regarding each reading)

8a) What do you understand by the following phrases found in the article?

- "the electric shock" (p. 267)
- "a great and glorious revolution" (p. 268)
- "two ministers of foreign affairs" (p. 270)
- "Habeas Corpus" (p. 274)
- "Sir Harry Parkes" and "Sir Francis Plunkett" (p. 277)

8b) What do you understand by the following phrases found in the article?

- "the civilisation of Japan is young" (p. 448)
- "*Koji-Yoron*"
- "the 'Chartist' movement" (p. 451)
- "the Transcendental Cabinet" (p. 454)
- "the Clan bureaucracy"