



Militarily Japan has absorbed influences from many Western countries, foremost being England. America and Russia also contributed to her military arsenal.

England gave her an unparalleled navy with brilliant gunnery and tactics. America taught her what you could get away with in terms of world expansion. Russia taught her that the European could be defeated in battle. Japans nose was put out of joint by the treatment meted out to her at the end of WWI when she was treated like a poor cousin. It was this poor treatment that gave her the idea that if she didn't start grabbing land like the Europeans then she might miss out altogether. Her limited natural resources also provided a spur toward doing some expanding of her own. China and Korea were natural choices and Japan annexed Korea in 1910 thus commencing the slide into WWI and II.

The weapons that Japan used to carry out her military efforts were a mixed bag of direct copies, purchases of existing systems from Europe and native designs. It is here that Japan seems to have lost the plot as they got confused with a multitude of calibres, a multitude of weapons with different calibres all in service at the same time and a complete mismanagement of some of her really good weapons systems. For example they used their submarines as a fleet vessel supposedly to attack the enemies warships, rather than the attack of the more vulnerable merchant vessels. They seem to have no idea of the use of armoured vehicles en-masse and used them as infantry support weapons. Even with the inadequate weapons of the day the allies were easily able to knock out Japanese tanks. Their grenades were almost primitive in some respects and, from reports by troops against whom they were used, they were not very effective. Their Navy and Army took service rivalry to new levels of stupidity by developing a different set of bombs for each service and different ammunition for Army aircraft and Navy aircraft. They also got themselves into difficulties with designations, for example they referred to 70mm ammunition as 7cm and at the same time they referred to 75mm ammunition as 7cm also. Very confusing.

SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION USED BY JAPAN.

6.5 mm Arisaka	7.7mm rimmed	12.7mm
7mm Nambu	7.7mm semi-rimmed	13.2mm
8mm Nambu	7.7mm rimless	20mm

GRENADES USED BY JAPAN.

Early model bamboo and earthenware types.
10th year type.
Type 91
Chinese type 23
Type 97

Type 99
Type 3
Type 88 pottery
11th year inc.
"Poison" grenades

MORTAR AMMUNITION USED BY JAPAN.

50mm	90mm
58mm	120mm
70mm	150mm
81mm	320mm

LAND ARTILLERY AMMUNITION USED BY JAPAN.

37mm	70mm	105mm
40mm	75mm	120mm
47mm	88mm	150mm
57mm	90mm	305mm

NAVAL ARTILLERY AMMUNITION USED BY JAPAN.

47mm	120mm	152mm
76.2mm	127mm	202mm
100mm	140mm	

LAND MINES USED BY JAPAN.

Type 88 Anti-vehicle	Beehive Apers.
Type 93 Atk & Apers.	Hemispherical Atk.
Type 99 Atk.	Bangalore torpedo.
Lunge mine.	Wooden Atk & Apers mines.
Anti-vehicle "yardstick"	Type JE anti-boat mine.
Suction cup mine.	Type JG anti-boat mine.
Dutch Atk & Apers.	

NAVAL MINES USED BY JAPAN.

ARMY AERIAL BOMBS USED BY JAPAN.

1/2kg.	5kg.	50kg.
1/3kg.	12kg.	100kg.
1kg.	15kg.	250kg.
4kg.	30kg.	500kg.

NAVAL AERIAL BOMBS USED BY JAPAN.

Land		
Ordinary	Mk. 8	Mk. 27
Mk. 1	Mk. 19	Mk. 28
Mk. 2	Mk. 21	Mk. 31
Mk. 3	Mk. 22	Dummy
Mk. 4	Mk. 23	Practice
Mk. 5	Mk. 24	Training
Mk. 6	Mk. 25	Smoke.
Mk.7	Mk. 26	

History.

In legend, Japan was founded in 660 B.C., but reliable records date only to about A.D. 400. By the 5th cent. Japan was unified by the Yamato clan, and the foundations of a centralized imperial state were laid by the 8th century. Court culture was influenced first by Chinese learning and institutions and then by a rebirth of native Japanese culture. By the 9th century the powerful Fujiwara family ruled as regents, and imperial authority was undermined. The 12th century ushered in Japan's medieval period, with the development of feudalism, the rise of a warrior class called the SAMURAI, and the establishment of military rule under Minamoto Yoritomo, the first SHOGUN. After civil war between rival warrior clans, the country was unified in 1600 under a new shogun, Tokugawa IEYASU. For more than 250 years the TOKUGAWA family ruled over a Japan internally at peace and largely cut off from the outside world. In 1853 the U.S. naval officer Matthew C. PERRY arrived in Japan to force the opening of trade with the West, and in 1868 the shogunate collapsed, when the Meiji Restoration returned formal power to the Emperor MEIJI. A new government was established under the able leadership of former samurai. Adopting the techniques of Western civilization, Japan modernized rapidly into an industrial state and military power. A constitutional monarchy and a parliament

(diet) were established by the constitution of 1889. The success of Japan in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–95) and the RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR (1904–5) brought the nation to international prominence. An Anglo-Japanese alliance was formed in 1902. Japan annexed Korea in 1910, established a puppet-state in MANCHURIA in 1932, and began the Second SINO-JAPANESE WAR (1937–45) by invading North China. Japan formed a military alliance with Germany and Italy in WORLD WAR II and opened hostilities against the U.S. with an attack on PEARL HARBOR in 1941. After rapid initial success, the Japanese were defeated by the Allies. Following the dropping of atomic bombs by the U.S. on HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI, Japan surrendered in Aug. 1945 and was occupied by U.S. forces. The signing of a peace treaty in 1951 led to full Japanese sovereignty over the main islands in 1952. The U.S. returned the BONIN and nearby islands to Japan in 1968 and the RYUKYU ISLANDS (Okinawa) in 1972.

