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An Excerpt from the Treaty of Nanjing, 1842

HER. Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Majesty the Emperor of China, being desirous of putting an end to the misunderstandings and consequent hostilities which have arisen between the two countries, have resolved to conclude a treaty for that purpose...

Article II.

His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees, that British subjects, with their families and establishments, shall be allowed to reside, for the purpose of carrying on their mercantile pursuit, without molestation or restraint, at the cities and towns of Canton, Amoy, Fuchau fú, Ningpo, and Shanghai...

Article III.

It being obviously necessary and desirable that British subjects should have some port whereat they may careen and refit their ships when required, and keep stores for that purpose, His Majesty the Emperor of China cedes to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, &c., the island of Hong Kong, to be possessed in perpetuity [for forever] by Her Britannic Majesty, her heirs and successors, and to be governed by such laws and regulations as Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, &c., shall see fit to direct.

Article IV.

The Emperor of China agrees to pay the sum of six millions of dollars, as the value of the opium which was delivered up at Canton in the month of March 1839, as a ransom for the lives of Her Britannic Majesty's superintendent and subjects, who had been imprisoned and threatened with death by the Chinese high officers.

Article VI.

The government of Her Britannic Majesty having been obliged to send out an expedition to demand and obtain redress for the violent and unjust proceedings of the Chinese high authorities towards Her Britannic Majesty's officer and subjects, the Emperor of China agrees to pay the sum of twelve millions of dollars, on account of the expenses incurred; and Her Britannic Majesty's plenipotentiary [representative] voluntarily agrees, on behalf of Her Majesty, to deduct from the said amount of twelve millions of dollars, any sums which may have been received by Her Majesty's combined forces, as ransom for cities and towns in China, subsequent to the 1st day of August, 1841.

Source: Treaty of Nanjing (Nanking), 1842, National University of Singapore,
http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/hist/eia/documents_archive/nanking-treaty%20v2.php

Treaty of Kanagawa; March, 31, 1854

The United States of America and the empire of Japan, desiring to establish firm, lasting and sincere friendship between the two nations, have resolved to fix... the rules which shall in future be mutually observed in the intercourse of their respective countries; for which most desirable object the President of the United States has conferred full powers on his commissioner, Matthew Calbraith Perry, special ambassador of the United States to Japan and the august sovereign [ruler] of Japan has given similar full powers to his commissioners, Hayashi-Daigaku-no-kami, Ido, Prince of Tsus-Sima; Izawa, Prince of Mmimasaki; and Udono, member of the Board of Revenue.

And the said commissioners after having exchanged their said full powers and duly considered the premises, have agreed to the following articles:

Article I

There shall be a perfect, permanent and universal peace, and a sincere and cordial amity [a friendly relationship], between the United States of America on the one part and between their people, respectfully, (respectively,) without exception of persons or places.

Article II

The port of Shimoda...and the port of Hakodate...are granted by the Japanese as ports for the reception for American ships, where they can be supplied with wood, water, provisions and coal, and other articles their necessities may require, as far as the Japanese have them...

Article V

Shipwrecked men and other citizens of the United States, temporarily living at Shimoda and Hakodate, shall not be subject to such restrictions and confinement as the Dutch and Chinese are at Nagasaki but shall be free at Shimoda to go where they please within the limits of seven Japanese miles from a small island in the harbor of Shimoda, marked on the accompanying chart hereto appended; and shall in like manner be free to go where they please at Hakodate, within limits to be defined after the visit of the United States squadron to that place.

Article X

Ships of the United States shall be permitted to resort to no other ports in Japan but Shimoda and Hakodate, unless in distress or forced by stress of weather.

Source: Treaty of Kanagawa, 1854, *Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America*. vol. 6 Miller, Hunter ed. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1942 from http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/japan002.asp



Select Articles from the Treaty of Versailles

Article 159

The German military forces shall be demobilised and reduced as prescribed hereinafter.

Article 231

The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Article 232

...The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian populations of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property during the period of the belligerency of each as an Allied or Associated Power against Germany by such aggression by land, by sea and from the air, and in general all damage as defined in Annex 1 hereto...

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The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization created to promote international cooperation established in 1945 after World War II in order to prevent another such conflict. In 1948, the UN General Assembly wrote the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights is important because for the first time, there was a document that defined the meaning of the "fundamental freedoms" and "human rights" and declared that these rights should be universally protected. While the UN Declaration defines human rights, it is not a treaty, which means it is not legally binding. Nations can choose to protect or not protect human rights.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 13. (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 26. (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Source: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/UDHRIndex.aspx>