

Response Paper 2 (Maximum 3 double-spaced pages)

Due October 6, 2005

This assignment requires your creative thinking. Read “*Rich Nation, Strong Army*” by Richard Samuels (Chapter 2, pp. 33-56) as well as *The Rise of Modern Business in Great Britain, the United States, and Japan* (Chapter 5, pp. 103-127). Then let us suppose facetiously that we have a time machine, developed by Nobel laureates at MIT, which can take us back to Japan right after the Meiji Restoration of 1868. You are a novice industrialist trying to develop some new business/engineering enterprise during the Meiji-Taisho years (1868-1925). Equipped with hindsight gained from the two chapters, what engineering/business project(s) would you initiate in Japan at the time if you were there? Note that Mitsubishi and Mitsui already launched their business *before* our arrival. They are formidable rivals. Direct competition with any of such giant commercial firms in the country needs to be avoided at all costs. In your paper, briefly describe the new venture you have in mind, then answer the following questions. Why did you choose it? What international and domestic factors of the decades would support your effort? What would be some barriers? What strategies would you employ to overcome such impediments?