Period I: The cultural sphere of the main island of Hokkaido extended to the four northern islands

Period II: The recognition of the four northern islands by the Matsumae Domain and the gradual establishment of control

Period III: Contact and friction with Russia, building a common understanding of ‘borders’

Period IV: Confirmation of the border based on the Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation between Japan and Russia and subsequent development of the islands

Period V: Soviet Russian illegal occupation of the Northern Four Islands

Prehistoric period | 17th century | 18th century | 19th century | 20th century

Events on the main island of Hokkaido etc.

- Old Stone Age, Jomon Culture, and Epi-Jomon Culture ① (relevant sites and artifacts)
- Okhotsk Culture ② (Same as above)
- Satsumon Culture ④ (Same as above)
- Tobinitai Culture ③ (Same as above)
- **Around the 13th century:** Construction of Chashis began
- **1457:** Koshamain's War
- **1604:** Matsumae Yoshihiro received a black seal license from Tokugawa Ieyasu and the Matsumae Domain monopolized trading rights with the Ainu ⑦
- **1669:** Shakushain's revolt
- **18th century:** Merchants were gradually entrusted with the management of trading posts
- **1759:** The Matsumae Domain became aware of the southern advance of Russia. They concealed this information from the Shogunate.
- **1771:** Peynovsky warned of Russian advance to the south
- **1779:** Contact between Russians and the Matsumae Domain in Akkeshi
- **1783:** Kudo Heisuke wrote “Akaezo Fusetsu Ko,” proposing active development of Ezo
- Around this time, the shogunate became aware of Russia's expansion to the south
- **1785-1786:** Investigation of Ezo (Old name of Hokkaido) by the Shogunate in the Tenmei era
- **1786:** Hayashi Shihei wrote “Sangoku Tsūran Zusetsu”(Illustrated General Survey of Three Countries)
- **1790:** The Matsumae Domain established trading posts and guardhouses on Sakhalin
- **1791-92:** Investigation of Ezo by the Shogunate
- **1792-93:** Adam Laxman's arrival to Japan. Matsudaira Sadanobu gave Laxman a “credential” for arrival in Nagasaki
- **1796-97:** William Robert Broughton's arrival to Ezo
- **1798:** Investigation of Ezo by the Shogunate
- **1799:** The Shogunate took direct control of the eastern part of Ezo
- **1801:** The Shogunate placed a wooden maker on Uruppu Island with the inscription Tencho Chikyu Dai Nihon Zokuto (This island permanently belongs to Japan)
- **1804-1805:** Rezanov's arrival in Nagasaki
- **1806:** Khvostov Incident (raid on Sakhalin)
- **1807:** the Shogunate ordered the various Domains to increase surveillance in Ezo
- **1807:** The Shogunate took direct control of the western part of Ezo
- **1809:** Mamiya Rinzo confirmed that Sakhalin is an island
- **1821:** The Matsumae Domain returned to Ezo
- **1831-33:** Takadaya was punished on suspicion of smuggling with Russia
- **1855:** Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation between Japan and Russia ㉞
- **1855:** The Shogunate took direct control of Ezo again ㉟
- **1867:** Japan and Russia concluded the Provisional Regulation for Sakhalin Island
- **1867:** Restoration of Imperial Rule
- **1868:** Decree for the Restoration of Imperial Rule
- **1868-1869:** Battle of Hakodate
- **1869:** Establishment of the Hokkaido Development Commission and the Nemuro Branch Office
- **1869:** Council of State Proclamation No. 734 (Ezo renamed Hokkaido, 11 provinces and 86 counties established) ㊴
- **1871:** Abolition of the han (domain) system and establishment of prefectures
- **1872:** Nemuro Branch Office becomes the Nemuro Subprefecture
- **1875:** Treaty for the Exchange of Sakhalin for the Kurile Islands ㊷
- **1876:** The Kurile Islands were incorporated into the Chishima Province
- **1876:** Introduction of the Hokkaido dai-sho-ku (large and small district) system ㊻
- **1876:** The Regulations for the Management of the Fisheries of the Sea around Hokkaido and the Adjacent Islands under the Jurisdiction of the Empire of Japan were enacted ㊼
- **1879:** The County, Ward (Ku), Town, and Village Organization Act came into effect in Hokkaido ㊽
- **1882:** The Hokkaido Development Commission was abolished.The three prefectures of Sapporo, Hakodate and Nemuro were established. ㊾
- **1884:** Council of State Proclamation No. 16 of 1884 (Council of State Proclamation concerning the introduction of a licensing system for hunting sea otters and fur seals) ㊿
- **1886:** The three prefectures are abolished and the Hokkaido Prefectural Office was established 53
- **1891:** Chamberlain Kataoka surveyed the Kurile Islands 54
- **1893-1895:** Gunji Shigetada's first attempt to develop the Kurile Islands
- **1896-1905:** Gunji Shigetada's second attempt to develop the Kurile Islands
- **1904-1905:** Russo-Japanese War. Southern Sakhalin became Japanese territory under the Portsmouth Peace Treaty
- **1914-1918:** World War I
- **1935:** Chamberlain Hisamatsu surveyed the Kurile Islands 56
- **1941:** Atlantic Charter; **1945:** Potsdam Declaration; **1951:** San Francisco Peace Treaty; **1956:** Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration; **1943:** Cairo Declaration; **1941:** Neutrality Pact between Japan and the Soviet Union; Post-WWII documents in the Joint Compendium of Documents on the History of Territorial Issues between Japan and Russia in 1992 61

The situation on the four islands

- **1661:** Ise Matsusaka Shichirobei's ship was shipwrecked on Etorofu Island ⑩
- **1731:** The ainu of Etorofu and Kunashiri Islands went to Matumae for the first time ⑫
- **1756:** A ship from Kishu (now called Wakayama Prefecture)was shipwrecked on Etorofu Island ⑭
- **1771:** The Ainu of Etorofu Island played a major role in the attack on the Russians
- Chashis on the Northern Four Islands ⑤ (major Chashis introduction)
- **1873:** Memorandum of the Nemuro Sub-prefectural Office:Summary of Local Geography was issued ㊶
- **1876:** Investigation Report on the Three Chishima Counties in 1876 ㊺
- **1884:** The Kurile Ainu moved to Shikotan Island 51
- The situation on the Four Northern Islands before the introduction of the two-tiered town and village system 55
- The situation on the Four Northern Islands after the introduction of the two-tiered town and village system 58
- Record of the situation with the Soviet military presence in the Kurile Islands and outlying islands 60
- Verbal records of life on the four northern islands before the war, the Soviet occupation, and the forcible deportation 59

Activities of the Japanese people and the Japanese government*

- Around this time, sea otter and seal skins, eagle feathers, etc., were brought to Japan via the Matsumae clan and were highly prized as luxury goods ⑥
- **1635:** Murakami Kamonzaemon and other members of the Matsumae Domain travelled around Ezo to draw a map of it ⑧
- **1644:** Kunashiri and Etorofu Islands were depicted in the Shouho-okuni-ezu (pictorial map of Japan in the Shoho period) ⑨
- **1700:** The Matsumae Domain submitted a map and village register of Ezo as part of the Genroku National Map Project. Kunashiri and Etorofu Islands were listed. ⑪
- **1754:** Establishment of a trading post on the Kunashiri Island ⑬
- **1786:** During a survey in 1786, Shogunate officials landed on and circumnavigated the islands of Etorofu and Uruppu for the first time. They came into contact with the Russians on Etorofu Island. ⑮
- The Shogunate understood the specific shape of the Kuril Islands. ⑯
- **1789:** Menashi-Kunashir rebellion ⑰
- **1791:** The Shogunate conducted trade to support the Ainu ⑱
- **1798-1800:** A marker was erected on Etorofu island with the inscription “Etorofu, Japan” ⑲
- **1799:** Kondo Juzo was put in charge of Etorofu Island
- **1800:** 10-point rule was issued to the Ainu on Etorofu Island ⑳
- **1802:** Kondo Juzo's Ezo Chizu Shiki (map of Ezo) ㉒
- **1800:** Takadaya Kahei developed a trading route to Etorofu Island and fishing grounds on the island ㉓
- **1800:** Etorofu Mura-mura Becho (village-by-village register of Etorofu Island) ㉑
- **1802:** Kondo Juzo's proposal to the Shogunate to ban hunting on Uruppu Island by the Ainu of Etorofu Island ㉔
- **1802-1803:** Kuraku Matsuemon constructed a sea pier on Etorofu Island on the order of the Shogunate
- **1803:** The Ainu of Etorofu Island were banned from hunting on Uruppu Island
- **1806:** Nambu Keisho -Maru(name of a ship) was shipwrecked on Etorofu Island ㉕
- **1804:** The Nanbu and Tsugaru domains began guarding Etorofu Island ㉖
- **1807:** Khvostov Incident (raid on Etorofu Island) ㉗
- **1807-:** Guarding of Etorofu and Kunashiri Islands was reinforced
- **1811:** Bankoku Ryakuzu(the Map of the World) was published. In it, Takahashi Kageyasu's Nihon Henkai Ryakuzu(Map of the Japanese Frontier) showed that Kunashiri and Etorofu Islands were part of Japanese territory. ㉘
- **1811:** Russian military officer Golovnin was captured on Kunashiri Island ㉙
- **1813:** Russian military officer Ricord confirmed the conditions for Golovnin's release on the Japanese side, through the intermediary of Takadaya Kahei (presentation of an official letter with the seal and signature of the Russian governor, stating that Khvostov's act was carried out on his own initiative)
- **1813:** Golovnin was released. On his return to Russia, he left behind a document proposing negotiations on the demarcation of the border to Japan. ㉚
- **1812-1817:** Mamiya Rinzo drew the Map of Kunashiri Island in Ezo
- **1814:** The Japanese side envisaged that the islands up to Etorofu Island would be Japanese territory, the islands north of Simushir Island would be Russian territory, and the islands in between would be a neutral zone
- **1814:** The Japanese and Russian representatives failed to meet on Etorofu Island
- **1821:** Ino Tadataka's Dai Nihon Enkai Yochi Zenzu (Maps of Japan's Coastal Area) were completed. The Taizu (large-scale maps) included two sheets of Kunashiri Island. ㉛
- **1836:** The Fujino family applied to fish on Shikotan Island and were granted permission
- This treaty legally confirmed the border between Japan and Russia that had naturally formed between Etorofu and Uruppu Islands at the time.
- **1841:** The fishing grounds on Etorofu Island, previously leased to the Fujino family,etc., were taken over by the Date and Suhara families (until 1876)
- **1857:** Vaccination of the Ainu living on the Northern Four Islands ㊱
- **1859:** The Northern Four Islands (excluding the Shana region on Etorofu Island) were given to the Sendai Domain ㊲
- **1859:** Matsuura Takeshiro's Tozai Ezo Sansen Chiri Torishirabezu (Map of the Geography of the Eastern and Western Ezo Mountains and Rivers) ㊳
- Kunashiri and Etorofu Islands made up the Chishima Province, with Kunashiri County on Kunashiri Island and Etorofu, Furebetsu, Shana, and Shibetoro Counties on Etorofu Island. The Habomai Islands and Shikotan Island belonged to the Hanasaki County of the Nemuro Province
- **1869-1871:** Hokkaido was divided among various domains and other entities ㊵
- **1872:** Establishment of the Kunashiri Branch Office and the Furebetsu Branch Office(renamed the substations in 1876)
- The Nemuro Province became the 25th district, and the Chishima Province became the 26th district. The Kunashiri County and four counties on Etorofu Island each formed a sub-district. Under these, five villages on Kunashiri Island and ten villages on Etorofu Island were established.
- **1876:** An edict abolishing the monopolization of fishing grounds of the Four Northern Islands by some merchant families was issued ㊸
- **1876:** Inspection of Etorofu Island by Kuroda Kiyotaka,Director-General of the Hokkaido Development Commission ㊹
- **1880:** The Nemuro County Office took control of the four Northern Islands other than Etorofu Island, and the Furebetsu County Office took control of the four counties of Etorofu Island
- **1882:** The Northern Four Islands became a part of Nemuro Prefecture
- **1885:** Shikotan Island was separated from the Hanasaki Country of Nemuro Province to become Shikotan County and was incorporated into Chishima Province 52
- **1886:** Chishima Province came under the jurisdiction of the Nemuro Sub-prefecture
- **1897-1903:** The Shana Sub-prefectural Office was established (re-integrated into the Nemuro Sub-prefectural Office in 1903)
- **1915:** The two-tiered town and village system was introduced to Habomai Village
- **1923:** The two-tiered town and village system was introduced to the villages on Etorofu, Kunashiri and Shikotan Islands. The same administrative districts as at the end of WWII were established. 57

Russian activities

- **1696:** The Russian “discovery” of the Kamchatka Peninsula
- **1702:** Peter the Great received the Japanese castaway Denbei and he showed an interest in trade with Japan
- **1712:** Some of the islands of the Kurile Islands are drawn on a Russian map for the first time (New map of the land and sea of the Kamchadal region by Remesov)
- **1713:** Kozyrevsky's expedition to the Kurile Islands. He clashed with the Kurile Ainu on Paramushir Island.
- **1738:** Shpanberg's expedition to the Kurile Islands and Japan(the ‘Black Ships’ of the Genbun era)
- **1766-1769:** Chyornyh reached Uruppu and Etorofuislands
- **1771:** The Ainu, whose hunting grounds had been monopolized by the Russians, attacked them
- **1779:** Contact between Russians and the Matsumae Domain in Akkeshi
- **1784:** Some of the Russians who had been sent to salvage a ship that had run aground on Uruppu Island due to the tsunami caused by the 1780 earthquake escaped to Etorofu Island
- **1792-93:** Adam Laxman's arrival to Japan. Laxman received a “credential” for arrival in Nagasaki
- **1795:** Russian settlement on Uruppu Island
- **1805:** Russians left Uruppu Island
- **1804-1805:** Rezanov's arrival in Nagasaki
- **1806:** Khvostov Incident (raid on Sakhalin)
- **1807:** Khvostov Incident (raid on Etorofu Island)
- **1811:** Russian military officer Golovnin was captured on Kunashiri Island
- **1812:** Russian officer Ricord captured Takadaya Kahei near Kunashiri Island
- **1814:** In response to a query from Governor Treskin of Irkutsk,Golovnin replied that the Japanese considered the natural boundary to be between Etorofu and Uruppu Islands
- **1821:** 1821: Decree by Emperor Alexander I ㉜ (Prohibiting economic activities by foreigners in the Kurile Islands,etc. The area covered extended as far south as Uruppu Island)
- Common recognition between Japan and Russia that the islands as far north as Etorofu Island were Japanese territory was established
- **1853:** Instruction from Emperor ㉝ Nicholas I to Putiatin (It accepted that Uruppu Island would be the southernmost point of Russia)
- **1867** Japan and Russia concluded the Provisional Regulation for Sakhalin Island
- **1875:** Treaty for the Exchange of Sakhalin for the Kurile Islands
- **1904-1905:** Russo-Japanese War. Southern Sakhalin became Japanese territory under the Portsmouth Peace Treaty
- **1941:** Declaration of the Soviet Government regarding participation in the Atlantic Charter; **1945:** Yalta Agreement; **1956:** Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration; **1941:** Neutrality Pact between Japan and the Soviet Union; Post-WWII documents in the Joint Compendium of Documents on the History of Territorial Issues between Japan and Russia in 1992 61

Activities of other countries

- **1618:** information about “the island of otters” in a private letter from the Jesuit missionary Angelis
- **1643:** Maarten Gerritszoon Vries' voyage: sighting of Etorofu Island.Landed on Kunashiri Island
- **1796-97:** William Robert Broughton's arrival to Ezo
- **1846:** The American whaling ship Lawrence drifted ashore on Etorofu Island
- **1853:** Perry's arrival in Japan
- **1941:** Atlantic Charter; **1943:** Cairo Declaration; **1945:** Potsdam Declaration; **1951:** San Francisco Peace Treaty; **1945:** Yalta Agreement; Post-WWII documents in the Joint Compendium of Documents on the History of Territorial Issues between Japan and Russia in 1992 61
- Aide-Memoire dated September7, 1956, by the U.S. Department of State 62
- Aide-Memoire dated May 23, 1957, by the U.S. Department of State 63

*The Japanese government includes the Matsumae Domain, the Edo Shogunate, and local governments