





### Main characteristics of Japan

= 1 of the most economically developed countries

- 4 main islands (Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku, Hokkaido) + Ryukyu islands
- mountainous islands, lot of volcanoes (Mt. Fujisan)
- high temperature extremes (Hokkaido vs. Kyushu + influence of ocean currents)
- 1 of the most densely populated regions of the world (regions of  $>300$  inh./km<sup>2</sup>)
- disadvantageous location (far from trade partner countries)
- import of raw materials  $\leftrightarrow$  small own sources and export of products
- big role in Asian development, highly developed regional specialization
- high modernization (flexible specialization of SME, quick innovation, model of sub-supplies)
- the most effective and the most productive agriculture in Asia  $\Rightarrow$  very intensive agriculture, remaining agricultural products are imported from abroad  $\leftrightarrow$  cheaper to import, e.g. wheat from South Korea
- important fishing companies (sea-grasses, whales, molluscs)
- order in rules of the system, very intensive traffic (transport) connection
- former colonists (western Pacific), during WWII = occupation of Korean peninsula and western Pacific Ocean
- symbiosis between technical development and conservation (keeping) of old cultures  $\Rightarrow$  highly cultural nation

### Core areas of Japan islands

- *Gulf of Tokyo* = Kantó lowland, Tokkaido megalopolis (Tokyo  $\rightarrow$  Yokohama – most important harbour)
- *Kyoto* (former Japanese capital) + *Kobe* (important harbour) + *Osaka*
- *north part of Kyushu island* = Kitakyushu and Shimonoseki



## South Korea

= very similar to Japanese economic model (highly developed economy) – expanding by cooperation

= one of “Asian economic tigers” (besides Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong)

*Agriculture:* very intensive and effective (rice 2-3x per year), export of vegetables and wheat to Japan

*Industries:* automobile, high-technology => South Korea was 11 of the biggest investors to SE Asia

= hate to Japanese ⇔ occupation for 30yrs. till WWII

= artificial land beneath the airport of Seoul



## North Korea

= mountainous country, small arable areas => degradation of soils ⇔ bad farming methods

= large coal and iron ore reserves but few oil and natural gas reserves.

= isolated country, the only connection with outer world through Beijing ⇔ *communist regime* (besides Cuba, Mongolia and China)

= “Stalinist type of cult”

*Industries:* armament, iron and steel (smelting) industry

*Agriculture:* growing of rice and wheat mostly



## Korean conflict

= heavy battles during 1950s resulted in stable, well-guarded border (both sides). **1953** = definitive separation of the 2 countries =>

- no post or other communication between North and South Korea for 50 yrs.
- no buildings situated in the distance of 5 km on North Korean side of the border
- no trade between the 2 countries
- very high political tension between the 2 Koreas

## Religion

- South Koreans = most tolerant (*Catholics* + *Protestant*)
- *Shintoism* = Japan
- *Confucianism*, old Chinese traditions
- Tibet = specific culture = *Buddhism* => *Lamaism*