Chapter 15 Summary

The Big Change

Reasons for Change

- Japanese people knew what had happened to China and did not want it to happen to them.
- The Japanese people would accept change because they were used to obeying authority.
- People were already unhappy about the shogun being unwilling to change.
- The Japanese people valued focused, quiet productivity.

Positive Effects of Change

- Japanese wealth and employment would grow.
- Japanese isolation would end, and Japan would become modern.
- The world would have a better opinion of Japan.
- Life would become easier for ordinary people and more freedom would be available.
- More opportunities would be present for the Japanese people.

Negative Effects of Change

- Important Japanese traditions might be thrown away.
- The politeness and quiet of Japanese society could be lost.
- Japanese people might forget their values.
- Foreigners might impose their will on the Japanese people.
- Foreigners may impose their religion on the Japanese people.