HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT of NAGASAKI

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Humble Beginnings

• Nagasaki city started out as a small fishing village
• It didn’t have much significance in Japanese history till the 16th Century
Humble Beginnings

• Due to the open trade with the world, Europeans began trading with Nagasaki.
• The local Japanese fell in love with the western industry and culture.
• Collaboration between locals and westerners in 1805s pioneered the modernization of Japan.
Western Influences

• Around the mid 1500s, Nagasaki was discovered by the Portuguese, and thereafter, people from around Europe came to the city to spread the word of Christianity.
• In 1587, Japan’s most powerful daimyo, Hideyoshi Toyotomi worried that the Westerners would take over Japan’s rule and thus declared to expel all missionaries.

• After their eviction, Hideyoshi Toyotomi revolted against the Europeans to ban all trades from abroad except to an artificial island which housed the Dutch East India Company’s Japanese trading post, while also preventing locals from moving out of the country.
The Bombing

• On August 9th 1945, 11.02 am. An atomic bomb codenamed “Fat Man” was detonated 500m above Nagasaki. As a result, 73,884 lives were killed, and another 74,909 were injured.
Rebuilding after the destruction

- After the bombing, restoration work was put in place to rebuild Nagasaki.
- The government “war disaster reconstruction plan” abandoned the development of the old war industries and was focused more on reviving, foreign trade, shipbuilding, and fishing industries.
Metamorphosis of Nagasaki

- Plans of rebuilding Nagasaki did not work out until the National Diet (parliament) in May 1949 passed Nagasaki International Culture City Reconstruction Law. (PDF)
Rememering the disaster

• In order not to forget the wrath of the disaster that shook Japan, a monument known as the atomic bomb museum was constructed in memory of the destruction and human loss, known as the “Atomic Bomb Museum”
Return to the old days

- New churches were built to replace the ones that were damaged. In fact, Nagasaki saw an increase in the popularity of Christianity with its people.
The Great Nagasaki

- Nagasaki would eventually be constructed as a city of free trade and tourism
- It would incorporate a system where people wouldn’t have to walk more than 300m to get their access to transport
A positive return

- The streets in Nagasaki constructed would now be wider than they were in the past.
- Parks came in abundance during the development.
- Private companies also had a part to play in Nagasaki’s development after the war.
A positive return

- The Nagasaki Cultural Association (Nagasaki bunka konwa konwa kai) was one of the first associations to take up the torch with its redevelopment. Improved harbors, airports and facilities to enliven the city also began to show up eventually.
A positive return

- Young businessmen from the Nagasaki Prefectural Association of Commerce, Industry and Economy had also joined hands with the government to aid with Nagasaki’s development
Nagasaki Shipyard

- Nagasaki shipyard has always been a major contributor to the city’s development.
- In 1952, the shipyard was renamed Mitsubishi shipbuilding and engineering Co., Ltd.
Nagasaki Shipyard

• Once the prime developer for Japan’s warships, Mitsubishi extended its development range into industries like solar power and electronics.
• The company celebrated it’s 150th anniversary in 2007 and is today well known around the world.
Renewable energy development

- Renewable energy is the focus of Nagasaki’s industry today. Mitsubishi industries recently inaugurated a mega-solar generation in Tadewara in partnership with Toda corporation and Mitsubishi UFJ Lease & Finance.
Future plans

• Nagasaki now aims to become Asia’s pioneer testing site for renewable marine energy
• Since the Fukushima nuclear accident, perhaps the safer alternative of natural energy will be more attractive not for Japan alone but perhaps the world
Nagasaki today continues to be a patron for the message of world peace, never forgetting even after it’s successful development that the horrors of war should not fall on another country, and will probably continue to do so for years to come.