The Invasion of Nanking
Context: Japan, 1930

Japan suffered from economic problems.

Japan was geographically small.

Goals of Japan’s military leaders
• expand Japan’s empire to gain more raw materials
• restore Japan’s power in Asia and the world
Invasion of China

- Japan invaded China’s northern region of Manchuria in 1931.
- This area was rich with iron and coal.

Japanese soldiers in Manchuria
Invasion of Nanking

• Nanking was China’s capital.
• Japan invaded Nanking in December 1937.
Central Historical Question

What happened during the invasion of Nanking?