

Japan Timeline

1992 – The stock crash of '92 leaves Western governments paralysed. Japan, Korea and China flourish in the ensuing years. East Asian companies grow more powerful in the West.

2001 – Japan introduces free internet access to every building in Japan making them the first country in the world to have 100% of their population on-line.

2004 – Japan, despite superior healthcare to most of the world, also succumbs to the “Winter of Discontent”.

The harsh economic sanctions placed on Asian countries by the US start to affect the Japanese export markets. Many Zaibatsu utilise sales on the US black market.

2005 – US tariffs are lifted to allow cheap food into the country from the far east.

2008 – Arakudo develops a prototype power-armour suit.

2008 - Emperor Toshiro dies. His son Akihito II takes his place.

2010 – Japan flourishes in the face of a global foodscare. Japanese rice and fish farms make record profits.

2011 – Global oil scares, like the food scares of the previous year affect Japan minimally due to alternative fuel R&D and harsh restrictions on vehicle performance that have been in place since the late 20th century.

Rumours abound that Japanese corporations are responsible for industrial espionage as an attempt to promote their alternative fuel engines and increase other exports.

2012 – The worst earthquake since 1923 hits Tokyo Bay. Modern engineering saves much of the city infrastructure but land-line communications go down for 26 hours and over 300,000 are killed.

2013 – The Gohan Corporation announce the release of universal foodstuff ‘Grey Matter’.

2016 – Japan flatly refuse to join the UES. Rumours circulate that Japan are aware of a future global economic crash and choose to avoid being in a position where the country would be forced to subsidise less wealthy countries.

2017 – Japan begins distribution of Grey Matter to the rest of the world. Prices are kept artificially low by the world governments to ensure supply and distribution.

The Kendachi Corporation restrict exports of new technologies.

2020 – American company Fuller is ‘bought-out’ by Kendachi. A semi-hostile takeover is suspected.

The UES once again approaches Japan in an attempt to petition them for membership.

2021 – Chikara are granted a licence for a massive W-HEX contract. Work begins immediately and the first W-HEX power plant goes on line two years later in 2023.

2022 – A plan for Japanese ecology is dictated at the second Fujisan Ecological Summit.

2023 – By the end of the year, the entire Japanese power grid has been converted to run from W-HEX power stations, proving the viability of the power source.

2024 – Consumer electronics giant Sony merges with the rising star of cybernetics, Kendachi to form Sony-Kendachi.

2025 – NASDA launches the Aqua II communications satellite from the Hiro Aerospace facility in Sapporo.

Black Sun's Matrix 2.0 global communications protocol is released. The product is slow to catch on due to rumours of security issues. Black Sun subsidiary, Shirow Systems begins to manufacture interface jacks.

2026 – Japan declines the invitation to join the Global Federation, instead proposing a non-aggressive trade agreement in return for options on W-HEX technology.

ORL develop mnemonic polyplastic. Applications include structural reinforcement, aircraft and high speed train skins and body armour.

2028 – Skirmishes start in the Korea Strait between Japanese and Korean pirates. The JDF intervenes.

Japan becomes the first nation to be fully Matrix wired.

2029 – The JDF and South Korean forces come to blows over shipping and piracy issues. Diplomacy rapidly kicks in to avoid a full scale confrontation.

2031 – An assassination attempt is made on Emperor Akihito and his cabinet when a bomb explodes during a tour of Osaka. 23 killed (including the Minister for Agriculture) and 121 wounded. The Emperor escapes unharmed.

2032 – An accounts clerk, Kenji Hondo is caught, tried and publicly executed for the attempted assassination of the Emperor. It is claimed that he is a member of Japanese nationalist extremist group, the Crimson Lotus.

2033 – The Crimson Lotus claim responsibility for six other anti-establishment terrorist acts, including drugging Tokyo's water supply with an hallucinogenic.

2035/Akihito II 27 – Present day.