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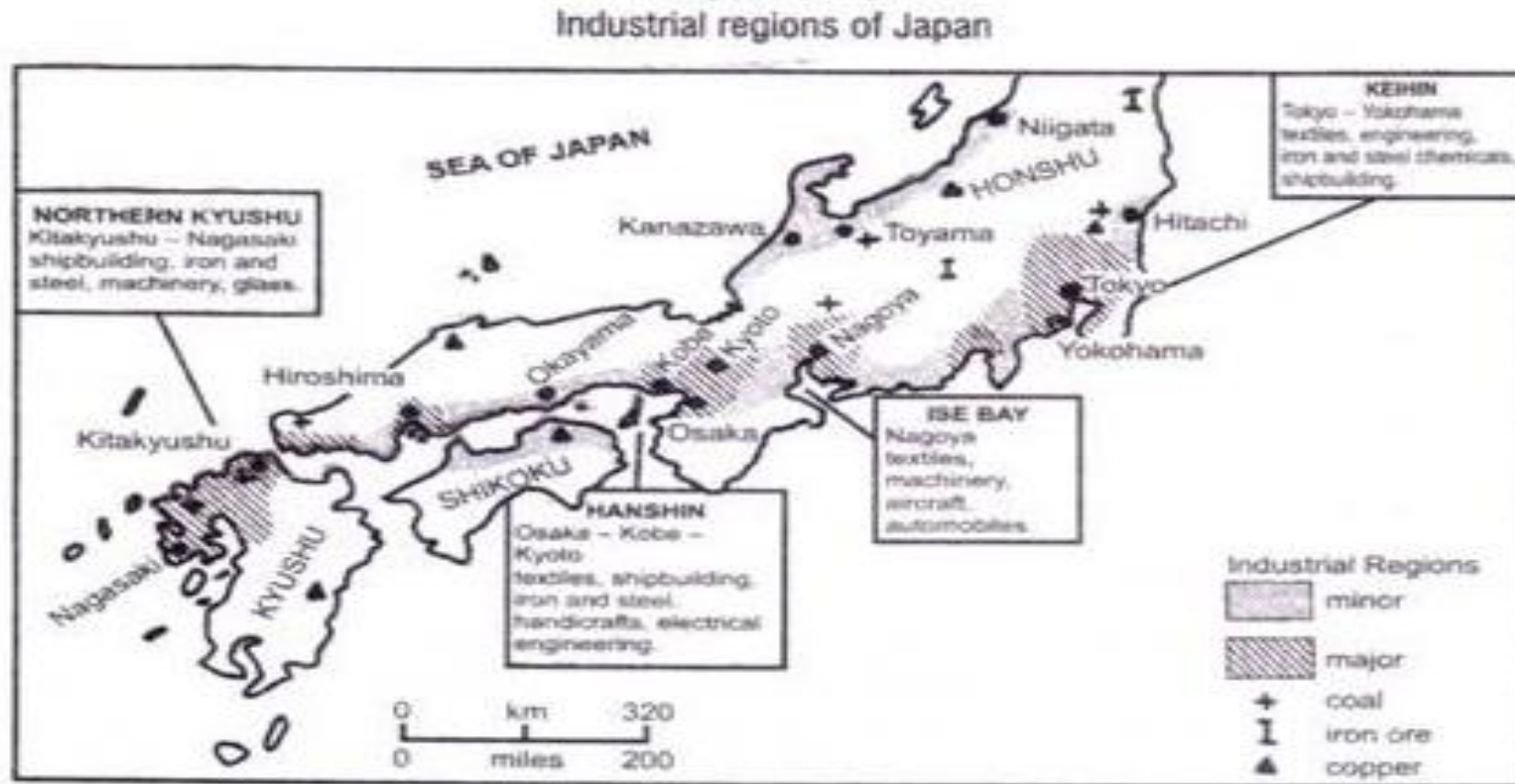
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Industrial Regions of Japan

- Japan is the highly industrialised country of Asia. Despite its shortage in industrial raw materials and solid fuel, it has been able to develop industries at a very fast rate.
- **The reasons of rapid industrial growth in Japan are:**
- (i) Availability of hydroelectric power.
- (ii) Coastal location and large ports which helps in import of raw material and also in export.
- (iii) Proximity to mainland of Asia providing a ready market. Now, Japan has a worldwide market for its products.
- (iv) Country's large population provides a ready source of labour.
- (v) Technological development.
- (vi) Government encouragement, etc

There are four major industrial regions of Japan as shown below in the figure:



1. Tokyo-Yokohama Region:

- The greatest industrial region of Japan is the Kwantō plain and is formed by the conurbation of three chief cities, Tokyo, Kawasaki and Yokohama. Tokyo the capital of the country, is favourably situated in the middle of a small fertile plain known as Kwantō plain, and carries on many artistic industries.
- Tokyo is noted for electrical engineering such as transistors, radio television sets, washing machines, refrigerators and computers. Today, it ranks high in blast furnaces, steel mills, machines and tools, chemicals, refineries, shipbuilding, airplane, factories of consumer goods, electrical machinery, textile and canning industries, etc.
- Yokohama is a port city where manufacturing has been overshadowed by trade. One reason for the slower development of industry has been restricted area of level land suitable for the expansion of factory sites. Yokohama has precision engineering, shipbuilding, oil refining, petrochemicals and port industries.

- The third industrial city is Kawasaki. Its Heavy Industries Ltd., Japan's top manufacturer of industrial robots, is planning to bolster production and step up sales, including those in Europe and the USA to meet the growing demand.
- Though about 90 per cent of robots it makes at present are arc welders for sale to car manufacturers. It will be placing heavier emphasis from now on to the output of robots for other purposes, such as spray painting and assembling.

2.Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto Region:

- In the Hanshin or Kinki region are three of the Japan's six great cities – Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto, the first two of which are also among the three great deepwater ports. The manufacturing structure of the Hanshin region is one of great diversity.
- Until recently at least, textiles lead all other industries. The cotton industry is carried on chiefly at Osaka and other towns in the fertile plain that borders the northern shore of the inland sea.
- Osaka is the greatest cotton-textile town and is generally known as the Manchester of Japan. Here the naturally dense population makes labour cheap, and affords a good market. As Osaka has just one poor harbour, it is largely served by the port of Kobe.
- The Osaka-Kobe industrial region is as smoky, noisy and unattractive in appearance as are most regions of heavy industry. Kobe concentrates on shipbuilding, oil refining, and petrochemical industries including synthetic textile and rubber manufacture.

3.The Nagoya Industrial Region:

- The third industrial region of Japan is Nagoya. Nagoya has textile mills that process local silk, imported cotton and also synthetic fibers; engineering industries, including all kinds of machinery automobiles, locomotives and aircraft.
- Textile, including silk reeling, cotton spinning, cotton weaving and wool weaving lead all other industries. Much of Nagoya's woollen industry is relatively new and Australian wool is chiefly used. Nagoya is one of the country's foremost aircraft manufacturing centers.

4.Northern Kyushu Region:

- This industrial region is located close to the south-western limit of the general manufacturing belt in northern Kyushu. It ranks 4th among the manufacturing concentrations, being credited with nearly 90 per cent of the nation's industrial output.
- Chikuhō coalfield is situated in close proximity of this heavy industrial centre. Textiles are not an important element of the industrial structure of this region; of first importance are the heavy industries, especially iron and steel manufacturing.
- Yumata, Kokura, Moji, Fukuoka are the industrial centre of this region. Outside the above four major industrial regions there are several scattered industrial towns. Iron and steel is made at Muroran; oil refining is important at Akita and Niigata; engineering at Hiroshima; shipbuilding at Kure; textiles at Okayama. Hakodate and Sapporo in Hokkaido also have some industrial development.