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The similarities and differences in the mechanization of the cotton industry in Japan and India in the period from the 1880s to the 1930s were: gender, demographic shifts, and production.

Documents 3, 7, 8, and 10 all demonstrate how the majority gender to work in the factories was a difference between India and Japan. Documents 8 and 10, both photographs of the cotton mills, show how the gender majorities were different between Japan and India. Document 8 is a photograph from the Nichibo cotton mill in Japan, and it shows that nearly all of the workers were female. Document 10 is a photograph from an Indian cotton mill, which shows that the majority of workers in the Indian mills were male. Further evidence of the female majority in Japanese workers can be seen in document 3, in which two women discuss their time spent working in factories. Their recollections relate to the gender of the Japanese workers through the fact that women working in the factories was totally normal: the two women worked there, one woman’s younger sister had worked there, and the impression was given that other girls worked there as well. The two women may have said what they did about their experience because they did not like their time in the factories and so they wanted to show that it was bad. Document 7 further shows the contrast between Japanese and Indian workers. This document shows the percentages of female workers in factories. In Japan, the percentages of female workers was a stable and high number. In India, however, the percentage was much smaller and declined. A document that would clarify this would be a document by a worker in an Indian mill that would clarify the situation that led to the decline in the percentage of female workers in the Indian mills.

Documents 3, 4, 5, and 9 all display how both India and Japan had similar demographic shifts due to the mechanization of the cotton industry. Documents 4 and 9 state that workers from both Japan and India would move from agricultural areas to the more urban areas in which the factories were located. This is because these people were farmers (and, in India, some hand weavers who lost work due to the machine labor) who could not get all of the income that they needed to support themselves. This is described in document 5, in which the author, a Japanese industrialist called Tsurumi Shunsuke, is telling how the workers come from the farms where their labor is not needed and work to support themselves. Tsurumi Shunsuke may have written this document in order to justify low wages, for he says that the workers only need to support themselves and can live perfectly well on the low wages. He would want to write this because he supported industrialism, and as such would want to keep the industrialized factories thriving. Document 3 demonstrates very well the shift of demography. In it two women who moved from their farms to work in the factories tell about their experience. An additional document that would help understand the related movement would be a document written by the family of a factory worker which tells about the impact that having someone working in the factories had on their agricultural life.

Documents 1, 2, and 6 show the shifts in cotton production that occurred in both India and Japan. Document 1 demonstrates these patterns by showing the amounts of cloth and yarn that was made by both machines and hand in India during selected years. These show that the total yield of these textiles increased. It also shows that the production of yarn by hand declined while that by machine increased. While the machine-manufactured cloth amounts went up rapidly, the hand-woven cloth amounts stayed relatively stable. The increases in total and machine-made products came to be because the factories were becoming more common and more people were going to work in them, so the factories were able to produce more. The decline in hand-spun yarn comes from this as well, for the competition of the good machine yarn made it so that the spinners could not earn as much as before, which in turn prevented them from making as much as before. This pattern is also described in document 6, in which an Indian economist called Radhakamal Mukerjee tells about the decline in hand-woven cloth. He tells that this is due competition from machines. As such, many hand weavers leave the work. He goes on to say that the industry now exists only because the people who invest in the factories pay their money. The author would have written this because from his point of view as an economist, the people who have the capital to invest great amounts are the people who really make the economy. Document 2 shows that there is a similar pattern in Japan, for it shows that the production of cotton yarn had grown tremendously from 1884 to 1914. An additional document that would help define the patterns would be a document that showed cloth that was manufactured with machine and hand manufactured cloth separate. This would show whether or not Japan shared the trends of declining hand-made materials due to the increase in machine-made materials.

Gender, demographic shifts, and production were all similarities and differences in the mechanization of the cotton industry in Japan and India in the period from the late 1880s to 1930s.