

Russia-Japan talks on disputed Kuril Islands

Russian President Vladimir Putin is to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for talks aimed at striking a deal to end the longstanding territorial row over the Kuril Islands in the western Pacific



HISTORY OF KURIL DISPUTE

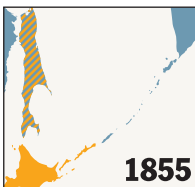
■ **1855: Treaty of Shimoda** gives southern Kurils to Japan and rest of island chain to Russia. Sakhalin Island under joint administration

■ **1875: Treaty of St. Petersburg** cedes all Kurils to Japan in exchange for Russian jurisdiction over Sakhalin

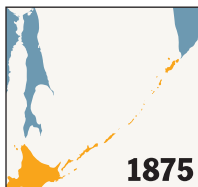
■ **1905:** After Russia's defeat in **Russo-Japanese War**, Japan gains control of southern Sakhalin

■ **1945:** Soviet Union occupies entire Kuril chain and southern Sakhalin after declaring war on Japan during final days of **World War II**

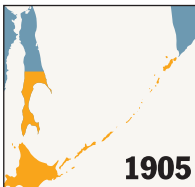
■ **1951:** Japan renounces claim to Kurils in **Treaty of San Francisco**, signed between Japan and Allied powers. Soviet Union does not sign, and Japan later claims four southern islands are not part of Kuril chain



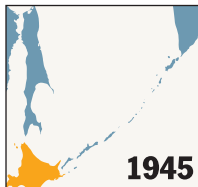
1855



1875



1905



1945

■ **1956: Soviet-Japanese Joint Declaration** restores diplomatic ties between two countries. Soviet Union agrees to cede islands of Shikotan and Habomai to Japan after signing of formal peace treaty. Japan claims territorial rights to all four southern islands, so no agreement is signed