



# The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1941



## Battle in Indochina turns North

The Imperial Japanese amphibious expeditionary force in Indochina this month retook the initiative from the enemy. The British and Chinese defenders of the area, who were fully braced for an expected attack on Hanoi, were met with only feint attacks, while the primary focus was across the border into Lungchow. The central areas of the city are still in KMT hands as this story goes to press, but Japanese forces hold the outlying areas of the city. Casualties on both sides were reported as very heavy.

The combined operations of the Imperial Army and Marines, as well as joint air support from both army and naval air forces, has proven the cooperation between our army and navy is at an all-time high, which can only bode well for future operations, both in Indochina and throughout our theater of operations.

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## Massive Artillery Bombardments continue at Changsha

As was the case last month, this month saw continued heavy bombardment by our artillery divisions of the areas surrounding the KMT-held city of Changsha. It seems somewhat likely that this city will be a key target of the Army's expected major offensive into China this year, but our sources were unable to get details of its importance from Army commanders in Tokyo. One thing is for certain: anyone who would call the Chinese front "quiet" this month is not reporting from anywhere near Changsha!

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## British move on Bangkok

Residents and military units in Siam's capital city of Bangkok were put on alert, as British and Indian aggressors crossed the Siamese border this month and have taken up positions outside the city, in preparation for what appears to be an offensive against the city itself. In addition to the Japanese air force units operating there, thousands of Siamese troops are safely entrenched in defensive positions within the city. Recently equipped with the finest front-line Japanese infantry equipment, they are now prepared for modern warfare and will be up to the challenge of holding off these colonialist dogs for as long as it takes!

Morale is reported as very high within the city, both among the soldiery and the general public, and daily life has changed little to date. The markets remain open, and very few people have evacuated the city at this point. All along the front lines, soldiers confidently declare Siam's freedom from European oppression, as well as their fervent wish to see to it that it stays that way! They have seen their nation's economy and infrastructure improve over recent months, with new rail projects and a major cut in their taxes, and they do not want all their hard work to be for nothing.

When asked about Japanese intentions regarding these developments, Prime Minister Fumimako was quoted as saying "People of Siam! Know that Japan stands by you, and our air forces will valiantly defend your capital as long as you do! We will not let your king fall, nor your people fail, as long as hope remains amongst you of freedom and prosperity. Should you call upon our Army for reinforcement, we will answer the call, immediately and forcefully. Asia for Asians!!"

# New Imperial Budget is Largest Ever

This month, a new quarterly budget was introduced, and the Ministry of the Treasury announced that our generated income for the quarter was well above any previous recorded. Due to our stabilized resource situation, the divine guidance of the Emperor and his government, and the hard work of ordinary citizens throughout the empire, our nation has reached a new high point in its fiscal budgeting.

This will allow our soldiery in the field, as well as our naval forces and air units to be given the best possible support possible. A nations' success in modern warfare depends increasingly not only upon the bravery of the soldiers and the cunning of their leaders, but also upon the economy which supports them. A strong national economy breeds a strong national military machine, particularly in the capable hands of our modern samurai. Bansai!!

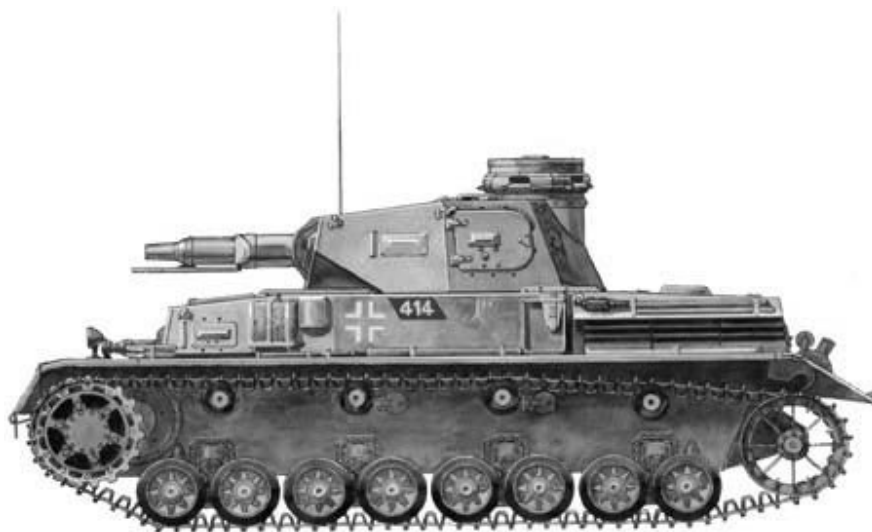
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## European Front News: Germany Breaks through in East

On the Eastern European front, a major German offensive was launched all across the wide front, and startling gains were made in every sector, in stark contrast to last month's actions, which saw the Soviet Red Army hold against the attackers in the north. It remains to be seen if the German Wehrmacht will be able to maintain and consolidate these gains, or if the Red Army will be able to hold its present position, or perhaps even counter-attack.

On the Western front, German forces overwhelmed the "low countries" of the Netherlands and Belgium, forcing those nations' governments to flee to exile in the United States. France also was forced into capitulation again by Hitler's armies, and has now ceased to exist fully, carved up by Spain and Germany.

The Dutch government has promised the Prime Minister here in Tokyo that they intend to remain fully compliant with the terms of our both our defensive alliance and our trade agreements. In fact, they stated that the United Kingdom had offered them sanctuary, but they had turned it down for our sake. The Prime Minister expressed disappointment that his words to Germany to protect Dutch territorial integrity went unheeded, then proceeded to thank the Dutch for their honest and honorable dealings with Japan, and to express fervent hope that their exile from home was not long-lived.



German Panzer IV Tank

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# Editorial: The Dragon, the Eagle, and the Rising Sun

**While the conflict between the British-led Western imperialists and the Japanese-led Asian liberation movement widens to Indochina and Siam, a major diplomatic crisis between the Empire of Japan and the United States of America has just been averted. We use the opportunity to take a broader look at the history of American involvement in China.**

During the past 150 years, Japan, the United States and China have a long and complicated history of mutual relations which were a lot more diverse and, for the most part, more positive than one might suspect when looking only at the world of today. To start with, it is well known that the history of Japan and China in the 19th century couldn't have been more different: Japan was the only Asian nation to successfully fend off Western exploitation, reforming and industrializing under the Meiji dynasty. Later, our Empire became the first non-European nation to defeat a major Western army (in the Russian-Japanese war of 1904-05), and thus we established our own place among the Great Powers.

On the other hand, China at the dawn of the 1800's was beleaguered by a corrupt and feudalistic government, massive social strife, economic stagnation and explosive population growth. The control of the ruling Qing dynasty diminished rapidly, and Western powers like Britain, France and Russia used the opportunity to secure vast tracts of Chinese lands and favorable "trade concessions" for themselves. By the time when the Wuchang Uprising finally toppled the ancient regime for good in 1911, China had de facto descended to the status of a semi-colonial nation.

What is less well known is that the 19th century was also a time of heavy American involvement in China. And while the United States were not shy in taking their own share of trading rights, it must be said that on the whole, their relations with China were of a much more benevolent nature. Many of the American missionaries, doctors and engineers who travelled the lands back then were true idealists, who believed in actually helping and educating the Chinese people - to enable them to build a brighter future for themselves. Lest we forget, the Americans had only recently declared their own independence from the British "mother", so they knew all too well what colonialism meant, and they would have none of it. They looked at the greedy antics of their drug-dealing British cousins with shame and disgust, and secretly vowed to do their own part in helping China to overcome this oppression.

For much the same reason, the United States also supported the Japanese struggle against European exploitation. During the war with Czarist Russia in 1904-05, our victorious troops were lauded as heroes in the American press from New York to San Francisco, and many commentators relished the fact that the imperialists had finally had their come-uppance. Frederick Palmer, a correspondent of *Collier's Magazine*, wrote at the time: "The Japanese cared for the Russian wounded as they did for their own, and gave to the dead Russians the same military honours that would have been accorded to their own men of similar rank. The headmen of the Korean villages tell me that the conduct of the individual private soldier has been exemplary - we are passing through a Korea conquered by kindness, fair treatment, and a nice skill in handling public and private opinion."

So it can be seen that, only forty years ago, Americans not only were the benign mentors and teachers of China, they also had favourable relations with Japan, and they even explicitly endorsed Japanese military campaigning on mainland Asia! This may seem perplexing at first, but as a matter of fact, there is no contradiction here - from the United States' point of view, Japan was seen as a stabilising factor in East Asia, the only native power able to successfully and rightfully stand against the onslaught of the Europeans. Moreover, Japan and China were not seen as antagonists, but as potential allies and partners in this struggle. Consequently, the US supported them both.

So when, and why, did things go wrong between then and now? There are several factors. For one thing, the British, horrified by the possibility of an anti-colonialist Japanese-American alliance, which would effectively end their reign in Asia, used every opportunity to breed mistrust and resentment. In the Great

War, Britain, the US and Japan all found themselves fighting on the same side against the Central Powers, and in no small part through the contribution of the Imperial Army and Navy, succeeded in expelling the Germans from their Pacific and Asian possessions. However, when the time came to divide the spoils of victory, the English-speaking powers broke their promise of treating Japan as an equal ally and partner.

Had the United States had their say, it would have been different, and fair. But the cunning and manipulative British bred fear of too much Japanese power, and they persuaded the reluctant Americans to relegate our Empire to the status of a second-class nation. And so, when the time came to make the peace, Japan, despite having done most of the fighting in the region, was awarded only a small share of the rewards. In another example of unequal treatment, the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 set the number of Imperial capital ships at three-fifths of those of our wartime allies. Already, the British had succeeded in driving a wedge of envy between America and Japan.

Another reason for the growing estrangement was the different perception of the Chinese Revolution. When the last Qing emperor was toppled and the "Republic of China" declared in 1911, many Americans - always an idealistic people, sometimes to the point of blindness - believed that a golden age of modernisation and democracy lay ahead. The new leader, Chiang Kai-Shek and his wife, presented themselves as enlightened reformers and devout Christians, which appealed to American spirituality. Chinese lobbyists and interest groups affiliated with the new government waged successful public relations campaigns all over the United States, and soon enough, the KMT regime became Washington's "favorite pupil".

The Empire of Japan, however, is located much closer to the pulse of day-to-day life in East Asia, and thus in a better position to recognise what is really going on. What the Americans did not see - perhaps did not *want* to see - was that life in the new Chinese "Republic" was not all that different from the ancient regime after all. It was characterised by continuous political infighting and backstabbing between rival factions, often to the point of shootings and assassinations in broad daylight. Official corruption was still rampant, the economy still in tatters, and just as many local rebellions and uprisings as in the old days - which were just as violently repressed by the powers that be. A large and rampant black market quickly sprang up, one which was in fact supported by many high ranking members of the Chiang government; the rest turned a blind eye to it as they did the rest of the corruption. The mighty Chiang himself was in truth far too weak to actually rule most of the vast nation, and those provinces which he did rule were frequently under martial law. As for his "Christian convictions", they were quickly given the lie when one observed how ruthlessly the man exterminated all those who he perceived to be a threat against his tenuous grip. In summary: meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

The new leadership was thus threatened by chaos and annihilation from the start. Unable to reign in the local warlords, and failing to secure any help from the British (who did not *want* a powerful China, anyway, for obvious reasons!), the Republic made the fatal error of turning to the Soviet Union for assistance. The Soviets, having recently achieved their own revolution, were all too eager to offer scathing verbal attacks against "Western imperialism", but they also supported the newly established Communist Party of China. At first, the Nationalist-Republican KMT and the Communist CCP entered an alliance of convenience against the many warlords and petty tyrants. But by 1927, fuelled by both the British and the Soviets, their rivalry erupted into open civil war. The country slipped into the abyss altogether, much to the delight of the foreign interventionists who would seek to keep China divided and weak. For all his public relations work, Chiang had revealed himself not only as an unfit and incompetent leader, but as a mere puppet of the imperialists.

At this point, the Empire of Japan, after watching the escalating situation on the mainland with growing unease, decided to take matters into its own hand. Concerned for the safety of our protectorates in Korea and Shandong, and more importantly, for the well-being of the Japanese minority in the war-torn lands, our government sought to bring stability to at least a part of China. Thus, the protectorate of Manchukuo was established in 1932, and it was actually welcomed by the vast majority of the local Chinese. Since then, they have lead substantially better lives than their cousins under KMT or CCP rule, while infrastructure and industry in Manchukuo improve constantly under Japanese guidance - to the benefit of all the Asian peoples.

Nonetheless, the British - oblivious of their own, less-than-glorious history in Asia, one presumes? - branded the act an "illegal invasion". Their reaction was predictable, if annoying, but what is worse, they again succeeded in manipulating the United States into accepting their view of the matter. The Americans, after all, were still unwilling to accept that their media darling Chiang Kai-Shek and his stillborn republic were failures. And consequently, they failed to see that Japan was merely trying to end the Chinese civil war and bring some semblance of order to the continent, just as it had done in 1904-05. Soon, vile British-bred rumours of Japanese war crimes and atrocities were echoed in the US press, and the truthful words of people like Frederick Palmer had been forgotten. When it came to improving the future of China and Asia as a whole, Japan and America had once been partners. And even though they still shared these same goals, they now failed to recognise as much. Fuelled by European intrigue, we had become estranged.

This regrettable situation continues today. The American public, and even a large part of the American leadership, are quite unaware of what is really going on in East Asia, and why. They are duped into believing that Japan is waging a war of aggression, and that the noble Japanese army portrayed in their magazines of forty years ago has since then turned into a bloodthirsty band of sadists. They are duped into believing that the British Empire, with its history of rampant oppression the world over, is today the guardian of freedom and human rights. They believe that the petty warlord and puppet ruler Chiang is a man of peace and democracy. That the conflict that rages in Asia today is somehow the fault of Japan, and Japan alone - not of the senseless civil war between the KMT and the CCP, or the Western powers who supported it.

It is an easy game, and Japan is at a disadvantage. Our culture and language is alien to the Americans, while they and their scheming British cousins share much the same heritage - if not the same beliefs about colonialism. So, perhaps it is understandable that, all too often, the Americans would believe such propaganda and lies against all better judgment. But the truth cannot be suppressed forever. Time and again, hateful rumours are proven wrong by fact, and justified doubts start creeping in when the next rumour comes around.

For example, during the height of Roosevelt's re-election campaign, a series of articles which smeared the Japanese involvement in Asia and our nation as a whole started to appear in certain factions of the Western press. They were challenged by an invitation to foreign correspondents to come to China and see the situation for themselves - they came, and not a shred of evidence to support the outlandish allegations of "Japanese brutality" has been found. A few months later, after Singapore fell to the Imperial Army, the British were again screaming about how the entire civilian population had been raped and killed within two hours or so - but when neutral American aid teams moved in, they found that none of this was true, that the conduct of our soldiers was flawless, and that most of the destruction had in fact been caused by the British "scorched earth" tactics before they surrendered. Only two months ago, when American merchants were sunk by unknown attackers in the Pacific, London immediately pointed fingers at us and claimed that the Imperial Navy was responsible - but today, after an investigation with the full co-operation of the Imperial Japanese leadership, the United States have fully exonerated us of any involvement or responsibility.

The pattern is clear: the British, knowing that they are too weak to cling to their precious empire on their own, are relying more and more on others to save them and do the dirty work. Not content in having secured Stalin's aid against the Germans, they now seek to push that other super-power, the United States, into a war with Japan. As they have done throughout the past twenty years, they use irrational fears, xenophobia and outright lies to breed mistrust between the American and the Japanese peoples, in the hope that one day, this shameless plot for a true world war succeeds.

But it seems the Americans are onto their game now. Despite the obvious tensions over China, the relationship between Washington and Tokyo has been improving somewhat as of late. Now that his re-election campaign is over and won, Roosevelt seems much more open and reasonable on many issues, and less willing than ever to plunge his nation into a war from which only Stalin and Churchill would profit. Not even the mysterious sinking of American ships could damage this new climate of dialogue, now that British allegations of our involvement have been proven wrong. And it is not out of the question that, in the long

term, an arrangement for the future of China and all of East Asia can be found that is acceptable for both the United States of America and the Empire of Japan.

After all, we have seen that our nations have more in common than one might think - among other things, a history of anti-colonialism and war against the British Empire!

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