



# The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

February 28, 1941



## Imperial Forces land in Indochina, take Haiphong

The former French possession of Indochina, whose administration was recently relinquished to the United Kingdom, was attacked in a combined assault of Marine and Army forces. The British had been using this area as a major airbase, as well as an area of re-supply for Chiang Kai-Shek's evil KMT regime.

On the morning of February 16<sup>th</sup>, a short naval bombardment against enemy coastal positions was followed by a pair of massive Imperial Marine landings, one centered upon the city of Haiphong, the other to an area south of that vital port city. Both landings were made flawlessly against limited enemy resistance, a trend which is becoming familiar to our top-notch Marine units. Once the Marines had secured beachheads at both locations and linked the two landing areas together, a large contingent of front line Army divisions followed.

Unfortunately, Japanese intelligence seems to have been somewhat lacking regarding the amount and quality of air power the RAF possessed in Hanoi, this may be at least in part due to poor weather in the entire Indochinese region for the past few months. In any event, the RAF counterattacked against our landing areas and our landing ships just as the last army units were disembarking. Our air forces were insufficient in repelling the enemy, and they inflicted some damage to our units and landing craft.

However, the final fate of the British resistance in Indochina seems sealed. Despite their current air superiority, their ground units are clearly not sufficient to stop Imperial units already on the ground. Additionally, our Marines in Haiphong were greeted and welcomed as liberators by many of the local civilians. They have suffered for many years under European colonialism. Many had hoped to see an end to this when the French collapsed to German forces last year; those hopes were dashed when the French were replaced to a substantial degree by British forces.

Now arrives Japan with promises to give Indochina the same autonomy and self-rule enjoyed by Siam, as well as modern thinking and leadership provided by direction of the Emperor. Indochina will see railroad projects and other developments aimed at making the lives of ordinary citizens in Indochina better.

This action also opens yet another front against Chiang's KMT, forcing him to stretch his front lines even thinner, in his vain hope to cling to the power he has abused for far too long. Soon the only avenue of outside assistance for the KMT would be the long, twisting, and perilous "Burma Road", a tenuous link at best through the Himalayan Mountains.



Japanese Battleship Bombards Indochinese Coast

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## Stalin Dead Under Mysterious Circumstances

The stories coming from the cold interiors of Russia are mixed and confusing, but the one thing that is clear is that Secretary Joseph Stalin is dead. Comrade Stalin was either killed by way of German and Finnish agents attacking the Kremlin, or else from an internal power struggle. Based on Russian history, as well as the majority of the reports coming from Russia and other nearby areas, it would seem that it would be the latter. It is not clear who is actually in control in the USSR right now, although prominent reports include General Zhukov and Comrade Beria, Minister of Internal Affairs.

Prime Minister Konoye Fumimako has made it clear that our nation's ongoing negotiations to maintain peace with the USSR have been with the nation in general, not with any specific person, and hopes that talks may continue despite the new leadership. However, it is hoped that the situation in the USSR stabilizes quickly so that important talks may continue.

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## American Merchants Attacked; Japan Denies Involvement, Offers Help

News has reached Japan this month on attacks to American merchant shipping in the Pacific Ocean. Given certain tensions between our two nations over the last year or two, it may seem possible to some that our forces were involved in such an attack. However, various members of our government and Imperial Navy were quick to dispel any such notion.

Prime Minister Konoye Fumimako even went so far as to call the attack "an act of piracy", and is expected to offer the Americans any help we can in helping to ascertain the identity of the attackers. There is a popular notion going around the streets of Tokyo that the British have set up this attack to try to get America to mistakenly attack Japan. One can only hope that this is false, and that even if it isn't, that it not succeed.

The Prime Minister said that "No matter who has made this attack, it is an act of cowardice, because no one is officially at war with the United States. Attacking shipping of a neutral nation in this way is not the way of honorable Japanese warriors, and we wholly condemn this as an act of piracy". He also pointed to recent actions of Americans in their assistance with the humanitarian crisis in Singapore. "Japanese-American relations have been improving of late; it is preposterous to think that we would undermine this progress with such an act of war upon innocent American merchants."

Admiral Nagumo (pictured, right) also went on record as saying that he did not authorize or order any attacks on American Merchant shipping in the Pacific, or in any other theater of operations. He also noted that Japan has no submarines operating in the area of the likely path of these ships. Given the nature of the attacks, and the inability to determine the nationality of the attacker, it seems most likely that it was done by one or more submarines of an undetermined nationality.



Both the Prime Minister and the Admiral promised a full internal investigation to see if they could gain any information which would lead to the possibility of discovering the true story behind the attack, and promised to leave no possible scenario unconsidered. Japanese, American, Dutch, and British ships are all known to be active in the Pacific Ocean, with other minor naval powers defending their coastal areas.



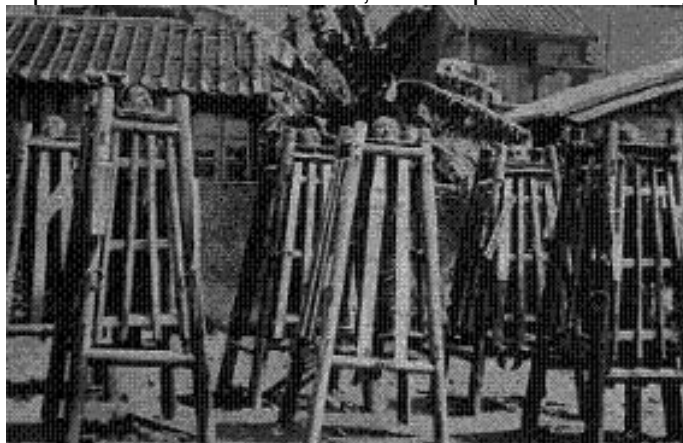
**Imperial Forces make final drive on Huhehot**

## **Japanese Forces Take Huhehot; final elements of CCP fleeing**

After having already been effectively defeated several months ago, final hard-core elements of the former Chinese Communist Party regime's leadership were holed up in the outpost town of Huhehot, near the Gobi Desert in northern China.

The assault began with a blistering artillery bombardment by Imperial troops on the morning of February 3. 2 full regiments of artillery were brought to bear on the little town; the bombardment was then followed by massed infantry assaults meant to dislodge CCP remnants from the town. This ensured the operation's success, and by the end of the day Imperial forces were in full control of the town.

The final surviving individuals of the old CCP are now racing towards the west, away from our forces and into what they hope are the welcoming arms of the Soviet Union. We do not intend to let them get far, and the chase is on. Imperial Japanese Army units, eager to see these murderers and butchers brought to final justice, have not let up on their pursuit of these fanatics, and expect final victory next month.



**Do not forget why we are pursuing the CCP!**

## European Front News: Spanish repulsed, Zhitomir pocket closed

In southern France, Republican French forces counter-attacked last month against Generalissimo Franco's surprise assault into Southern France from last month, and were generally successful in pushing the Spanish back towards their starting lines in the Pyrenees Mountains. French naval forces were also able to destroy the last remaining remnants of the Spanish Navy, which had proven itself completely outmatched by the larger and more modern French fleets. Those same French fleets then went on to bombard Spanish cities along the Mediterranean coastline, from Barcelona to Valencia.

So soon after that nation was torn by civil war, it seems the Spanish have begun a war they can not finish on their own terms. To this point, Germany has wisely remained out of this conflict, as the international uproar that would be created by a second German war on France would be great indeed, and would serve only to solidify the many nations already allied against him, and indeed increase their number.

On the Eastern Front, the "Zhitomir Pocket" of German troops in Russia was fully liquidated this month, despite German efforts to relieve them. It seems that the strange events in Moscow were unable to prevent Red Army troops from fighting effectively on the front lines. German troops did make some progress along the overall front; however the loss of the troops in the pocket will likely be felt by German High Command for many months, and will possibly nullify the positive effects of these gains.



A Soviet T-26 Model tank undergoes minor repairs on the Zhitomir front.

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## Editorial: Response to January 1941 Times Article

We, the editorial staff here at the office of The Rising Sun, always try to stay abreast of international opinion to bring you the best news possible. In pursuit of that goal, we read papers from all over the world, as they come into our offices here in Tokyo, and translate them as quickly and accurately as possible to get the real intent and message of the stories presented therein.

It was in that effort that we came across last month's London Times, and in it was an article that we could not pass by without comment. It gave us a glimpse into British arrogance that must be read to be believed. We will take sections of that story and comment upon them here, and also include some recent statements by Japanese leadership where appropriate.

The story begins by (sarcastically, we think) quickly glossing over the last several centuries of British domination of the world. It must be sarcastic, because they word it as an "oppressor of Asian countries, that exploiter of all those proud countries of far South-East Asia". They further go on to call themselves a "tyrant whose history is long of centuries", and point to "pacification wars, naval domination, and world expansion."

It is a sad fact that in attempting sarcasm, they have in reality pinpointed the truth far better than they may have wished.

The British Empire has dominated what it considers “less civilized” peoples all over the world for many centuries. This has not occurred only in Asia, but also in places like South Africa, where many bloody wars were fought against Zulu tribesmen valiantly defending their homeland. Also in places like Nigeria, where British overlords pitted rival tribes against each other so that they could take ultimate power. How many millions of Ibo and Yoruba peoples died at each other’s hands, under British guidance and manipulation? How many will continue to do so in the future? The world may never know. The British know that this is the best way to prevent them from rising against them, to keep them fighting amongst each other, so they encourage the slaughter! The British would at all times prefer to use their money and technology to encourage others to fight their wars for them, lest they bloody their own gloved hands in the process.

Although the days of slavery in Europe and America are gone, they are not ancient history. And who was it in Africa who was organizing the slave trade, pitting neighbors against neighbors, and making a very tidy profit all along the way? Many European nations were involved, but first and foremost were the British, with their naval dominance they were the most wealthy and ruthless slave traders.

In China, the very place they chide us for our “aggression”, is home to some of the more insidious schemes for British domination. The “Commonwealth”, which aims to provide “industrialization, economical (sic) prosperity and cultural development” instead made a bold effort to addict hundreds of millions of people to opium, so that they could gain a foothold in China. Weakened by these efforts, the fine dynasties of old crumbled, leaving China prostrate to a greedy Europe, who eagerly devoured small portions for itself. This is how the British came to acquire Hong Kong, and the Portuguese Macao. The Europeans forced themselves upon China like a drunken bully on a confused and sedated girl.

Eventually, these and other injustices from Europe, led by their British ringleaders, created a situation in China in which the area was splintered into factions led by ruthless warlords, each intent on carving out their provinces in China by any means possible. The British, in essence, created the environment in which butchers like Chiang and Mao came into power. They are the reason China suffers yet today.

The British claim that they bring industrialization to those places they conquer. In reality, they bring little more than slavery, while the riches of Asia’s natural wealth are shipped back to England owners for manufacture in English factories. How many factories are there in Burma, and English possession? Or in Indochina, the long-held French territory we are currently working to free? No, they do not industrialize there. The British and French take the resources from these places, and leave the local people with nothing.

Meanwhile, the Empire of Japan, under the enlightened rule of Emperor Meiji, industrialized itself. It did not require colonization by a “civilized” European power; indeed, the Empire of Japan is living proof that Asians can modernize themselves. It is funny that in the story, the British even tried to take credit for this themselves, citing the American Commodore Perry’s visit. While Perry did mark a turning point in Japanese thinking, and opened our culture to outside influences, it was nonetheless our own initiative that created the impetus for change. Additionally, as noted, Perry was American not British! The British did have some of its citizens here in an advisory role, but they were not the driving force of change, just “oil to the gears”.

The British claim to bring those they rule “economical (sic) prosperity”. If that is true, why are colonial Asia and Africa some of the poorest lands on earth, while Europe and America are the richest? Why does China live in squalor? For a look at economics prosperity, consider the most tangible single object which helps determine an economy’s stature: railways. How many railways are there in Indochina? In Burma? In Africa? What rails that can be found, and they are few, generally run from a natural resource directly to a port. They are not for the people there; they are to steal their wealth more efficiently.

Japan, on the other hand, has begun several major rail projects throughout occupied Asian lands, and has helped to finance major rail building projects throughout the Dutch East Indies as well. And these go the length of the territories, linking cities for increased commerce, not simply lines to ports from mines.

Finally, The British story claims that British colonies benefit by way of “cultural development”. That is in fact very true, as long as you mean “British Cultural Development”. The British make efforts to make their subjects less Asian, or African, or whatever, and more “civilized”, in other words, more British. It is the most striking evidence of British arrogance, that they view their assimilation as a benefit they call “cultural development”. Given what we’ve seen of British “civilized culture”, we want none of it!

The story then goes on to make accusations against us specifically, most of which revolve around the same old lies that we rape and murder those we liberate. If we were really as bad as Britain says we are, why are Korea and Manchukuo such peaceful, prosperous places? It is a fact that Manchukuo and Korea have more industry than all of KMT-controlled China. Neither has had any uprising of note for years. Citizens there receive completely equal treatment in the government, are taxed the same, and so on.

The sad truth is that the British, despite their feigned indignation, are simply upset with us for playing their own game. We are undergoing a period of natural growth. As a Japanese diplomat, Yosuko Matsuoka, recently explained, “Japan is expanding; and what country in its expansion era has ever failed to be trying to its neighbors? Ask the American Indian or the Mexican how excruciatingly trying the young United States used to be once upon a time.” He then likened Japan’s growth to that of a child, and added “Only one thing stops a child from growing – death.”

Prince Fumimako, in a similar line of speech, was quoted as saying “Japan fights for two goals: to prevent Asia from falling completely under the white man’s domination, as in Africa, and to save China from Communism and old-fashioned thuggery.” Why does Japan do this? Is it for riches and glory of its own? “No treasure trove is in her eyes – only sacrifices upon sacrifices. No one realizes this more than she does. But her very life depends on it, as do those of her neighbors as well. The all-absorbing question today is: ‘Can Japan bear the pressure?’”.

Today, we strive forward to answer that question. With the divine guidance of His Majesty, Emperor Hirohito, and the fine leadership of his government, our full confidence is in success. The whole of free Asia is counting on it!



**Prince Konoye Fumimako**

<b>Contents:</b>	
Local News :7	Weather :10
Sports: 8	Classifieds: 11
Editorial: 4, 9	Comics: 12