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# THE TIMES

January 31, 1941

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## SPANISH AGGRESSOR!

BBC World Service 1800GMT:

Today the Prime Minister announced the position of His Majesty's Government regarding the recent Spanish attack upon Republican France:

The recent unprovoked and unwarranted attack upon France is simply the latest example of Fascist aggression in direct contravention of binding international agreements. His Majesty's Government calls upon the government of Spain to return its forces to the Spanish side of the Franco-Spanish frontier at once. We note with great concern the massing of German forces on the border of Republican France. Hitler has shown a propensity for violating agreements negotiated in good faith going all the way back to Munich over three years ago. Should the Germans attempt to enter the territory of Republican France or seek to provide combat support to Spanish units in the field, His Majesty's Government shall be forced to declare war upon Spain. We call upon all the free and democratic nations of the world to join us common effort to prevent this local conflict from escalation. If Hitler can brazenly attack a nation to which he so recently dictated a harsh peace, can any free nation be secure in their dealings with this vile axis of evil?

Following the statement of the Prime Minister on the situation in Spain, he offered the following words in response to the recent public messages of President Roosevelt -

In order to win the war Hitler must destroy Great Britain. He may carry havoc into the Balkan States; he may tear great provinces out of Russia, he may march to the Caspian; he may march to the gates of India. All this will avail him nothing. It may spread his curse more widely throughout Europe and Asia, but it will not avert his doom. With every month that passes the many proud and once happy countries he is now holding down by brute force and vile intrigue are learning to hate the Prussian yoke and the Nazi name as nothing has ever been hated so fiercely and so widely among men before. And all the time, masters of the sea and air, the British Empire - nay, in a certain sense, the whole of the English-speaking world - will be on his track, bearing with them the swords of justice. The other day, President Roosevelt gave his opponent in the late presidential election a letter of introduction to me, and in it he wrote out a verse, in his own handwriting, from Longfellow, which he said, "applies to you people as it does to us."

Here is the verse:

... Sail on, O Ship of State!  
Sail on, O Union, strong and great  
Humanity with all its fears,  
With all the hopes of future years,  
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

What is the answer that I shall give, in your name, to this great man, the thrice-chosen head of a nation of a hundred and thirty millions? Here is the answer, which I will give to President Roosevelt: Put your confidence in us. Give us your faith and your blessing, and, under

Providence, all will be well. We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.

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## JAPANESE LIBERATION?

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The Japanese military caste pretends to free Asia from its oppressors, but at what price?

The Commonwealth of Nations is being threatened deeply in its foundations. Yes, the work of Great Britain, that 'oppressor' of Asian countries, that exploiter of all those proud countries of the Far South-East Asia! Fortunately, the Japanese army, in an amazing dash of generosity and initiative, has decided to change this situation. In order to understand the full generosity of the amazing Japanese generals, we should maybe put the situation into context: let's not forget that Great Britain is a tyrant whose history is long of centuries. Indeed, centuries of pacification wars, naval domination and world expansion. But more important, it is centuries of industrialization, economical prosperity and cultural development

for the countries it has 'oppressed'. Because its kings and queens have always kept in mind the happiness and prosperity of all their subjects, both in Europe and abroad, because great is the magnanimity of its sovereigns, people are happy to live in the Commonwealth, and each day, all around the world, they give the greatest of gifts to its ideal, their lives. These men and women are British, Canadians, New Zealanders and Australians, but also Indians, South Africans, and from all the nations ready to fight for freedom and for their King's honour!

Let's see now the other side of the coin, and study a bit of this great teacher, History. In 1853, when the US Commodore Perry arrived to Japan, Japan was no more than an old and archaic country. His army was composed by a group of knights with the level of strategy of one of our Middle Age knights. Their fleet was unable to make travels longer than to neighbouring China and Korea. But Britain did not only bring light to its people, but to all that seemed to deserve it. The British gave the Japanese their first constitution in 1889; they also formed their engineers and showed them the way to industrialization. But far from guessing the objectives of such avid learners. Already in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Japanese Empire was having conflicts of interest between China and Korea, which ended in the Sino-Japanese war of 1894-5 and the systematic looting of Korea. We can be surprised to know that a country with such libertarian ambitions had Formosa as a price for their victory.

The Japanese list of treachery is long, from staged conflicts with China, Korea and Russia, to the unlawful annexation of Manchuria, which the Japanese said they 'liberated', and of

course, the fallacious accusations of British kidnapping Japanese officers in Hong Kong, engineered to start a war with the West. While we were all suffering of a grave economic crisis, the Japanese Empire was persistently thinking of war and power, looking for any pretext to expand and pillage further. We should never forget the long history of lies coming from Japan. Indeed, the lies started fifty years ago. Can we consider a liberation the government created by the Japanese in Manchuria? It is merely a clique of generals avid of power and money, ready to sell their own people to the Evil Empire, oblivious of the Japanese soldiers feeling at home, raping, robbing and murdering Manchurians! Can we believe the actual Sino-Japanese conflict to be a war of liberation? A war that could have been avoided with a negotiation the Japanese did not give the time to happen? What about Nanking? Can the invasion of Hong Kong be considered as deliverance?



The British have a long history of honour in war, unlike their well-known treacherous enemies, the Japanese warlords. They have started a war of attrition, without any control, as it has been showed in the invasion of Singapore. How else, then, understand that after the continued and systematic attacks of vital resources for the civilians' survival, they may not ensure the basic needs of the valiant Singaporean population? Why the rest of the world must now correct and repair, if we can repair the loss of lives, the mistakes of such Evil Empire? Of course, the answer was easy and well prepared. Lies. "The British destroyed everything before leaving". Lies. And lies again. Because it is the only area where the Japanese Empire excels! The allies are in the right of asking their Japanese enemies several questions. Why a country that affirms to bring freedom has more that seventy years of expansionism and wars after her? Why, if it is offering freedom, has the word 'Empire' in its name, the infamous Japanese Empire? Why this same Japanese Empire did open the Pandora box of war, unleashing the demons of death, blood, hunger and disease in Asia and Singapore? Why the populations they liberate are the prey of violence, hunger, and oppression? Aren't these questions enough to support the valiant combat of our troops? Because we should never forget this: What is important in this war is not whom we fight against. No matter if we fight the expansionist Japanese Empire, or the aggressive and blood covered Nazi Germany. The important thing is that each day, our troops are fighting and dying. They are dying for us. They are dying for our Country. They are fighting for the freedom and democracy of all and every nation in the World. As the British have always done and will

always do, no matter the price, no matter the enemy!  
May God save the King, may God save the Allies, and bless you all in your fight against the evil of this world!

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## IN BRIEF

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### Air war

New raids on enemy airfields in Le Havre and Lille destroyed between thirty and fifty German aircrafts on the ground. A similar raid on the port of Lorient further damaged infrastructures utilized by German U-Boats. Rumours of a new enemy fighter variant have been confirmed by Fighter Command aircrews, which encountered brand new German squadrons over Le Havre.

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### Sudan

Khartoum's population was ruthlessly expelled from the city by troops of 19<sup>th</sup> Italian Infantry Corps, the unit also responsible for the destruction of Port Sudan and murder of many of its inhabitants. Prime minister Churchill has made clear that such crimes against innocent civilians would be prosecuted, and with overwhelming allied force advancing to liberate Khartoum, 19<sup>th</sup> Corps' commanding officer can now only expect the rope.

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### Libya

After eight months of uninterrupted advance against the Italian 2<sup>nd</sup> Army,

our boys in Libya have been given a well-deserved rest. We are told that this is just a short break, used to reorganize the line, take a quick shower and put on fresh socks. General Wavell, commanding Med / Africa Command, describes the troops' spirits as very high and their readiness as optimal.

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## **France**



The battleship Dunkerque

After the initial advantage of surprise, the Spanish attack seems to falter a little: the French took La Rochelle back on the 15th and managed to pierce Spanish lines in the Pyrenees. Another push towards Bordeaux has been halted by French motorized elements, while the Spanish fleet was annihilated in a series of violent engagements in the Mediterranean.