



Ultrationalism in Japan

The Holocaust that they do not have to Remember

Today: Japan

Tomorrow: Xenophobia and Jingoism activity

Further review on WW1 and what we have covered so far

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article143992059.html>

<https://youtu.be/TInHS3CYsl8>

Quick current event

Japan's Nationalism and Isolationism

Japan has a long history of nationalism, which supported and was bolstered by their ability to repel foreign invaders and pushed them to expel all foreigners from their islands in 1639. Their policy of isolationism ended though when American naval commander Commodore Perry arrived in 1853 and 1854 asking “politely” for them to open their ports.



Japan's Unique Situation

Japan is a country which has a scarcity of resources, which is both a curse and a blessing...

Curse: No resources means high need for imports and need to squeeze their own population to build capital

Blessing: One of the primary resources why Japan was not a target for Western colonization was due to its lack of resources



What Opening Up did to Japan

Being closed off for so long meant Japan missed the Industrial Revolution and other modernizations, but after opening up the country modernized quickly, which put a strain on the country's resources.



Japanese Worldview and Dream

The Japanese perceived themselves to be continuously in a state of vulnerability, which reinforced their belief that if they do not become the aggressor, they will become the target of aggression.

Dream of Autarky



Early Japanese Expansion and Wars

To acquire the resources they need, Japan begins conquering new lands, starting with their closest neighbour Korea. Tensions between China and Japan erupted in the First Sino-Japanese War in 1894, which resulted in a Japanese victory in 1895. War between Russia and Japan erupted in 1904 called the Russo-Japanese War, which again resulted in a Japanese victory.

Why would these two victories really support Japanese nationalism?

Japanese victory against Russia is actually one of the reasons the Japanese lose World War 2.



What World War 1 did for Japan

Following WW1, Japan gained most of Germany's Asian and Pacific colonies, they gained further economic and political power over China by threatening to invade, and the need to create a strong Japanese military to secure Japan's empire and to gain the respect of Western powers grew.



Japan After WW1: Rise of Ultrationalists

Japan saw a slowing of production and a decline in military status after WW1, but ultranationalist groups began working to undermine the government. The breakdown of trade caused by the Great Depression led to the ultranationalist gaining power and starting a brutal invasion of Manchuria in 1931, and then an invasion of China in 1937.



Japan's Goal: Colonize to Defend from Colonization

Shortly after the invasion of China in 1937, Japan issued the Amai Doctrine, which stated that Japan would take responsibility for peace in East Asia. They intended to create the Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, which they claimed would protect Japan and other Asian countries from Western colonization and domination.



Japanese Invasion of China: The Forgotten Holocaust



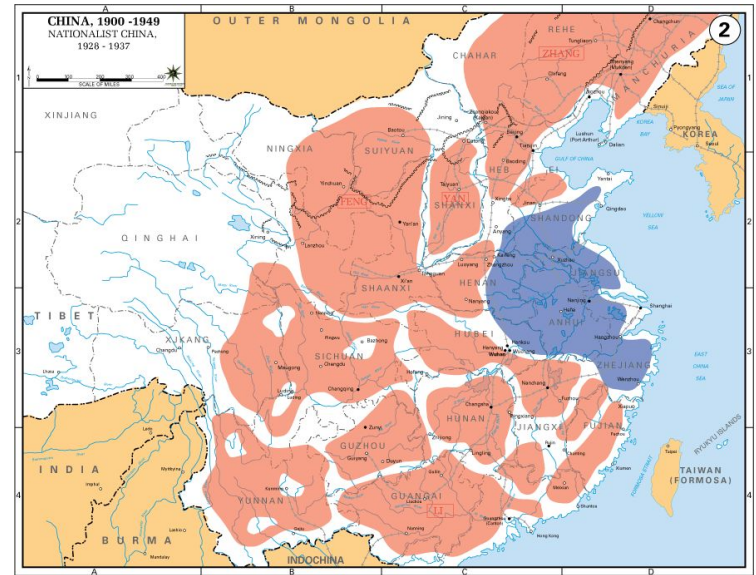
China Divided: Why it was easy for Japan to Invade

At the time of the Japanese invasion, China was divided between three groups who were vying with each other for power:

Nationalist (led by Chiang Kai-Shek)

Communists (led by Mao Zedong)

Warlords (not a unified force, but largest group)



Rape of Nanking: Representation of Invasion

Japan attacked the port city of Nanking in December of 1937, and most of the more extreme forms of violence ended in January 1938. In that period, an estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were killed and around 80,000 women were raped. Japanese 3 All's (Kill All, Burn All, Loot All). Japanese soldiers subjected Chinese civilians to various other forms of brutality as well.

The West was aware of what was going on in Nanking, and one of the main saviours in Nanking was a Nazi businessman named [John Rabe](#)



百人斬り超記録

向井106—105野田

兩少尉さらに延長戦

【葉金山麓にて十二日淺海、鈴木兩特派員發】 兩少尉入りまで百人斬り競争
といふ戦術をはじめたのは柳井少尉の部下向井少尉、野田少尉は十日の葉金山麓戦のとき
さし、百人對百五といふレコードを作つて十日正午兩少尉はさすがに
刃をぼれした日本刀を片手に對面した

野田「おいおれは百五だが貴様は
よ」向井「おれは百六だ」
少尉は「アハハハ」
にいづれが先に百人斬つたかこ



百人斬り競争の兩將校 (右野田少尉、左向井少尉)

Other Horrifying Aspects of the Japanese Invasion and Occupation

What is Total War?

Total war is a war that is unrestricted in terms of the weapons used, the territory or combatants involved, or the objectives pursued, especially one in which the laws of war are disregarded.

Often involves the direct targeting of civilian locations (Ex. Factories, hospitals) to destroy the infrastructure of the opposing force.

Bomber Command



End of the Invasion: What do we Remember?

Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The invasion of China ended in 1945 after the Soviet army removed the Japanese army from China. An estimated 10-20 million Chinese peoples were killed by the Japanese soldiers, but there is no specific title for this genocide.

Why are the dates of WW2 1939-1945, instead of 1937-1945?

Why does Japan not have to learn about their war crimes in China?

[Japan Hiding War Crimes?](#)



Reflection Questions

1. How did the end of Japan's policy of isolationism lead to the Japanese seeking to expand their sphere of influence?
2. How did the Japanese mentality of constant vulnerability affect the way they interacted with other nations?
3. Do you think our history and ways of thinking about WW2 are too Western centric?

