

# Imperial Japan as Viewed by Noted Scholar and Jurist

### Justice W. O. Howard Outlines the Amazing History of the Two Great Nations of the Far East and Then Calls Attention to the Peril in Which China Is Now Placed—He Sees Also a Possible Effort at World Dominion by the Eager, Ambitious, Remorseless Japanese.

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ON the 18th day of June, 551 years before the dawn of the Christian era, Confucius was born. He was one of the greatest teachers and reformers that ever came upon the earth. He was a Chinaman. He went about all his life doing good and lived to be seventy-two years old. His tomb is at Kieh-fow in the province of Shan-tung.

The teachings of Confucius laid the foundation of one of the great religions of the world, a religion which today shapes the conduct of one-third of the human race. And yet Confucius himself made no pretense whatever that he was a religious teacher or that he sprung from divine origin. His great purpose in life was not the establishment of a religion, but the restoration of his fellow-men. He taught reverence, respect, brotherly love. The golden rule of Confucius was: "What you do not like yourself, do not do to others." Respect for parents was one of the great principles which he sought to inculcate. On the top of his head, where the organ of veneration has been located, was a remarkable lump.

Confucius lived while Cyrus reigned in Persia, and while Pythagoras resounded in Greece, and while Tarquin the Proud wielded the last scepter of the Roman kings. Confucius is to the Chinese what Christ is to Christians.

#### A Molder of Character.

Confucius did more to mold the character of the Chinese people than any other person or event. But what have the Chinese accomplished that Confucius should deserve credit for shaping their career? It is quite possible that the average American does not entertain even an approximately correct conception of the Chinese people. Ignorance and race prejudice induce many persons to class the Chinese as one of the inferior peoples of the earth. They are generally rated as one of the semi-civilized races. But Chinamen consider us barbarians and boast that at a time when England and France and Germany were peopled by half-naked savages, China enjoyed a high degree of civilization.

This is true, for the authentic history of China goes back more than twenty centuries before Christ. Organized government had long been established in the "Celestial Empire" when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. While the forefathers of the proud, dominant, progressive Caucasian races which now people the states of Europe and the United States were prowling, hunting, hungry savages; wild, naked, homeless, illiterate, unknown, like the beasts of the forests; the Chinese were a settled, civilized, orderly, thinking people with cities, roads, farms, money, canals, clothes, and a system of religious worship.

#### Chinese Intelligence.

The Chinese understood the circulation of the blood long before it was discovered by Harvey in Europe; they inoculated for smallpox nearly a thousand years before it was practiced in England; the mariner's compass was discovered, gunpowder was employed, and artesian wells were bored in China far in advance of Europe. Gutenberg, the German, discovered the art of printing in 1453. This is accounted one of the greatest inventions of civilization. It revolutionized Europe and the Western world. But more than five hundred years before the invention of Gutenberg the Chinese had discovered the art of printing and books were widely distributed and read. Porcelain, paper, silk, spectacles and other attributes of higher civilization were employed by the Chinese centuries before they were known in Europe.

Civil Service examinations for government positions, yet very grudgingly employed in the United States, were inaugurated in China before the birth of Christ. Gradually this scheme has been developed until the whole system of government in China rests upon knowledge, not "pull," in China is the key to official position.

#### The Wonderful Canals.

The eighteen provinces of China proper are interlaced by a magnificent system of canals which connects all the great river systems of the empire with one another and binds together the provinces into one vast commercial and economic state. The Grand Canal, 1,209 miles long, reaching from Hangchow on the south to near Peking on the north, is one of the wonders of the world. This stupendous monument to the civilization of China is said to have been conceived and begun 480 years before the Christian era. The whole of Europe at that time, excepting perhaps, Greece and a small part of Italy, was yet a savage wilderness. This gigantic highway of commerce is in many places a hundred feet wide and is spanned at frequent intervals by splendid bridges of stone. Its banks are faced with long stretches of solid masonry and its shores are lined with beautiful arches and lofty pagodas.

The great civilized people of China were constantly menaced, as Rome was, by the incursions of northern barbarians. The rich, well-watered river bottoms, the sunny smiling valleys, the fertile cultivated fields, the flocks, the herds, the orchards, and the wives of the Chinese, tempted the nomadic hordes of north-western Asia to

invasions of the south. Constantly these waves of barbarians burst over the frontiers of China and ravaged the outlying provinces. To check these repeated incursions the Great Wall was built.

This stupendous barrier when completed bounded the entire length of the empire on the north. The imposing fortification was begun two hundred years before Christ and in its day constituted a complete and effective protection against foreign encroachment. The wall was 12,340 miles long, as far as from Boston to St. Paul. It was built mostly of hewn stone, was 25 feet thick at the base, from 20 to 30 feet high, with towers 40 feet tall and 600 feet apart. This titanic structure crept up sometimes 4,000 feet over mountain ridges; wended its way down into populous, verdant valleys; stretched out over sterile, arid plains; reached across tumbling torrents and turbid rivers; and extended through the bogs and tangles of swampy flats. Up until the nineteenth century this mighty enterprise surpassed any other undertaking of man, not excepting the pyramids.

#### Excel in Cultivation.

The Chinese have always excelled, and do exceed today, any other people in the world in the science of intensive cultivation. China is one of the most densely populated regions of the earth and yet the teeming millions of human creatures, and the swarming myriads of domestic animals, are fed without difficulty from the native soil. The Chinese study the subject of fertilization with the infatuated care and conserve all their resources, even in the smallest element of reproduction—the night soil, the street sweepings, the dumplings, bones and refuse from the table. In contrast to this wise husbandry of the Chinese our own wants prodigally is nearly barbaric. We sweep up the richest fertilizer in the world from the streets of our cities and dump it into garbage piles and then send ships to Chile, six thousand miles away, for nitrate of soda to grow our crops.

The conceit of the Caucasian races, their consciousness of superiority, and perhaps their ignorance of the great Asiatic people on the other side of the globe, has led them to erroneous conclusions. The white races look with scorn upon the Negro because he is backward in emerging from savagery. But, comparing the Caucasian with the Mongolian, perhaps the white man ought not to look with disdain upon the Negro, for twenty-five centuries ago, when the Chinese were highly civilized, the white men of the greater part of Europe were as savage and ignorant as the black men are today in the heart of Africa.

After the breaking up of the Roman Empire in 476, Europe was immersed in the

ignorance and anarchy of the Middle Ages. China at that period was marching rapidly forward on the highway of civilization. In 627 the Emperor Tai-tsun mounted the Celestial throne and reigned for twenty-three years. Tai-tsun's successor was a weak monarch, but his wife, who afterward became the celebrated Empress Wu How, was a woman of great ability and she seized the scepter, nominally in the hands of her husband, reigned in his name thirty-three years and after his death in her own name twenty-two years. Under these able monarchs China became at that time the greatest, the richest, the most powerful, the most progressive, the most extensive empire on the earth.

The Chinese are a materialistic people, giving little concern to a future state but bent upon getting good out of this life. This idea runs through their governmental system, their domestic relations, their philosophy, their religion. Their scheme of civilization was as good as any, better than most, up to the nineteenth century. The Chinese government is tolerant of all religions. Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism flourish harmoniously, side by side. Religions have never desolated China; and, in this particular, the Chinese are vastly superior to the Caucasians of Europe, where for a thousand years the land was deluged with the blood of religious combat.

The Chinese are unwarlike, patient, peaceable, contented, law-abiding. They progress slowly but methodically and correctly. The transition in 1911 from a monarchy to a republic was effected quickly and quietly but the change is apparently solid and permanent.

#### When the War Came.

At the outbreak of the World War the sympathy of China went out toward France and in August, 1917, she declared war on Germany and cast her lot with the Allies. The great republic of China joined with the great republic of France and with our own great republic in the supreme effort to make the "world safe for democracy." Her course conforms to every tenet of civilization and is in harmony with the enlightened advance of modern thought. China has cast off imperialism and desires to stand side by side with the free people of the world.

But across the sea from the eastern border of China lies a chain of volcanic islands. On this archipelago is seated a despotism; the most ancient, the most powerful, the most audacious, the most unscrupulous, the most remorseless, in the world—Japan. This remnant of a barbarian antiquity is a menace to the liberty and integrity of the peaceful China.

The origin of the inhabitants of Japan, like the origin of most ancient races,

reaches back into twilight and fable. Science has been unable to solve the question. Tradition, however, presents the usual mythical, improbable and impossible solution. Nothing could be more preposterous than the ancient fable which supplements an historical account of the origin of the Ainu, the aborigines of Japan. It runs something like this—Kamui was a prince in one of the kingdoms of Asia. He had three daughters and one of them became the victim of his incestuous passion. This outrage so shocked the virgin princess that she fled in the darkness from the royal palace and escaped with her faithful dog to the seashore.

#### An Ancient Legend.

A deserted canoe by stranded on the beach, and pushing the little craft out into the midnight sea, she and her companion embarked on their hazardous voyage for an unknown port. At last after many hardships, privations and adventures the tiny bark touched on a rocky, mountainous coast. She landed and drew up the canoe on the sand and went in search of food and shelter. But the country was bleak, uninhabited and inhospitable. The princess and the dog sought in vain far and wide for succor. After many months of wandering the princess at last reached a cave in the mountains and there gave birth to twins—a boy and a girl. These babies grew up wild in the forest and when they became adults brief children from themselves and their offspring, some of them married with each other and some of them with the bears of the mountain. The progeny of the bears were men of great strength and ferocity and their skins were hairy. These are the Ainu.

This is the absurd and fantastic legend of the aborigines of Japan. Like the American Indians, the Ainu were driven out of their homes by a superior race. They fled to the northward and took refuge in the island of Yezo, where the remnants of this aboriginal race now abide.

But the Ainu are not the basic race of Japan. Indeed it is difficult to identify the basic race. The Chinese were probably the first invaders of the islands and they, very likely, constitute the main stock. Later other invaders, traders and adventurers came, so that the blood of many races is mixed in the Japanese type of today. Chinese, Negritos, Koreans, Mongols and Ainu are amalgamated in the great progressive, stoical, polite, crafty, courageous, ambitious inhabitants of Japan.

#### Tale of a Dynasty.

The Japanese dynasty, like most other ancient dynasties, claims to have descended from the gods. Jimmu was the first Mikado. He was a grandson of a goddess. He began to reign 659 years before Christ

and one of his progeny sits today on the despotic throne of Japan. He is Yoshihito, the 124th sovereign of the island empire. He mounted the throne on July 30, 1912.

The Chinese were the civilizing influence in Japan. The language, letters, laws, science, philosophy and religion of Japan came largely from China. And yet the Japanese, although a yellow race, are a distinct people from the Chinese. The Shinto faith is the primitive religion of Japan, but in the sixth century of the Christian era Buddhism came from China, through Korea, to the island kingdom. Confucianism was also imported from China to be studied by the educated classes, and its principles for centuries constituted the rule of conduct of the learned and the noble. Christianity has made very little progress, comparatively, and the inhabitants of Japan remain yet, even in this enlightened age, essentially a pagan people.

#### The Sudden Move.

Up to the middle of the last century Japan pursued the regular Oriental policy of seclusion. Foreigners were shut out from the islands and all intercourse with Europe and the west was prohibited. Like Korea, Japan lived the life of a hermit kingdom. But in 1853, suddenly and unexpectedly, a revolutionary sentiment swept over the islands and the people of Japan waked up out of a torpor of twenty centuries and the empire leaped with one amazing bound to the very forefront among the nations of the world. With precipitate energy Japan searched in every civilized land on the globe for information. She invited to her shores scientists, capitalists, jurists, soldiers, doctors, engineers, railroad builders and military commanders, from every advanced nation of the world; and, eagerly, her students and statesmen assimilated the modern methods, culture and learning of the world.

From an obscure, unknown, semi-civilized people without armies, navies, commerce or capital; Japan, in half a century, has sprung up out of the stagnation of the ages and stands today among the most powerful and progressive empires of the earth. This astounding feat is unparalleled in the history of the world. In the space of fifty years Japan has achieved all that the proudest states of Europe acquired during twenty centuries of study and struggle.

Is this new born giant of the Orient an assurance of a menace to the civilization of the West? The wisest and most conservative thinkers grow nervous as they contemplate the possibilities of the "yellow peril." And it is well to look seriously at the situation, for Japan has disclosed, not only her marvelous capacity for development, but her tigerlike inclination to strike a sudden and deadly blow. In March, 1904, audaciously and unexpectedly, she struck

upon Russia—Russia, the mammoth of the earth.

The gigantic empire of the Tsar looked with contempt upon the little yellow men of the East. To pit their pigmy strength against the colossal resources of the Russian Empire seemed foolhardy. True Japan, in her war with China in 1894, had quickly conquered and humbled that massive empire. But the Chinese were Oriental, and Russia was one of the most powerful military states of Europe and the greatest empire in the world. Her armies for centuries had been trained in the science and experience of war. While Japan yet reposed in the barbaric coma of the East, Russia battled with the imperial armies of France and conquered Napoleon the Great. Russia scorned Japan. At the very doors of the island empire stood the impregnable fortress of Port Arthur—the Russian Gibraltar of Asia. The most powerful navies of the world could not hope to reduce this towering rampart.

But suddenly, without warning, Japan struck at her huge antagonist. The world was amazed. The Russian fleets were annihilated, Port Arthur was taken, Mukden fell and the armies of the Tsar were driven in panic back into the snows of Siberia. The most formidable antagonist that the world could present had been vanquished. Then, in the East, stood Japan—proud, confident, powerful, dangerous!

In 1902 Japan became leagued with Great Britain. This compact did not require Japan to engage in hostilities unless Great Britain were attacked in the Far East. In 1914, Japan declared war on Germany and at once attacked Kiao-Chow.

#### Then Japan Stop!

On November 6, 1914, after a stout resistance, the fortress fell. Then Japan stopped. In the direst days of the war, when the fortunes of the Allies and the world hung in the balance, Japan never lifted a hand. Not a dollar, not a soldier, not a ship, she hazard after her purposes in the East were accomplished. While the Allies were struggling in death-grapple to preserve the civilization of the world, Japan selfishly stood still. Instead of contributing men and money to the prosecution of the war she grew rich out of it by selling munitions to Russia.

While the United States and the great Powers of Europe were absorbed in the gigantic struggle with Germany, Japan without right or provocation, made a series of outrageous demands upon the republic of China—demands which amount virtually to a surrender of her sovereignty.

With remorseless persistence she pressed the helpless republic to the wall. In May 1915, she issued an ultimatum to China, an ultimatum, being wholly unable to resist, signed away her rights, her liberty and her sovereignty. No more unprovoked or high-handed outrage was ever perpetrated. Railways, coal mines, iron works, police departments, courts, harbors, schools, were surrendered to the custody and control of Japan.

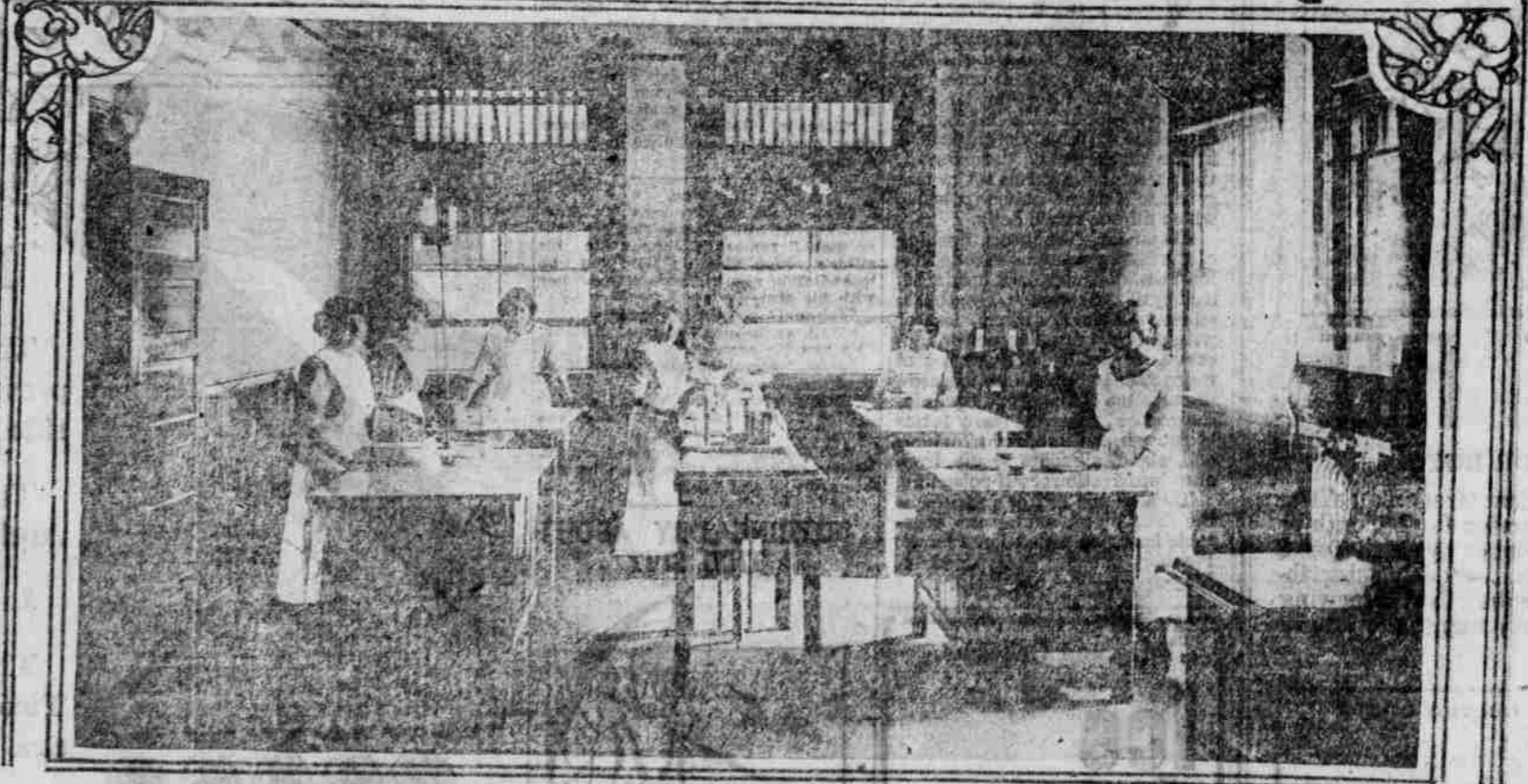
#### Sees a Vast Peril.

It is the purpose of Japan, beyond doubt, to dominate the people of China. This is apparent, not only to close observers, but to the merest novice. She proposes to consolidate the races of the Far East and with one despotic scepter wield the limitless power of the Orient. When this happens—and it will happen—Japan will be the terror of the West. Couchant, like a tiger, lynx-eyed, crafty, alert, patient, silent, Japan awaits the opportunity to spring. Seven hundred million Mongolians welded together into one vast military empire will constitute a menace to Caucasian civilization more terrible than all the combined dangers of the last two thousand years. With this innumerable population to call upon Japan could put in the field forces outnumbering the united armies of the Allies and the Central Powers. At the head of twenty million trained men—daring, fatalistic, burning to revenge the indignities heaped upon them by ages of race prejudice—the Mikado of Japan can march unblinded over the bloody track of Attila the Hun.

And the astonishing feature of the situation is the fact that the democratic nations of the West sit at the peace table in Paris adding and subtracting the disintegration of China and the growth of the yellow terror in the East. Why do they do this? China has not offended. China has joined the great forward movement of the age, and has become a republic, but Japan lags behind, clinging persistently to medieval imperialism. China has made all the territories within her frontiers safe for democracy. But the territories of a despotism are reaching into her vitals. The deadly clutch of imperialism is strangling her breath. Unless the free peoples of the West come to her rescue the republic of China must succumb. But they do not come to her rescue. China is being crippled as though she had been an ally of Germany; and, to the amazement of the world, our delegates at Paris are acquiescing in this crime against a sister republic. Under the sanction of the peace conference, Kiao-Chow, the segment of Shanghai, is not to be restored to China but is to remain permanently torn from the bosom of the republic, being merely transferred from the rapacious clutch of the German autocrat into the more deadly grip of the relentless Mikado. Port Arthur, seized and retained, the republic of China is to be surrendered to the imperial grasp of a despotic power, and this trophy of Japan will be triumphantly displayed to the world when peace is proclaimed. This atrocity is the reward which China is to receive for espousing the cause of democracy.

And this is to be the "peace of justice!"

## TEACHING THE INDIANS THRIFT



By RENE SACHEL.

The American Indian has never been remarkable for thrift.

But he has begun to learn. And having begun, he is learning rapidly. He is buying War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps. The enthusiasm with which he has gone in for this sort of thing is remarkable. On the Indian reservations all over the country the thrift movement is being commended with an intensity of interest equaled by few white communities.

Among the reservations are schools in which a special feature is made of industrial training. Among other things the boys are taught the art of printing. They write and publish newspapers, setting the type and operating the

presses. No fewer than sixteen magazines are regularly printed from the Indian schools.

Many of our Indian boys are well-to-do. They have invested hard-earned money. Now a few of them are rich, especially in Oklahoma, where the discovery of oil has brought them wealth almost beyond the dream of realism. Some have suddenly become millionaires.

Take the Creeks for example. Eastern Oklahoma is a Creek homeland. But just one hundred miles of thousands of dollars into Liberty. People are coming here for the warm country, the fine scenery, the fine country. On the whole of Oklahoma, Oklahoma is a good town. He owns the hotel, the bank, the general store, the warehouse, the ice-making plant and the barber shop.

Another fullblood of the same tribe, Jackson

Brant, has an income of \$4,000 a month. He has taken \$1,200,000 worth of Liberty Bonds.

Four members of the Ypohla family, Creeks, have invested \$1,000,000 in Liberty Bonds.

A Creek girl named Hector, seventeen years old, at Muskogee, Okla., is worth at least \$50,000, most of which has been put, at her request, into, of course, a money, into Liberty Bonds.

The things are richer than the Creeks. They have long been famous as the wealthiest of all the Indians. The oil discovery has made them much wealthier. Last year they took 2,000,000 barrels of oil out of their lands. Think of that.

The money derived from the sale of this oil was equally divided among all the members of the tribe. It is different with the Creeks, who,

like the other four "civilized tribes," hold their land in severalty, so that each family is entitled to all the oil obtained from its own property.

Says Cato Bell, Commissioner of Indian Affairs: "I should like the Indian atmosphere to be sufficiently rich with the idea that they must eventually, and not necessarily, stand on their own feet, make their own way, pay taxes, feed, clothe and educate themselves the same as the white man. To this end there should be no failure to furnish the simple lessons of all experience, that to provide for the future is the vital task of intelligent life, that when times are good and conditions favorable provision must be made for intercalation, or sickness, or bad times that in fruitful days a store must be laid by against possible adversity and want."