

Japan: A Land of Dynamic Regeneration Following A World War

(Editor's Note: Japanese dynamism in coming back from shattering defeat in World War II has astonished the world. This dispatch, by a United Press International staffer who lives and works there, gives a fascinating insight into how it has been accomplished.)

By ARTHUR HIGBEE

Tokyo—(UPI)—Twice in little more than a century, Japan has tried to fly in the face of the facts toward the peril of self-destruction and then turned and made the facts work for her.

In 1854, she tried to keep herself sealed in a cocoon of mediocrity from the rising winds of progress, then emerged to transform herself into a world power with a single-minded speed that stuns the imagination even today.

In 1945 Japan pursued a losing war to the suicidal point of arming her people with bamboo spears to fight off the invader. But after atomic bombs blotted out Hiroshima and Nagasaki she made ungrudging peace and set to work on an economic regeneration that frequently has been called miraculous.

Size of California
Japan is the size of France or California. Her population, now stabilized by rising living standards and by birth control and a permissive abortion law, is 95,000,000—sixth largest on earth. But her birth rate, 16.0 per thousand, is the seventh lowest.

Japan's four major islands—Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku and Hokkaido—stretch in a closely-knit arc off the east coast of Asia about the same latitude as the eastern seaboard of the United States, and with about the same variations in weather that prevail from New England to Georgia.

Japan is so mountainous that less than one-fifth the land is level enough for cultivation. But it is so intensively cultivated that Japan is nearly self-sufficient in food.

Closest Neighbor
Japan's closest neighbor is not China nor even Korea but Russia: it is only 30 miles across the La Perouse Strait from Hokkaido to Sakhalin Island.

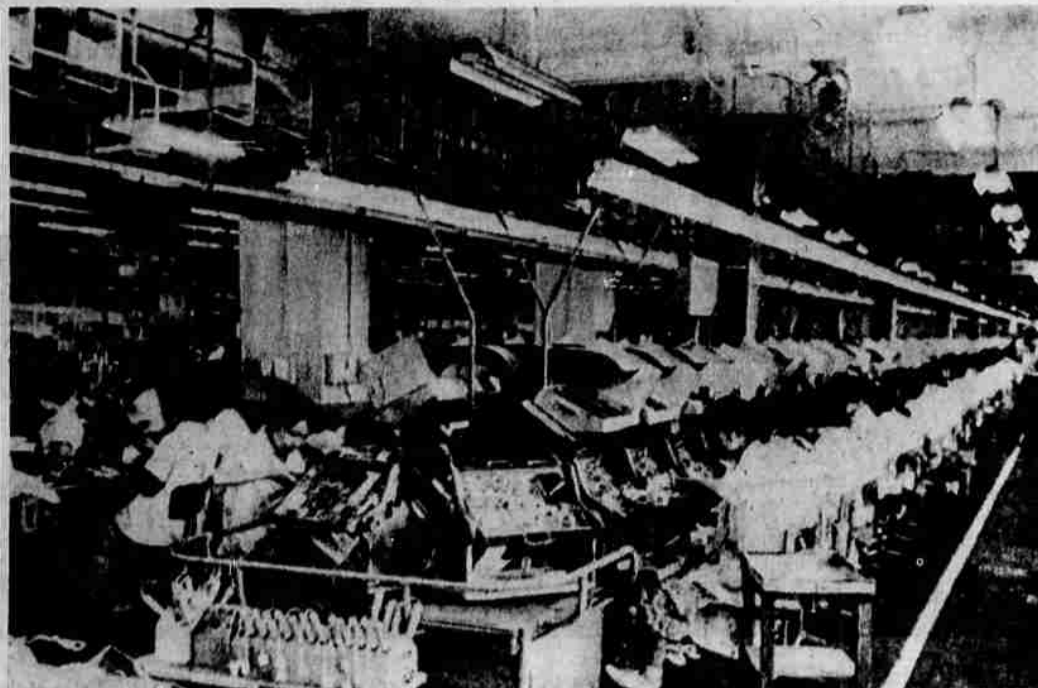
Japan is densely populated (252 persons per square kilometer) but the Netherlands, England and Belgium are more so. Japan has a high suicide rate (21.3 per 100,000 population) but Hungary and Austria have higher ones. Hara-kari (ritual suicide by disembowelment) vanished after the war.

The Japanese are the most racially homogeneous major nation on earth, except for the Ainu, white aborigines of whom a few thousand have survived and maintained some of their own identity. Malaysians, Mongols and Chinese in the Japanese islands merged and fused into a single people before the dawn of history.

Written Language
The written language consists of Chinese picture-words combined with a 50-character Japanese syllabary. The system is so cumbersome that an otherwise-admiring British scholar wrote that "as a practical instrument it is surely without inferiors."

The countryside is beautiful. The houses, if drafty, have a calm-inducing simplicity. But Tokyo is one of the scruffiest great cities anywhere. To the Japanese, nature is an end in itself; the home is a refuge; public buildings and thoroughfares are strictly utilitarian, like sewers in the Western world.

Japanese children are codded and cosseted until they reach school age. Then the web of family and social obligations begins to be drawn tight. Only the very young, the very old and the very drunk are exempt.



ASSEMBLE WIRING—Female workers at Toshiba's Komukai plant in Tokyo, Japan, are shown above assembling wiring for television sets. It takes each girl 40 seconds to complete her part of the operation. The average Japanese wage-earner takes home only \$18.48 a week, but there are six television sets for every 10 families. (UPI)

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Atrocities Explainable
Japanese wartime atrocities, from the rape of Nanking to the Bataan death march and beyond, are explainable, if inexcusable. Japanese soldiers were systematically brutalized by slaps and beatings from their superiors. They were serving abroad and the lid was off the customary inhibitions.

Commanders tolerated and even connived at atrocities as a means of striking fear into the enemy and the conquered peoples. The effect of course was quite different.

The Japanese are inscrutable only in old U.S. wartime movies. They consider reserved behavior in public to be good manners. But on contact they are kind, friendly and even gay.

Marine Biologist
Emperor Hirohito, now 61, a mild-mannered marine biologist who stubbornly stared down the literal die-hards in 1945, is no longer the sacred and ultimate object of obligation and veneration.

Under the American-inspired postwar constitution, he is simply "the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people."

In the Middle Ages the emperors fell on hard times, eventually being supplanted in actual power by a "shogun" (literally, the full title means "barbarian-subduing generalissimo"), who in turn might be controlled by a regent.

In 1803 the year England's first Queen Elizabeth died, a shogun named Tokugawa Iyeyasu consolidated the war-torn country, forced members of the great clans to relay each other as courtier-hostages, left the powerless emperor installed at the ancient capital of Kyoto and moved the real capital to Edo, renamed Tokyo.

Foreigners Banished
Foreigners, except for a tiny and closely-policed community of Dutch traders, were banished. Christians, converted by Francis Xavier and his successors, were crucified. Sailors shipwrecked on the Japanese shore were beheaded.

Japan was sealed off from the rest of the world. This lasted 230 years. Then the Americans, under Commodore Matthew C. Perry,

anchored in Tokyo Bay and demanded harboring, revictualing and trading privileges. Japan, thirsty for progress and determined not to be colonized like most of hapless Asia, burst open like an over-ripe seed and sprouted into modernity.

The shogunate was abolished, the emperor restored. Public education was enforced almost overnight and a tycoon class created at a stroke.

Streams of eager young men were sent to England to study naval and maritime practice, to the United States for commercial and industrial methods, to Germany for military and scientific knowledge.

Within a generation, Japan had embarked on her own imperial adventures, annexing Okinawa from China in 1875. Within two generations her fleet under Admiral Togo, often called Japan's Lord Nelson, had annihilated the Russians in the Korea Strait.

Government Impaired
Parliamentary government was imported, too. It flowered briefly in the 1920's, but withered in the glare of militarism, extreme nationalism and colonial conquest in the 1930's.

After Pearl Harbor the Japanese Empire, one of the richest the world has ever seen, swept from Burma to Wake Island, from Manchuria to New Guinea.

But the Americans built up an overpowering military machine. Japanese atrocities quickly alienated the subject peoples who might have become friends. Japan had all the resources she needed—but her long supply lines to them were quickly cut. Her industrial capacity was not up to replacing the losses of total war.

The first atomic bomb was the coup de grace.

Postwar Japan
Postwar Japan turned to peacetime pursuits with a vengeance. The American-inspired constitution specifically outlaws war or the maintenance of armed forces; Japan's 200,000-man "self-defense force" is grudgingly accepted as a cold war necessity by the majority Conservatives and constantly opposed by the minority Socialists.

tical idealism, it is far from its best in Japan. The faction-ridden Conservatives have been accused of practicality without realism, and the militantly Marxist Socialists, of idealism without practicality.

Small Communist Party
There is a small, shrill Communist party with 90,000 members and seven men in Parliament. At the other end of the scale there are sporadic sentiments for a revival of the old patriotic holidays, but there is no concerted neo-nationalist movement.

Japan has become the world's fourth-ranking nation in industrial production. She has seven cities of more than one million population. Tokyo, the world's largest, numbered 10,224,309 residents within the city limits as of last Jan. 1.

Yet one out of three Japanese live on farms, compared to one out of 12 Americans or one out of 25 Englishmen. The average farm is 2 1/2 acres. Japan has increased her gross national product by an average 10 per cent a year since 1946. It went up an incredible 15 per cent last year to \$50 billion.

Leading Shipbuilder
She is the world's leading shipbuilder. She ranks seventh in the world as an exporter and fifth in sports. Japan has 12 million television sets in use, six for every 10 families. The average wage-earner takes home \$18.48 a week and gets generous fringe benefits besides.

On the other hand, Japan rocks with the slightest shift in world trade winds. The "buy American" policy, for example, has cost her \$40 million a year in truck sales.

Only 10 per cent of Japan's roads are paved; only 14 per cent of the houses have sewerage. Traffic regulations and workmen's safety laws are laxly enforced.

A Source of Hope
Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda has summed up: "Japan is an important member of the free world and source of hope for the new nations."

"But we cannot be satisfied with what has been achieved so far. Although the economy has grown outstandingly, capital accumulation is small and per capita income is still far less than in Europe or America."

"The lag is clearly apparent in the field of public investment, such as highways, housing and sanitation. It

cannot be denied that we also are lacking in love of country, nation and traditions and in public courtesy in social life."

But the enormous capacity of the Japanese for self-criticism is equalled by their tremendous drive for self-improvement.

Medford Student Takes Solo Flight

A dream came true for a 16-year-old Medford boy Friday morning when he soloed a Piper Tri-Pacer plane from the Medford airport.

Grant Shaw Mayfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Mayfield, 332 Murphy ave., learned to fly last year and has flown since that time, but he could not solo until he was 16.

So determined was he to solo on his birthday, that he arranged with a doctor to have his physical examination the evening before after school.

Young Mayfield soloed Friday at 7:20 a.m., flying for about 30 minutes. He now has 10 hours of flying time, according to his mother. The Medford High school sophomore has been attracted to airplanes since he was a small boy, Mrs. Mayfield said.

His father attended flight school during World War II, and his mother soloed about three years ago. The only member of the family who does not fly at the present is Grant's sister, Marsha, who will be 17 in May. The family owns a plane which they keep at the Medford airport.

Two Posts Will Be Filled on Board

Phoenix—Two vacancies will be filled in the Phoenix school district board in the May 6 election.

Terms expire for J. Allen Harris, present chairman, who is seeking reelection, and for Bruce Cyphers, who is not a candidate.

Harris, who represents the Phoenix area in the combined district of Talent and Phoenix, is opposed for the office by Mrs. Leah Zandel, who also resides in the Phoenix area.

Ed Heim of Talent is a candidate for the post left vacant by Cyphers.

Cascade Shopping Center Scheduled to Open at White City Early This Summer



NEW DEVELOPMENT—The first section of the building on the extreme left is the new Cascade Market. The center section with the roof windows is the arcade. The other section shows the laundromat, barber shop, and beauty shop with the bank building to the right. The covered walk way can be noted along the roof line. Hard surfaced driveways and parking areas will be on both sides of the buildings.

White City—The opening of the new Cascade Shopping Center in White City has been tentatively set for late in May or early June to enable the completion of additions to original building plans.

The Cascade Super Market has been doubled in size from a 5,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet capacity because of the expected demand for the use of the building needs.

The addition of a bank building is nearing construction with the vault construction. The First National Bank of Portland will open a branch office in the building with a drive up window.

Also being included in the shopping center will be the beauty shop, barber shop, and laundromat located at the side of the market with a covered arcade between the two sections.

The arcade will include a pond, tables, chairs, and a drinking fountain for shoppers in the center. A covered walk will connect all buildings with a hard surfaced circular driveway allowing entry to the center from either end.

A drug store will be opened in the near future in the other half of the building which now houses the Cascade Sports Marina.

Other commercial businesses will be added to the shopping center in the future. According to John Laden, inquiries regarding other types of businesses, such as a restaurant and bowling alley, have been made to the company.

Swimming Pool Planned
A swimming pool is planned for the use of residents in the White City area. The pool should be ready for use by late this summer.

The desert area had been used for grazing until World War II, when the first real development started with the construction of an Army cantonment. In 1946, when the army declared the camp a surplus, most buildings were torn down with only a large hospital and several large warehouses and depot facilities remaining.

In 1948, the area was purchased by a group of individuals as a site for future industrial development. In 1951 a spur railroad line was built to Topeka, connecting with the Southern Pacific Railroad line.

27 Industries in Area
Today there are 27 industries, which include several lumber mills of various types, Oregon Washington Telephone company, and the Central Point rural fire department in the area. Besides the industries there are several service stations, a dress shop, restaurants, a bottling company, a tire shop, a church, and real estate office.

A recent estimate was made of between 300 and 400 homes, either permanent or mobile homes while the owners were building. About 70 new homes are included in the White City realty subdivision, with long range subdivision plans calling for 300 to 350 homes. The estimated building will be about

50 new homes a year, depending upon demand. About 5,000 acres of land in the Hoover subdivision has already been sold in from 2 to 40 acre tracts.

Construction of several duplexes in the area is planned by a group of area businessmen to meet the demand for rentals.

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Dawson Attends Portland Meeting

Ashland—Dr. James Dawson, associate professor of science at Southern Oregon college, served as a panel member and presented a paper on "The Importance of Versatility in College Teaching" at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education seminar on the Improvement of College Teaching in Portland recently.

Purpose of the conference was to study and discuss ways to improve the quality of college teaching.

Dr. Leonard Rice, president of Oregon College of Education, was keynote speaker and Dr. Roy Lieuallen, chancellor of the Oregon state system of higher education, was a banquet speaker.

PARADE ENTRY BLANK

for the Rogue Valley

PEAR BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Sat., April 20

NAME	PHONE	CHECK ONE
ADDRESS	CITY	A () Individuals
CONTRACT	AGE	B () Animals or pets
		C () Vehicle decoration
		D () Costumed walking groups
		E () Organizational float

\$255⁰⁰ CASH PRIZES!

GENERAL RULES —

- No animal larger than St. Bernard Dog.
- All pets must be caged, leashed, or harnessed. It is permissible to harness pets for floats, etc., providing pet is trained for this purpose.
- Any age group may march in the parade but will be judged for prizes on following basis:
 - Anyone up through sixth grade students.
 - Anyone from seventh grade and older.
 - Only one parade entry blank should be prepared for a group entry.
- All entries will be judged prior to start of parade. Judging will begin promptly at 1:30 P.M. All entries will receive an entry ribbon. Late arrivals will be allowed to enter line of march but may not be judged for prizes unless time permits.

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