

THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

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by
**Otto D.
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EMPEROR OF THE WORLD

THE real origins of the Japanese dynasty are lost in the dim recesses of prehistoric times. But Japan's historic times did not begin till the middle of the fifth century of our era, when the Japanese learned to read and write from the Chinese and began to convert tribal mythology into national history. Prior to that time, Japanese history consisted of myths and legends transmitted by guilds of hereditary reciters who, like the troubadours of the Middle Ages, made their living by singing the praises of the mighty who fed them. Naturally, which meant the higher the reward the higher the ancestry attributed to the praised. In that way, numerous noble Japanese families acquired "divine" ancestors, and the Imperial family, as the mightiest of all, saw to it that its descent was the highest of all. By the time the Japanese had learned to read and write the Imperial myth had become gospel truth which dominated all Japanese thinking.

By comparing them with contemporary Chinese and Korean records, historians have come to the conclusion that the Japanese government some time around the beginning of the Christian era. But the Japanese "Bibles" and official doctrine proclaim that it goes back to the beginnings of the earth.

There has been deliberate falsification of the time element in Japanese myths and even forgery of the calendar by Japanese chroniclers for a very definite political purpose. It served to establish the supremacy of the Imperial Family, and it helped to revise this supremacy after it had been lost. For the fact is that for a thousand years, from around 800 A. D. to 1867, the Japanese Emperors were completely relegated to the role of puppets, or rather to the role of Gods who must not soil their divine fingers with politics.

Puppet Emperors

This eclipse of the Emperors was brought about largely by the introduction of Buddhism in the sixth century, which gave the men behind the throne another religious instrument to work with, and which for a time completely overshadowed Shinto, the foundation of Imperial rule. Buddhism brought forth the classical age of Japanese literature, but also an age of high living and extravagance comparable to the age of the French Louis. The Emperors first under the rule of their mistresses, and then under the sway of Buddhist priests. They



Emperor Hirohito Reviews His Troops
"The Emperor of Japan is the Emperor not only of Japan but also of all the races of the world..."

spent most of their time in idleness and debauchery, punctuated by poetizing and elaborate temple ceremonies, while the actual government was carried on by others. These others were first a family of major-domos, the Fujiwaras, of whom Prince Fumimaro Koyoye is the present head. With the aid of brains and Buddhist priests, the Fujiwaras soon brought the whole Imperial family under their thumb. They married their daughters to the Emperors, while their sons monopolized all important government posts.

Beginning with the middle of the 11th century, however, the civilian rule of the Fujiwaras came to an end and was replaced by an age of civil wars, leading to military dictatorships by the Shoguns, or Taikuns—chiefs of rival clans who gained power by beating down their rivals. These dictators ruled nominally in the name of the Emperors and by theoretical appointment from the throne.

Restored to Power

In the 18th and 19th centuries, when German nationalism began to assume forms which culminated in Nazism, the Japanese, confronted with a breakdown of feudal economy and the rise of a merchant class clamoring for foreign outlets, likewise began to look for a new impetus to national life. They found it in Shinto. Japanese scholars revived, refurbished, reinterpreted—and further falsified—the ancient myths and sieged a great Shinto revival which, by re-emphasizing the "divine" rights of the Emperors, put the Taikuns in the line of usurpers and thus laid the ideological foundation for their overthrow. This came in 1867, after Commo-

dore Perry had opened the doors of Japan. Feudalism went aboard and the Emperors were restored to direct rule under Hirohito's grandfather.

Today, by a transformation of Shinto as portentous to the world as its previous revival was to Japan, Japanese leaders have proclaimed the Japanese Emperor as the Emperor of the World. Digging up an obscure passage attributed to Jimmu, they have converted it into a divine command for Japanese world conquest.

This passage enunciates what is now known as the Hakkio Ichu principle, constantly referred to in official Japanese pronouncements as "the principle of the Empire-founding."

"FROM the standpoint of Hakkio Ichu, the Emperor of Japan is the Emperor not only of Japan but also of all the races of the world. Judging from the present condition of our Imperial Majesty, he is the Emperor of Japan alone at the present time, but his Majesty of Japan is the Emperor of the world, for the spirit of Hakkio Ichu has been the traditional principle of our nation." —Tadahiko Imazumi, over Tokyo Radio, Oct. 12, 1942.

(NEXT: Hirohito's Role)

Destruction of Fleet, Mangling Of Cities by Air, and Strangling Blockade Caused Surrender of Japs

BY SANDOR S. KLEIN
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON (U.P.)—Japan was beaten by the destruction of its fleet, the mangling of its cities by air, and a strangling blockade of its homeland. It was out-thought, out-guessed and out-fought.

Its surrender undoubtedly was hastened by the atomic bomb and Russia's entry into the Pacific war. Its doom, however, had already been sealed.

To reach the heartlands of the enemy empire, the United States leaped over vast sea distances, taking what it needed for bases and by-passing thousands of islands. It chopped down Japan's vaunted fleet from the air and from the sea. U. S. submarines and planes shattered Japan's merchant fleet and ripped apart the far-flung empire's communications.

When its march across the Pacific brought it at last to the very doorsteps of Japan proper, the United States sent its great air fleets stabbing deeper and deeper into the enemy homeland, laying waste its cities.

The defeat of Japan was accomplished with a minimum of ground troops. No great armies, such as those which fought in Europe, were engaged. The war in the Pacific was basically a struggle for island bases, most of them mere dots compared to the wide expanse of sea that lay between the United States and Japan.

But while the air fleets and the navy were heaping destruction on the enemy's homeland, preparations were being made for the army to invade Japan.

If Japan had not chosen surrender, it would have devolved upon the U. S. Army to beat the enemy's fanatic legions in the home islands. This would have involved tremendous armies.

The task of beating the enemy's powerful forces on the mainland was left for the Russian and Chinese military machines.

Japan's surrender saved thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of lives.

In the final analysis it was the brilliance, the daring of American strategy and tactics, and the heroism of America's fighting men that turned the tide of war from black defeat on Dec. 7, 1941 to sudden capitulation of the enemy three years and eight months later.

The military man will tell you that Japan laid the foundations for its own defeat the day it attacked Pearl Harbor. This act set in motion the full force of America's great industrial potential turned into the greatest machine for destruction the world has ever seen.

The navy man will tell you Japan made a serious strategic mistake right at the start. It might have driven the battered U. S. fleet off the seas had it followed up the Pearl Harbor victory with an invasion of the Hawaiian Islands and Alaska.

But Japan set out instead on a greedy spurge of territorial conquest for its greater east Asia co-prosperity sphere. It grabbed the Philippines, the Netherlands Indies, Malaya, Burma—and in so doing gave the U. S. time to patch up its wounds and prepare for the comeback.

It was a long, tough road to Tokyo. The United States had to travel it virtually alone. The allies gave what help they could, but it was comparatively little. The British were occupied with the most urgent business of beating Germany. Even the U. S. could turn against the Japs but a portion of its might because, too, was committed to the defeat of Germany first.

One strategic factor stands out in Japan's defeat. For years before the war, military students preached that to beat Japan, it must be blockaded. Crowded in her tight group of islands, Japan was reliant on the outside world for most of the things needed to wage war and subsist.

This concept was never abandoned. In the end, Japan found itself cut off from its stolen empire while American ships and planes were hurling almost unbelievable destruction into the homeland, virtually without opposition.

The Pacific is an ocean of vast distances. It was obvious on Dec. 7, 1941, that the key to ultimate victory was control of the seas. Custodians of a crippled fleet, the American naval command de-

can and Australian troops, began to push the Japanese out of New Guinea. He was back on the road to the Philippines.

Island after island in the southwest Pacific was wrested from Japanese hands—the Admiralties, part of New Britain, Morotai, and many others. They provided fresh bases for the drive northward. The U. S. fleet, meanwhile, was growing rapidly. It finally surpassed the enemy navy, and its carrier forces moved about the southwest Pacific, hitting the Japanese almost at will.

The Gilberts and the Marshalls were invaded, and the United States moved on to the Marianas—Guam, Tinian and Saipan—and the western Carolines.

The powerful U. S. third fleet under Halsey began a series of devastating blows against Japanese air power in the Philippines. Then in October came the dramatic news that MacArthur had invaded the Philippines.

The Japanese fleet, which had been in hiding since its Guadalcanal defeats, finally came out to fight—from three different directions. It ran into disaster. In the so-called second battle of the Philippines it suffered one of the worst naval defeats in history. It never again came out in force for another test of strength.

The Japanese lost in turn the Philippines, Iwo Jima—one of the toughest and bloodiest scraps in

history—a n-d-Okinawa, even bloodier. These conquests, which enabled the United States to concentrate its air power around the enemy homeland, spelled the beginning of the end for the Japanese.

Superfortresses began a systematic leveling of Japan's industries and cities. But the Japanese fought on. They rejected the Potsdam ultimatum of July 26.

Then, with shocking suddenness on August 5, the United States unveiled the most terrifying weapon mankind had ever conceived—the atomic bomb.

Another bombshell—Russia's entry into the war—followed on August 8.

President Truman warned the Japanese on August 9 that unless they quit, they would be destroyed. He said there were more atomic bombs to come, and more military surprises.

The next morning, the Japanese radio screamed "Uncle."

Watermelons Safe
COLUMBIA, Pa., (U.P.)—Lesley Studenroth, grocer, greatly underrated the honesty of his neighborhood. He forgot to take 73 watermelons into his store when he locked up one night.

Arriving next morning at the store, he counted the melons and expected to find at least several missing. Instead—his stock had increased to 74.

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• BARBS

THE atomic bomb has put it squarely up to the world as to its future—peace or pieces!

An electric light bulb used on warships withstands battle shocks. Perfect for the front hall when dad comes home late!

Just move to a nice place in the country, or near a lake, if you want your friends to drop in and stay and stay and stay.

A large apple crop is in the offing. Orchards will be safe—just as soon as school opens.

Yawata, the "Pittsburgh of Japan," got a real break. It was hit only by demolition bombs from 225 Superforts.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Mynard Community Club
Traditional Fried Chicken Dinner

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

12:15 p. m.
AT WETENKAMP GROVE
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Partemp is government-approved, lightweight and easy to install, water-repellent and fire-resistant. It's a new type insulation and a real wonder worker! See Partemp today. Free estimate.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: To right field.
NEXT: A bird that goes north in winter.

Enemy Balloons Fell in Nebraska

OMAHA (U.P.)—A five acre grass fire was the only damage by Japanese incendiary bombs from balloons reported in its area, the seventh service command said Thursday.

All balloons discovered were in isolated communities except one in Omaha, which exploded shortly after midnight April 18.

In Nebraska, other towns experiencing balloons were Ballagh, Schuyler, Hyania, Chadron, Osceola, and Silver Creek.

The command received 60 reports and investigated all of them. Not all were verified. Different parts were found in Wyoming and South Dakota, and the command was able to obtain detailed information on workings of the balloons from them.

One of the first reported was in Laurens, Ia., a long fuse to burn the envelope was burning when it ascended but was put out by a farmer on landing.

Other Iowa localities reporting indications of balloons were Pocahontas; Webb, which was believed to be part of the Laurens balloon; and Holsten, which was unverified.

A fragment of a Japanese anti-personnel bomb was reported in Thermopolis, Wyo.

No actual new arrivals were reported after April. Balloons were reported to the command in Wyoming, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa.

WILL HOLD COURT
District Judge Thomas E. Dunbar will hold court here next Wednesday, Aug. 22, at 9:30 a. m. to hear routine matters.

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Plattsmouth Phone 250 or 337W

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It will pay you to investigate. We pay the highest wages in town for this type of work.
See Mr. Nelson After 1 p. m. at
NELSON'S BAKERY

ALL OUT FOR VICTORY
The government is asking you to store your winter supply of Coal NOW to save transportation for war material later on. So see us now for your next Winter's Coal.
E. J. RICHEY
Lumber—Coal Phone 128

SERVICE SCHEDULE
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We have been picking up cream, poultry and eggs and delivering feed in a limited way but now if road conditions permit we will try to maintain a regular schedule.

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"Home of CASCO Butter"

TIRE PUMP	\$2.59
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BICYCLE SEAT COVERS	\$1.29
RUBBER TIRED WHEELBARROW	\$11.95
CURTAIN STRETCHERS	79¢
FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING KITS	
HANDY FEED SCOOPS	95¢
TOOL GRINDER	\$7.39
STEEL TOOL BOXES	\$2.73 and \$2.17
LOCKING GAS TANK CAPS	\$1.69
SUPER-FLEX SEAT CUSHIONS	\$1.95
CREAM CANS	\$3.59 and up
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