

Japanese Americans' View of Japan and Historical Awareness

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日系アメリカ人の対日観と歴史認識

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Tête – à- Tête Talk

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Abstract: This article is a continuation of the previous article, "Japanese Americans' View of Japan and Ethnic Identity," and focuses on their historical awareness of Japan's political and military actions in the days before and during WWII. Just like the Japanese have endured self-flagellation by insisting they were the aggressor in those days and therefore have continued to apologize and make amends for their alleged aggressive acts, Americans have a distorted view of history in which they claim they had no choice but to fight Japan in the Pacific because they were attacked by an aggressor state.

Such historical inaccuracies were taught in high school in Japan in which history books reinforce this distorted view of history while Americans have also accepted this inaccurate historical view. Because of these historical inaccuracies, Japanese Americans in the past avoided going out on Pearl Harbor Day for fear of retribution and tend to criticize Japan's actions in the years before and during WWII, siding with China and Korea on issues of modern dispute.

Before and during WWII, however, most Japanese knew the truth regarding the fact that Japan had to stand up and defend itself against the US, which continued to torment Japan with its isolationist tactics such as imposing an oil embargo. Americans in high government offices such as former President Hoover and top military officials like General Wedemeyer also testified that Japan was provoked into war by the US and was not the aggressor.

It is also important to acknowledge the role of Japan in liberating many colonized countries such as India and Indonesia after WWII. If Japanese Americans were aware of such historical facts, they would realize that they were brainwashed and gain

self-confidence in their ethnicity. They also will come to respect and love Japan and be one of her strongest supporters.

While it is necessary to liberate the Japanese from this distorted view of history, it is also important to correct the Japanese Americans' inaccurate historical knowledge of Japan's actions before and during WWII, and this article proves that it is possible to do so.

Like the previous article, the portraits with corresponding profiles were drawn and inserted by Shigeru Kojima, one of the authors, to enhance the visual experience of the reader.

Notes:

1. Ronald Shinomoto, one of the authors, is a sansei Japanese American living in California. He obtained a PhD in Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley under the guidance of Dr. G. Seaborg, a Nobel laureate. He is presently employed as a technical and scientific writer.
2. The actual amount of correspondence between the authors was much more than the tête - à - tête talk given here. Since Kojima edited selected portions of the correspondence for the talk, the flow may not be smooth or consistent in certain places. In addition the abstract does not express the full content of the talk. Furthermore, although the article deals with Japanese Americans' view of Japan and their historical awareness, it is based on talks with Shinomoto.
3. With regard to Henry Stoke's article, see the web site for the Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact, which contains many other informative materials.
4. The view expressed herein is the authors' own and should be attributed neither to the School of Management and Information of University of Shizuoka nor to the Graduate School of Management and Information of Innovation of University of Shizuoka.

Tete - à - Tete Talk

Japanese Americans' View of Japan and Historical Awareness

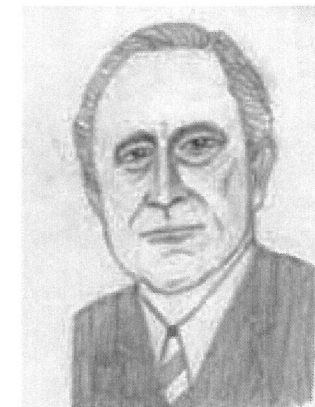
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Why America started Japan-US War?

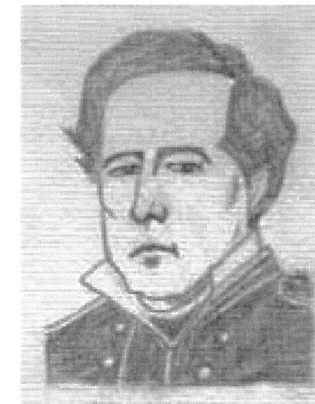
Kojima: Japanese and Americans are taught in high school that it was Japan that started the Japan-US War (1941-1945). Before and during the war, however, Japanese believed that it was the US, **Roosevelt** in particular, that maliciously forced Japan to go to war. Henry Stokes, an American journalist, states in his article, "*The Road from Perry's Arrival to Pearl Harbor: Why America started a War against Japan?*" that it was rather the U.S. that caused the war. He considers it historically inevitable that European colonialists and Japan would clash. Although Japan lost in the war, she offered hope for Asian countries, which stood up and declared independence from their European masters during or after the war.

Shinomoto: I believe most of what Henry Stokes writes about is true. I agree the Americans wanted to use Japan for its own purpose under the guise of making friends with them. In reality they wanted to take advantage of Japan's strategic location to dominate the world. Japan also had its own ambitions, which is why they invaded most of East Asia and had plans to take over India, as demonstrated by some currency I have in my possession that was supposed to be used in India under the control of the Japanese government. The Japanese knew that India had many Japanese sympathizers and could easily take over that country with the assistance of Indian military leaders like **Chandra Bose**. Ironically Japan's defeat opened the way for India to gain independence from Great Britain as well as many other Asian countries. Japan's lack of manpower and firepower eventually did them in despite their superior military skills and samurai spirit. That is why Admiral Yamamoto knew that Japan would eventually lose since as a keen military man educated at Harvard, he saw the Japanese could not possibly defeat the Allies with their superior manpower and weapons. It is sad that Japan took the easy way out and



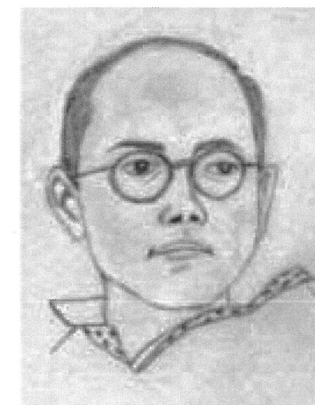
Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945)

The 32th US President. As a liberal pro-Chinese, anti-Japanese President, FDR strongly supported Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident of 1937. In 1941, he rejected Prime Minister Konoe's proposal for a summit talk to prevent war between Japan and the US, as FDR had already decided to provoke war with Japan. He also signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942 that ordered all Japanese Americans on the West Coast to be interred in War Relocation Centers as during the Pacific War. Stalin took over Japan's South Sakhalin and Kuril islets in 1945 based on a secret agreement with FDR.



Matthew Calbraith Perry (1794-1858)

Commodore of the US Navy. As Commander-in-Chief of the East India Squadron, Perry arrived at Yokosuka near Tokyo with four black ships to force the Tokugawa government open its doors to the West. Japan had no choice but to abandon her closed-door policy, which made it possible for Japan to maintain domestic peace for 270 years. The following year, Japan was forced to sign unequal treaties with Western powers, which triggered a "100-year war" between Japan and America.



Subhas Chandra Bose (1897-1945)

Indian political activist. As the representative of India, Bose attended the Great Asian Conference held in Tokyo in 1944, which aimed at liberating the Asian nations from the Western colonial powers. Although he died in a traffic accident during WWII, India gained independence after the war and regards him as one of the founding fathers of independent India.

decided to build up its economy at America's behest rather than retain its samurai spirit.

Kojima: Japan did not have any intention to invade India. She was trying to liberate India from the British Empire which had colonized India for 300 years. In fact, India gained independence a few years after the war. That's why India is grateful to Japan and has continued to be a pro-Japanese country. Although Japan was defeated in WWII, she liberated many colonized Asian countries from the Western powers. That's why Japan is compared to a great mother who died just after giving birth to babies.

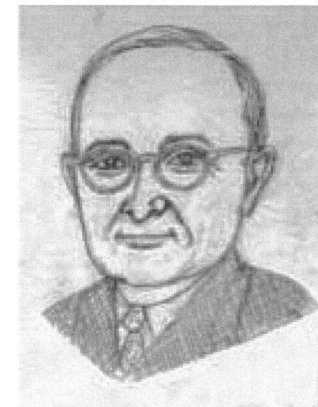
General Wedemeyer states in "*Wedemeyer's Report*" that FDR and his staff knew about Pearl Harbor beforehand, as they maneuvered Japan into attacking it.

Shinomoto: Although Wedemeyer hated the Communists, his focus on defeating the Japanese was a major factor in the eventual defeat of the Nationalists by the Communists. Had he not encouraged cooperation between the Communists and Nationalists, the Communists may not have been empowered to take over China. Years later he would renege on his earlier statements but by then a Pandora's box was already open. **Truman** was a selfish leader that sought only to glorify himself, which is why he further weakened the Nationalists by withholding support for them to show he was in charge. I agree that Japan eventually intended to grant India independence, but I am sure they would seek some concessions such as freer access to India's bountiful natural resources. After all that was their main reason for invading countries throughout East and South Asia.

Kojima: It was the Dutch that invaded Indonesia for colonization. It was Britain that invaded India, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Burma for colonization. It was France that invaded Cambodia and Vietnam for colonization. It was the US that took over the Philippines from Spain for colonization. Racism prevailed in those days and Caucasians took it for granted that Asians would serve them as their slaves. Japan held an international conference during WWII to liberate the Asian countries from the Western colonists, inviting their leaders to Tokyo. Actually, those countries could liberate themselves from colonization after the war. Japan fought Britain in Burma in cooperation with the soldiers of India and Burma, not to seek freer access to India's natural resources but to cut off the British logistic route to China.



Albert Coady Wedemeyer (1897-1989)
General, US Army. He wrote *Wedemeyer Report* which is equivalent to Churchill's *Memoir of WWII*. Wedemeyer stated that US military intercepts knew that America was going to be attacked the day before Pearl Harbor but did nothing to put US military bases on alert. He is considered one of the heroes of anti-Communist movement in the US.



Harry Truman (1884-1972)
The 33rd US President. Truman prolonged the war with Japan, ignoring Japan's only surrender request to maintain the emperor system, and gave orders to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. He fired Douglas MacArthur for his insistence on the use of the atomic bomb during the Korean War as the Soviet Union had already developed the atomic bomb at that time.

Shinomoto: Thank you for letting me know why Japan wanted to liberate the Indian and Burmese people. I was taught in high school (World History) that the Japanese invaded East and South Asia to gain access to raw materials as **General MacArthur** claimed. I guess I should be more critical of the US history books given what I have recently learned was misleading and in some cases actually false.

Kojima: American high school students are certainly brainwashed, as far as Japan is concerned. The world history taught in the US is fabricated to some extent. The slogan "Remember xx", for example, is part of the formula the US uses to initiate war and justify it. She used the same formula in fighting against the American Indians to take their land, Spain in gaining the Philippines, and Japan during the Pacific War. The incidents that triggered the war had been carefully and artificially planned in advance.

In the late 19th century when the US was going to invade Hawaii, the Kamehameha Dynasty asked Japan for help. However, Japan was not strong enough to do so and avoided going to war against the US at that time. As a result, the dynasty collapsed.

The US killed 300,000 Japanese with atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To turn people's attention away from such atrocities, the US fabricated in the Tokyo Trial the Nanjing Massacre in which she claimed that the Japanese army brutally killed exactly the same number of Chinese, although the total population in Nanjing at that time was 200,000 and the majority of the citizens lived during or even after the war.

Shinomoto: I believe you mean "Remember the Maine." I do know America was less than noble in destroying the culture of Amerindians, occupying the Philippines, and engaging in other aggressive acts. My friend that is a WWII buff confirmed that the Hawaiian queen Lili'uokalani asked for the American president **Grover Cleveland**'s help in retaining her constitutional right to rule Hawaii under her sovereign hand, but instead he sent American military troops to overthrow her government and to exploit Hawaii's natural resources and the Hawaiian people. Many years later President **Bill Clinton** apologized for America's role in the overthrow of her government, but it was too little, too late as the popular saying goes.

Kojima: You said that the Nanjing Massacre is fabricated to some extent, but I believe it is completely fabricated. It is deplorable that American



Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)

While Perry came to Yokosuka by ship to open Japan, MacArthur landed in Atsugi near Tokyo by plane to rule Japan as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces for the following six years. He indicted Japan as an aggressor nation but later testified in a US Senate committee hearing that Japan went to war not out of aggression but mainly for security purposes based on his own experience as Commander-in-Chief of the Korean War.



Stephen Grover Cleveland (1837-1908)

The 22nd and 24th US President. Cleveland promoted US control over Hawaii in the late 19th century.



William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton (1946-)

The 42nd US President. As a pro-Chinese American president, Clinton was against Taiwan's independence and participation in international organizations including the United Nations. He also took a stern attitude towards Japan in terms of the trade issue. Despite his success as president, Clinton brought shame to the presidency by engaging in an illicit affair with a White House intern.

high school students are taught the fabricated historical facts and will continue to believe them as truth for the rest of their lives.

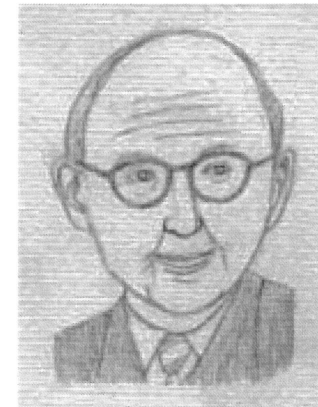
Shinomoto: Clearly the Nanjing Massacre was fabricated for the most part. However, as the popular saying goes, to the victor belongs the spoils. This includes rewriting the history books. I asked my close Indian friend about Japan's reputation, and he told me he thinks of her as a gentle, peaceful country, and that he himself doesn't pay much attention to the history books since he knows depending on your point of view, you can write about the same event in a completely different manner depending on your political outlook. My hope is that the governments of China and Korea and their ill-informed people will stop badgering Japan since Japan's alleged actions against their countries over 70 years ago have nothing to do with their problems today. They should be focusing on solving their own internal problems, not trying to use Japan as a whipping boy. Hopefully many generations from now just like their Asian American counterparts, they will love and respect Japan and the Japanese people.

Japan as one of the World Civilizations

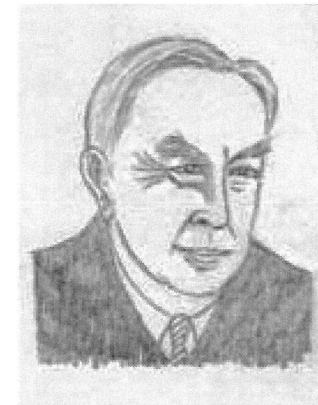
Kojima: Samuel Huntington categorizes the world into seven civilizations: Western, Latin American, Confucian, Islamic, Hindu, Slavic-Orthodox, and Japan. He argues that Korea and Vietnam belong to the Confucian-Chinese civilization, but Japan is quite different from it. South Korea is now virtually under the control of China, but Japan will never be allied with China.

Shinomoto: He seems to be quite astute since he didn't lump Japan with the other Far East countries. I read that he has been compared to the British historian **Arnold Toynbee**, in that he believed religion or faith was an important aspect in the development of civilizations. Huntington argued that religion or faith and ethnic conflicts are more important in shaping civilizations than governments, especially democratic Western governments. He is diametrically opposed to the sansei political scientist

Francis Fukuyama (his paternal grandfather cowardly fled the Russo-Japanese War to America), who argues in his book *The End of History and the Last Man*, that liberal democracies and free market capitalism of the West will mark the end of man's sociocultural evolution and become the final form of human government. The fact that Huntington was a policy advisor for both Presidents **Johnson** and **Carter** suggests he was



Samuel Phillips Huntington (1927-2008)
American scholar of civilization and political science. In his book, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, Huntington differentiated Japan from China and other East Asian nations in terms of types of civilizations.



Arnold Joseph Toynbee (1889-1975)
British historian. His books include *The Study of History*, *the World and the West*, and *Lessons of History*. Toynbee argued that religion was indispensable for the development of civilization.



Francis Yoshihiro Fukuyama (1952-)
Japanese American political scientist. In his book, *The End of History*, Fukuyama predicted that democracy and free market will ultimately win and such war or a coup d'état as to destroy the established political system of democracy will never occur. It seems, however, that this reality did not follow suit.

a man of integrity. Although he felt Western civilization will no longer dominate the world, it will still require quite a long time before this will become a reality.

Truth of WWII

Kojima: I highly recommend you read the following two books:

- Charles Beard, *President Roosevelt and the Coming of the War, 1941: Appearances and Realities*
- Herbert Hoover, *Freedom Betrayed: Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath* (Hoover Institution Press Publication)

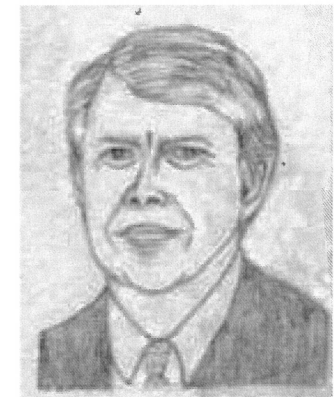
Beard describes the way in which Roosevelt plunged America into World War II before Germany, Italy, or Japan declared the war or attacked the US.

Hoover argues that FDR provoked Japan to plunge into the war. He also thought it was a mistake to have used the atomic bombs and it was a disaster to have forced Chiang Kai-Shek into a coalition with Mao.

Shinomoto: I finally got a chance to read these two books. In the past I thought FDR was one of the greatest American presidents while Hoover was one of the worst. However, I was brainwashed by the American school system. Anyway I now understand why Japan expanded into the Far East since as General MacArthur himself admitted, they were a country with few natural resources. The US despite liberal PM Konoye's overtures for peace with America through Admiral Nomura stubbornly refused to negotiate a peaceful compromise. He even replaced anti-American Foreign Minister Matsuoka in his cabinet with Admiral Toyoda and offered to meet FDR personally. However, FDR's lack of insight (or as you claim he had a hidden agenda to purposely provoke war with Japan) led to the fall of Konoye with the hawk PM Tojo succeeding him. However, Japan still made a reasonable offer to the US through Admiral Nomura, but the Chinese, British, and Australians openly stated their opposition to the truce. At least in this case FDR (actually then Secretary of State Cordell Hull) made a reasonable response to Japan's offer. Probably at the urging of FDR, Hull made a ridiculous offer to Japan that he knew would never be accepted by them. In the Congressional Committee on Pearl Harbor held in 1946 after the war, Secretary of War (now Defense) Stimson admitted on the witness stand that the US wanted



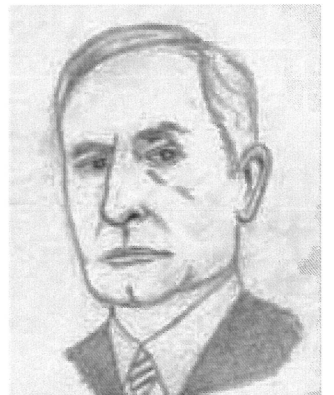
Lyndon Baines Johnson, LBJ (1908-1973) The 36th US President. Johnson was promoted to the Presidency from Vice-President after the assassination of JFK of 1963. While getting deeply involved in the Vietnam War, he played an important role in the passage of civil rights for all Americans, specifically targeting African Americans.



James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. (1924-) The 39th US President. As a pro-Chinese politician, Carter established diplomatic relations with China, severing ties with Taiwan. He opposed Korea's secret plan to develop a nuclear weapon.



Herbert Clark Hoover (1874 -1964) The 31st US President. Hoover said that the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan was Truman's immoral order. He also said that Americans were misled into believing that they were fighting for Chiang Kai-shek's democracy against Japan's military dictatorship.



Cordell Hull (1871-1955) Secretary of State under FDR. Japan was drafted into war with the US by the Hull note which demanded the complete withdrawal of all Japanese troops from Vietnam and China. The Hull note was drafted not by Hull himself but by Dexter White. Hull later received a Nobel Prize in Peace as the father of the United Nations.

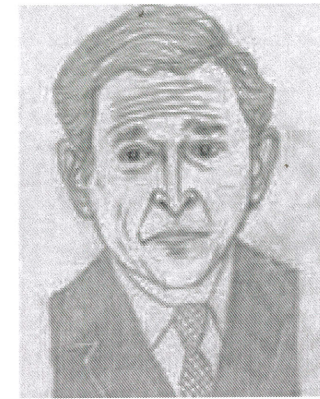
to provoke war with Japan and was prepared to fight Japan with all its military power. However, they knew the peace loving Americans (unfortunately **Bush XLIII** was too dumb to realize this and unilaterally attacked Iraq--most Americans were supportive of that then since they were deceived into thinking that the Iraqis had MWD's, which as you know later proved to be false--that is why then Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, a proud black man, resigned and later supported Obama for president) would never accept a first strike effort on Japan or any foreign enemy, and thus they devised that the best way to do this was to give Japan no choice but to attack America. In fact FDR's inner circle even knew the day before the "sneak" attack on Pearl Harbor that Japan would attack America somewhere. General Wedemeyer stated that the US military intercepts knew that America was going to be attacked somewhere the next day on December 6th, the day before Pearl Harbor but did nothing to put the military bases in critical areas (central Pacific, Philippines, then Dutch East Indies, etc.) on alert. Also Navy Captain Stafford in charge of the Communications Security Section of Naval Communications in Washington, DC, testified before the Admiral Hart Board that they knew from two independent sources that Japan would attack the US on that fateful day. Finally at 10:15 a.m. EST the SIS (Signal Intelligence Service) confirmed that Japan would declare war on the US at 1 p.m. EST (7 a.m. Hawaii time). Of course, that was the time Pearl Harbor was bombed.

With regard to the atomic bomb, Hoover himself was quoted as saying, "(The dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan) was Truman's immoral order. Not only had Japan been repeatedly suing for peace, but it was the act of unparalleled brutality in all American history. It will forever weight heavily on the American conscience." Also Hoover said the American people were mislead into believing that **Chiang Kai-shek's** government in China was a "democracy" fighting for "democracy" in Asia. The American people were brainwashed into believing that they were fighting for a brother democracy against a military dictatorship. In reality Chiang was a war lord leader of a military oligarchy based upon a secret society, the Kao Ming Ting. FDR's excuse for fighting with the Chinese was to "put down aggression everywhere." In truth Asian countries should put down aggression themselves since it is an internal matter that Asia has been doing for 3000 years, and the US had no business sticking their nose into this internal affair. As Hoover himself stated, we slayed the great dragon in Asia to the cheers of Europe.

Kojima: With regard to Hull, a person who drafted Hull notes was not Hull himself but Harry White whom Senator **McCarthy** indicted as a



Henry Lewis Stimson (1867-1950) US Secretary of War during WWII (2nd time). Before Pearl Harbor, Stimson knew about Japan's upcoming surprise attack and discussed with FDR how to allow the Japanese to take the first shot without allowing too much damage to the US.



George W. Bush (1946-) The 43rd US President. Bush labeled Iran, Iraq, and North Korea the axis of the evil. He started the Iraq War, insisting that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Although President Hussein was arrested and sentenced to death, the US could not find any MDW's. To democratize Iraq, Bush confidently applied the US's successful experience in Japan to Iraq, but it did not work.



Colin Luther Powell (1937-) African American military officer and statesman. Powell played a vital role in the victory of the Persian Gulf War as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 2005 when he was Secretary of the State under President George W. Bush, Powell resigned from office as he opposed the Iraq war that Bush and Vice-President Cheney had started.



Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) The 1st President of Republic of China in Taiwan. Chiang is unpopular in Taiwan as he did not fight the real enemy (the Chinese Communist Party) but fought the fake enemy (the Japanese Imperial Army).

Soviet spy or espionage agent during Korean War.

Religion and Politics

Kojima: I understand that many of the Japanese American leaders including politicians are Christians. It is natural that they adopted themselves to the mainstream values of American society. Although Christians make up of less than one percent of the total population (1,070,000) in Japan, Abe Cabinet has many Christian ministers including **Taro Aso**, Minister of Finance as well as former PM. PM **Masayoshi Ohira**, who as Minister of Foreign Affairs established diplomatic relations with China in 1972, was also a Christian.

How come? Especially after WWII, American culture and Christianity were combined and those who were educated in such an atmosphere entered into politics one after another.

Shinomoto: I am not surprised that there are many Christian ministers in Abe's cabinet since like in America most prominent Japanese Americans especially politicians are Christian. Christianity is an inherently assertive religion. In contrast Buddhism admires passivity, which may work well in Japan and other Far East nations, but is a definite shortcoming in America. Also in China, most of the prominent leaders before the takeover by the Communists were Christians such as **Sun Yat-sen** and **Chiang Kai-shek**. However, being Christian does not necessarily mean you will be a great leader, which is why **Chiang Kai-shek** is reviled by many Taiwanese people today, since he focused on fighting the Japanese rather than the real enemy the Communists under **Mao Zedong** during WWII.

Kojima: With regard to politics and religion, during WWII, Japan tried to defend the emperor as an entity for Japan's national identity, which had lasted more than 2600 years. Emperor Hirohito happened to be in office during the war. The word the emperor is misleading to begin with. The Japanese emperor is not like the monarchies in China or Europe but more like a priest king like the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. The Japanese emperors pray for those who are suffering or in agony. That's why the Emperor and his wife visited the Tohoku area soon after the big earthquake. That's why the Japanese have supported the emperor as a revered entity as their last resort. Without the emperor Japan could not be Japan anymore.



Harry Dexter White (1892-1948)
American economist and senior governmental official. White drafted the Hull note as well as Lend-Lease Acts for the Soviet Union. The book *Venora* revealed the fact that he was a spy of the Soviet Union.



Joseph Raymond McCarthy (1908-1957) Republican US Senator. McCarthy warned against Communist influence in the US federal government and elsewhere. Among his supporters were John F. Kennedy.



Taro Aso (1940-)
The 92nd Japanese Prime Minister and Christian. Aso sacked Toshio Tamogami, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force chief of staff, as he made a claim that Japan was not the aggressor nation during WWII. Now Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.



Masayoshi Ohira (1910-1980) The 68th and 69th Japanese Prime Minister, pro-Chinese politician, and Christian. Ohira established a diplomatic relations with People's Republic of China as Minister of the Foreign Affairs under Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, discarding the diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Shinomoto: Also thank you for educating me with regard to the emperor's position in Japanese culture. I now understand why unlike monarchies such as those in Europe and other parts of the world, people in Japan have the ultimate respect for that position.

If we had simply accepted **Emperor Hirohito** as the rightful head of state of Japan, all this unnecessary suffering would have been avoided. I never knew the emperor was such a revered figure in Japan.

GHQ and the Japanese Constitution

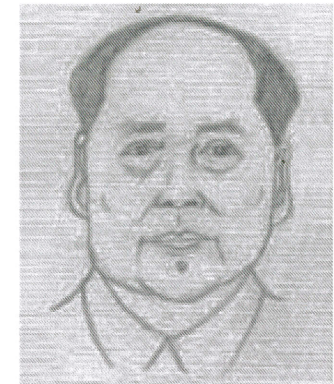
Kojima: Immediately after WW II, the GHQ told the Japanese government to draft a new constitution. However, the GHQ did not approve any of the draft and instead forced the Japanese government to accept the new Constitution, which a small group of young GHQ staff members wrote within seven days and translated into Japanese. It also banned Japan from having any armed forces. In other words, the US confiscated all the weapons from the Japanese so that Japan would never to go to war against the US. The New Constitution states that Japan decided to give up having any military and not to go to war forever, believing in justice and fairness of the surrounding countries. In reality, however, the countries surrounding Japan are China, North Korea, South Korea, and Russia, all of which are anti-Japanese countries and would wish to colonize Japan. The US military is here in Japan to maintain the Japanese constitution. Without the US military Japan would be a colony of those anti-Japanese countries instantly. Since the US intended to control Japan forever, the GHQ made it difficult to revise the constitution. The revision requires more than 2/3 of the Diet members' endorsement and more than half of the Japanese popular vote.

One type of the colony is defined as a country that is protected by a foreign military and in this sense Japan has been a colony of the US for 67 years after the war. PM Shinzo Abe and **Shintaro Ishihara** are among the Japanese politicians who insist on a departure from the post-war system enforced by the GHQ to gain real independence from the US. Japan needs to strengthen its own military so as to defend the country by herself. Before the war, Japan was a watchdog over China and Russia and after the war the US replaced Japan to be the watchdog herself. It would be better for the US to return the watchdog's role to Japan.

Shinomoto: Thank you for clarifying the situation of the US military in Japan. Apparently the communist government brainwashed their people into thinking the Japanese committed a lot of atrocities against China



Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925) The 1st President of Republic of China. Sun co-founded the Kuomintang of China. He lived in Japan while in exile after failing the uprising against the Qing Dynasty. He again exiled himself to Japan when Yuan Shikai, a Chinese army leader, controlled the country. He was called the father of the Republic of China or Father of the Nation in Taiwan and Mr. Sun Zhongshan in mainland China.



Mao Zedong (1893-1976) Established Communist China in 1949, winning a victory over Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang. Succeeded in producing a successful nuclear bomb explosion in 1964 when the Olympics were held in Tokyo. When Prime Minister Tanaka apologized him for Japan's aggression during the war, Mao said, "No, you don't have to. We could rule China thanks to the Japanese Army which fought Chiang Kai-shek." He also never mentioned the Nanjing Massacre in his life.



Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989) The 124th Emperor. Hirohito was enthroned at age 25. He ordered Prime Minister Hideki Tojo to prevent the Japan-US war only to fail. Instead he stopped the war by accepting the Potsdam Declaration of 1945. In essence, the emperor is not a monarch like those in China or in Europe but more like a spiritual leader such as the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church.



Shintaro Ishihara (1932-) Japanese writer and politician. Ishihara attempted to purchase the Senkaku islands as Governor of Tokyo in 2012, only to fail. After resigning from the office, he became co-Representative of the Japan Restoration Party at age 80. He argues that the Japanese Constitution is ineffective and should be abolished immediately, as it was drafted by the GHQ when Japan was occupied. Ishihara is the only head of the political party that insists on Japan's possession of nuclear weapons.

and the Chinese people during the war. In reality Japan has faithfully provided financial aid to China through the years, a fact apparently hidden from the Chinese people.

Japan would have to soften its image as America's competitor by becoming an important security cog in that area of the world (Far East). That is why they need a strong military so they could relieve the pressure the American government feels in keeping military bases there. The US military doesn't feel comfortable leaving since they know the aggressive Chinese will take advantage of the situation. Hopefully Abe and his government are one small step in building up Japan's military so they could not only protect their own interests but that of the US as well.

Kojima: Yuko Tojo, a granddaughter of PM Hideki Tojo, a convicted Class-A war criminals, died at 73 on February 16 this year. She devoted herself to fighting against the fabricated historical facts about the cause of the Pacific War, Tokyo Trial, and Korean comfort women.

Hideki Tojo was enshrined at the Yasukuni Shrine with other six war criminals, although they cannot be criminals from the Japanese point of view. However, Japanese prime ministers except Junichiro Koizumi, have refrained from visiting the shrine for fear of the protest from China and Korea. Abe is highly likely to visit the shrine this year as he stated in a press conference that he regretted that he did not visit it six years ago when he was elected Prime Minister after Koizumi resigned.

Shinomoto: I was not aware of this courageous woman. Also Abe was too political during his first stint as PM. That is why he suffered from a lot of scandals and was forced to resign. I hope this time he will be true to his word and fight for Japan's honor, including visiting Yasukuni Shrine. The only US president to lose his office and then be elected again was Grover Cleveland. He was one of only four presidential candidates that won the popular vote but lost the Electoral College, the controversial voting system still used today. The last time that happened was in 2000 when Gore lost to Bush XLIII. Sadly Gore was too righteous and tried to disassociate himself from Clinton, who despite his enormous success as president, brought shame to the presidency by engaging in an illicit affair with a White House intern.

Anyway my Japanese American friends and relatives were very happy to receive my message regarding Japan's real role in WWII. They told me the shame they felt regarding Japan's militaristic history (that is why Mike Honda thought he could rid himself of this guilt by sponsoring a resolution condemning the Japanese for supporting the alleged Korean



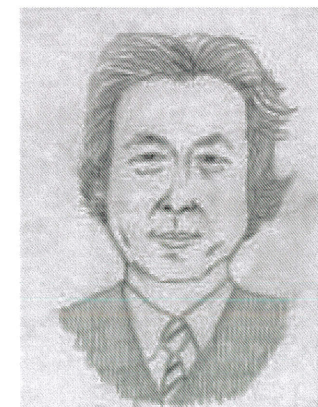
Yuko Tojo (1939-2013)

Granddaughter of Japanese wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo. She was strongly against the propaganda of the Nanjing Massacre and the Korean comfort women. She supported the Japanese Prime Ministers' visit to the Yasukuni Shrine where her grandfather is enshrined.



Hideki Tojo (1884-1948)

The 40th Japanese Prime Minister and General, the Imperial Japanese Army. Tojo rescued many Jews in Manchuria while he was Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army. He failed to carry out Emperor Hirohito's order to stop the breakout of war with the US. In the Tokyo Trial, Tojo insisted that he himself had responsibility not for the war itself as the war was not a criminal act by law but for Japan's defeat in war while protecting the emperor. He was sentenced to death by hanging as a Class A War criminal.



Junichiro Koizumi (1942-)

The 87th, 88th, and 89th Japanese Prime Minister. Koizumi was quite popular among Japanese voters mainly because he stood against China and continued to visit the Yasukuni Shrine for five years while he was in office. Although the Yasukuni Shrine denies the fact that Japan was an aggressor nation during WWII, Koizumi believed in the GHQ's view that Japan was an aggressor.

sex slaves) was one of the things that most Japanese Americans shared and should have been included in the list *The Original 101 Ways to Tell if You're Japanese American* which was originally written and published in *The Rafu Shimpo*, a Japanese American newspaper issued in LA. It may give you some insight into the experience of Japanese Americans.

Kojima: One of the 101 items says, "You stay at home on Pearl Harbor day." Now you don't have to stay at home on December 8, Pearl Harbor Day, as you are free from historical brain-washing.

Incidentally, do you know **Chiune Sugihara**, a Christian as well as a Japanese diplomat, who rescued many Jewish people from Nazi Germany before and during WWII? Do you also know **Inazo Nitobe**, author of *Bushido* as well as a Christian?

Shinomoto: Thank you for letting me know about these amazing gentlemen. I never heard about Sugihara or Nitobe. I worked for a company (PQ Corporation) that was founded by Quakers like Nitobe. **Nixon** was a Quaker as well since his parents migrated to California from Pennsylvania, the heart of Quaker country. Quakers are known for their devotion to God and simple lifestyle. PQ company correspondence used to begin with the salutation "Dear Friend," since Quakers are also known as Friends. Actually Pearl Harbor Day is on December 7th, although FDR's famous Day of Infamy speech took place on December 8th. Ironically FDR referred to the previous day as "a date which will live in infamy." Those words are ironic since FDR was secretly gloating he had forced Japan to attack the US unilaterally.

I respect your opinions regarding Japan's role in WWII. In America, we were taught that the Japanese military were the aggressors, and that is why America went to war with Japan. One of the items (#49) is "You are ashamed of the militaristic history of Japan." I now can cross that item off my list.

(The Portraits drawn by Shigeru Kojima)

*The view expressed herein is the authors' own and should be attributed neither to the School of Management and Information of the University of Shizuoka nor to the Graduate School of Management and Information of Innovation of the University of Shizuoka.



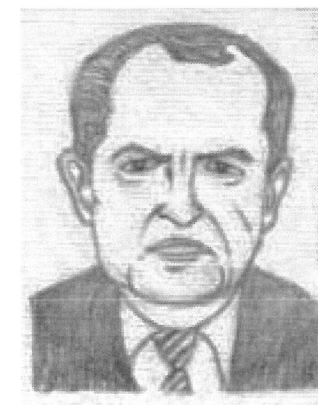
Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986)

Japanese Diplomat and Christian. Sugihara issued many visas for Jews so as for them to escape from Nazis' persecution and actually saved the lives of approximately 6,000 Jews. He is said to have been a Soviet spy.



Inazo Nitobe (1862-1933)

Japanese scholar, diplomat, educator, and Christian. As one of the under Secretaries General of the League of Nations, he settled important disputes over the European nations. He published a book, *Bushido: The Soul of Japan*, which US President Theodore Roosevelt publicly proclaimed admiration for.



Richard Milhous Nixon (1913-1994)

The 37th US President and Quaker. As a Republican congressman, Nixon waged anti-Communist campaigns with Senator McCarthy during the Korean War. As Vice President under President Eisenhower, he ran for president in 1960 but lost to John F. Kennedy. Eight years later Nixon won the White House but resigned from office in 1974 because of the Watergate scandal.