

THE WORLD'S TWO MAJOR HEADACHES

Now with regard to the Far East, which has been described as the "new center of gravity of world politics," the picture seems no less confused. Here you have four world powers in countries, namely, Japan, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union, with France playing a secondary role.

Largely because of its geographic position and encouraged by an unbroken succession of military triumphs, Japan has assumed the attitude that it will ultimately become, if it has not already become, the undisputed master of the Far East. As the failure of Great Britain and France to achieve solidarity has permitted the growth in power and influence of the Italo-German bloc, so the failure of Great Britain and the United States to stand together in the Far East has encouraged Japan to advance jump by jump to a dominant position in this region.

Again it is British diplomacy that is largely responsible. In Europe as has been said, Britain has found it expedient to employ a Janus faced foreign policy. While seemingly attached to France, it is really secretly egging on Hitler from excess. Its aim, of course, is by placating Hitler to keep Germany out in the event of an Italo-British war, forgetting that a fully rearmed and recovered Germany would be a menace

not to France or to the Soviet Union alone but to the British Empire as well.

In the Far East, Britain has followed exactly the same technique. Discovering, at the turn of the century, that its imperialist ambitions in China were being constrained and thwarted by other powers, especially by Tsarist Russia, Germany and the United States, did as usual expedient thing in concluding an alliance with Japan, bringing it up from the status of a secondary power to a first-rate one.

Through war, first with China and later with Tsarist Russia, Japan secured Korea, the Liaotung Peninsula, and South Manchuria. Another pretext for raping China presenting itself in 1904, Japan took possession of Shantung, Fukien, Manchuria Inner Mongolia and Eastern Siberia only to give them up at the Washington Conference, which also terminated the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Since 1931, Japan has annexed portions of Chinese territory equal to the area of Western Europe.

Thus, Great Britain nurtured Japanese imperialism only to discover later that it had become uncontrollable and insatiable, threatening British imperialism in China not less than the imperialism of the other powers. Only American intervention prevented the further partitioning of

China, guaranteeing the so called Open Door, and making possible a decade of peace between the three major powers through the prohibition of fortifications within specified areas.

Various developments have, however, intervened to destroy this brittle pattern of peace. A formidable Soviet Russia has arisen to take the place of the decaying Tsarist Russia that Japan defeated in 1904-1905. The League Covenant, Washington, and the Nine Power Treaty are gone. Only vague formal guarantees of non-aggression, like the Kellogg-Brand antiwar pact exist, and no nation seems foolish enough to pay any attention to them.

What striking diplomatic moves have recently been made in this region? First, the recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States in order to provide a counterpoise for the continuing advances of Japan on the continent. Second, the German Japanese anti-communist alliance directed against the Soviet Union. Third, the decision of the United States to abandon the Philippines, thus leaving Great Britain practically alone to meet the menace of Japanese expansion. Fourth, Chinese unification and armament intended to put a stop to Ja-

panese incursion into the mainland. Fifth, the tendency of Great Britain to placate Japan at the expense of China for its own benefit.

Here, again, British policy will err, perhaps fatally, if it relies on any agreement with Japan with regard to the Chinese situation. Japan is out to beat Great Britain in the Far East, just as both Italy and Germany are out to beat it in Europe. Its only genuine ally in the Far East is the United States, just as its only genuine ally in Europe is France. It is significant that the British dominions near the Pacific, notably Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are beginning to look to the United States for adequate protection against threatened Japanese encroachment.

In the face of these facts, it seems that in the current undeclared war between Japan and China, China is fated to be left to fight its battle alone. America has declared itself for neutrality (which means isolation), Great Britain apparently has given Japan blanket authority to act so long as it does not step on British's toes and the Soviet Union is certain never to fight Japan unless the latter deliberately invade its frontiers.

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