

The way
to
Pacific War

Yasuhiro Tonosaki

Introduction

I wrote this note of the World war II for my children and grandchildren who have not an experience of the war. Following the advice of my friend that I should write my own experiences of the war for reader's better understanding, I added my experiences as an introduction.

[From my experiences of the war]

I was born in Manchuria and met the end of the war when I was the third grade of an elementary school in Yingkou (营口) city with my mother and my elder sister. My father had been jointed to the navy as a draftee from 1940 and we could not know where he was at the time. After 10 days of the end of the war, soldiers of the Soviet Union occupied our city, and ordered through radio broadcast that all Japanese should get out immediately from the city otherwise execute by shooting. We ejected from our houses by soldiers of Soviet Union and went to Yingkou station forming lines.

At that time I had been suffered from catarrh of the large intestine over 3 months, I carried a

kettle and cranesbill which my regular use medicines. My mother carried an ointment and bandages because she just took surgical operation for tumor in her back. My elder sister gathered and carried clothes and foods near at hand. Soldiers of Soviet Union waited for us at the station, and took away jewels, watches, fountain pens, and valuables from all Japanese. We hid in a farmers house several days and decided to go to Shenyang (瀋陽) by the train for refugee.

We jumped off from the train before Shenyang station, because we got information that soldiers of Soviet Union waited at Shenyang station and massacre. Many Japanese refugees gathered to Shenyang city and stayed in schools and temples. Our family stayed in a temple that was much better than schools because we could sleep on a tatami (畳). Many people were frozen to death in schools and also died with eruptive typhus. I saw many frozen dead bodies piled up on many carts every day. We refugees have to eat mainly sorghum but I could not eat them because of catarrh of the large intestine. Then my mother got small amount of rice for me and made rice gruel. We refugees did not have any support at

that time, so that we had to work for getting foods. My mother worked at confectionery and my elder sister worked at food store and I sold cakes and cigarettes with a carrying box in a street. I experienced that Chinese policeman helped me when I was cheated my commodities. In comparison with this case, soldiers of the Soviet Union were awful. We saw pillages, rapes by them everywhere. They came to the temple often where we stayed. One night when I was in a rest room, they came and caught me. One of them pointed a gun me ordering let them know the hiding place of women. A Buddhist priest and Chinese policeman appeased the Soviet soldier and helped me.

July 1946, the repatriation program started and we moved to the port by freight cars. The train stopped many times and we had to stay 1 or 2 days and moved again so on. Some day the train did not stop whole day long. In that case, we used a cooking pan for a stool and used again for cooking. After about 1 week, we arrived Huludao (葫蘆島) port and waited about 1 week until boarding on the ship. During waiting time some Chinese person in charge wanted money and women. Young women, my sister too,

pretended men cutting their hair and smearing charcoal on their faces. We were very anxious about diminishing our stores and when we could board, but we felt happier than before.

It was about 3 day voyages, we slept on a straw mat at the bottom of the ship. During this voyage, a rice seed entered in my eye before I knew and my eye became swollen. Later I saw a doctor he said a rice bud from my eye.

In spite of just boarded on the ship, some people were weakened and died in the ship. I saw burry at sea wrapping the body with cloth several times.

We jumped when we saw the Japanese land.

We did not know that my father waited at Sasebo city near by Hakata when we landed at Hakata, we went to Hokkaido my grandfather's home of mother's side. After several weeks we got a letter from my father. 4 months later, we could meet my father in Sasebo. We had not seen for 2 years.

Looking back this war, the most shocking impression was cruelty by Soviet Union soldiers for me. People lived in the northern part of Manchuria said Soviet Union soldiers stabbed Japanese mother with baby on her back to

death.

Also my uncle was killed with blows by Soviet Union soldiers and Chinese mob. But I read the book that Japanese soldiers also massacre in China. War drive a man mad in a situation of kill otherwise died. I'd like to say the war is such a miserable thing to the young people who know the war only in the game. We must avoid the war as possible as we can. No body wants the war but still it happens at every place in the world.

I am not a nonresistant. I think we need our army to defend us in Japan. But former Japanese army dragged our nation to ruin far from defending Japanese people. Japanese government did not sum up the war yet. The people who experienced the war are on the decrease. I think it is the limit time that we analyze the reason why we Japanese ran to the thoughtless war. Most effective reason was education that is my idea. Especially a law attaching a military officer to every school was promulgated in 1925 and turned an education to militarism by the law. And also Hideki Tohjou, the Minister of War, announced "The doctrine at battlefield" in which said a soldier

never be a prisoner as long as living.
According this doctrine many soldiers kill
themselves without hesitation.

Yasuhiro Tonosaki

Modernization of Japan, Imperialism period (1868, the Meiji Restoration)

Japan opened a country to foreign intercourse by commodore Perry commanded United State war ships in July 1853. After establishment of Meiji new government in 1868, Japan stepped forward modernization and became strong country in the East Asia by introducing Western cultures positively between 20 years.

Modernization of Japan was driven by modernizing of an army. That was militarism. Every nation became a member or an assistant member of a military organization.

The period between the latter half of 19 century and World War I is called Imperialism period and the European Powers countries competed sharing Africa and Asia. Especially expanding policy of Russia was threatening for Japan. First Russia aimed at the Mediterranean for seeking an ice-free port but failed in going south. After that aimed the Far East and got Vladivostok. Russia felt anxiety about that Sino (China) invited an English engineer for constructing south Manchuria railroad in 1890, and started constructing Siberian railroad basing at Vladivostok in 1891. Russia started to

pushing to the East Asia aimed gaining mastery over Manchuria and gaining rights and interests at Korea peninsula.

**A trend of Korea peninsula in 19 century
(revolt at Joseon (李朝) in 1884→peace treaty
between Japan and Korea.)**

There were no feudal nations controlled by soldiers in Korea peninsula not like as Europe or Japan, they were dynasty nations like as China that conducted the affairs of state by civilian bureaucrat. Struggles occurred among aristocrats always and the situation of Joseon dynasty (李朝) was just before collapse in 1860.

Military power became fragile as a result of suppressing military power by civilian government. Administrative ability had been paralytic situation with breaking up of political power and internal troubles and there were an opportunity of peasants' uprising always.

The European Powers countries asked to open the commerce like as they asked to Japan but the government of Joseon had been refused because of attaching importance to the subordinate relation with China.

In December 1868, Japan sent an envoy to

inform the establishment of Meiji government but Joseon government refused to accept the notice. And in 1872, Japan tried to send the Foreign Minister for opening the consulate but Joseon government refused him entering a port and stopped trading at Japanese center.

Under these situations the opinion to attack Joseon was occurred in the Japanese government. Japan thought Joseon threaten the Japanese security with the reason adhering obstinately to China. And Japan thought that making Joseon independent is an important subject for Japanese modernization. Some groups who aimed to civilization and independent came out in Korea and conflicted against conservative power and China several times. In 1884, Chinese army moved out against the rebellion by Kim (金玉均) and they killed Japanese people who took a refuge from the rebellion. Japan and China sent their army but in April 1885 concluded the peace treaty with China and both Japan and China withdrew troops. Seizing this opportunity, Russia moved to the south and gained mastery over Manchuria and also England occupied Port Hamilton Island of south in Korea. The occupation of the island

by England continued until March 1887. In order to oppose to fear of extension by European Powers to China and Asia and Russian invasion policy to the south, the idea Pan-Asianism, that Japan and Korea and China should unite and defense the invasion by Western, was born in Japan. “Greater East Asia co-prosperity Sphere” written by Tarui Tohkichi (樽井藤吉) was a representative one that organizing Greater East Asia federation with Japan as leader and would gain the prosperity of Asian countries by preventing the expansion of Western Powers. It was written in Chinese language too so intellectual Chinese and Korean read it.

1894, First Sino-Japan War, Tripartite Intervention

1894, Dnonghak Peasant Revolution (東学党の乱) which peasant opposed to excessive tax collection happened and King Gojong (高宗) asked China for military assistance to quell domestic unrest. General Yuan Shikai (袁世凱) of China notified to Japan sending troops to Korea and Japan dispatched immediately to Korea too. Japan proposed to China innovating administration of Korea in cooperation but

China refused. Against this refusal, Japan occupied Seoul (漢城) and attacked Chinese warship and declared war in August 1894. It was said First Sino-Japan War. Japan won the battle of Pyongyang and Yellow Sea, and Sino-China concluded peace treaty with Japan at Simonoseki (下関) in April 1895. The result were that Korea became independent from China and ceded Taiwan, Penghu, Liaodong Peninsula to Japan and also paid 200 million Ryan (300million yen) as an indemnity.

As Sin was defeated too soon, Japanese made light of Chinese but it brought unhappy relations between both countries. But after the war, Russia, Germany, and France asked Japan to return Liaodong Peninsula to China that said “Triple Intervention”. Japanese people angry for “Triple Intervention”, and decided to prevent the Russian ambition increasing its influence in the Far East.

Eulmi incident, society friendly Russia Establish the Korean Empire (1897)

Queen Min (Empress Myeongseong 閔妃) advocated ties between Korea and Russia, consequently the government of Korea was

intimately with Russia. Japan worried about this situation and sent army lieutenant-general Miura (三浦) as the Japanese Minister to Korea. October 1895, Miura ordered the army to enter Gyeongbok Palace and the assassins who entered with the army killed Queen Min. (Eulmi incident)

Japanese government failed into difficult situation with blaming by United States and Russia, and put Miura on trial at the military court. But the court gave the verdict of not-guilty. After assassination of Empress Myeongseong, the pro-Japanese government was established one time. But according to the repulse of the Confucianism, armed uprising enfolded peasant groups broke out every parts of the country since January 1896. Also pro-Russian group jointed them. After secret negotiation among Japan, Russia, and Sino, Yamagata-Lobanov agreement was concluded in May and Lobanov-Li Hongzhang (李鴻章) agreement was concluded. Accordingly Japan and Russia stationed their army at every strategic point in Korea and Russia got the right for construction of West Siberia Rail road.

King Gojong and Joseon government stayed in

Russian embassy started the way to protection under Russia. But Independent Association which asserted the innovation of Korea by Korean people themselves effected strongly through the independent newspaper to the Korean people. Gradually voice of people seeking independent became loudly, the Joseon dynasty moved the palace to Deoksugung in Seoul and proclaimed the Korean Empire in October 1897.

The Powers invade to Sino, Boxer Rebellion

In 1898, the world powers took concessions in China one by one. Germany leased Jiaozhou Bay and Russia leased Liaodong Bandao and France leased Huanan and England took the lease of Gauluhing.

Righteous Harmony Society (=Boxer Rebellion) opposing Western imperialism and Christianity started a riot rallying farmer. June 1900, they killed two western pastors. Empress Dowager of Sino supported the Boxers and declared war on foreign powers. Eight-Nation Alliance which consisted with England, France, Germany, United States, Russia, Italy, and Japan brought 20,000 armed troops to defeat the besieging

Imperial Army. January 1901, ended the uprising and concluded treaty in Peking including severe punishments. Since this point, half colonization of China by the powers started. 19 century, European people thought that the permanent conquest of the world was guaranteed according to the temporary prosperity, and made an effort to struggle for undeveloped areas.

Russo-Japanese War, 1904

The Russians sought a warm water port on the Pacific Ocean. Russia sent 177,000 soldiers to Manchuria. After the Boxers Rebellion, the Russian troops settled in Manchuria.

January 1902, Japanese Prime Minister Katsura (桂) signed the Anglo-Japanese Alliance with Britain in 1902, to repress the Russian expansion. British were seeking to restrict naval competition by keeping the Russian Pacific seaports of Vladivostok and Port Arthur from their full use. Consequently Russia assured to vacate the area after the crisis. However, by 1903, Russians had not yet established any timetable for withdrawal and had actually strengthened their position in Manchuria.

Japanese public opinion got excited against a firm attitude of Russia. At this point, Japanese government thought that Japan would protect Korea but would concede Manchuria. But 7 doctors of Law in Tokyo University asserted strong attitude and instigated the public opinion. Japan and Russia negotiated in Tokyo. Russia would not recognize any concessions about Manchuria and also using any part of the territory of Korea for strategic purposes for Japan. Japanese government had at all times during the progress of the negotiations made it a special point to give prompt answers to all propositions of the Russian Government. The negotiations had been pending for no less than four months, and they had not yet reached a stage where the final issue could with certainty be predicted. Japan issued a declaration of war on 8 February 1904 and attacked Russian fleet in Port Arthur (旅順). Japan had been prepared armaments for the revenge against Russia by requesting heavy taxes to Japanese people for 7 years since 1895 of Triple Intervention. March 1904, Japan sent Ito Hiribumi (伊藤博文) to Korea and put forward protection and controlled Korea under military administration

as preparing supporting system for Russo-Japanese War.

In January 1905 Major General Anatoly Stessel, commander of the Port Arthur decided to surrender and in May the Japanese Combined Fleet commanded by Admiral Togo destroyed the Russian Pacific Squadron at the Battle of the Japan Sea. As a result, the Treaty of Portsmouth was signed on September 1905 between Japan and Russia by the mediation of the American President Theodore Roosevelt. Russia recognized Korea as part of the Japanese sphere of influence and agreed to evacuate Manchuria and also ceded the southern half of Sakhalin to Japan. Japan moved to get recognitions of protection of Korea from the world Powers and got it instead of recognizing tacitly that America control Philippine and England control India. Japan established occupied army under the governor-general of Kanto district command. The Kanto district Army would grow strong troops later.

Russia still had national power to fight but received the peace treaty because the sign of revolution expanded in the country. But Russia did not agree to cede the northern half of

Sakhalin and refused payment of the indemnity to Japan. Incidentally Soviet Union was composed in Russia in 1917. Japanese government and the Prime Minister Katsura delighted because national power was exhausted and thought to abandon possessing Sakhalin. But Japanese people blamed the terms of peace treaty and gathered at Hibiya Park against the government. The riotous people attacked the high officials and police boxes consequently caused the 1,000 killed and the wounded. Manchouhou the influential news paper at the time asserted the dissatisfaction against the treaty and attacked to the Foreign Minister Komura caused the Japanese people's anger. Taking the responsibility, the Katsura Cabinet resigned in a body in January 1906, and changed to Prime Minister Saionji (西園寺) and Foreign Minister Katoh Takaaki (加藤高明) .

The Japan-Korea Annexation

After won the victory over Russo-Japanese War, Japan sent Itoh Hirobumi as an ambassador into Korea. Itoh forced to leave the diplomacy right to Korean Empire and got the signing of the second Japanese-Korea agreement in

November 1907. The movement against the agreement occurred in various parts of Korea, but Japan sent 20,000 of Japanese army and suppressed them. 16,000 of Korean people were killed at that time. In revenge for this, Itoh was assassinated in October 1909. And also the diplomatic adviser of USA for Korea Stevenson was assassinated.

August 1909, Japan established the temporary resident at Jiandao (間島) the border between China and Korea. China was opposed to Japan. But Japan conceded the right of possession of Jiandao instead of getting the right and interest in Manchuria and Japan-Sino agreement was established. Russia was once against this and approached America to oppose but finally agreed. July 1910, the second Japan-Russia agreement was established.

Japanese Minister of War Terauchi became the supervisor of Korea and concluded the Japan-Korea Annexation in August 1910.

USA was interested in Manchuria against Japan.

As a consequence of Russo-Japanese War, Japan received the lease of Kantoh-shu and managing

right of south Manchuria Railway that were concluded between Russia and Sino terminated until 1923, but Japan aimed to govern Manchuria exclusively.

USA mediated between Russia and Japan at Portsmouth peace conference but USA aimed to intervene for the rights and interests in Manchuria. 1905, USA offered to join to operate the Manchuria Railway. Japan denied the offer because Japan did not want be Manchuria object for the world Powers. Japan paid too much money and fallen soldiers, 100,000 war dead and 2 billion yen war cost to keep Manchuria.

General Kodama Gentarou (児玉源太郎) who was a leader of Russo-Japan war objected strongly. Kodama became the chairman of the foundation committee of Manchuria Railway.

The military who was awfully delighted with the victory of Russo-Japan war treated Manchuria as a possession since this moment.

Japan objected the proposal from USA keeping neutrality of Manchuria Railway and deepened opposing situation with USA.

Socialism in Japan

Social problem was generated following the

modernizing and developing industries in Japan. In 1900, Socialism Association was established but in the same time, Peace Regulations by Police was established to suppress the association. Kohtoku Shusui (孝徳秋水) and others opposed to Russo-Japan war and persuaded peace & freedom but most people did not accept it. 1907, Saionji Ministry prohibited forming an association to the Japan Social Party and also prohibited publication to the common people newspaper. In December 26, 1910, members of socialists and anarchists were arrested as high treason and a reader Koutoku Shuusui were put to death in January 1911.

1925: and military officers were attached to all schools.

1910, Tanaka Giichi (田中義一) chief of the Department of War suggested to establish Japan ex-soldier Association in order to raise soldier's royalty and Terauchi the Minister of War was installed as the first president. 1925, Tanaka Giichi also announced attaching military officers to all schools, consequently militaristic education were pushed on. Suppress of liberal education by attached military officers gave

strong effect to Japanese society after that.

1911: Xinhai Revolution(辛亥革命)

After Boxer Rebellion (義和團事件) , Sino started the new administration which was modernization of army, innovation of education and sending students abroad etc. But the educated classes accepted the thought of constitutional government and revolution immediately. On the other hand, the tax increased because of payment an indemnity to foreign countries for Boxer Rebellion. Strikes against heavy tax occurred frequently by Chinese people.

Sun Yat-sen (孫文) who aimed revolution against Sino government that “expel the Manchus (滿州族) and restoring the Han”, came to Japan through U.S.A and European countries in July 1905 and founded Tongmenghui the Chinese Alliance with Chinese students studying in Japan. In China, among rising racial unconscious, people founded the private rail road company in order to recover the rights from foreign capitals and construct the rail road by themselves. But Sino government declared nationalization of main lines and requisitioned

them in order to obtain a loan from foreign countries. At first, constitutional group objected to the requisition and expanded to riot especially in Sichuan where the people had invested to the private rail road company.

Members of the Revolutionary Alliance in Sichuan intended to rise with armaments and establish the revolutionary government.

1911, Sun Yat-sen organized general meeting in Shanghai and expanded revolutionary group in the new army. September 1911, the new army soldiers in Wuchang upraised and spread the revolution. November 1911, 14 provinces of 24 provinces declared independence from Sino government. In December, representatives of 17 provinces gathered in Nanking elected Sun Yat-sen (孫文) as the temporary president and established Provisional Government of the Republic of China since January 1, 1912.

At this time, Sino government tried to oppose to the Revolutionary Alliance by appointing Yuan Shikai (袁世凱) as Prime Minister. But Yuan Shikai got support from England and negotiated with Sun Yat-sen. Sun Yat-sen agreed to appoint Yuan Shikai to the president of Republic China with conditions attached abdication of

Qing Empire, realization of Republican form of government and moving a capital to Nanking. Yuan Shikai pressed abdication of Qing Empire to the main staff of government army with conditions that received the Imperial Household warmly. The government of Sino accepted the condition and Xuantong Emperor (宣統帝) abdicated in February 1912.

1912 ~ 1915: Independent movement of Manchuria and Mongolia

February 1912, Japanese army in Manchuria and Naniwa Kawashima started the independent movement of Manchuria contacting with the general staff office but Japanese government did not recognize this movement.

1915, Kawashima and others started again but they did not succeed. But the independent movement of Manchuria continued by army until Liutiaogiao incident (柳条湖事件) September 1931.

1912: Death of Meiji Emperor

Since Russo-Japanese War, Emperor Meiji has been indicated the condition of diabetes, but the condition got worse by the anxiety about the

war and at last died in July 1912.

He was respected by domestic and foreign countries as the Great Emperor who brought Japan small feudal country to the world power. After the death of Emperor of Meiji, the tyrannical behavior of the military became remarkable. For instance, Uehara Yusaku (上原 勇作) Ministry of Army resigned without leave when his request of increasing the army division could not accept. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of every place opposed to the increasing army division. They appealed active of party politics and raised the constitution protection movement.

1914: World War I .

June 1914, the Prince of Austria was killed by the nationalist of Serbia. In consequence of this event, Austria declared war against Serbia and Russia who supported Serbia declared war against Austria. Germany, an ally of Austria, declared war to Russia and France who had been formed alliance made war with Germany. England declared war to Germany followed by the German invasion of Belgium, Luxembourg and France. All Europe were involved in the war

Germany-Austria against England, France and Russia.

1914: Japan participated in the war

1915: Japan demanded lease Manchuria

At first England asked supports to Japan but refused instantly considering U.S.A opposing to Japan. But Japan participated using the request from England in the war against Germany August 1914. Japan attacked and occupied Gingdao (青島) where were in possession of Germany.

Japan planed to govern China using the circumstances that European countries were too busy to look back Asia. At that time, Japan confiscated Shandong Rail road and demanded the right of lease South Manchuria and East Mongolia which Germany had totally 21 articles. China could not resist to the Japanese military power and recognized the demand. But since then Chinese people had a grudge against Japan definitely.

Yuan Shikai intended to be Emperor and complete autocracy using outside pressures but met oppositions from domestic and abroad. In

July 1916, he died in indignation.

1918: Siberian Intervention

During the end of World War I, the Russian Civil War White Russian forces against the Bolshevik Red Army had been continued. After the declaration of Soviet Union by Lenin in January 1918, White Russian forces were still fighting. On the other hand, Germany invaded Estonia and occupied the Baltic States and continued to advance inside of Russia. Trotsky, Soviet Union signed the peace treaty with the condition of territorial cession to Germany.

Czechoslovakia army had been fought against Germany under the Russia along Siberian railway but Soviet Union deserted from a battle line so that Czechoslovakia army rebelled against Soviet Union. The allied forces England and France asked troops to Siberia for U.S.A and Japan for the purpose of helping Czechoslovakia army and also overthrowing the new Bolshevik government. In August 1918, Japan trooped 70 thousand of army to Siberia with U.S.A., England, Italy, and Canada.

World War 1 was decided Germany's defeat, and the Treaty of Versailles was concluded in

January 1919. Japanese Army continued to occupy Siberia even after other Allied forces had withdrawn in 1920. Japan accepted bad reputations from other countries.

Depression after the War

Armaments reduction conference in Washington, 1921

After beat Germany, Japanese people delighted becoming a member of 3 big countries in the world, but war expenditure of Japan increased to over 40% of annual expenditure, consequently national power decreased and stock prices dropped and became depression after the War.

In 1921, every country gathered to Washington for discussing armaments reduction. U.S.A proposed that the rate of armaments reduction was 5 at U.S.A. and England, 3 at Japan. Shinohara, the representative of Japan accepted considering Japanese national power.

At the Washington conference, Japanese infringing for China was blamed and caused to return the lease of Koushu Bay and withdraw the requirement for priority of investment to Manchuria and Mongolia. International treaty which concluded at this conference (9 countries

treaty) decided “Respect sovereignty of China, the open-door”. But Japanese people who overestimated national power blamed this treaty as a humiliating one. The alliance with England expired and Japan started the period of isolation among international. Japan had to correspond to understand the international circumstances but Japanese people seemed to lose the international sense. Japanese government, the military and also mass communications should be heavily responsible.

1923: Increase rice price, Kanto earthquake

1918, Japanese people impeached with the government because of high rice prices Terauchi Ministry resigned in a body and changed to Hara Ministry that was first real political party cabinet. Hara promoted democratization and employed Kato Minister of the Navy who understood armaments reduction as the representative of Japan for Washington conference. But October 1921, Hara Ministry killed by a terrorist at Tokyo station. September 1, 1923, big earthquake happened in Kanto area and nearly 100 thousand people died.

At the time a rumor that Korean people rose riots was spread and 6thousand Korean people were killed. At the same time socialists and anarchists were killed too.

Emperor Taisho issued the Imperial rescript in order to calm the public feeling.

The second constitution protection movement Taisho Democracy

1924, the constitutional party group won at the general election. Katoh Takaaki Ministry organized a Cabinet. Since then until May 1932 continued the Taisho democratic politics with constitutional party group. During this democratic period, Shidehara Kijuro (幣原喜重郎) leded the Japanese diplomacy held the good relation with U.S.A. and England. January 1925, Japan attempted coexistence with Soviet Russia and concluded the fundamental treaty.

The civil war continued in China, but Japan tried to get over difficulty holding peace coexistence with China too.

Emperor Taisho was of delicate health since he was young, so Prince Hirohito became the regent in October 1921 just came back from inspection tour of Europe. December 1926,

Emperor Taisho died and Prince Hirohito became Emperor and the name of an era changed to Showa.

March 1925, the universal suffrage law was established and Japan took first step to democratization but at the same time, the Peace Regulations establish in order to suppress the dangerous thoughts just before that.

Finance panic in 1927

Since the finance panic in 1927, Japan fell in to serious depression particularly in local farm area. The agricultural dept of Japan became 6 billion yen. In order to overcome the depression, Hamaguchi Osati (浜口雄幸) , who were well acquainted with economy, were elected to the prime minister. Hamaguchi took retrenchment policy, reduction of armaments and cooperation with international relations. He was popular with international societies but Japanese military repulsed to him and the Opposition party that was commanded by Tanaka Giichi (田中義一) who came from military, agitated a movement against the Ministry.

1921, Establish a communist org. in China,

Japan and U.S.A invested to China and Chinese national light industries grew. But military clique and bureaucracy imposed new taxes, consequently the market were confused. The people of working class who were under pressure of severe labor conditions, grew quickly raising their consciousness for innovation. Under these situations, Marxism propagated among students and young people in China.

At Versailles conference after the World War I , the Chinese claim for breaking the inequality treaty between China and Japan were rejected and Chinese people were in a critical situation. Big movement against Japan had expanded in Chinese people. Under these situations, Grigori Voitinsky came from a Comintern and met communist leaders in China. June 1921, Communist Party in China was established.

Systematization of Communist Party developed and strikes by labors occurred at various parts of China. March 1925, after the death of Sun Yet-son, the pioneer of Nationalist China, Chiang kai-shek (蔣介石) organized National Military Council and started to suppress northern military cliques in order to unite China. On the other side, farmers society

was organized with China Communist party as leader and the member of the society reached 1million and 300 thousand. These communist's group planned to establish the new government under Communist Party against Chiang kai-shek.

Chiang kai-shek and his National Military gained Shang-hai (上海) and Nanking (南京) but on the way of the battle, a part of soldiers who were influenced by the communist group attacked foreign consulates, churches, and schools in a fervor of anti-imperialism of Japan and England. More than 30 thousand Japanese people had been lived in areas of Jinan and Tsingtao, Japanese consul general requested sending troops to protect the settlement. May 1927, 4,000 troops were deployed to the area in what was known as the First Shandong Expedition. 3000 of Japanese army gathered in Jinan, 10,000 of National Military came there during the Northern Expedition. The armed conflict between the Japanese Army and Chinese army happened on May 1928 resulted the death of 12 Japanese including women. Japanese people asserted to strike China but Japanese government took a prudent attitude because

there were the opinions supporting Chiang kai-shek.

1928. Zhang Zuolin Assassination Incident

Japanese government had a policy that leave Northern Expedition in China mainland to Chiang kai-shek but prevent expansion of a riot to Manchuria and Mongolia. And also some Japanese government people had the opinion that Japan should make Zhang Zuolin (張作霖), a leader of the Fengtian clique a puppet government of Manchuria but the Kwantung Army (關東軍) did not accept this opinion. Kwantung Army objected that leave Manchuria to neither Chiang kai-shek nor Zhang Zuolin.

Colonel Kawamoto Daisaku in the Kwantung Army, believed that the assassination of Zhang Zuolin would be the most expeditious way to Japanese demands cutting off Manchuria from China, and operated the explosion without orders from Tokyo in June 1928.

Zhang was fatally wounded and died several hours later. Zhang's son Zhang Xueliang (張學良) did not announce his father's death in order to avoid any conflict with Japan. The plan of colonel Kawamoto resulted in failure. Zhang

Xueliang quietly carried out policy of reconciliation with the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek.

Emperor Hirohito harshly criticized the event and suspended colonel Kawamoto from office and the Cabinet of Prime Minister Tanaka Giiti (田中義一) resigned in a body in July 1927.

The army and navy and ultranationalists claimed that was an intrigue of the Imperial Court and also Saionji (西園寺) an elder statesman remonstrated against Emperor Hirohito. Emperor Hirohito recollected later in the document "The recollection of Showa Emperor" that after this event, he decided to permit every proposition from the Cabinet even he had opposite opinion.

Armaments reduction Conference in London

The Cabinet of Hamaguti Osati (浜口雄幸) organized in July 1929, revived a gold standard and took a retrenchment policy for reconstructing finances. Opening gold market by Hamaguti was valued among foreign countries but the depression became seriously with overlapping the heavy fall of New York

stock market in October 1929.

Hamaguchi Cabinet decided to decrease the amount of warship 70% for that of USA and sent Wakatsuki Reiziro (若槻礼次郎) as an ambassador plenipotentiary to Armaments reduction Conference in London in March 1930.

Japan was opposed by USA who claimed 60% for Japan. Prime Minister Hamaguchi persuaded Japanese navy into signing the agreement. Japanese public opinion was well disposed to Hamaguchi but a rightists organization particularly Seiyukai (政友会) opposed furiously. An armaments plan was generally understood that refer to discussion at the Diet, but a rightists organization particularly Seiyukai impeached Hamaguchi for the reason that he violated the supreme command of Emperor quoting Meiji constitution. Also Hatoyama Ichiro who was called an opportunist and Inukai Takesi who supported constitutional government moved against Hamaguchi. November 1930, Hamaguchi was shot by a terrorist at Tokyo station and died in August 1931. He was a few talented man at a time who watches circumstances of the world. After this event the military authorities took the

leadership in Japan.

The supreme command (統帥権)

Hamaguchi was impeached for the reason that he violated the supreme command. The Meiji constitution showed that the national supreme power belonged to Emperor, but practically a legislative power belonged to the Diet, an administration of justice belonged to a law court and a public administration belonged to a Cabinet. The articles that Emperor governs the army and navy, was described in the eleventh article of Meiji constitution, and they interpreted that the supreme command was separated from a public administration so that a minister of state could not intervene in the field.

The supreme command department consisted of the general staff office of army and navy command office and head of each office assisted Emperor. But practically the Emperor's command about military operation was made by chief of the general staff. Emperor did not have the practical right for supreme command.

Minister of the army and the navy took charge an administration of an army and Navy. The department of army and navy made a rule that

the minister of the army and the navy should be an active general or active lieutenant.

These uncommon constitution and rule would influence to the Japanese fortune importantly.

Ishihara Kanzi leads the military

Young members of Manchu Railroad Company organized the Manchu youth union and presented “The harmony of a race and the establishment of liberal self-governing country in Manchu & Mongolia” to Kwantung Army (關東軍) July 1928 in anxiety about that Chinese nationalism threaten the Japanese right and interests in Manchuria.

Ishihara Kanzi (石原莞爾), a staff officer of army, announced “My national defense plan” that the only survival way of Japan is possessing Manchuria. Tojo Hideki (東条英機) also declared the establishment of perfect political power in Manchuria. But Ishihara’s plan was lack a viewpoint about international law and circumstances of the world that caused to dash into a war. A lieutenant colonel Hashimoto Kingoro (橋本欣五郎) who was affected by Ishihara, formed Sakura Kai with young military officers and presented national

revolution against an armament reduction in 1930. Hashimoto and a nationalist Okawa Shumei (大川周明) planned an assassination of the head of government and establishment of a military government which was said March affair and October affair. These affairs were failed but the leaders of the army did not punish them and resulted the army became in an unlawful group.

Manchurian Incident, 1931

Since Zhang Xueliang (張学良) expressed to join in the Chinese National Government, he disclosed the policy including constructing railroads against Japan's Manchuria Railway and restricting a right of mining by foreigners.

A business of Manchuria Railway fell into a depression with a world economic panic additionally. Ishihara Kanzi (石原莞爾), a staff officer of Kwantung Army (關東軍), had been planning to control Manchuria and Mongolia exclusively. Under these severe circumstances, he decided to practice his plan. June 1931, captain Nakamura, a staff officer of Kwantung Army (關東軍), was killed by Chinese army and an accident that Chinese farmers conflicted with

Korean farmers (Manpaozan Incident) happened in July. In September 1931, catching this chance, a lieutenant colonel Kawamoto Suemori detonated a railroad of South Manchuria Railway at Liutiaohu Shibian (柳条湖) by the order from Kwantung Army (關東軍) . Itagaki Seishiro (板垣征四郎) and Ishihara Kanzi arranged previously and explained to a new commander of Kwantung Army Honjo Shigeru (本庄繁) that we should sally because Chinese army detonated a railroad of South Manchuria Railway. At first commander Hojo did not agree the sally but at last he decided to dispatch. Kwantung Army bombarded a Chinese army at Mukden (奉天) and occupied an all area of Mukden. Ishihara and Itagaki planned to dispatch the Japanese army in Korea for support but the general staff office did not admit. In spite of the disagreement, Ishihara and Itagaki wanted to move the force in Korea. When a consul general of Korea Morishima persuaded to settle peacefully, Itagaki roared that you should not violate the supreme command and a major Hanatani a subordinate of Itagaki threatened with drawing his sword. An unlawful situation extended

gradually that the low-ranking of army acted willfully and both the general staff office and Japanese government could not stop them.

After this Manchurian Incident, the Japanese press sent many correspondents and informed to Japanese people of an action of Kwantung Army consequently people were guided to become warlike. The public opinion, that Manchuria and Mongolia are Japanese lifeline which we should protect, was formed by the press. Itagaki and Ishihara ordered their staff Dohihara to take out Puyi (溥儀) the last Emperor of Sin (清) and made him protected by Kwantung Army. Kwantung Army organized leaders of each place in Manchuria and opened the conference for establishing the new country Manchukuo. On March 1932, Puyi declared foundation of Manchukuo supported by Japan.

Almost of all newspapers praised Kwantung Army as a hero and people of Japan supported this situation. People who moved to Manchuria increased gradually seeking getting out of unemployment.

October 1931, Kwantung Army bombed Jinzhou the base of Zhang Xueliang (張学良) and in November occupied Qiqihar consequently every

country in United Nation got angry. United Nation sent the Lytton Commission to try to determine the causes of the Mukden Incident which led to the Empire of Japan's seizure of Manchuria.

Rampancy of terrorism, 5. 15 Incident, 1932

In a political crisis failing a retrenchment policy and oppression of the military, the Wakatsuki (若槻), Seiyukai party, Cabinet resigned in a body and changed to Inukai Takeshi Cabinet in December 1931. Takahashi Korekiyo the Minister of Finance stopped an export of gold and attempted an activation of economy. There were some indications of prosperity, but the military who planning to govern Manchuria and Mongolia strongly opposed the Inukai's policy that he tried to join economy between Japan and China look like mild technique. Seiyukai party of Wakatsuki (若槻) won in a general election held in February 1932. On the other hand terrorism were rampant, members of Risshou-Gokokudo (立正護国堂) which led by Inoue Nissho assassinated important people of political and economic world. Sometime a soldier in active

service joined to the assassination. Some Japanese people praised terrorism because dissatisfactions for failing of economic policy were accumulated among people. Japanese people may begin to lose their reasons.

And on 5 May 1932, over 10 members of military and naval officers shot Inukai the prime minister dead at his official residence called 5/15 Incident. For this assassination, Araki the Minister of War condemned light punishment below 15 years imprisonment and said they had pure mind for Imperial Nation. The public opinion gave rise to commute and sent them letters of encouragement. It was really unbelievable action thinking from now.

Signing the protocol Japan & Manchuria, 1932

Saito Minoru(斎藤 実) who gave satisfactory results concluding London armaments reduction conference held the Prime Minister as the incoming Cabinet of Inukai. But Saito nominated Araki Sadao(荒木貞夫) as a Minister of War making compromise with young military officers and the rightists. The House of Representative approved the recognition of Manchukuo unanimously and Saito recognized

simply in spite of Inukai avoiding the recognition desperately. October 1932, the protocol Japan & Manchuria was approved between the minister of state of Manchuria and the commander of Japanese Kwantung Army.

Lytton Report, Japan left the United Nation, 1932

The Lytton Commission headed by Bulwer Lytton spent six weeks in Manchuria on a fact-finding mission and expressed the report in October 1932. The Lytton report described that the establishment of State of Manchukuo was not made by Chinese independent campaign but Japanese. The report proposed the establishment of a local self-governing body which was consistent the benefits for both Japan and China. Japanese newspapers did not show any understanding at all to the report. Prince Saionji (西園寺公爵) persuaded a cooperation with America and England considering the situation of Japan in the world but Japanese people abused him.

Japanese government sent Matsuoka Yosuke (松岡洋右) to the United Nation as an ambassador but the decision including the

recognition of the right of China for Manchuria was passed and Matsuoka got out from the hall consequently Japan left the United Nation. Japanese people welcomed Matsuoka but Emperor Hirohito expressed an issue that Japan should make effort to the international peace. March 1933, Germany which was in power by Hitler also left the United Nation. Instead of Germany, Soviet Union jointed to the United Nation and began to connect with USA.

Dispute among faction of army.5/15 Incident

1935, Minobe Tatsukichi (美濃部達吉) and scholar group of constitution advocated a theory that Emperor is top organization using a supreme power standing on the theory that nation is juridical person. The theory became a big problem at a political world. The rightists and ex-soldiers group attacked the Minobe group. The army separated two groups Koudo faction (皇道派) which deify the Emperor and Tousei faction (統制派) which an army should be a controlled body. Minister of War Araki (荒木) belonged with Koudo group and opposed scholar

group of constitution. Tousei faction tried to design scientifically a national policy. 1935, a lieutenant Aizawa (相沢) belonging Koudo faction killed Nagata Tetsuzan (永田鉄山) with sword, a representative of Tousei faction. Concerning the trial of lieutenant Aizawa, the struggle between both factions reached climax and the uprising 2/26 Incident occurred in February 26, 1936.

February 20 of this year, Okada Cabinet got support from people at the general election. But young naval officers of Koudo faction thought nothing of a people's intention. They thought just kill the men who violates the supreme command of the Emperor. Totally 1473 members of military at the head of 21 naval officers attacked the official residence of the prime minister and other Cabinet ministers. Prime Minister Okada was saved miraculously but Takahashi the Minister of Finance, Saito the Secretary of the interior and Watanabe the superintendent of education were killed. The head of army could not do anything in confusion, but Emperor Hirohito ordered suppression of a rebel army immediately and wished strict punishment. Emperor Hirohito wanted three terms to a Prime Minister. (1) should respect the

constitution, (2) according to the international friendship, control the international frictions, (3) prevent sudden change in the economic world.

War cabinet, 1936,

Increasing an emigration to Manchuria

A suppression of 2/26 Incident was a good chance of an elimination of factionalism in the army, but under the Hirota kouki prime minister after general resignation of Okada cabinet, organized Cabinet to meet a military, and militarism had been accelerated. Baba the Minister of Finance made a war time finance applied 47% of total budget for war expenditure by tax increase.

August 1936, Hirota Cabinet decided that take Japanese stand in East Asia and push into Southern part of Asia. And announced a definite plan that the army opposed the Soviet Union army in the Far East and the navy secured the command of the sea in the West Pacific Ocean against the US navy. The responsibility announced pushing to South first time and concluded the anticommunist treaty between Japan and Germany was important.

At same time Tojo Hideki (東条英機) a commander of the military police suppressed the

critical people against the army and pushed the policy of monopolizing the information.

Japanese people were unable to make a living and Japanese government recommended an emigration to Manchuria as a way to get out from a depression. Hirota Cabinet planned one million family's emigration between 20 years.

A lot of Japanese people went over to Manchuria in order to meet the demand.

"August 1, Declaration" of the Chinese Communist Party

The military of Japan invaded to the northern part of China after gaining mastery over Manchuria. The movement of Chinese people for resistance against Japan became actively and a representative of communist China stationed in the Soviet Union advocated National United Front for resistance against Japan called "August 1 Declaration". Chiang Kai-Shek (蒋介石) who had been suppressed the Communist Party opposed the statement the communist party but Zhang Xueliang (張学良) agreed to the United and confined Chiang Kai-Shek December 1936 (Xian incident). By the request of Zhang Xueliang, Zhou Enlai (周恩来) of Communist

party represented the United against Japan and the Second United Front was formed in September 1937.

January 1937, Hirota Cabinet resigned in a body and Hayashi Senjuro (林銑十郎) became a prime minister. Hayasi was a commander of Japanese army in Korean area and ordered crossing the border of China at the Manchurian incident. Against the possessing Manchuria by Japan as a matter of fact from about 1935, an anti-Japanese movement occurred in United States and began the suppression for a Japanese-American lived in United States.

Watching the movement of the powers including USA and the circumstances of Chinese United Front, Sato Naotake (佐藤尚武) the Foreign Minister asserted the equal diplomacy for Japan and China but Kanto army commanded by Tojo Hideki (東条英機) opposed to him and a public opinion sided with Tojo.

1937, Japan-China War

One month after changed from Hayashi Cabinet to Konoe (近衛) Cabinet in July 1937, a battle between the Republic of China's National Revolutionary Army and the Japanese Army

happened at Lugoujiao = Marco Polo Bridge near Peking. The general staff office of Japanese Army indicated not to spread the incident but the battle did not cease and at last the general staff office gave order to move out the reinforcement. At first the operation order for the commander on the spot was limited the area within the northern part of Hebei (河北省) . But in August, a battle happened in Shanghai, consequently a battle line spread from North China to Middle China. Konoe Cabinet recognized sent out the army to North China and the battle expanded to the Second Sino-Japanese War. Japanese government ordered repatriation to Japanese residents around a valley of Chang River and sent 9 divisions of army. The Republic of China's National Revolutionary Army and Chinese people resisted as one body over 2 months consequently both army had big damage. Japanese army attacked the routed the Chinese army and gained mastery Nanking in December 1937. As the Japanese army did not get supply among this operation and soldiers grew wild with violent battle in Shanghai, Japanese soldiers plundered and repeated violence and

bloodshed so called Nanking Massacre. The commander of this incident was Matsui Iwane (松井石根) .

USA opposed to the Japanese-China War as Japan invaded the sovereignty of China and deprived rights of western countries for China and went to suppress Japan. There were opinions that Japan had to stop Japanese-China War but they could not stand against the military authorities. There were few people expecting that USA suppressed to Japan in the upper stratum of Japanese Army, and also very few politicians had understand the world circumstances.

May 1938, Mao Tse-tung expressed a protracted struggle theory and the Republic of China's National Revolutionary Army maintained the resistance, consequently Japan-China War was prolonged.

1937, setting Imperial General Headquarters

According to the china-Japan war developing into an all-out war, Japan set the Imperial General Headquarters as part of the supreme war council combined the general staff office of army with the naval military command and the

Minister of War. As the Imperial General Headquarters was separate organization from a public administration, the contact council was established between the Imperial General Headquarters and Prime Minister in order to determine the national intention about leading a war. It was not a legal organization but it decided substantially the most important intention of the nation.

Peace maneuvering for Japan and China failed.

Prime Minister Konoe of Japan asked for the German ambassador Trautmann to mediate the peace negotiation with China but failed. In autumn of 1938, Prime Minister Konoe of Japan announced “The new regulation plan between Japan and China” based good neighbor policy, defense cooperation, and economic cooperation. Konoe made Wang Zhaoming the vice president of the Chinese Kuomintang party responded to the announcement. But Chinese people did not agree to the plan.

The World War II, September, 1939

Hitler, who watched for conquest the world

after hold the political power of Germany in 1933, invaded Austria in March 1938 and annexed Bohemia and Moravia and collapsed Czechoslovakia in next March. August 1938, Hitler who intended to invade Poland next, concluded the nonaggression pact with Soviet Union. The content of pact, which became clear after the War, was establishment of influential territory for Germany and Soviet Union in East Europe and Soviet Union would get Finland, Estonia and Latvia. September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland and the World War II started.

The nonaggression pact with Germany, the most dreadful country for Soviet Union, was desirable to Stalin and he had been intended to control Finland and other countries in East Europe. As soon as Germany controlled Poland, Soviet Union invaded Finland pass through Poland. Hitler declared war against England and France. Japan, which had been established friendly relations with Germany, surprised that Germany concluded the nonaggression pact with Soviet Union, opposed country to Japan. Hiranuma (平沼) Cabinet resigned.

1940, Germany brought under his control Holland and Belgium and occupied Paris. At the

same time Italy declared war against France June, 1940.

Battle of Nomonhan (Khalkhin Gol)

Tsuzi Masanobu (辻正信)、a staff officer of Kwantung Army of Japan proposed “ The outline of conflict management on the border between Mongolia and Manchuria” which means active attack against Soviet army. May 1939, Kwantung Army of Japan invaded to Khalkhyn area of Mongolia. Mongolian and Soviet concentrated strong army and struck Japanese Army completely. Soviet completed the five-year plan in 1932, and their armaments including air forces were modernized markedly. But Japanese Army attacked Mongolia and Soviet again in August. Soviet Army annihilated Japanese Army using aircrafts and tanks. Japanese Army made little of Soviet Army and did not get information and attacked with the help of mental power using old-fashioned armaments. 2,500 of Japanese soldiers died in this battle. The battle was ceased by propose of Japanese Army, but Japanese army did not make public the results of investigation so that a lesson of this defeat would never make good use for later battles.

Tripartite Pact (September, 1940)

1940, Ribbentrop the foreign minister of Germany sent a special envoy to Japan and recommended forming an alliance with Germany engaging an intermediation between Japan and Soviet that the relation had been deteriorated after Battle of Nomonhan. Matsuoka the foreign minister relied on this proposal with joy.

At the time, there were a worry in Japan that an approach to Germany would grow worth the relation with USA and England, because Japan depended natural resources such as oil on USA and England. Japanese Navy opposed forming an alliance with Germany. But Matsuoka foreign minister thought Germany would beat down France and England then Japan would be able to get natural resources in East Asia where were colonies of England and Dutch. September, 1940, Japan concluded tripartite pact with Germany and Italy. Almost Japanese supported the pact. The strategy of Hitler that restraining USA with the tripartite pact plus Soviet did not effect, and then Hitler invaded Soviet in June 1941 as his former plan. Matsuoka had a strategy that Japan would win Soviet over to Japanese site

but the strategy failed because Germany fought against Soviet. Since long ago Germany intended to invade Soviet but Japan could not catch the situation. USA understood that the tripartite pact of Japan, Germany, Italy, was a military alliance against USA and stiffen more its attitude. England supported Soviet and USA sent military goods to Soviet. And England supported China clearly.

Japan could not understand that the tripartite pact would bring such an important turning point.

On the other side, Soviet concluded a natural treaty with Japan in order to hold down Japanese attack in the Far East and would concentrate to fight with Germany. Japan hoped a nonaggression pact but Stalin wanted Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands instead, after all concluded natural treaty. Soviet had maintained attachment to the northern territory. At the party after concluding treaty, it was said that Stalin whispered to Japanese naval attaché that Japan could invade South East Asia with a sense of relief hear after. It indicated Stalin's plot extending to Manchuria and northern territory.

Sino-Japanese War, Selection of the way to solve the Southern problem

Since June 1940, Japanese army planned to intercept the connection between China and a third power including USA, England and Russia who support Chiang Kai-Shek(蔣介石) in order to finish the war with China. The general staff office of Japan estimated that the routes of supporting Chiang Kai-Shek are (1) West-North route via outer Mongolia, (2) route via Burma, (3) route via Vietnam, (4) route via Shanghai and Hong' kong'. Japanese army had been set the watch point in Vietnam and tried to occupy a military force in North Vietnam in order to attack the route via Burma by an air force. This occupation in North Vietnam was the plan for finishing early the war with China but the force at the front thought as the first step for invading Vietnam and Indonesia. In other words they wanted to establish self-supporting system getting oil from Vietnam and Indonesia becoming free from USA and Europe influences. They thought this is a way to solve Southern problem. Imperial General headquarters proposed that (1) strengthen political union with Germany and Italy, (2) keeping neutrality with

Soviet in order to solve Sino-Japanese Incident and Southern problem by controlling England and stopping Soviet's support for China, and July 1940 this proposal was selected as an outline for treating the situation at a connecting conference of the general staff office of Japan and Japanese government. By this selection, Japan would make an important decision to start preparation for the war with USA by invading Southern countries on an occasion. But this decision depended on the assumption that Germany would win and just thought the war with USA as an armaments scale. At this point Japan had not an idea to fight with USA.

USA canceled a treaty of commerce with Japan

Japan has been imported oil and other strategic material from the sphere of USA & England and got funds for purchase by exporting processed goods which were made from imported cotton and other materials so that Japanese economy has become entirely depending structure for USA & England. July 1939, USA notified the cancelation of the treaty of commerce to Japan and on July 1940 USA made oil & scrap iron to

permission export system and also on October 1940 stopped export of scrap iron. These immediate circumstances caused the invasion for Southern countries of Japan.

March 1941, Japan-USA negotiations started between Nomura the Japanese Ambassador to the USA and Cordell Hall the Secretary of USA.

USA proposed 4 principles, (1) preservation of territory of all countries and elimination of invasion, (2) respect rights of states and nonintervention to home administrations, (3) equal opportunity of commerce, (4) stopping disturbance of the present condition in the Pacific. In April an understanding scheme including withdrawing Japanese Army from China, recognition of Manchuria and acquisition materials from Southern countries came up between Nomura and Hull. But the Foreign Minister Matsuoka objected to the scheme and sent proposed amendments each other.

At this time, the diplomatic authorities of both countries Japan and USA tried to find the peaceful way. But July 1941, the circumstances changed completely with the occupation of Japanese Army to South Vietnam.

July 1941, Japan invaded to South Vietnam

July 1941, USA blockaded economy to Japan stopping export of oil etc. after Japan invaded South Vietnam in spite of warning several times.

Osami Nagano (永野修身) the president of Navy command strongly asserted that establishment of military base in South Vietnam and capture England military base in Malay is necessary in order to get oil. It was evident that invasion of Japan to South Vietnam would cause the war with England & USA, but the staff officer of Army underestimated the national power of USA and carried out occupation of South Vietnam. Japanese prime minister who finally decided Tripartite Pact and the occupation of South Vietnam causing invitation the war with USA was Konoe Humimaro (近衛文麿) . Prime Minister Konoe met Joseph Grew the Ambassador to Japan for the sake of peaceful settlement of Japan & USA and showed that he would agree “four principles” which had been asserted by Cordell Hall the Secretary of USA saying that USA will cancel the economy blockade to Japan if Japan will withdraw from China and South Vietnam. Konoe wanted to meet Franklin Roosevelt the president of USA

but Konoe's real intension could not convey to Hall because Konoe took secret policy for fear of becoming known by Army so that a meeting to the president of USA was not realized.

Konoe would be going to tell to Emperor Hirohito directly in secret to Army but he had the opinion that Japan should be a leader of Asia and he published an essay that he exclude the peace brought by USA & England. He was not expected being cooperative against USA & England.

October 2, 1941, Cordell Hall the Secretary of USA handed a verbal note that USA demands Japan withdraw entirely from China & South Vietnam to Nomura the Japanese Ambassador to the USA and told that the meeting with the president would be difficult unless Japan would agree with the demand. Foreign Minister Toyoda proposed withdraw Army from China for evading a war between Japan and USA. Also the Prime Minister Konoe tried to negotiate to USA along the proposition but the Minister of War Tojo Hideki opposed against strongly because becoming demoralized of Army and consideration for the spirit of the war dead of 160 thousand in China. As a result a negotiation

between Japan and USA went on a rock and Konoe Cabinet resigned in a body in October 16, 1941 and changed to Tojo hideki Cabinet in 16, October, 1941.

Emperor Hirohito transmitted his intention to Prime Minister Tojo that Japan should withdraw an outbreak of war. Tojo once thought about it but he was suppressed by the war advocates.

On November 15 1941, at the imperial General Headquarters-Government Liaison conference decided the plan quickening the close of the war against USA, England and China. But it was willful content that Germany would make England surrender and people of USA would get tired to a war.

"Hall Note", Outbreak of Japan & USA war

On November 26, Cordell Hall the Secretary of USA handed so called "Hall Note" containing "an outline of fundamental agreement between USA & Japan" and "the oral statement" to Nomura the ambassador to USA. The contents of the note proposed making effort to solve the difference between USA and Japan for about (1) withdrawing Army from China and South Vietnam, (2) recognizing Chiang Kai-Shek(蒋介石)

石) government as an only government of China, (3) keep peace agreement of the Pacific Ocean area etc. Thinking from now, the note was just a tentative plan and could not be thought as an ultimatum. But looking after the note, Foreign Minister Togo said to Emperor Hirohito the note meant almost same as an ultimate on November 28. Togo made same explanation at a Cabinet council on same day and all the Cabinet ministers agreed to the outbreak of Japan and USA war. Perhaps Togo jumped to a conclusion that Japan should return to the situation before establishment of Manchuria but USA showed in a former proposition taking proper measures against Manchuria as an accomplished fact. Of course even the president of USA could difficult to make an outbreak of war without understanding of people because USA is a nation of democracy, but there were no people in the governing classes of Japan to know the system about democracy.

On November 1, before that day, a national policy had been decided that both preparation of a war and negotiation for peace would go together until November 30 at the imperial General Headquarters-Government Liaison

conference. The military authorities thought an outbreak of war should be limited on a beginning of December because if the negotiation would be prolonged the war potential of Japan would become low and Japan would lose the chance to win concerning about poor natural resources and a climate in Southern area.

Emperor Hirohito had wished to ask the opinion of every important person at the time to decide war and peace. On November 29, the head of government, man of prime minister experience, and a chairman of Privy Council gathered and discussed but the opinion, that there were no way to follow with the conclusion of imperial General-Headquarters-Government Liaison conference, had the majority.

Attack on Pearl Harbor, December 1941

December 1, all members of Cabinet attended to the imperial conference decided the outbreak of the war because Japan could not abandon the results since Japan-Sino war and Japan- Russia war. On December 1941, all members of Cabinet participated to the council in the Imperial presence and pass the resolution that an outbreak of war would be unavoidable and got

the Imperial approval. On the same day, the operation duty passed and next day, the order that the day of start would be December 8 was announced to the operation forces of the army and navy.

Japan had ratified the Hague convention on 1907 that outbreak of war should notify beforehand and the Foreign Office tried to keep the International rule, but a military command office and the Minister of the Navy Shimada asserted that a notification should not make until at the last moment because a surprise attack would be necessary for winning at first battle. As a result, the operation plan was decided that declaration would hand to Cordell Hall the Secretary of USA by Nomura the Japanese Ambassador at one o'clock afternoon on December 7 Washington time and attack on Pearl Harbor would start after 30 minutes of that. The ultimatum from Japan was titled "The last memorandum to USA" and was formed as the answer to "Hall note" which consisted of 14 sections having huge pages. Only one secretary made the memorandum according to the order making it top secret and the last important section was sent separately so that

decipherment took long time and finished at 11:30. Ambassador Nomura requested Hall to postpone the meeting time until 2 o'clock. Nomura was not informed about a surprise attack so that he did not recognize the importance of handed the memorandum at one o'clock ordered from Tokyo. And also ambassador Nomura and the embassy staff could not recognize the memorandum was a declaration of war. Also USA side did not think that the memorandum informed the outbreak of war directly. Actually telegraphic codes from Japan was deciphered perfectly by USA from long time before consequently Secretary Hall understood the content of the memorandum and informed to the president. "The last memorandum to USA" was made at the Foreign Office of Japan and it had formal long sentences. There were the sentence seemed to be an outbreak of war in the last section but supposedly some high class person of the military authorities cut off the last sentence consequently actual memorandum seemed just a general diplomatic document. It looked a stratagem of the military authorities for getting success of a surprise attack as much as it can. Supposedly USA had known the time

outbreak of war would be soon by deciphered telegraphic codes from Japan, but they estimated the target area would be Malay or Singapore and a few people thought Hawaii.

Attack on Pearl Harbor began 7:55 , December 8 Hawaiian time (13:25 December 7 Washington time) and the attack already had started when ambassador Nomura handed the memorandum to secretary Hall at 14:05. People of USA blamed that Japan attacked by surprise without declaration of war. Of course it was not admirable but there were several cases that a declaration of war had delayed after the war. USA propagandized the delay of the declaration for making Japanese a coward. President Franklin Roosevelt thought that people of USA would understand to enter the war with Japan and also made up his mind to participate in the war with Germany that had been requested from the Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England.

Regulation of public opinion by Tojo cabinet

December 1941, Prime Minister Tojo brought “the special regulation law for the press and the meeting” into existence so that the publication of

a newspaper could be stopped by the Prime Minister's thought.

In 1940 all political parties were forced to merge into the Taisei Yokusankai (大政翼賛会) a pro-military organization. At the Japanese general election, April 1942, the Tojo Cabinet made the military police to watch every candidate who were not Taisei yokusankai members and monopolized all seats in the Diet with Taisei Yokusankai members. Tojo arrested anti-war candidates and dispersed the political parties except the parties under the control of Taisei Yokusankai. Tojo made the Diet to recognize cooperating to the war. A famous politician Nakano Seigo (中野正剛) who opposed to Tojo was forced into suicide by a Military police.

January 1941, Tojo the Military Minister at the time, announced "Senzinkun" (戦陣訓) military code issued to soldiers in the imperial Japanese forces having the quote "Never live to experience shame as a prisoner". This code forbade soldiers to be prisoners and promoted die in an honorable defeat consequently so many soldiers killed themselves.

Prince Higashikuni (東久邇宮) advised to the

Prime Minister Tojo starting negotiation for peace with Chiang Kai-Shek(蒋介石) and with Europe and USA but Tojo expelled his advice and said that Japan could occupy Java and Australia easily. And February 1942, when Japan lost Singapore, Yoshida Shigeru (吉田茂) former ambassador to England approached to Togo foreign minister starting peace negotiation but Prime Minister Tojo ordered military police to control the peace group. The reason why arguments for peace did not come up to the surface, were strict surveillance by military police and a fear complex for terrorism.

Surrender of Guadalcanal, February 1943

The Allied Forces, USA, England and Soviet Union had concentrated their energy to the war with Germany, so that Japan kept dominant position until beginning of the year of 1942. But Japan lost the greater part of the air forces including 4 aircraft carriers at Midway naval battle on June 1942 consequently lost the mastery of the air at a stroke. Japan did not expect the sally of opponent aircraft carriers because of excessive self-conceit getting with success of Pearl Harbor battle.

It was a first step of all-round failure for Japan that the United States army landed Guadalcanal islands because of the failure of Japanese operations at naval battles at Solomon island area from August to November 1942.

The leaders of the battle on Guadalcanal were Hattori Takusiro (服部卓四郎) and Tsuzi Masanobu (辻政信) who had failed at battle of Nomonhan(Khalkhin Gol) with that they made soldiers fight with only mental power supported by poor arms disregarding the method of a modern operation. February 1943 USA army captured Guadalcanal islands and after that attacked Japanese army's base with mass air forces, and extended united front with Navy. At Bismarck Naval Battle in March 1943, Japan lost 10 warships, 12 transport ships, 102 aircrafts and 15,000 soldiers.

USA army approached to the main island of Japan with the method that attack Japanese base by capturing an island and constructing an airport. At the same time England & Indian army in Burma and Australian army in NewGuinea fought with Japanese army consequently Japanese army was isolated in South Vietnam. By historical materials, USA

army had deciphered Japanese army's codes perfectly so that all information of Japanese operations had been leaked out to USA army. On the other hand Japan had prohibited English language education and neglected to collect the information of the enemy country. Japan was defeated in an information battle too. In the Japanese army, a staff officer system that section chiefs had a strong right for decision and avoided verification by a third party and no one accused responsibility, had distorted the national policy.

Tojo Cabinet retired and changed to Koiso Cabinet, July 1944

April 1944, Prime Minister Tojo served concurrently as the chief of the general staff and made Shimada Shigetaro Navy Minister served concurrently as the chief of military command who obeyed Tojo's opinion and went to the dogmatic supreme command system because Tojo had distrust against lack of unity of the military. But July 1944, Mariana islands fell began from Saipan island and staff of leading war plan of Imperial Japanese Army concluded that Japan should intend closing the war

because there were no prospect to recover the trend. Coming this situation, an opportunity of changing Tojo Cabinet was risen and July 18, 1944, Tojo retired and changed to Koiso (小磯国昭). This was a good chance to close the war but Koiso avoided discussing closing the war and decided to win at Philippines battle for helping on peace negotiation with USA and also fighting at main land of Japan.

Prime Minister Koiso set the top leaders conference for the war and Umezu Michiro the chief of the general staff, Sugiyama Hazime former Army Minister, Oikawa Koshiro military command, attended the conference but there came only courageous opinions for instance completion of the war and exceeding the important situation.

February, 1945, USA recaptured Manila

July 1944, Japanese General Staff Office showed to the Kanto Army the thought that Japan would abandon Manchuria and withdrew 70% of Kanto Army from Manchuria until March 1945 for assisting the battle of Southern Part and Japan mainland.

July 1944, Imperial General Headquarters

disclosed the plan that destroyed aircraft carriers and transport ships of enemy. Beginning of October Onishi Takiziro commander of Manila flying corps proposed crash attack and organized Kamikaze attack force. The first attack of Kamikaze force against mobile units was October 25, 1944. The number of war dead by Kamikaze attack at Philippines battle was over 700. Before then there were leader asserted carrying out suicide bombers in Navy military command office and they developed manned bomber "Sakurabana" and manned torpedo "Kaiten". And they established the special attack section and systemized suicide attack. Until end of the war, the number of war dead by Kamikaze attack was 9,500.

January 1945, Imperial Japanese Army decided that the last battle would be in Okinawa and mainland of Japan. At this time 28,000 soldiers died at Ioutou island.

February 1945, the USA Army recaptured Manila and in April landed Okinawa, thus the end of the war could be seen. The number of war dead at Okinawa was 188,000. It was a result of the poor plan that ordered fighting only by spirits without enough arms and gave poisons

and grenades for suicide to Okinawa people.

April 1945, Japanese Prime Minister changed to Suzuki Kantaro (鈴木貫太郎) .

After finished the battle at Europe May 1945, USA & England brought ships and aircrafts to the Pacific Ocean and fought with superior arms consequently Japanese Army became destructive situations in July 1945.

Yalta Conference, Soviet participated in the war

Stalin had expressed that Soviet Union would participate in the war to Japan after finished the war against Germany in 1942. At Yalta conference among USA, England and Soviet, February 1945, the condition that participating in the war to Japan of Soviet and transfer of Sakhalin and Tsushima Islands from Japan to Soviet was agreed, but Japan could not know the information.

Stalin wanted to Soviet Army to accelerate starting attack against Japan as soon as he returned from the Yalta conference and from end of February 1945 Soviet started to move military forces to the east. Japan had a chance to know the participation of Soviet Army to the war.

November 1944, at the celebration in Moscow, Stalin said Japan was an aggressor nation and suggested participation to the war against Japan. Japanese newspaper published all of his speech. And February 1945, Japanese general staff office recognized the fact that Soviet soldiers and materials were transported by Siberia railway hurriedly to the east. In April 1945, Soviet refused the extension of the Japan-Soviet neutrality treaty (it was still effective more one year). But Japan had a strong desire not to fight with Soviet and the desire changed to blind belief that Soviet would not attack Japan. So that Togo Shigenori the foreign minister relied foolishly the peace mediation for USA on Soviet and continued to work to Soviet Ambassador to Japan. But Soviet did not reply because not to lose the chance to get a profit by surrender of Japan and prepared to accelerate attack for Manchuria. July 16, 1945, Stalin was informed that USA had succeeded the experiment of an atomic bomb from his secret agent and he advanced the day of participation to the war from August 22 to August 11.

Potsdam Declaration, July 1945

At Potsdam conference, USA President Harry Truman, United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill decided to use an atomic bomb which was newly developed, for closing the war early.

On July 26, 1945 the United States, Britain and China (Soviet had not participated to the war yet at this time) released the Potsdam Declaration announcing (1) elimination of militarists, (2) occupation until recognition of destruction of fighting strength, (3) punishment of war criminals, (4) freedom of speech, religion, thought and respect the fundamental human rights and giving a chance to close the war and asked unconditional surrender to the Japanese Army. When received the declaration, the internal strife came out in the Japanese government. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Togo asserted that the full text should be announce, but the military authorities denied firmly and asked to announce giving the command to fight at mainland of Japan. Prime Minister Suzuki was pressed by the military authorities and announced that we would ignore deliberately the declaration and push on completion of the war. This announcement was

used as an excuse dropping atomic bombs and Soviet Union's participating to the war.

Some people of the army had a thought that Soviet Union should participate to the war soon but central office of the army observed Soviet Union would not come soon after the Potsdam Declaration and still waited the intermediation for peace with USA by Soviet Union.

***Dropping atomic bombs,
Soviet Union's participating to the war.***

According to the rejection of Potsdam Declaration, USA dropped an atomic bomb in Hiroshima August 6 and in Nagasaki August 9, 1945. At the beginning of the war USA asked Soviet Union to participate to the war, but looked like USA thought to make surrender Japan by itself because the demand of Stalin was too much so that opposition with Soviet Union about the world policy would be forecasted. Seeing dropping atomic bombs, Soviet Union thought not to be defeated and declared war against Japan in August 8, and advanced to Manchuria immediately. In spite of having constructed strongholds, Kanto Army was given a deadly blow by the attack of Soviet

Union Army at 1 a.m. August 9, because Soviet Army moved in secret and Kanto Army missed the judgment. And also the General Staff Office in Tokyo could not decide the plan against Soviet Union so that Kanto Army was perplexed in fight and was defeated completely.

Until then among leaders of Japan, peace promoting group was opposed to the group resist exhaustively and Japanese government asked peace mediation to Soviet Union and still waited the reply of Soviet Union. But it was a declaration of war which Sato Naotake the Japanese ambassador to Soviet was called and handed from Molotov the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Soviet Union at 11p.m. August 8. And 2 hours later of then, the attack began.

Confusion of Japanese Government

The General Staff Office in Tokyo estimated if Soviet would participate to the war it should be September so they surprised at attack of Soviet. It was the evidence that leading members of Japanese Army were lacking in ability to collect information and in international sense. Not only that, they could not notice that victory or defeat was decided by an amount of materials in a

modern battle and could not think the condition of Japan that was so exhausted. In the General staff office, the group resisted exhaustively, in spite of Soviet's participating to the war, was still strong.

In Japan leaders and people had trust Soviet too much so that they were strongly shocked at Soviet's participating to the war. On the other hand in Soviet their newspapers reported that Japan was war mad threatening peace of Soviet and the declaration to the war was revenge against Russia-Japan war in 1918. We could not understand why Japanese people had made friends with Soviet so much in spite of that Soviet had been an old enemy for Japan. Probably it was an influence of sentimental image of Russian folk songs, Russian literatures which were popular in Japan at the early days of Showa period.

Accept Potsdam Declaration

Prime Minister Suzuki Kantaro (鈴木貫太郎) told that ending the war was the intention of Emperor Hirohito, at first at the executive war leader's conference and guided the militarists to accepting Potsdam Declaration, August 9, 1945.

The conference continued until midnight because Anan (阿南) Minister of Army asserted to resist exhaustively but at last acceptance of Potsdam Declaration was decided with decision of Emperor Hirohito at a council in the Imperial presence. 7a.m. August 10, Japan communicated the acceptance of Potsdam Declaration to the Allies through the minister of Sweden. But the General Staff Office of Japan ordered to Kanto Army that fought to Soviet Army and maintained Korea. Kanto Army left the settlement of Manchuria and withdrew troops to Korea. Properly speaking Kanto Army should stay Manchuria and protect the settlement but both General Staff Office and Kanto Army had never thought about general settlement. This meant that Japanese Army was the army for Emperor but for the people. Actually the military grasped the supreme command but the central of the army could not control the middle class. Even after Imperial rescript of the end of the war, the group of young military officer killed the division commander of Imperial Guards and thronged to the house of Military Minister Anann (阿南) for robbing the record of Imperial rescript of end of the war, and tried to

carry out a coup d'état. But the coup d'état was prevented by a suicide of Anann.

But after that the tragedy of Japan began.

Tragedy in Manchuria

Kanto Army took the strategy to retreat immediately and destroyed bridges on their way as the result the people who were left behind were forced to suffer big troubles. And also Kanto Army had not been warned the invasion of Soviet Army to the people, consequently many people were killed by a sudden attack of Soviet Army. Only women were left in many areas because many man called out to a volunteer army for defense so that there happened miserable situation. Soviet task force came up with the hungered and tired Japanese people who had been continued to walk many days, kicked around by tanks and machine-gunned. Soviet Army mercilessly gave even children on the back of their mother finishing blow with bayonets. Not only in Manchuria but also in Sakhalin (樺太) and Kuril islands after August 15 there happened miserable situations by Soviet Army invasion. Stalin pushed on invasion on the strength of that Japanese

government and Army became disordered and had not informed the will of cease fire to Soviet, and Stalin asked the half of Hokkaido islands to President Truman. It was lucky for Japan that Truman did not accept Stalin's demand.

In August 17, Yamada the supreme commander of Kanto Army informed cease-fire to the supreme commander of Soviet, and ordered cease-fire to all Kanto Army. Soviet Army still continued to invade and accepted cease-fire on August 20. In spite of signing an instrument of surrender on September 2, Soviet Army continued to invade until September 5 and occupied all of Japanese Northern 4 islands.

Cowardly behavior of Kanto Army

The leading members of the militarists looked like lose their heads, Kanto Army made their family taking refuge from Shinkyō the capital of Manchuria by train and ordered that general citizen were not permitted moving out from Shinkyō. For example, the Military police of Kanto Army drove away citizen who gathered to the station and the leading members of Kanto Army took refuge from Shinkyō by train. Soldiers in a part of Kanto Army still had been

fought desperately against Soviet Army at the front line but the leading members of Kanto Army did not send ammunition and foods for them consequently abandoned soldiers. Resident in Manchuria knew this cowardly behavior of the leading members of Kanto Army lost reliance on the Japanese Army completely. After the end of the war, Soviet Army took not only soldiers but also general men to Siberia compulsorily and it was said that general men were made up the loss of Kanto Army.

Tyranny by Soviet Army

After the end of the war, Soviet soldiers killed and raped Japanese in Manchuria. First time Chinese also did same violence but gradually tried to stop the violence of Soviet soldiers with amazement. Some of Japanese people running away from the border had left their babies to Chinese rather than killed babies by Soviet soldiers. Chinese wanted babies and received them exchanging for foods or sometimes plundered. These babies became abandoned war orphans. Soviet Army carried out almost of all machines from every factory in Manchuria and took away precious metals and estates of

Japanese. The price of them were estimated over ten trillion yen converted to the present value.

Chinese and the Allies made a protest but Soviet refused for the protest and said that was a trophy. And Soviet forced 562,000 of soldiers and 11,000 civilian to work in Siberia like as slaves. The information between Japan and Manchuria, North Korea and Northern Islands which were under occupation by Soviet stopped.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan knew that Soviet took Japanese soldiers to Siberia by AP news agency in March 1946 for the first time. The action of Soviet should not be permitted by international law. It was strange that Japan did not make protest against Soviet. In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany negotiated against Soviet immediately after the war and succeeded to return Germany soldiers home quickly. It was said that there were no staffs to know the international law and circumstances at the leading members in Japan. Finally Japanese government made a proposition for repatriation of resident in Manchuria safely against Soviet government in August 27. At the time, Japanese government could not know that there happened such a cruel

action in Siberia. In 2 years after end of the war, 200,000 of Japanese died in Manchuria and 100,000 died in Siberia. Communication of cease fire was not through same as in the case of Manchuria, there were Japanese soldiers who had been hid over 10 years in southern island.

The cause of Japanese suicide war

Japanese government and the military had heavy responsibility for bringing Japan to the suicide war but general people were not normal too. After the victory of Japan-Sino war and Japan-Russia war, people tended to support the military and also the media with newspaper as leader that agitated the militaristic stream, had important influence. The worst cause for the war was that Government, military and media had not a sense to catch an international situation precisely and Government carried out the policy not to open right information to the public.

Japanese media had been supported the war on many cases by newspapers but after the war they never reflected on themselves and shelved their responsibility and just consistently criticized the war.

The education in Japan after the war

Most Japanese who was born after the war did not know about the war because they had not been taught about the war. Their father's generation who participated in the war shut their mouths and they did not transfer their experiences to their son's generation consequently there happened many abuse for the next age. Japanese leaders had been avoided to have national strategy in the excess of fear of failure in the before war strategy and selected the easy way to follow to USA or Soviet. Japanese leaders had been took the foreign policy that earnestly would avoid a trouble with other countries. Japanese who got these education lost independences and diminished the consciousness keeping nationality. Particularly the education lacked about the behavior of Japan and international situation during modern ages. On the other hands young people in China and Korea still remembered hatred against Japan even after 60 years from the war. Some Chinese student had been studying abroad in Japan said that Japanese is essentially an accomplished villain who did inhuman act terribly during the China-Japan

wars, consequently it is natural that some Chinese commit a crime to some extent in Japan. That because they were taught Japanese inhuman act terribly during Japan-China war by the textbook. There were a few descriptions about the history before the World War II . Their textbook did not describe the relation between China and Japan in old times and suddenly come up mad Japanese for war. Their bad feeling for Japan would never improve unless their textbook unchanged.

According to the stream of modern history, a colonial policy had not been thought as a crime until around 1910. Helen Mears said in her work “Mirror for Americans: Japan” that there were no choice making a colony or becoming colony. But the situation changed from assertion of USA president Wilson opposing to colonization in 1917. Japan could not grasp these international situations and deepened being isolated among the world. Japan took a wrong course after Japan-China war and committed serious crime against China.

Prevent a war

We should think that a war leads people insane and come to a miserable end and have an effect on them for a long time. We should prevent a war whatever may happen.

But still wars happen in the world. A trouble related an ethnic conflict or a religious conflict is very difficult to solve. It is important discussing sufficiently with having international sense and forgiving with the mind of tolerance.

We need a defense system to prevent invasion and terrorism but should avoid oppressive action as former Japanese army. Civilian control is important. We should consolidate laws and observe them.

It is natural there are people who has various thoughts in the country. It is inexcusable giving biased information and controlling public opinion. The influence of mass media for people's action is very strong. It is important that mass media give proper information and cool judgment.

Confusion of Japan, just after the war

Pacific war finished. People were known by the broadcast of Emperor that Japan surrendered at noon August 15, 1945. Some people who had

been resisting against the war were glad that surrender means liberation but most people became a state of stupor because they had not been known correct information and had concentrated to the war. They could not realize the feeling of finish the war. We could see crying people in front of the Imperial palace. Most people could realize a happiness getting out from the war when electric lights were lighted by relieved a black out at August 20. But in the people's actual life they do their very best for living every day because people were on the verge of starvation by lack foods.

Desperate battle had been continued at Manchuria and Sakhalin until September 1945 because of the clumsiness of the central office of military authorities. On the other side in the home land, demobilization of domestic force made haste and some staffs of army rushed to capture military goods.

Suzuki Kantaro (鈴木貫太郎) cabinet changed to Higasikuninomiya (東久邇宮内閣) cabinet August 17. Prime minister Higasikuninomiya announced that emperor wished happiness of the human beings and the world peace and Higasikuninomiya explained that all Japanese

should repent and national unity.

Establishment of GHQ

August 28 1945, advance troops of the Allies came to Atsugi and established GHQ at Yokohama. August 30, Douglas MacArthur the executive commander of the Allied Forces arrived at Atsugi with corn pipe in his hand.

September 2, MacArthur and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Shigemitsu signed the instrument of surrender on US war ship Missouri in Tokyo bay. September 4, Shigemitsu visited MacArthur and confirmed that Allied Forces did not have the intention for military administration and would admit the Tenno (Emperor) system.

USA shaped the plans for occupation that were Japan would never become a menace against USA and would establish peaceful and responsible government. USA decided to use the right through Japanese government and organizations including Emperor. September 11, GHQ ordered to arrest 39 war criminals including Tojo Hideki (東条英機) .

September 15, MacArthur moved GHQ to Daiichi Life Insurance Building in Tokyo.

Movement for changing education

Before indication of definite plan from occupation forces, Japanese government considered importance of education and the Minister of Education Maeda Tamon (前田多門) announced that “Not only learn by heart but also think by yourself and improve your wisdom” , “Recognize importance of science” on the radio program “For young nation”. This was the epoch-making things comparing former policy that government had been suppressed people criticizing. September 15, the Minister of Education announced “Education plan for construction new Japan” and published at first section improvement of general level of intelligence. In Okinawa US Army restarted school by private teachers on August 15, and in mainland schools were restarted soon.

September 20, the Ministry of Education notified elimination of wartime teaching materials by the order from GHQ and pupil were made paint their textbooks by black ink.

The reason why Japan emphasized education was that parents watching children rushed to get chocolates and chewing gum thrown by US

soldiers, felt importance of education. I think that we could be reconstructed very soon after the war not disperse our mind because we still had our Emperor. Strange to say we thought that Emperor was responsible for the war but we could not stop respecting him.

Livelihood of common people

MacArthur expected that Japanese people would accept new thinking easily after becoming a state of stupor with a defeat, and his thought became as he expected, Japanese people became to have a respect for democracy of USA soon.

September 15, Japanese-American conversation notebook was published and 3million 60thousand of that were sold out in 3months.

People could not live with distribution so that they rushed to get foods at black market. For fulfilling these needs there became so many black markets so called "blue heaven market" in every places and at that time there were 76,000 street venders in Tokyo.

October 11, first movie after the war "A gentle breeze" released and the song in parenthesis "Song of Apple" became a big hit. October 29, the Nippon hypothec bank sold the first lottery.

Incidentally the first prize was 100,000 yen.

Starting GHQ plan for Japan

September 22, USA announced “the first stage plan for Japan” and presented “civil right order” including abolishment of restriction for politics and religion in October 4.

Higasikuninomiya cabinet who put up liberalist did not include communists in their freedom thought but MacArthur ordered releasing political criminals, abolishment of police for controlling thoughts and the Peace Regulation. Higashikuninomiya cabinet was not satisfied with the order and resigned in a body consequently changed to Shidehara cabinet in October 9.

October 10, political criminals including leaders of communist were discharged after 18 years by the order of civil rights from GHQ and they announced abolishment of the Tennou (Emperor) system and establishment republic government. By the facts, people could feel actual freedom and got the chance to stand up in a sense from confusion.

Continuously, MacArthur presented the requests about “liberation of woman”, “promote labor

union”, “liberalize school education”, “release from despotic government”, “democratize of economy” to new prime minister Shidehara.

As the result of these democratize policy, broadcasting turned back to regular programs and NHK started to broadcast “weather reports”, “jazz music”, which were prohibited before. September 23, US military band appeared on the stage of Japan-American radio concert.

Also newspaper publishing was liberalized and over 250 press companies were born.

End of October, the Ministry of Education established the committee for renovation of citizen’s education and reported reviving the thought of democracy in Taisho period that the contents were understanding of representative system and recognizing proper world circumstances. Education of history was also discussed and recognized established theories which were used the results of anthropology and archeology. Middle aged researchers had been understood the state textbooks were unscientific but young people could not overcome the thought of the war time education for a while.

Continuously, GHQ presented the order for democratization. GHQ ordered dismantle of

the plutocracy in November 6, separation of Shintoism from nation in December 15, stop teaching morals and Japanese history and geography in December 31. And purge of militarists, amendment to the constitution, agrarian reform and other reforms were ordered by GHQ. And the justice for B,C class war crime was stated in December 17, 1945.

Political association, organize labor union

As the establishment of political association became free, the Socialist Party in November 2 and the Liberal Party in November 9 were organized. December 1, All Japan Teacher's Conference was organized and the labor unions were born one after another. Until the end of 1945, a number of labor union became 508 and 6months later the number became 12,606 and the union member increased to 3,680,000 from 380,000 in 6months.

Democratize innovation, new constitution

The year of 1946 (Showa 21) started with the Emperor Hirohito's "human declaration" that he denied deification by himself on New Year's Day. January 4, GHQ ordered purged militarists from

public service. From February 1, the agrarian reform was enforced and government took land away from absent landowners and gave it to tenants with cheap price.

February 3, MacArthur ordered GHQ to make a draft of Japanese constitution. MacArthur said to the Premier Shidehara that “Emperor as a symbol and renouncement of war were 2 basic principles and this was the only way to keep the Tennou system against the opposition of Soviet Union. Soviet opposed Tennou system and China asserted that maintaining Tennou system should be decided by national referendum. 71% of USA people approved abolition of Tennou system by public opinion census. It was said that the USA authorities paid attention to a tendency for starting discussing about Tennou system and forced establish new Japanese Constitution made by USA taking the initiative for political growing up of Japanese people.

November 3, 1946, Japanese constitution was promulgated and May 3, 1947, it was enforced.

The first general election

April 10, 1946, the first general election after the war was performed and also the first woman

suffrage was performed too and 39 woman member of Diet were born. As a result of general election Japan Liberal Party became in the first place and the progress party that has been supported Shidehara cabinet since the end of the war fell down to the second place.

Food shortage, Material shortage

In year of 1946, still food shortage has been continued and plants of consumer goods operated only 20~30% of that of before the war. Inflation grew more intense and people were very hard to live.

Over 100,000 people gathered to demonstration in Tokyo April and May 1946, and they wanted foods. June 1946, repatriation from Manchuria was stated consequently supply shortage became strictly and caused inflation. The Ministry Commerce and Industry announced the distribution system in July 23, 1946. Sports shoes were distributed from schools by lot.

Foods shortage continued to the next year, a judge died by malnutrition because he ate only distribution foods in Tokyo. It was necessary to get foods from black market. People went to the country side and get foods by barter from

farmers. Tenant farmer's position became high with an agrarian reform.

Consolidation of laws

March 31, 1947, Japan Democratic Party was organized. The number of the party was 145 and became the first party in the House of Representatives. The House of aristocrat was abolished and in April 20 the first election of the House of Councilors performed.

April 5, the first election of governors and mayors and woman village chiefs was born.

The Labor Standards Law was promulgated in April 7, 1947, and Japan Constitution was enforced in May 3.

The Far East international military justice

The Far East international military justice, Tokyo justice, was started in May 3, 1946.

In November 1948, Tokyo justice passed judgment. For A class war crimes including crime for peace, ordinary war crime, crime for humanity, death by hanging were 7, life imprisonment were 16 and imprisonment for a term were 2. The result of examination taught us "(1) The Emperor was just a seal machine

who did not have responsibility for the fate of the nation, (2) The governing class stood for pacifism but their action was only bringing about a war, (3) The governing class were not interested in people's livelihood and had not sympathy any more.

The Allied Forces judged 5,700 B,C class war crimes severally and 920 were executed. In Soviet Union 10,000 were convicted and 3,000 were executed.

There were comments for property of the justice at the end of the war but it can be said that as the result Japan could remain the shape once at least settled. But the responsibility of the governing class that pull Japanese people into the war by force would not be able to exempted.

In conclusion

It can be said that the pacific war was settled once at least by the Far East international military justice. But several types of aftereffect would remain for a long time. But I wonder why we Japanese society changed suddenly and simply. I could not understand deeply because I was just 8 years old but how people who battled

actually changed in their mind.

As much as seeing the history, I thought Japanese were more revengeful. Or Japanese were unexpectedly frank saying defeat was defeat. Or as MacArthur said, Japanese became blankly by being destroyed completely and were at the occupation force's beck. Any way, we Japanese changed completely after the war. And as we learned we can change, we should change Japan to better direction. The renovation of the Meiji could be a similar situation. Man can change and should change for progressing. It can be said at every case.