

Zen in War



by

Gábor Fabricius

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The Pacific 80 years War

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Foreword

Being born a Hungarian, raised a Ronin-Refugee in Denmark from 1956, I happened to find a home in Japan since 1971 resulting in these writings with the following intention:

Honoring the dead and cautioning the living.

It is a handbook for high school- and university students in Japan, China, Korea and Vietnam as well as the USA and other Pacific countries, written with the conviction that they all deserve to know as much perspective about their resent history as possible.

I hope that many, better and more accomplished historical works will follow.

I believe in the eventual success of the search for historical truth, irrespective of shallow national, political and bigot religious and racial interests, and I am sure that the youth of modern, progressive, pragmatic Asia/Pacific Rim of today desire to become aware of the aspects, facts and reality of the bloody Pacific 20th century.

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Introduction

Usually a hundred years has to pass, before historic conflicts, wars and events can emerge and be analysed free of tainted and biased political and religious interests, as well as glorification of the victorious and demonization of the defeated.

The Pacific war is no exception, and until recently most historical works about the conflict have been obviously one sided, branding Japan as the sole aggressor and all other parties as victims.

But that is no way to write history.

These commonly accepted, comfortably shallow *victory-addicted* historians, having published thousands of books and articles on the Pacific War, often ignore the fact that *war is a mere continuation of politics by other means* (Clausewitz), and that both Japan and America only pursued their state policy; this resulted in that many large and small events led to the spectacular military confrontation between the two major Pacific powers ending in a total restructuring and transformation of the political, economical and military landscape of Asia and the Pacific of today.

The first casualty in any armed conflict is the truth, so in my book I have tried to avoid branding like aggressor, war criminal, savage, fanatic, fascistic, militaristic and imperialistic. I have tried to understand how and why a historically relatively peaceful (having not been at war for almost 300 years since 1603), progressive Japan, with no allies, (Germany actually being the ally of nationalist China,) ended up in one of history's bloodiest conflicts with such overwhelming, superior combined adversaries as USA, UK, Canada, Australia and China, later additionally the USSR.

Nevertheless it is now a matter of historical record that once the conflict between Japan and China escalated into a full fledged, total war with the USA and UK, the Japanese did not pull their punches and displayed a modern naval/aerial military excellence that forever put the western-christian superiority legend to rest. This later inspired other Asian and African nations to armed resistance against all forms of colonialism and foreign domination.

It also became evident that all US supported Asian leaders, including Chiang Kai-sheek, Syngman Rhee, Ngo Dinh Diem and Marcos were all failures, ultimately resulting in America losing most of its influence in Far Eastern events and major economies by the end of 1980's.

My conclusion is, that the Pearl Harbour-Hiroshima chain of events were only a part of an ongoing, larger, more complex, hegemony-oriented, geopolitical scenario, not to be distorted by forcing the conflict into a mere five years called The Second World War.

To get a clear view, first of all the beginning and end of the conflict and thus the name must be revised and pinpointed.

Names such as

WW II (European history writing),

Greater Asian War (official Japanese name from 1941),

The 15 Years War (according to Chinese and Korean history books)

are all misleading since the Pacific War did not start in 1931 (battle of Mukden) or in 1941 (Pearl Harbour) and it did not end in 1945 (Hiroshima-Nagasaki).

Rising above political conventionalism and the superficial historical establishment, accepting the fact that many wars start with a peace treaty, we can safely establish the beginning of the conflict as 1895 (Shimonoseki Peace Treaty) and the end as 1975 (Fall or liberation of Saigon depending of point of view).

This 80 years period is an unbroken chain of small and big battles and armed conflicts one leading to the other, with an array of treaties, military alliances, revolts, coup d'etats, between ever changing parties and interests. Including opium traffickers, californian sugar barons, emerging oil giants, and industrialists all led by the escalating ambitions of The New Colonialism in the Pacific and East Asia, the major players being USA, UK, France, Holland, Japan, Russia/Soviet Union and China.

In the USA, legendary President Theodore Roosevelt, setting the course for the *American century* in October 29, 1900 announced:

I wish to see the United States the dominant power on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Actually he was only, officially institutionalizing the dramatic aggressive American westward expansion, beginning with the gentle annexation of Oregon with the Pacific harbours Seattle and Portland from Britain, and the conquest of 1.300.000 sq. km of Mexican national territory after a brutal war. This ended with Mexico ceding the present day California, Nevada, Utah, part of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Texas, America paying Mexico 18 million \$(about 450 million in todays dollars) or about half the amount the US had offered Mexico before the war.

In 1867 USA had purchased Alaska for \$7.2 million from Imperial Russia, adding another 1.520.000 sq. km to US territory and geographically embracing the Pacific Ocean ready to future westward expansion eyeing the domination of China as final American industrial-political and strategical-naval goal. Crowning the intruding into the Pacific with the annexation of Hawaii and the Philippines the USA was now dominating the Pacific after the American-missionary backed overthrow of The Hawaiian Kingdom of Queen Lili'uokalani on January 17, 1893 and the US war with Spain by the end of the century.



(1) Map of American westward conquests, annexations and acquisitions in the 19 century

After the bloody Philippine-American war (1899-1902) and the first spectacular Japanese victories in 1895 over China and in 1905 over Russia the USA began viewing Japan a serious obstacle to American domination of China and the Pacific at large, resulting in the major powers of Pacific Asia emerging as potential opponents; modern progressive, homogeneous Imperial Japan and neo-colonialist, fundamentalist Christian USA.

Of course wars never go according to plan, conflicts have their own inertia and nobody thought at the beginning of The Pacific 80 Years War that it would become so long and so bloody.

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Education

1963 - 1966 Akademisk Studenterkursus

1966 - 1971 University of Copenhagen

1976 - 1978 Eastasiatic Institute, Japanese studies

Work Experience

1972-1976

Scandinavian Pavilion, Sapporo, Manager of Import Responsible for finding Scandinavian companies and importing their products to Japan, establishing a permanent exhibition and wholesale - retail outlet. Product line included Scandinavian design, gold and silver jewelry, fur coats and textiles, cross country skiing equipment, etc.

1978-1981

Helpmates International, Tokyo, Consultant Servicing international companies in Japan with executive search and human resources mainly mid-level area. Clients included banks (Bankers Trust, Paribas, Dresdner Bank, Goldman Sachs, etc.), manufacturing companies (Bosch Japan, GE, Tandem Computers, Castrol, etc.) as well as various other international corporations.

1981-1996

SGM Corporation, Tokyo, President Established own executive search company, rapidly becoming strong in the Tokyo market for human resources and executive recruiting of highly qualified and top-notch Japanese executives for very demanding and competitive multinational corporations.

Clients include Volvo, Mercedes Benz, Alfa Romeo, Ford Japan, Pirelli as well as major financial institutions such as Kidder Peabody, Bankers Trust, Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal, Credito Italiano.

1997-present

Japanese Internet Marketing Inc, President Established the major Japanese portal <http://naruhodo.com> with over 650.000 pw/month, providing efficient and economic advertising platform for companies and services focusing on reaching the Japanese consumer directly.

Client-list at

<http://twwt.com>

Other projects include:

<http://job.twwt.com> (GCC)

<http://photo.twwt.com>

Languages

Fluent in Danish, English, German, Hungarian, Japanese.
Swedish and Norwegian understood well.
Some French.

Interests/Hobbies

International affairs, corporate and national cultures, history and linguistics, nature, environment, gastronomy, art and antics. Sportsman and black belt holder in Shotokan Karate. Mid-level Chess player and rusty Bridge enthusiast.

Literature

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