

OUR GREATER ASIA PRINCIPLE

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This manuscript represents the gists of lectures made by Councillor Matsui on Greater Asia Principle at the meetings which were held at various places in Kyushu at the end of May, 1936.

II

On looking back the present situation in Asia, nothing is of more urgent need than the adjustment of problems between China and Japan which are considered to be the center of Asia in order to see the establishment of the Asiatic union successfully realized. On the contrary, however, the state of affairs between China and Japan is a very unfortunate one with repeated struggles and continued antagonism between the two. Therefore, the most urgent task for the Asiatic movement of the day is to investigate these causes and to carry out the drastic improvements.

In addition, there is something which I wish to make clear concerning our intentions at this opportunity. It is because our Greater Asia Principle has often been misunderstood on some points by the people in general and I consider it necessary for us to prevent them from misunderstanding such points. Firstly, Western peoples have

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often criticized our movements saying that they are based upon the so-called Oriental Monroe Doctrine. What we call the Greater Asia Principle is, however, never the Oriental Monroe Doctrine. On the contrary, it is an entirely opposite advocacy. It is the West-and-East-brotherhood principle or the world co-existence principle. Furthermore, in these days, such words as the 'Japan-Manchoukuo Economic Bloc', or the 'Sino-Japan-Manchoukuo Bloc' have frequently been used by the world people. The Greater Asia Principle too has often been misunderstood as if it were a so-called bloc principle like the above. This, however, is absolutely never the object of the Greater Asia Principle in which we place our perfect confidence.

In the present situation in the world, people go by the economic bloc principles. Not only in England and America, but also in all other big Powers in the world, people are competing with one another, on the basis of their economic bloc principle. In order to meet the present situation, we are obliged to take temporarily the means of bloc economy, but this is not what we are aiming at. The economic policy that we are sincerely hoping for is the world co-operative economy or the free economy.

Further I should like to speak out most frankly that

our Greater Asia Principle does not necessarily mean the entire expulsion of the Europeans and Americans from all the places in Asia. We pay our respect to the cultural efforts made by Europeans and Americans in Asia for the past century, and we do not wish for the destruction of their present political and economic state of affairs. In other words, all Europeans and Americans who understand the culture peculiar to Asia and will sincerely co-operate with us for the benefit of the Asiatic race and for the welfare of Asia are, we believe, our true friends or comrades. We require Europeans and Americans to gain this judgment and understanding, and at the same time, strongly wish to urge the original Asiatic peoples to bestir themselves greatly and in addition to reconsider their resolution to the utmost of their power at this juncture.

VI

Among the countries in the world, there are some countries which were founded by power. There are again some countries which were founded by wealth. As far as Japan is concerned, the same is not true, Japan was founded neither by power nor by wealth. Japan has been in existence solely with justice since the beginning of its foundation. We are aware of the true value of power and wealth for

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attaining our just objects. We know that from olden times the country which was founded by power has fallen down of itself, and the prosperity obtained by wealth has come to decay in due course of time. As for our country, the Land of Rising Sun which has been ruled by our sun goddess, she constantly keeps her principle constantly unchanged, every day improves and prospers, and stands entirely outside the prosperity and decline of the world. This is due to the brilliancy which has been produced by justice.