

88

NIHON NO SOKO JIKARA
(Basic Strength of Japan)

BB

CC

Summary of

NIHON NO SOKOJIKARA
(The Basic Strength of Japan)

by
SHIMOMURA Hiroshi

Published by Daiichi Shobo in October 1941

This 366 page volume is a collection of essays written by SHIMOMURA for various magazines. Its contents are:

Chapter I. The New Order

Thinking of the Times.
Imperial Assistance Diet.
Reforming the Diet System.
Prefectural Blocs.
New Order Queries and Answers.
The New Order and Going Too Far.
The German Soldiers in Paris.
Bulgaria and Japan-Germany.
Ten Rules of National Livelihood.
The New Order and Mussolini and Hitler.
Send-off.
One Meal Per Day.
The Story of Rice.
New Order for the Doctor and the Noodle Shop.
The Inherent Strength of Japan (The Colonization of Manchuria).
Wartime New Order in Sports.
The "Nisei" Abroad.
On the Felicity of a Will.
A 100,000,000 Population and Venereal Diseases.
Rice-Diet New Order.
The Housing Problem.
Economic Offenses.
The Opening of Tokyo Port.

Chapter II. Current Notes

Reorganization of the International Olympics.
Looking Back at the Year of 2,600 (1940).
Sports in 2,601 (1941).
The Trend of the Times and Athletic Associations.
Talk on the New Year Golf.
A Visit to the Home for the Blind.
Who's Despoiling the Chrysanthemum.

Summary of NIHON NO SOKOJIKARA
(The Basic Strength of Japan)

On the Upbringing Manners of Children.
Early Meiji Era Plays.
Miscellaneous Personal Affairs.
Standard Gauge Railway and a Will.
Flying Talks.
The West Lake of Hangchow.
The Traveling Automobile
A Tour of the Sanin (Tottori Prefecture) District.
Winter Panorama.
Recollections of 50 Years Ago.
Housing and Cheques.
Communications (Telegraph & Telephone) and War.
The Sakai Case

Chapter III. On Solving Current Problems

Query and Answer Interview by SHUFU-NO-TOMO (Women's) Magazine.
Birth of the Konoye Cabinet.
The Effects of the Anglo-German War on Japan and America.
The Tripartite (Japan, Germany & Italy) Alliance.
French Indo-China and the Netherlands Indies.
The New Order and Women.
The Imperial Assistance Association and Women.
Essentials on the Establishment of a Population Policy.
A Japanese-American War? (Not even God Knows)
The Tokyo Talks and the American-Japanese Problem.
The Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact.
The Near East Disturbances and Japan.
The Soviet-German War and Japan.

Since before the China Affair, the condition of Japan has been in need of a reorganization. This need developed to the extent of exterminating the political parties and creating the Imperial Rule Assistance Association. However, things have come to an impasse at present.

"Strike while the iron is hot," is an old saying. Since the May 15 and February 26 Incidents up to the present, the red hot iron has been readied on the forge many times. But always the blow was lacking or of insufficient force, and the iron has cooled off. This process has been repeated many times.

Compared with the events of the Meiji Restoration, the Showa Restoration lacks tension. Although one cannot expect the Showa Restoration to roll along smoothly, it nevertheless is taking up too much time. Contrary to expectation, the much-discussed reform of the Diet system has petered out. During the early part of the Diet, there was tension and the iron was hot. But, as usual, the blow lacked sufficient force and the iron is about to cool off. (Pages 16 and 17)

Summary of NIHON NO SOKOJIKARA

Mussolini and Hitler are endowed not only with strength but with enthusiasm and a warm human touch. They are not merely addicted to theoretical pratings. They draw on the people's heartstrings. Instead of allowing the voice of dissatisfaction to manifest itself, they try to create joy and cheer by paying constant attention to the most trivial detail. (Page 52)

If the historical relations and geographical positions of Japan and the United States are taken into consideration, war between the two countries would be the height of folly. Now is the time for Japanese residing in America to act with the utmost prudence in the face of disharmony and attendant rumors flying between America and Japan. (Page 93)

Japan has no intention of agitating calm waters or of acting perversely. However, if the other party (U.S.) should come all the way out to the South Seas, a clash will not be avoidable. Although the United States talks as if she is the citadel of liberty, equality and charity, her history and war record since her founding indicates that she has always been the provoker of quarrels. She has never squared off in defense. Japan will not start a fight. But there is no telling that the other party (U.S.) will not start one. In which case, there is no alternative for Japan but to accept that challenge. (Page 318)

The Soviet Union, which has a common border with Japan, has the Anglo-German war to her west and the Sino-Japanese war to her east. She desires a prolongation of these two wars. She also hopes for an American-Japanese war. We must carefully guard against the future actions of the Soviet Union. International relations are extremely complicated. We must prepare ourselves in a serious and calm manner, since Japan is already in a state of war not only with the United States but with England and the Soviet Union.

Question: What was that?

Look at the long and bold aid-to-Chiang record of the United States since the outbreak of the China war and you will understand what I mean. Today's war is a total war. Sparks are flying in an economic war. The only thing short of actual war is that the guns are not booming. Only a step more will decide whether there will be war or not. I repeat that we must always be prepared. The rest is in the hands of God. (Pages 321 and 322).

88

KESSEN GO NO NIHON
(Japan After Decisive Battle)

CC

Summary of
KESSEN GO NO NIHON
(Japan After Decisive Battle)

by
SHIMOMURA Hiroshi

Published by Shincho Sha in 1944.

This book is an amplification of the author's speech in the House of Peers on 7 February 1944, in support of the huge budget bill. The author's main thoughts are as follows:

1. The cause of the War.

England and America are the exploitative rulers of over one-third of the world's population. Yet they bar the immigration of the peoples of Greater East Asia (to their spheres of influence). This racial discrimination is totally contrary to the ways of Heaven. None other than England and America are the real enemies of universal peace. This is clear from their prejudiced attitude towards the colored races; the Englishmen to the Indians, the Americans to the Negroes and the Anglo-Americans to the Japanese and Chinese. Without doubt it is this racial discrimination which constitutes the root, evil of all the troubles of the world at present. America instituted a gradual but inexorable policy of economic strangulation against Japan, and culminated by thrusting at us the 26 November 1941 ultimatum, the famous Hull Note. This ultimatum finally broke the patience of Japan, which had endured the unbearable oppression for so long, as pointed out in the Imperial rescript of War declaration.

2. The object of the War.

We are fighting for our own self-existence and self-defense as well as for the emancipation of the oppressed peoples of Great East Asia. Recently Roosevelt and Churchill issued the so-called Atlantic Charter in which the principle of democracy and international freedom is beautifully expounded. But in reality such principles have not been put into practice at all. Their old principle of national self-determination in Europe will also serve no purpose other than serving as the cause of the next war. The Charter is full of falsehoods and deception. On the other hand, the joint declaration of Greater East Asia, issued in Tokyo last autumn, emphasizes co-prosperity for the nations of East Asia. Thus the present War of Greater East Asia is a war which will decide whether the one billion peoples of East Asia will be emancipated or not.

3. Conclusion.

The war has finally reached the decisive stage. It goes without saying that we should unite as one to win the war, putting aside all individual complaints and discontents. America is surely trying to exterminate

KESSEN GO NO NIHON
(Japan After Decisive Battle)

us. They are fighting with the goad of racial antipathy, calling us insects and subhumans. The war between Japan and America was made inevitable by this racial antagonism of America. However, the United States knows that Japan is its strongest foe and difficult to defeat. Yet there are many weak points in our armor which must be revised at once. After all we must deeply fix in our minds the idea that this is a war of "kill or be killed."