

Interr. T050 - (15 Jan 46)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.**



CONTINUED INTERROGATION OF

General Hideki Tojo

Date and Time: 15 January 1946, 1400-1630 hours.

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan.

Present : General Hideki Tojo  
Mr. John W. Fihelly, Interrogator.  
Commander Yale Maxon, USNR, Interpreter.  
Miss Myrtle B. Mills, Stenographer.

Questions by: Mr. Fihelly.

Q.: What is your name?

A.: Hideki Tojo.

Q.: Were there in the Army groups, cliques, or organizations known as "young officer" groups?

A.: No. As you know, there are groups of various kinds in society generally, but in the Army I believe there were none. It was often asserted in the press and elsewhere that there were such cliques in the Army. When I was War Minister, I investigated the question very thoroughly because I believed that such organizations were not a good thing as they detracted from loyalty to the Throne which was of prime importance in the Army.

Q.: Is this impression of which you speak the impression you had at the time of the Manchurian and China Incidents, or is it your present impression?

A.: It is my present impression. As a practical matter, as you very well know, there was the February 26th uprising which was the work of some such group. These young officers, without orders, gathered together arms and did various unlawful acts. Such action, without Imperial sanction, is absolutely unpardonable. As a matter of fact, when I was War Minister the Emperor gave me strict orders not to permit any such groups. That was after and because of the February 26th Incident. Previous to that, the Emperor had given similar strict orders to General Terauchi, who preceded me as War Minister. The problem kept coming up and the Emperor's orders were very strict. I was worried about this



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matter all during the course of the war because it was the Emperor's order that there should be no such private cliques and there was dissatisfaction among various younger officers. However, at the end of the war, the Emperor's order against such private cliques was very explicit, and as you know, the mandate was obeyed.

Q.: Had there not been several other attempts prior to 1936 of younger officers against cabinet officers and other officials?

A.: Yes. There had been similar attempts before that from time to time, but the February 26th Incident was the biggest of these.

Q.: Is it not true that when some of the participants in this uprising were tried and were questioned, they stated that they were dissatisfied with the foreign policy of the Government and those individuals?

A.: It wasn't that there were specific questions, but there was such an atmosphere of discontent that led to the attempts being made.

Q.: Was the atmosphere of discontent of these individuals against the foreign policy of the Government?

A.: I was in Manchuria at the time so I don't know too well, but I believe that there was an atmosphere of disobedience to higher authority which led to various acts. As you know, following the February 26th incident, there were a series of court martials and that brought the matter to an end.

Q.: Do you not know that from time to time there were groups in the Army who were dissatisfied with the foreign policy of the Japanese Government?

A.: No. There were no such groups.

Q.: Do you know at any time that the Army, particularly the Kwantung Army, was dissatisfied with the foreign policy of the Government?

A.: Sometimes they were satisfied and sometimes they were dissatisfied.

Q.: Do you recall any of the reasons for the Army being dissatisfied with the foreign policy? In other words, what did they want that



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they were not getting? Were there any important times when the Army wanted to take action?

A.: Generally speaking, I cannot answer that.

Q.: Did you believe in the construction of a new order in East Asia?

A.: I thought it was an important thing. It became the policy of Japan at the time of and following the China Incident in 1937.

Q.: When did you first begin to believe in this?

A.: When it became the Government policy - at the time of and following the China Incident.

Q.: In your opinion, did the Manchurian Incident have anything to do with the creation of a new order in Asia? Do you think there was any relation between the Manchurian Incident and the creation of a new order in East Asia?

A.: It is my common sense opinion that there was a connection. After the Manchurian affair, there was a gradual process.

Q.: Was there any need of a new order in East Asia prior to the Manchurian Incident?

A.: Of course, there was a need for it, in my opinion, but the words "construction of a new order in East Asia" were not used until after the outbreak of the China Incident. Of course, I am speaking from a common sense point of view; I was not the responsible officer at that time.

Q.: What was the connection between the Manchurian Incident and the new order in East Asia that you mentioned was common sense?

A.: As I explained yesterday, there were fundamental ties between Japan and the continent.

Q.: What was this gradual process of development that you referred to?

A.: The words "building of a new order in East Asia" came to be used after the outbreak of the China Incident, but the Japanese people had felt for a long time previous the necessity for such a new order.

Q.: What was the necessity for the new order?



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A.: That will take quite a time to define.

Q.: Hit the high spots now and if at the end you want to make any supplemental statements within reason, you may do it. Just hit the high spots now. How long will it take to answer the question - what was the necessity for the new order?

A.: About twenty minutes.

Q.: Do you believe that there were reasons for the creation of the new order in East Asia prior to the Manchurian Incident?

A.: As I explained yesterday, there have been for a long time numerous ties between Japan and the continent. Of course, such a need existed for the new order. The matter of the creation of a new order in East Asia, which you have asked about, is a matter of fundamental importance and I should like very much to be able to tell you why it is so.

There were close relations between China, Japan, and Manchuria which have existed for a long period. There was always a need for Japan and China to have close ties. That need has existed from very early times.

Q.: Do you agree with the statement which General Shigeru Honjo, who was President of the Military Protection Board, is reported to have made at a meeting in Japan on or about 1 March 1941, "that the Manchurian Incident was the start of the creation of a new world order"? Can you answer yes or no?

A.: Well, to speak finally, I believe I agree.

Q.: State whether or not the need for the new order in Asia was not one of the main reasons leading up to and resulting in the war with the United States.

A.: No.

Q.: State whether or not the need for the new order in Asia had anything to do with the leading up to the recent war Japan had with Great Britain.

A.: Indirectly, it was a cause of the war between Japan and England.

Q.: Do you mean by that that Great Britain had territory which Japan felt she should have in Asia? Was the status quo in the Far East one of the reasons for the war with England? What, if anything, was there important about the status quo?



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A.: I think it was one of the reasons for the war between Great Britain and Japan. As I explained yesterday, unless the large view is taken, it is impossible to understand it. In East Asia, especially in China, there are (1) a wealth of natural resources; (2) ~~there is~~ a large population which also means a large ability to consume and large buying powers; (3) ~~East Asia has~~ a developed culture which is different from the culture of Europe and America. These three things I believe are the basic causes. Another fundamental cause I believe is this: that God has given to the races of men born on this planet the right to live and the right to exist. These two things I believe are the basic causes for the war.

Another fundamental reason I believe is as follows: The people who live in East Asia have their own ancient culture. For more than 100 years the British, representing another culture, have been in China bringing this different culture with them, but contrary to such places as Africa, where the British were able to spread their own culture, the people of East Asia possess critical faculties. Therefore, particularly after the Japanese-Chinese War of 1894-95, the people of East Asia viewed with alarm the evident intentions of European nations, such as England, Germany, Portugal, and France, to divide China into spheres of interest. It is true that powers, such as Britain, had rights, but balanced against these rights is the fundamental right of people to live. Therefore, some lawful adjustment was necessary. The Japanese policy was to insure the stability of East Asia and thus to contribute to world peace. Japan wished, as the central power in East Asia, to insure the stability of the Far East and to avoid chaotic conditions.

Q.: Japan would be the central power of the new sphere in the development of Eastern Asia?

A.: Whichever power was the most powerful power would be the central one. Now, for example, I believe that China has become the central power in East Asia. This matter is of extreme importance. Therefore, please take care that there is no mistake. By the word "central power", it is not meant that the other nations in East Asia would be under Japan, but only that Japan, by reason of her greater strength, would have the initiative. Furthermore, it was not intended to push aside the interests of European powers and America in the Far East, but only to effect lawful adjustments.



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These reasons that I have stated are, in my opinion, the basic reasons which led up to the war between Japan and Great Britain.

Q.: This will be enough for today. It has been rather slow, but we want to take as much time as possible so you may express yourself freely. Under the American concept of justice a defendant is presumed to be innocent until he is shown to be guilty. You are to have time to explain things fully and may make a supplemental statement after the questioning is over if you desire.

A.: Thank you. These are important matters for Japan and for world peace. What happens to me is of slight importance but the matters themselves are important.

\* \* \* \* \*



Certificate of Interpreter

I, Yale Maxon, Cmdr., USNR, 11-35-72  
(Name) (Serial Number)

being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of 6 pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Yale Maxon  
Yale Maxon, Cmdr., USNR

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of August, 1946.

John W. Fihelly  
John W. Fihelly

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer,  
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Myrtle B. Mills, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Myrtle B. Mills  
Myrtle B. Mills

Certificate of Interrogator

I, John W. Fihelly, certify that on 15  
day of Jan., 1946, personally appeared before me TOJO  
Hideki, and according to Commander Yale Maxon, USNR,

Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

John W. Fihelly  
John W. Fihelly

TOKYO  
(Place)

12 August 46  
(Date)