

Ms. 2180

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"The Way of Japan and the Japanese"
by OKAWA, Shumei
(Excerpts)

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(Pages 125-126) Asia and Europe in the History of the World.

The fact that Japan has hitherto had practically no connection with world history means, in my opinion, that Japan has to render her services towards a mission which is greater than anything other countries have ever achieved. What, then, is this mission which has no parallel ever since the commencement of world history? As is being suggested by many people, I believe that our mission lies in realizing the unification of the civilization of Europe and that of Asia and to thereby open a new page in the history of the world.

(Pages 142-143) I am afraid that a war between the great powers of the East and West which must be fought at the risk of their whole existence is, as was the case in the past, again a fate now inevitable for the advent of a new world. This does not by any means imply, however, that all Asia as a body will wage war against the whole of Europe. In the actual circumstances, one country representing Europe and one representing Asia will be chosen as the champions of the West and the East respectively, and they will have to fight for the realization of a new world. In very truth it seems to me that Providence is trying to elect Japan as the said champion of the East.

It seems to me that all the preparations we have made in the long period of past three thousand years have been meant for this purpose. This is truly a sublime and grand mission, we must say. In order to fulfill this sublime mission, Japan and the Japanese must endeavour to develop a strong moralistic spirit and to materialize that spirit in the life of the individual and that of the nation. With this, I close my lecture.