

Bringing Japan's Imperial Vision into the Classroom by Employing a Japanese Illustrated Map of the World, 1932: An Exercise in Understanding World History through Politicized Map-Making

The oldest illustrated map of the world was made in Babylonia in the 6th century B.C.E. It is not known when or where such maps were first used in a classroom, but their virtues for instructors and students of world history have long been noted.¹ Unlike other map renderings, illustrated maps are useful for presenting geographical locations *and* relevant qualitative information simultaneously. In addition, they are works of art that can seize the attention of even the most inattentive learners. This makes them extremely valuable to world history instructors, as once student attention is achieved, the path to skill-building and appreciation of world history themes and analysis has been opened. Teachers can then move forward to the examination of socio-political content of this illustrated map by unpacking subtle cultural messages present in the art of the map, or by focusing on the overt expression of the world views of the map's creators and publisher.

This article will provide a guide for the study of an illustrated map—provided above—that appeared in the Japanese magazine, *Hinode* ("Sunrise") in September 1932.² The map reflects the world of the creators and publishers in the summer of 1932. It addresses events such as the Great Depression, the Mohandas K. Gandhi-led anti-colonial resistance in India, Japan's expansion into Manchuria, the rise of authoritarianism in Europe, and the transition from the Hoover to Roosevelt Administration in the United States. That the map is clearly politically freighted can heighten its use in world history classrooms at all levels of instruction when combined with proper prompts. The caricatures of leaders such as Gandhi, Adolf Hitler, and Joseph Stalin can be used to help students grasp various personalities, issues, and trends of the day, as well as more subtle developments, such as the perception of the Soviet Union as both an inspiration and a menace to other states.



Image 1: Inahara Katsuji, et al. “Hitome de Waku Sekai Manga Genjō Chizu,” “[The Cartoon map that allows you to understand the current world affairs at one glance”]. *Hinode* (Tokyo: Shinchōsha), September, 1932. The map can be found at <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-359516141/view>. The original is available free online through TROVE (a consortium of Australian libraries and archives) under conditions of use acknowledged in accordance with provisions for its use at <https://www.nla.gov.au/about-this-site/copyright>. The following illustrations to the map are all from this source. Captions serve only to assist in identification for students.

The following sections of this work provide background information on the production of the map; the significance of 1932 for Japan; a visual breakdown by section (also achievable by expanding the map above) to aid in its closer examination; and a section offering brief identification of notable persons and other items that appear on the map. Suggested study questions, resources, and classroom activities to assist students in analyzing the map are provided in the Appendix.

Background Information on the Map and the Significance of 1932 to Japan

The map employed here was an insert for a monthly magazine called *Hinode*, meaning “Sunrise.” It was produced by one of Japan’s largest publishers, Shinchōsha, and *Hinode* was

in print from August 1932 to December 1945. Nationalistic in its orientation, its intended audience was the adult general public, offering essays, fiction, as well as non-fiction.³ The map was included in *Hinode's* second issue (September 1932), and entitled *Hitomede wakarumanga sekai genjō chizu* 一目でわかる漫画世界現状地図 [The Cartoon map that allows you to understand the current world affairs at one glance]. The map was illustrated by Shishito Sakō 穴戸左行 (1888–1969) and it lists four editorial supervisors: Maita Minoru 米田実 (1878–1948), Inahara Katsuji 稲原勝治 (1880–1946), Ōyama Ujirō 大山卯次郎 (1870–1939), and Noda Ryōji 野田良治 (1875–1968).⁴ The magazine included a 31-page companion booklet, *Sekai genjō hayawakari dokuhon* 世界現状早わかり読本 [Quick guide to current world affairs], written by Maita and edited by Inahara.⁵ The fact that Maita and Inahara's names appear on both map and booklet suggests that they were the central figures of the project. Educated at the University of Oregon (undergraduate) and the University of Iowa (Master's level), Maita Minoru was a professor of international law and diplomatic history at Meiji University who also worked for Japanese newspapers. Inahara Katsuji was the chief editor of *Tokyo Nichinichi Shinbun* (a daily newspaper) who studied at Stanford (BA) and Harvard (MA).⁶ Other figures listed in the map production, Ōyama Ujirō was a JD, who served as the Vice Consul-General of Japan in Los Angeles around 1922, and published numerous books on US-Japan relations. Noda Ryōji was a secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Brazil, and he produced a Japanese-Portuguese dictionary as well as written several books on South America. The involvement of these figures was evident in the fact that the map and the booklet had a strong emphasis on US-Japan relations as well as on immigration issues.



Image 2: Map Cover with caricatures of world leaders.



Image 3: Cover of the companion booklet.



Image 4: Cover of *Hinode*, August 1932.



Image 5: Cover and back cover of *Hinode*. February 1942.

The World in Flux: East Asia

When the map was produced in summer 1932, the impact of the Great Depression was still strongly felt around the world. The Lausanne Conference (June 16-July 9, 1932) which reduced Germany's wartime debts, had just been completed and another major conference was underway: the London Economic Conference (July 1933). As for Japan, 1932 was a time of tension, anxiety, and hope. Tension and anxiety mainly arose from 1) the emergence of the Soviet Union (USSR) and the growth of communism, 2) relationship with the United States and the United Kingdom, and 3) population pressure. For some, Manchuria and Inner Mongolia (満蒙 *Man-Mō*) offered a solution to many of these problems, resulting in the Manchurian Incident in September 1931 and the subsequent "independence" of Manchukuo (*kuo* means "country" in Chinese) from China in March 1932. The map addresses all of these issues as seen here.

As of 1932, Japan controlled much larger territory than today: the southern half of Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands, Korea, and Taiwan. Two Japanese leaders included on the map are Prime Minister Saitō Makoto 齋藤 実 (PM, 26 May 1932—8 July 1934) and the Governor-General of Korea, Ugaki Kazushige 宇垣 一成, (second term, 1931–1936). Alongside Saitō are ghostly looking Japanese wearing straw hats, and the caption states that the Prime Minister is racking his brains to save impoverished peasants. The map indicates the newly established Manchukuo and its Chief Executive (two years later, Emperor), Puyi 溥儀/溥儀 (1906–1967), the former Emperor of the Qing. The map also includes General Ma Zhan-shan 馬占山/馬占山 who opposed Japan's control of Manchuria and was then a fugitive



Image 6: East Asia.

roaming around Manchurian wilderness. He appears as a puppet of Zhang Xueliang 张学良/張學良 (a son of the warlord, Zhang Zuolin 张作霖/張作霖), who was located in north-east China. This, along with the bandits, implies that Puyi needing help from Japan. North of Manchuria was the Soviet Union, whose Trans-Siberian Railways not only connected to Manchuria but also owned and controlled the Northern Manchurian Railway until it was sold to Manchukuo in 1935. Details will be offered in Part II of this study.

The Presence of the USSR and the Growth of Communism

For Japan, Russia had been the country considered as a threat to national security, and two countries had competed for the influence over Korea and Manchuria since the latter half of the nineteenth century. After the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Japan gained access to South Manchuria Railway Zone as well as Guangdong (Kwangtung) Leased Territory at the tip of the Liaodong Peninsula, but Russians, as stated above, continued to control the northern section of the railway. Moreover, the rise of the Soviet Union and “leftists”



Image 7: Russia.

both inside and outside of Japan created additional concerns for Japan at this time. The Soviet Union's overtly anti-colonial, anti-monarchal, and anti-capitalist stances, as well as Marxism's international character, were alarming to the Japanese government. The Chinese Communist Party, officially formed in 1921, traced its origin to the anti-Japanese May Fourth Movement (1919). Though illegal in Japanese-controlled areas, the Communist Parties were also formed in Japan (1922) and in Korea (1925). The leftist ideologies were also seemingly growing within Japan as indicated by the growth of "Proletarian" art and literature, labor movements, as well as disputes between the landlords and tenant farmers. In this context, while the Japanese government decided to recognize the Soviet Union diplomatically in 1925, it also passed a series of laws to "maintain the public order" mainly to curtail the growth of Communism. Still, the development within the USSR under Stalin's leadership was alarming.

The map depicts Stalin with his hands up in the air, with one hand holding his cap. Right below and behind Stalin are factories, indicating his push for industrialization, with a female worker on a chimney. Also depicted on the USSR is a church "converted to a factory," a man in a tractor, men on the trans-Siberian railway, and peasants, including one labeled *nōminhei* 農民兵, "peasant-soldier." A man with a samovar having tea, as well as some natural resources such as coal and iron are also seen on the map. What the map depicts is the Soviet Union about to finish its first five-year plan (1928–1932). The booklet pointed out that what Stalin was building was far from a paradise for the proletariat; instead, the Soviet Union was building a militant state that was possibly plotting to engage in a war against the world. The booklet explained that the Soviet Union at this moment was too

poor to engage in fighting (unless attacked), but it was prepared to strike Manchukuo if it was necessary. Thus, Manchuria was considered the bulwark against possible Russian expansion, “the first line of defense.”⁷ A few years later, Japan would enter the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany (1936) and Italy (1937), creating the basis for future Tripartite Pact (1940) against those who did not share their vision of “new world order” such as the United States and Great Britain.

Tension, Rivalry, and Dependency: The United States and the British Empire

At least three people involved in the production of the *Hinode* map had lived in the United States for several years and they were keenly aware of the tension between the United States and Japan. The map contains several illustrations of Japanese and American naval and air forces. For example, image 8 shows a Japanese battleship and an American aircraft carrier (USS *Saratoga*). A statement on this section of the map notes:

It is said that a war between the United States and Japan is unavoidable. Everyone’s eyes are on these two countries. Not only has US Atlantic and Pacific Fleets trained jointly against their hypothetical enemy, Japan [but also] in May of this year, and Admiral [William] Pratt ordered the Atlantic Naval Force to join the Pacific Force, making the Pacific as their headquarter. If this cannot be considered the preparation for the war against Japan, then what can it be called as such?⁸

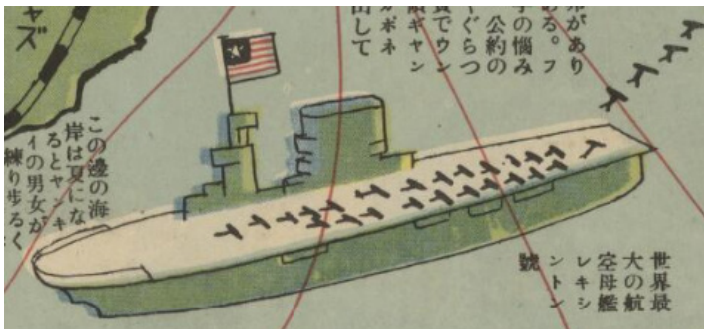
The map depicts the Philippines, a US protectorate, with a simplified US flag, a soldier and canons, with the caption “The Philippines will be the base from which the US-Japanese war will be engaged (See below, Image 9). Americans are afraid of an increase in the Japanese population in the Philippines.” The map’s caption by Hawaii notes of “uneasiness” of seeing an expansion of naval fleets at Pearl Harbor. Additionally, the mapmakers observed contentious relationships with Britain, indicated by cannons in Singapore (Image



Image 8: A Japanese battleship and USS *Saratoga*.

10). A part of these tensions stemmed from these two countries' refusal to adjust the ratio of warships from 5:5:3 (as agreed in the Washington Naval Treaty, 1922) to 10:10:7 that Japan requested at the London Naval Conference in 1930.⁹ Those involved in *Hinode* seemed to have viewed Japan surrounded by potential enemies, such as the USSR, USA, and the British Empire, foreshadowing what was to come several years later, as reflected in the detail in images 9, 10, and 11 below of Americans in the Philippines, the British in Singapore and the USS Lexington, the largest aircraft carrier in the world, respectively.

Yet, these countries were also Japan's most important trade partners. The United States, in particular, had been the largest trade partner for many years, purchasing a large quantity of raw silk and supplying critical items for Japan's industrial developments such as raw cotton, machinery, and petroleum. The British Empire, especially India, also provided raw cotton as well as a market for Japanese manufactured goods. After the Great Depression and passing of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff in the United States in 1930, Japan felt the impact especially in 1931 when it hit the rock bottom. The situation was made worse by the unusually cold winter in northern Japan in the same year, resulting in a major shortage of food.



Images 9 (top left): The Philippines;
10 (top right): Singapore;
and 11 (bottom): USS Lexington.

		1931	1930	1929	1928
Guangdong (Kwangtung) Province	export	¥65,541*	¥86,814	¥124,476	¥110,190
	import	¥92,165	¥121,405	¥166,322	¥150,439
China	export	¥155,750	¥260,825	¥346,652	¥373,141
	import	¥145,697	¥161,700	¥209,975	¥234,514
Brit. India	export	¥110,367	¥129,262	¥198,056	¥146,006
	import	¥133,165	¥180,424	¥288,119	¥284,798
UK	export	¥53,166	¥61,793	¥63,183	¥58,904
	import	¥63,334	¥92,557	¥153,045	¥164,883
USA	export	¥425,330	¥506,200	¥940,084	¥826,141
	import	¥342,289	¥442,882	¥654,058	¥625,536
Total	export	¥1,146,981	¥1,469,852	¥2,148,618	¥1,971,955
	import	¥1,235,672	¥1,546,070	¥2,216,238	¥2,196,314

*All Numbers = Thousand Yen

Image 12: Chart of Japan's trade with select foreign countries, 1928–1931. Data based on The Department of Finance (Japan), *Nihon Gaikoku bōeki nemphō / 1930 Annual Return of the Foreign Trade of Japan*, vol. II, 2–3, and 1933 edition, vol. II, 2–3.

When the *Hinode* map was printed in September 1932, Japan was on its way to economic recovery. Much of success is attributed to the Minister of Finance, Takahashi Korekiyo 高橋 是清 (1854–1936), nicknamed “Japan’s John Maynard Keynes,” who took the position in December 1931. Takahashi’s economic policies had three main components: “1) the abandonment of the gold standard (December 1931) and export promotion; 2) low-interest rates, and 3) deficit spending financed by the sales of bonds through the Bank of Japan (beginning with the fiscal 1932 budget).”¹⁰ Quickly, the Japanese economy started to recover, and by late 1932, the recession was over, and in 1935, exports came to exceed imports. Raw silk, the mainstay of Japanese exports since the opening of the country, and an item that can be domestically obtained, still occupied the largest portion of exports, but its demand and price had declined significantly by the early 1930s, partly due to the rise of rayon, “artificial silk,” and the Japanese farmers were suffering greatly.¹¹ In the meanwhile, Japan’s cotton industry was growing steadily, and by 1933, Japan became the largest exporter of cotton textiles, finding markets in the Dutch Indies, British India, China (including Manchukuo), Egypt, etc.¹² Clearly, this growth was depended on the imports of raw cotton from the United States and the British Empire (India). In addition to textiles, Japan also came to export various small manufactured goods and found new markets in Latin America, Africa, and Manchukuo.¹³ Thus, as of 1932, Japan was on its way to economic recovery, but its rise created more tensions with the competitors who also happen to be the suppliers of raw materials. Indeed, the British Empire was establishing its own trade bloc at Ottawa Economic Conference in summer 1932, when the map was drafted. Image 13 shows detail of Japanese commercial vessels near the coast of Peru and Chile.



Image 13: Japanese commercial ships near Peru and Chile.

In addition to the economic rivalry, race and immigration issues created another layer of tension between Japan and the United States (and to a lesser degree, the British Empire). As for the United States, it was well known that the Asian Exclusion Act of 1924 targeted Japanese immigrants, many of whom became successful farmers in California and other parts of the Western United States. In short, Japan was feeling the tension with the United States and Great Britain, yet found itself heavily dependent economically.

Population Pressure

In the late 1920s, the world was already alarmed by the rapid pace of population growth, as it was approaching 2 billion. In 1927, a famous birth control advocate, Margaret Sanger (1879–1966) organized the first World Population Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.¹⁴ In 1931, the International Congress for Studies Regarding Population met in Rome, Italy. In these conferences, the attendees discussed such issues as fertility, sterility, food supply, and international migration. As for Japan, the population issue was a grave concern at this time, since it was reaching almost 65,000,000 in 1930, compared to about 35,000,000 in 1875. Increased population meant increased demands for land, food, resources, and employment opportunities. Japan had sought to alleviate the problem by territorial expansion

and emigration ever since the beginning of the Meiji era, starting with the development of Hokkaido in 1869. The Japanese government encouraged the farmers to go into the wilderness of Hokkaido, tame the land, and settle, eventually turning the semi-arctic region into a successful agricultural powerhouse. Subsequently, the Japanese farmers moved into Taiwan, Korea, Southern Sakhalin, Guangdong Province (the tip of the Liaodong Peninsula), the South Seas Mandate, etc.¹⁵ In addition to the areas under Japanese control, the Japanese immigrants also found new homes in foreign lands, such as Hawaii, California, Brazil, and Peru. By the early 1930s, however, immigration restrictions imposed by the United States, combined with the economic hardship and food shortage (the famine of 1930–1931) created a heightened sense of anxiety over the food supply and overpopulation.

Manchuria

The Manchurian Incident and the establishment of Manchukuo took place against these backdrops. It is also significant to note that the *Hinode* map was printed right around the time when the Japan-Manchukuo Protocol (15 September 1932), which established “friendship” between the two countries was signed:

Japan recognizes the establishment of a free and independent Manchukuo in accordance with the free will of its inhabitants. Manchukuo has declared its intention of abiding by all international agreements pledged by the Republic of China. The government of Japan and the government of Manchukuo have established a perpetual friendly and neighborly relationship, mutually guaranteeing each other’s sovereignty. For the peace of East Asia:

1. Manchukuo, insofar as no future Japan-Manchukuo treaties to the contrary, respects the rights of Japanese government, government officials, and private citizens within the borders of Manchukuo.
2. Japan and Manchukuo pledge to cooperate in the maintenance of mutual peaceful existence by banding against common outside threats. The Japanese military forces are to be stationed in Manchukuo to this end.

This protocol is to be effective immediately upon signing. . . .¹⁶

The Japanese public, who had been fed the news that justified Japan’s position, welcomed the “friendship” with Manchukuo, creating a feverish excitement known as “Man-Mō Būmu “ 満蒙ブーム” or “Manchu-Mongolian Boom.”¹⁷ The Japanese media (newspapers, magazines, radio, and film strips) added to the excitement, presenting Manchuria as Japan’s “lifeline” (*seimeisen* 生命線). Indeed, Manchuria was perceived to provide 1) a bulwark against possible Soviet invasion, 2) natural resources, including coal and petroleum, 3) a place of Japanese settlement, and 4) a reliable trade partner. It also meant alleviating the population pressure, food shortage, and unemployment, since Manchuria was envisioned

to be the area where the Japanese farmers from economically depressed areas could go and settle. Despite the fact that the Finance Minister, Takahashi Korekiyo was not supportive of the mass migration, the first settler group, consisting of about 1500 soldier-farmers would leave for Manchuria on October 3, 1932, and start a village, called Iyasaka-mura 弥栄村. After the trial period (1932–1936) and the assassination of Takahashi in 1936, the Japanese government would devise a systematic plan to establish 1 million Japanese households in Manchuria over the next 20 years. Evidently, the plan was halted with the end of World War II, but a large number of Japanese farmers (both men and women) immigrated as a part of “Man-Mō kaitakudan 満蒙開拓団” (Manchuria-Mongolia Development Team). By the end of the Second World War, there were 1.5–2 million Japanese in Manchuria, the majority of them being civilians.¹⁸

In a retrospect, Manchukuo was Japan’s puppet state: its “independence” under its Emperor Puyi was a façade that hid the reality of Japanese imperialism. The Japanese government’s explicit ideal of “Gozoku kyōwa” 五族協和 (“Five Ethnic Groups [Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Manchurian, and Mongolian] in harmony” was just propaganda. The Japanese in actuality dominated the affairs of Manchuria, took the lands away from the local population, and became the landlords and extracted labor from the local population.¹⁹ Worse yet, during the war, the infamous Unit 731 of the Imperial Japanese Army would conduct cruel and lethal human experiments in Manchuria.

Nevertheless, as for the significance of Manchukuo to the Japanese economy (along with the aforementioned economic policies of Takahashi Korekiyo), there is no denying that it contributed to the overall growth in the early 1930s:

		1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Manchuria	export	¥150,859	¥126,045	¥107,151	¥82,071	¥25,947
	import	¥205,566	¥191,005	¥164,211	¥147,897	¥51,569
Guangdong	export	¥347,164	¥300,269	¥295,868	¥221,068	¥120,583
	import	¥33,848	¥25,517	¥27,279	¥20,161	¥76,720
China	export	¥159,966	¥148,788	¥117,062	¥108,253,	¥129,578
	import	¥154,837	¥133,815	¥119,573	¥113,357	¥77,175
Brit India	export	¥259,107	¥275,637	¥238,220	¥205,154	¥192,491
	import	¥372,009	¥305,646	¥289,671	¥204,737	¥116,865
UK	export	¥147,309	¥119,458	¥140,269	¥87,849	¥60,536
	import	¥72,941	¥82,160	¥70,036	¥82,548	¥78,760
USA	export	¥594,251	¥535,514	¥398,928	¥492,237	¥445,147
	import	¥847,453	¥809,644	¥769,359	¥620,788	¥509,873
total	export	¥2,692,975	¥2,499,073	¥2,171,924	¥1,881,045	¥1,409,991
	import	¥2,763,681	¥2,472,236	¥2,282,601	¥1,917,219	¥1,431,461

*All Numbers = Thousand Yen

Image 14: Chart of Japan’s trade with select foreign countries, 1932–1936. Data based on The Department of Finance (Japan), *Nihon Gaikoku bōeki nemphō / 1936 Annual Return of the Foreign Trade of Japan*, vol. II, 2–4, and 1933 edition, vol. II, 2–3. The author selected the years before the escalation of war with China in 1937 (the Second Sino-Japanese War).

As seen from the chart, while the United States remained the largest trade partner and imports from the US increased over time, exports had declined significantly after 1929 (It was ¥940,084,000 in 1929. See Image 12). Once Manchukuo was established, not only Manchukuo became an important trade partner, but export to Guangdong Province also increased considerably. From Manchukuo, Japan came to import such products as soybeans and coal, while exporting manufactured goods, most notably textile, thus securing a significant market for their growing industry.

Hence, 1932 for Japan was the year of recovery and hope, though at a high cost to the people of Manchuria. Clearly, the mapmakers were supportive of the Manchurian project and in a sense participated in “Man-Mo Boom.” The map depicts Manchuria still unstable plagued by “bandits,” and the booklet explained that the new country needed Japan’s help since it did “not have experience or knowledge in governing.”²⁰ While justifying Japan’s control of Manchuria in the name of “friendship” and “assistance,” Manchuria became the land that could alleviate many problems that Japan was facing at the time. The establishment of Manchukuo in 1932 was the most significant change to the world map for the Japanese and it is probably why *Hinode* decided to produce the illustrated map showing the new world that was emerging.

Part II: Explanations of other notable persons and items on the map

In addition to the establishment of Manchukuo and issues concerning Japan, the map captures other important developments around the world in the early 1930s. Teachers can choose a theme or themes such as the impact of the Great Depression, the rise of totalitarianism, and colonialism and create their own lessons suitable for their classrooms.

Air Travel: The map depicts major railways, commercial and military ships as well as sea lanes. Also prominently featured are airplanes and airships such as Zeppelin (Image 15) and USS Akron (Image16).²¹ The map and accompanying booklet note the race to



Image 15: Zeppelin.



Image 16: USS Akron.



Image 17: Post and Getty.



Image 18: Richard Byrd.

travel around the world as quickly as possible and mention Wiley Post and Harold Getty’s record-breaking (less than 9 days) flight in 1931 (Image 17). The map also mentions airplanes used in the exploration of Antarctica by Richard Byrd (Image 18).

China: The map depicts China in the middle of the civil war (1927–1936) between the Nationalists [Guomindang / Koumintang] and Communists and general instability of the region, where several factions competed: Jiang Jieshi 蔣介石 (more commonly known as Chiang Kai-shek, based on Cantonese romanization) of the Nanjing [Nationalist] government, Hu Hanmin 胡漢民/胡漢民 of Canton Government [a faction within the Nationalist Party], and Zhang Xueliang 张学良/張學良 in the northeast. These are illustrated as follows below: Jiang Jieshi /Chiang Kai-Shek (Image 19), Hu Hanmin (Image 20), Zhang Xueliang (Image 21), Chinese communist “bandits” (Image 22), and a stereotypical Chinese opium addict (Image 23).



Image 19: Chiang Kai-shek.



Image 20: Hu Hanmin.



Image 21: Zhang Xueliang.



Image 22: Communist bandits.



Image 23: Opium addict.

India (Image 24): The map depicts two tiny British officers holding a rope wrapped around giant Gandhi as if to rein him in, but having a hard time doing so, which recalls a scene from *Gulliver's Travels*. The caption reads "Gandhi of India: the cause of a headache for the British government." The image contains subjects commonly associated with India, such as the Taj Mahal, diamonds, a cobra, and a tiger. A box on top of the railway is black tea, and the nearby caption reads "the home of Lipton tea." The map also notes that "Ceylon, the producer of 1/6 of all tea production," establishing the importance of tea in the region. The railways connected with port cities suggest the strategic strength of the British in India.

The South Seas Mandate (Image 25) was a group of islands that formerly belonged to Germany that Japan managed after Germany's defeat in WWI. Note claims adjacent to American territory, Guam.

Mainland Indochina (Image 26): The map notes the recent change in Siam (Thailand), which became a constitutional monarchy. It is referring to the bloodless Siamese Revolution that took place on 24 June 1932. **French Indochina** depicts one Chinese person holding money, representing the economic importance of overseas Chinese there. Two darker-skinned rice farmers serve as representations of the Cambodian and Vietnamese populations. Note the commercially and strategically important railway from Indochina to China.



Image 24: India.

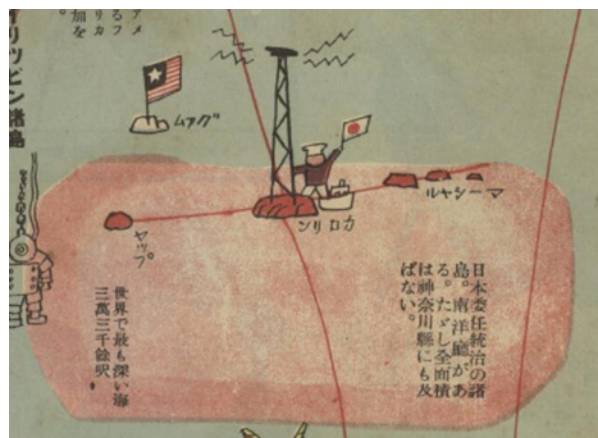


Image 25: South Seas Mandate.

The map also depicts a baseball player (Babe Ruth), a boxer, a football player (though the Japanese map calls “rugby”), a jazz musician playing saxophone (clearly a black person), a cowboy, a filmmaker, and a vacationer (in Florida). There is an oversized blond woman wearing a red dress (who resembles an actor Greta Garbo) sitting on a desk and drinking tea while a rather diminutive man is “working.” The caption reads “Women in paradise; men work,” which reflects Japanese perceptions of American gender relations where women were thought to be too bossy.²² The unemployed and those demanding the end of prohibition are also found on the map. The map also proudly showcases two short and yellow Japanese athletes (representing a male and a female) standing next to a tall red-haired Caucasian man. The caption references the 140 Japanese athletes competing in the 1932 Summer Olympic Games held in Los Angeles. Note the red dot (the sun) national symbol on their uniforms.



Image 28: USA, Jazz musician, unemployed, and a vacationer.



Image 29: Babe Ruth, etc.



Image 30: Olympic, etc.

South America (Image 31 and 32): The South America section does not contain any political figures but depicts several exotic animals. There are very few local people illustrated on the map. One remarkable aspect of this section is Japanese immigrants, especially on Brazil. After the United States passed the Immigration Act in 1924, and before Brazil put the restriction in 1934, it was a major destination for Japanese immigrants. The caption reads “Brazilians, unlike Americans, do not have racial prejudice and they welcome Japanese immigrants. Japanese immigrants are making great contributions to Brazil. Currently, there are about 130000 Japanese in Brazil.” The map depicts the Japanese immigrants along with Japanese goods coming toward Brazil. It also shows a Japanese man marrying a Brazilian woman in a Christian church. Note also recognition of Brazil as a coffee producer and neighboring Uruguay as a cattle producer (Image 32)

Africa (Image 33, 34, and 35): Colonialism is evident from the Africa section. The map indicates colonial borders: pink for British-controlled areas, green for France, yellow for Italy, and gray for Portugal. Though it is hard to tell if the Belgian Congo is in a different color from Britain, and it is labeled as such. The Mitumba Mountains are prominently featured creating a boundary between Belgian and British-controlled areas. The mapmakers used the same green for Ethiopia (Abyssinia) as France, but the caption clarifies that it has had three-thousand years of monarchy and it is a “the country of warriors” (something that the Japanese of the day would probably found interesting). Egypt features the Sphinx, Pyramids, and a mummy. Also eminently presented is Mount Kilimanjaro. This section



Image 31: South America.



Image 32: Brazil and Japanese immigrants.



Image 33: Africa.



Image 34: Egypt and Ethiopia.



Image 35: Congo.

does not have any specific political leaders but contains a number of wild and domesticated animals (e.g. sheep on South Africa), local people, and a few white people (on Sudan, South Africa, and French Congo). One white person on the map by French Congo is identified as a filmmaker from the United States. This may be the maker of *Africa Speaks*, a 1930 documentary film. Note the symbols of Islam and Christianity which appear at the approximate location of Jerusalem.

Europe

- **Second Spanish Republic (1931–1939)** (Image 36). The caption notes that Spain had recently gone through a revolution and abolished the monarchy. Although a left-leaning government under the leadership of President Niceto Alcalá-Zamora (President: 10 December 1931–7 April 1936—pictured) was in power, it would soon go through the time of a civil war between left-leaning faction and right-leaning faction (Nationalists), resulting in General Francisco Franco’s dictatorship from 1939 (to 1975).
- **France** (Image 37) was under the leadership of Édouard Marie Herriot (PM, 3 June 1932 to Dec 18, 1932) when the map was made. Herriot is depicted as having a footbath in what appears to be gold coins with the caption “France suffers because it has too much money.”
- **Germany** (Image 38 and 39): The map depicts Adolf Hitler wrestling with President Paul von Hindenburg. Though Hindenburg defeated Hitler in April 1932 Presidential election, Hitler was becoming very influential in Germany. As of July 1932, Hitler had yet to be named the Chancellor, but the Nazi party had become the largest party in the Reichstag. The booklet notes that the Nazi Party had already established control over Prussia, “the heart of Germany,” and that Hitler already dominated the German political scene. It also remarks that Prussia recently (June 1932) passed legislation to confiscate the properties of the Jewish people.²³ The caption on image 39 (labeled “German Small Submarine”) as translated by this author, is “Despite



Image 36: Iberian Peninsula.



Image 37: France.



Image 38: Germany.

the fact that a major limitation was placed on Germany after the Great War, it did not give up and [Germany] is making small but well-equipped navy vassals, etc., that France is scared."

- **Italy** (Image 40) had been under the control of the Fascist party led by Benito Mussolini (on left) ever since his March on Rome in October 1922. Mussolini's right-hand man, Dino Grandi (Foreign Minister, 12 September 1929–20 July 1932) also appears on the map.
- The section on the **United Kingdom** (Image 41) prominently features Ramsey McDonald who led the coalition government (known as the National Government). Previously serving as the head of the Labor party (and becoming prime minister in 1924 and 1929), McDonald was denounced by the Labor Party as a traitor, but the Japanese booklet praises him for putting the nation's interest before that of his party. The booklet notes a high unemployment rate and decline of Britain as the center of the world economy after the First World War.²⁴



Image 39: German submarine.



Image 40: Italy.



Image 41: UK.



Image 42: Czechoslovakia.



Image 43: Poland.

- **Czechoslovakia** (Image 42) features Tomáš Masaryk, the President from 1918–1935. Having visited Japan in 1918, Dr. Masaryk appears to have been a popular figure in Japan.
- The section on **Poland** (Image 43) includes Ignacy Jan Paderewski, who was not in politics at this time but was known as a pianist turned into a politician.
- **Finland** (Image 44) features Paavo Nurmi, a runner, who was thought to be a “superhuman.”
- Mustapha Kemal Ataturk appears on **Turkey** (Image 45). The map states Ataturk (Kemal Pasha) is abolishing old Turkish customs and encouraging women to cut their hair. Alongside Ataturk is a woman dressed like a flapper.



Image 44: Finland.



Image 45: Turkey.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to offer a guide to using illustrated maps in world history courses through the analysis of an exemplary map which offers a snapshot of the world in summer 1932 as seen through the eyes of Japanese mapmakers. It was made and published around the time when Japan and the newly established puppet state, Manchukuo entered “a perpetual friendly and neighborly relationship,” in which Manchukuo recognized the right of the Japanese government, citizens, and military to operate in “free and independent” Manchukuo. This was especially significant since Japan considered Manchukuo to be the “lifeline” that could solve Japan’s problems well as “the first line of defense” against the possible Soviet expansion. The map helped to justify Japan’s action in Manchuria as it depicted the area to be plagued by instability and needing Japan’s aid. In addition to the change in Manchuria, the illustrated map captured other historically important moments, such as the Soviet Union nearing the completion of its first five-year plan, the rise of Adolf Hitler, the end year of the Hoover Administration, and Gandhi leadership in the independence movement. Instructors can use the map in various different ways to fit their classroom needs, and it is my hope that this guide will serve as a useful starting point for those world historians seeking to engage their students in research and analysis through illustrative maps.

Appendix: Suggested Student Questions and Assignments

Questions:

- What body of water is the center of the map?
- Is the map reflective of the actual size of territories, or do you think some areas are depicted larger than others?
- Do you recognize any figures depicted on the map? If so, who?
- Where do you think the map was made?

[Once it is established it is a map made in Japan in 1932]

- What territories are marked as “Japan”?
- Why is the territory north of the Korean Peninsula separated from other territories?
- Look for Japanese flags on the map. Where do you find them?
- What color is used for the skin color of the East Asian leaders?

[Questions for regions]

- What are depicted on _____?
- What can you tell what was going on in _____ in the early 1930s?
- What can you tell about the Japanese people’s view of _____?

Suggested Activity /Assignment 1

- Divide the class into groups and assign a region/theme. Each group examines the assigned section carefully.
- [HOMEWORK] Ask students to make a timeline covering relevant events before 1932, in 1932, and after 1932 up to the beginning of WWII. Ask them to find photos of items and persons depicted on the illustrated map and incorporate them into their timeline and share it with the class.
- Teachers can address several important themes depicted on the map.
 - Great Depression
 - The future Axis Powers
 - The USSR under Stalin
 - Chinese Civil War
 - The tension between Japan and the USA
 - Colonialism
 - Global Migration
 - Technology

Suggested Activity /Assignment 2

- Divide the class into groups and assign a region.
- Examine how the Japanese map depicts the area under question.
- Discuss what the description reveals about Japanese perceptions about the area.

Suggested Activity / Assignment 3

- Extract the East Asia section of the map, charts, the Japan-Manchukuo Protocol from Part I of this article. Obtain propaganda posters from Nagoya City Museum http://www.museum.city.nagoya.jp/exhibition/owari_joyubi_news/mansyuu/
- Discuss the significance of the change from Manchuria to Manchukuo. Examine how Japan justified the invasion of Manchuria through the map, the Protocol, and the posters.
- Examine the charts and the significance of Manchuria to the Japanese economy in the 1930s.
- For AP World History, have students analyze purpose, audience, point of view, or historical situation.

Masako N. Racel is Associate Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA. Her research interest centers upon cross-cultural interactions between Japanese and foreign societies. She can be reached at mracel@kennesaw.edu

NOTES

¹ See Gerald Danzer, *Discovering World History Through Maps and Transparencies* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2nd edition, 2000).

² This map can be found in the National Library of Australia digital collection, accessed at July 24, 2021, <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-359516141/view>. Japanese publishers have been quite adept at creating intricately illustrated maps and several other examples from the 20th century can be found in this online collection.

³ The magazine's covers were oftentimes suggestive of strong masculine Japan, featuring militant aspects such as airplanes, battleships, and soldiers. On some covers, the words *Kokumin taishū zasshi* 国民大衆雑誌 or *Kokumin hōkō zasshi* 国民奉公雑誌 can be seen, indicating that its audience was Japanese people (*koku* = 国 = nation, *min* = 民 = people) in general (*taishū* 大衆 = the masses) or the purpose of the magazine (*zasshi* 雑誌) was to serve (*hō* 奉) the public (*kō* 公).

⁴ East Asian names are presented in traditional fashion: family name followed by given name. Japanese terms are romanized according to the modified Hepburn system. The pinyin transliteration system was used for Chinese terms, followed by simplified and traditional characters. More familiar versions are also provided where appropriate.

⁵ Maita Minoru, *Sekai genjo hayawakari dokuhon* 世界現状早わかり読本 [Quick Guide to Current World Affairs: [thereafter "Booklet"]] (Tokyo: Kodansha, 1932).

⁶ Ito Shinya, "Kokusai mondai hyoronka no taigai ninshiki: Inahara Katsuji to Maita Minoru 国際問題評論家の対外認識—稲原勝治と米田実," Presentation given to Daito bunka daigaku kokusai hikaku seiji kenkyujo (2016), accessed July 25, 2021, <http://www.sito.jp/home/research/img/presentation4.pdf>

⁷ Maita, *Booklet*, 6, 16–18. The word "the first line of defense" is translated from "*Kokubō no dai issen* 国防の第一線."

⁸ Author's translation.

⁹ Andrew Gordon, *A Modern Japanese History: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 186. Compromise was reached at 10:10:6.975, but some considered it unacceptable and protested.

¹⁰ Dick K. Nanto, and Shinji Takagi. "Korekiyo Takahashi and Japan's Recovery from the Great Depression," *The American Economic Review* 75, no. 2 (1985): 371, accessed January 2020, <http://search.ebscohost.com.proxy.kennesaw.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsjsr&AN=edsjsr.1805627&site=eds-live&scope=site>.

¹¹ Some Japanese manufacturers decided to produce rayon ("artificial silk") in the late 1920s and early 1930s. By 1935, Japan became the second largest producer of rayon after the USA. Asahi Shinbun Keizaibu, *Showa Zaikaishi* [Economic History of the Showa Era] (Tokyo: Asahi Shinbun, 1936), 327.

¹² Asahi Shinbun Keizaibu, *Showa Zaikaishi*, 288–289. This was partly due to Toyota Industries Corporation opening a factory to manufacture automatic looms in 1926. Toyoda Sakichi (1867–1930) was long involved in the textile industry. He invented numerous weaving machines, the most significant one being the automatic loom that came to be mass-produced in Toyota Industrial Corporation. Today, the company is better known for automobiles.

¹³ Yasui Kunio, "Senkanki no yushutsu bōeki to yushutsuzakkarui" [Export Trade and Exported General Merchandise During the Interwar Period] *Keiei Kenkyū* 63, no. 3 (November 2012): 103–132.

¹⁴ Margaret Sanger, *Proceedings of the World Population Conference, held at the Salle centrale, Geneva, August 29th to September 3rd, 1927* (London: E. Arnold 1927).

¹⁵ Takeno Manabu, "Jinkō mondai to shokuminchi: 1920-30 nendai no Karafuto o chūshini [Population Issues and Colonies: Centered on Karafuro in the 1920s and 1930s]," *Hokkaido Daigaku Keizaigaku Kenshū* 50, no. 3 (December 2000): 117-132, accessed July 25, 2021, https://eprints.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2115/32208/1/50%283%29_P117-132.pdf .

¹⁶ The entire text of the Japan-Manchukuo Protocol can be found (in English and Japanese), accessed July 25, 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan%E2%80%93Manchukuo_Protocol While Japan secured this treaty, the League of Nation's investigation team lead by Victor Bulwer-Lytton, was about to publish its report, condemning the Japanese invasion of Manchuria (the report came out on October 2, 1932). The *Hinode* booklet expressed a sentiment of skepticism toward the League of Nations, stating that it was a fine organization when it was handling the affairs of Europe, but when it came to the affairs of the East, it was clueless. The Lytton report would add to the anti-West sentiment and in Feb 1933, Japan would leave the League of Nations.

¹⁷ Koresawa Hiroaki, "Nihon gakudō Shisetsu no ibentoka to sono seijiteki riyō: Manshukoku to shōjo shōnen." [The Development of the Japanese Children's Mission into a Mass Campaign and its Political Exploitation: Manchukuo and the Role of Boys and Girls] *Kokuritsu Rekishi Minzoku Hakubutsukan Kenkyū Hōkoku* [Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History] 206 (March 2017): 129-162.

¹⁸ Manshū kaitakushi kankōkai, ed., *Manshū kaitakushi* [History of Manchurian Frontier Development] (Tokyo: Manshū kaitakushi kankōkai, 1966), 436, states that there were about 1,550,000 Japanese in Manchuria at the end of WWII. The Japanese Overseas Migration Museum states that there were about 2 million in 1945, accessed July 25, 2021, <https://www.jica.go.jp/jomm/kokai/dai8kai.html>. There was a significant increase during the First Phase (1937-1941), compared to the trial period (1932-1936). Many of those recruited to go to Manchuria were young men and women (as brides) from areas that depended on silk production, which was rapidly declining with the rise of rayon. In addition to "regular settlers" (*ippan kaitakudan* 一般開拓団), young men between ages 16-19 were also sent as "youth volunteer army" (*seikyounen giyūgun* 青少年義勇軍: *giyūgun* literally means gi=justice, yū =courageous, gun=military). At the end of WWII, over 1 million people returned to Japan, but there were also those who died, lost, captured by the USSR (died or eventually returned to Japan) as well as stayed in Manchuria (such as widows and orphans with no means to return to Japan).

¹⁹ Hosoya Toru, "Man-Mō kaitakudan to genchi jyūmin: Nihonjin imin nyūshokuchi ni okeru 'minzoku kyōwa' no isō [Japanese Peasant Emigrants to Manchuria and Local Residents : The Phase of "Ethnic Harmony" at Japanese Immigrant Settlements] *Ritsumeikan Keizaigaku* [The Ritsumeikan Economic Review] 64 no.6 (Mar 2016:), 208-227.

²⁰ Maita, *Booklet*, 7.

²¹ This could be a good place to compare with another Japanese made illustrated map from 1924 which only notes a flight between London and Calais, accessed July 25, 2021, <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-234714230/view>.

²² The Japanese word used for paradise is *gokuraku*, which is a traditional term used in Buddhism and it implies an "extremely joyful or easy" place.

²³ Maita, *Booklet*, 24-25. The Japanese authors were sympathetic toward the Jewish people

²⁴ Maita, *Booklet*, 18-19.