

# The China Critic

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## JAPAN



## ATTACKS

## SHANGHAI

中國評論週報

Evidently they were planning a large-scale action to subdue the whole of North China. If their plan did not realise, it was due to the fact that the Japanese government felt the pressure of the world opinion, and called off these actions in a desperate move to minimize the seriousness of the imbroglio. In order to persuade the League Council not to have a hand in this matter, the Japanese spokesmen desperately termed the Manchurian affair a "local incident." Although they hopelessly failed in this, somehow they felt a right note had been struck, and from that time on they tried to create excuses for actions in various parts of China, under the cloak of "local incidents," thus enabling them to carry out their plan without the plans being exposed. But when we view the whole series of these "local incidents" together, their plan stands out naked. Most prominent of these local incidents are, of course, the attempts to capture Tientsin. But there are local incidents in Tsingtao, Foochow, Canton, and Shanghai. Waiving aside the incident of Tsingtao, which might be considered spontaneous and the Canton incident of which not much was known, the rest of the local incidents occurred in three coastal cities, one in North China, one in Central China and one in South China, and in each of these cities the local incidents were deliberately committed, or at least well planned, and further in each of these cities more than one incident occurred. When we take the three points—that the "local incidents" were well-planned, if not deliberate, that they happened more than once in each of the three cities and that these three cities are situated in North, Central and South China—together, is not Japan's subtler tactics as clear as daylight? To certain extent, we must admit, they were successful, but evidently they went "a little too far," when they started to occupy Chapei in the night of the 28th ultimo. Perhaps, it was due to miscalculation, perhaps Admiral Shiosawa thought the 19th Route Army would retreat as shamelessly as Chang Hsueh-liang, or might be wiped out in a night, and the next morning he would be able to send to Tokyo a message of complete victory. But if he thought so, he was greatly mistaken, whatever ground they gained in stealth and under the cover of the night, they lost on the next day. Not only has the Shanghai situation become a national issue both with Japan and China, but it has also become an international issue in Washington as well as in London, in Paris as well as in Berlin, in Moscow, as well as in Rome, an issue the end of which nobody can see now. But it has certainly exposed Japan's subtler tactics, when we remember that the Admiral

invaded Chapei after the Chinese answer had been considered as satisfactory and that almost as soon as the Mayor's office received the Admiral's proclamation of his intention to occupy Chapei, the Japanese fired the first shot. This reminds us of Abraham Lincoln's famous saying: You cannot fool all people all the time. Truth is out at last and right will yet eventually triumph.

### The New China

COMMENTING on the Sino-Japanese situation, the *New Chronicle of London* made a scathing attack on Japanese imperialism by quoting the well-known Greek apothegm that "those whom the gods want to destroy they first make mad." Let us parody the adage a little and present it to the Chinese people in this form: "Those whom the gods want to enliven they first make sad." There are perhaps no people on earth sadder than the Chinese now. Their country has been invaded; their homes burned; their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers slaughtered by enemies of paleolithic barbarity. And added to all this, there are 50,000,000 refugees on the Yangtse Valley, who will constitute a standing problem to all governments. All over the land, there is misery; poverty; insecurity; famine; flood. The worse has come to the worst; and it certainly can't be any worse. But perhaps, the Japanese invasion marks a turning point in China's destiny. The Hegelian dialectic turns itself. Out of the ashes of a distracted, invaded country, there may arise, phoenix-like, a new state out of the inflamed structure. The Chinese people may have a new birth of freedom and love as they never had before toward one another. Already, we are getting from the air an intense feeling of fellowship at Shanghai that used to be so cold and unfriendly. The conductors in the buses have become less boorish than they used to be. The lowest coolie in a tramcar now knows how to vacate his seat to a Chinese lady. Japan is on everybody's mouth, and everybody's face wears the look of anxiety not about himself but about the country's fate. We have come to learn to like each other and to condone each other's fault simply because we are all Chinese. And so out of the Japanese invasion there may come an untold amount of good. Let the Chinese remember these lines from R. B. Stevenson:

There is so much bad in the best of us,  
And so much good in the worst of us,  
That it ill becomes any of us,  
To find fault with the rest of us.

## Japan Attacks Shanghai

AT last, Japan has thrown aside her mask of hypocritical self righteousness and justification and is now openly challenging the world. No longer can she now make protestations to the effect that she is fully anxious to see the peace of the Far East preserved; neither can she brazen-facedly announce that whatever she does is purely for the purpose of self-protection. The action she has taken in Shanghai since the evening of January 28th has as a matter of fact made it very clear that she is now fully determined to grasp not only Manchuria but China proper, and that further she will put her diabolic schemes through regardless of the opposition and criticism of the other foreign powers.

To be sure, for the past two weeks the whole world has been viewing with grave concern the so-called Shanghai situation yet nobody has ever suspected that it would assume such alarming proportions. In fact, for a while, we were almost led to believe that there was no cause for worry, especially after news had been handed out in the afternoon of 28 that the Mayor of the Municipality of Greater Shanghai had unconditionally accepted the four demands of the Japanese. This action undertaken by the Mayor was laudatory, in view of the fact that it must have taken a good deal of courage on his part to agree to those demands, thus to invite adverse criticism not only from people who are connected with the anti-Japanese



ovement, but from those who are in sympathy with it. He agreed to those demands, however, because he fully realized that it was more advisable to suffer momentary humiliation than to endanger Shanghai and to involve China in hostilities with Japan. In other words, he was of the frame of mind that it was best for us to have a peaceful solution. That the Japanese were of different opinion of course was not his fault.

Up to the moment, we have not been able to discover the reason or reasons for Japan's action, although there can be no doubt now that it was the Japanese who should be held responsible for having started the fight. It is to be remembered that the reply of the mayor was forwarded to the Japanese Consulate at 1:45 p.m. on the 28th, when it was immediately announced that the acceptance was considered satisfactory "for the time being," meaning of course that the Japanese consular authorities would watch and see if the Chinese were really sincere in agreeing to the demands. In the meantime, the people of Shanghai were becoming deeply apprehensive. A state of emergency was declared at noon by the Shanghai Municipal Council, with the consequent mobilization of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps and the Police in the International Settlement. Foreign troops were also despatched to their previously assigned defensive positions on the borders of the International Settlement and French Concession, together with the erection of obstructive barriers on the important entering roads. The Japanese too had been busy during all this time. A Japanese motorboat was sent from her naval mooring off the French Bund to a strategic position alongside the Japanese Consulate, while Japanese marines with steel helmets and bayoneted rifles were stationed on North Szechuen Road. These coupled with the fact that the Japanese marines were found busy with preparation of barbed wire barricades soon made the people in the Hongkew and Chapei Districts very nervous. As a result, the people started to pour into the Settlement and the next thing we knew was that the firing had started.

According to a statement issued by Admiral Shiosawa, it was due to the fact that there had been a general restlessness that day that the Japanese navy decided to send out troops

to protect her nationals in the above mentioned district, but from the above, we can see that the restlessness should by no means be regarded as the excuse. On the contrary, the evacuation of the Chapei and Hongkew resident was entirely created by the war-like preparations undertaken by the Japanese marines. In saying therefore that the troop movement was on account of the "restlessness" is to commit the grave fallacy of inverting cause and effect.

In this connection, we might point out some of the mis-statements made by Ambassador Sato at the Council meeting of the League of Nations. First, it was reported that Mr. Sato had made the statement that "the Japanese marines were landed upon the advice of the commander of the foreign naval force." That was well and good, only let us not forget that the commander in question was no other than Admiral Shiosawa who is now directing Japanese operations against the Chinese. Secondly, Mr. Sato was known to have said that "while en route the Japanese were attacked by regular Chinese troops." That is another misleading statement, for the Chinese soldiers were stationed in Chinese territory known as Chapei, and the Japanese marines in Hongkew. The two districts are adjacent, it is true, but their respective military camps are very much far apart, hence there is no point in saying that the Chinese had fired the first shot. Besides, let us remember that the Chinese soldiers could not possibly cross the boundary and enter into the settlement. Had they done that, they would have been repulsed by the Shanghai Municipal Police, the Shanghai Volunteer Corps and the Foreign Police Force. The Japanese marines, on the other hand, are free to move within the settlement. In fact, they are using it as the base for their military operation, hence exposing to danger not only the lives and property of the Chinese but those of the foreigners as well.

All in all then, the truth is now out. Japan has sent the challenge to the rest of the Foreign Powers, who, she feels sure, would not dare to look askance upon her activities. Time may prove however that she is mistaken and that by following the course of actions she has taken in Shanghai Japan is only trying to commit suicide.

## World's Public Opinion And Japan

COMMENTING on the disturbance created by the Japanese taking law into their own hands on the 20th, ultimo, the *North China Daily News*, a paper that can by no means be said to be pro-Chinese, said on the 22nd: "It may be admitted that the incautiously unthinking approval, given by certain sections of foreign opinion to Japanese militarism in Manchuria, has tended to create a belief that anything the Japanese do in violation of what they consider to be their rights can be condoned. That notion should be promptly dissipated."

But heedless of such friendly warnings, the Japanese without provocation and after the Chinese had accepted their demands, started the invasion of Chapei in the night of the 20th ult. The following are what they by their rash actions brought upon themselves: *The News-Chronicle* of London on the 29th went even so far as quoting the proverb "Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad." Though we hesitate to use such strong language, yet there is some

truth in such an overstatement. If Japan should pursue in China the ruthless course in defiance of the world opinion, she may one day find the public opinion translated into action that will be too late for her to regret. On the same day *The Herald* of the same city concluded its comment on the Shanghai situation with this: "It may be on the cards that the new invasion of China may end not in victory but in the suicide of Japanese imperialism." *The London Times* frankly doubted the wisdom of the action. Nor was the effective Japanese propaganda able to distort the fact and *The Manchester Guardian* declared "The Japanese have followed up their demands at Shanghai by the definite occupation of Chinese territory despite Chinese compliance with the ultimatum" before strongly censuring the Japanese action.

On the 30th, *The Times*, London, wished that the fighting had occurred earlier so that the terms of representation by the British Government to the Japanese Govern-