

Japan worried about:

The Chinese nationalist movement (GMD)'s Northern March and its Western Support

Soviet Union's rapid industrialization

Growing Chinese Nationalism and Anti-Japanese feelings

Great Depression hurt Japan and they needed cheap resources and markets

Wanted to take Manchuria while China was decentralized (couldn't stop them)

Guangdong manifest destiny

After the failure to spark a military retaliation of Zhang's army, Emperor Showa demanded PM Tanaka Giiji's resignation (but he hadn't been involved).

In 1931 the Guangdong Army made its move to take the region. On the 18th of September, a bomb exploded on S. Manchurian Railway. Xueliang told his army to not interfere, but Guangdong army blamed Chinese anyway and took control of cities along the railway (without permission)

Manchukuo: By 1932 controlled 3 Manchurian provinces. Claimed Manchuria had been liberated to be independent (with the help of Japan) and renamed Manchukuo. But it was administered by Japan. Nominated the last Qing Emperor as regent in the new capital city of Changchun. Conquest was complete by 1934 and Puyi as emperor.

In Japan several factions within the military, diet, and imperial court were vying for power and no one could tell who supported or condemned Guangdong Army's actions.

Political Response: This was the period from chapter one with the rapid appointment and resignation/death of PMs. Gov. lacked credibility as it preached non-expansionism while military continued in Manchuria. These PMs often condemned Guangdong Army's action and worked towards peace (why nationalists assassinated them). Final assassination, Inukai Tsuyoshi over ceasefire in Shanghai, meant end of Taisho Democracy and beginning of National Unity Cabinets, made up of senior bureaucrats with little party representation, leading the country to restore stability.

Popular Response: The lives lost in the Russo-Japanese war made the public feel the actions in Manchuria were merely defending a hard fought victory prize. Those in favor of Manchuria Campaign stressed the resources garnered were vital to continual Japanese growth and without them the economy would collapse. The Japanese believed that under their governance and investment, the region would transform from impoverished into a paradise and be free of racial tension. Left-wingers were excited to go to Manchuria as a social experiment (this conveniently got rid of some left wingers). Manchuria would also alleviate the need for cheap land for the growing population and farmers (idea courtesy of Rural-Rescue Diet), but this didn't see the numbers Japan was hoping for. emigration to Manchuria was for economic and military reason. Encouraged to settle along S. Manchuria Railway and USSR border.

China's Response: Jiang (Nationalist Leader) urged Zhang (the Young Marshal) not to respond violently to the Japanese invasion, he hoped it would be limited and the West could reverse it. Jiang was also fighting the Communists in Southeast China at the time. Manchurian Public was furious with men wanting to fight, women offering to be nurses, workers strikes, and boycotts on Japanese companies and banks, but Jiang did nothing.

GMD's Reasoning: No match for the Guangdong Army, Jiang couldn't afford to send his best troops because he would lose his precarious hold on China, His top priority was to defeat the Communists, Most of the senior GMD officials were from Southern China so they didn't care as much

Shanghai Incident: In January of 1932, anti-Jap riots broke out in the Jap district of Shanghai. Japanese Marines were sent to restore order, along with a cruiser and 12 destroyers to bomb the Chinese section of the Jap District and aerial bombings destroyed houses and factories. A local war lord fought back with the help of the Green Gang. Jiang sent GMD troops after he realized the League wasn't going to help. A ceasefire was called on March 3rd 1932 (making Shanghai excluded the International Settlement a demilitarized zone)

International Response:

The international community did basically nothing in the Manchurian and Shanghai Incidents. London times reported that Japan had unnecessarily cast themselves as the villain, US claimed Tokyo was not at fault for the independent actions of the military, and Soviet Union was cool with it as long as Siberia was safe, so China was left alone. Jiang went to the LN for help as it had help establish treaties to defend China.

Lytton Commission build up

On September 22nd, 1931, LN wanted investigation into Manchurian events, but wanted US support

US advised no because Japan wasn't for it

LN told Jap to be out by November 16th, but Jap ignored it

Jap changed mind on investigation, Commission formed by Lytton (Viceroy of India) and action against Jap was halted.

China asked for trade sanctions on Jap but Great Depression meant no one wanted it.

Stimson Doctrine: Stimson (US Secretary of State) stated the US would not recognise any treaty that trampled on US rights or treaties. This meant it would refuse a treaty that denied the Open Door Policy and wouldn't recognise Manchukuo. Also, since Japan had violated the 9 Power Pact, US wasn't held to the naval restrictions anymore. However they did not lessen trade

8.) Britain rejected the Stimson Doctrine saying that Japan had assured continuation of the Open Door Policy and as such had not violated the 9 Power Pact. Also, Manchukuo's recognition had not been required so it was delayed until after the Report.

9.) Lytton Report: Sympathetic to Japanese grievances, but condemned their aggression and asserted Manchukuo was a mere puppet state.

10.) LN accepted this report, causing Japan to leave LN and occupy Jehol, which was past Manchurian borders.

11.) Tanggu Truce (China and Japan): Jehol was attached to Manchuria, gave Shanhaiguan Pass (between Manchuria and China) to Japan, region north of Beijing to be demilitarized. LN was slow to act but condemned actions. However, the government had no sway over military in Manchuria and public opinion was against it. Jiang continued to ignore Japanese until public opinion forced him to form a united front against them with the Communists.

Soviet Union's Response: Stalin was afraid of Japanese expansion into the USSR. The GMD refused to fight the Japanese, but fought the CPC. This was used for propaganda and the CPC declared war on Japan. Later the CPC would join with the GMD to form a Second United Front against Japan. Both China and USSR were able to repel Japan.

A Move to Global War: Japan was viewed as expansionist and unwilling or unable to abide by treaties. Germany grew bolder.

Second United Front: Despite the Fascist Blue Shirt Movement, Jiang insisted that it was not the right time to go to war with Japan in 1934, sensing a broader conflict coming. Jiang hired a German Veteran to train 80,000 men. Japan was continuing Northern incursions. Eventually Jiang said to focus efforts on the Japanese.

Jiang realized Japan was the biggest threat, and in the case of global war, would be willing to cease his campaign against the communists in order to maintain good relations with the Soviet Union. He was confident that he had suppressed the communist threat, he also inducted the red army into his own as the Eighth Route Army.

The Xi'an Incident: Unaware of the talks, angry over a lack of resistance to Japan, and fearing his replacement Zhang the Young Marshal plotted to kidnap Jiang. He joined with another warlord, Yang Hucheng, and in December 1936 during a routine inspection in Xi'an, Jiang was taken prisoner and only released at the public announcement of the Second United Front.

Political Tensions within Japan: The February Coup. Two Factions

The Imperial Way Faction (Kodoha): Overthrow the Zaibatsu and capitalism, assist the poverty stricken countryside, establish dictatorship loyal to the emperor.

The Control Faction (Toseiha): War against West and would rely on the Bureaucracy to run government and the Zaibatsu to create an ever increasingly strong army and navy.

In 1935, officer given task of demoting Imperial Way officers was killed with a sword. On February 26th the same year there was a coup by the Imperial Way to take over central Tokyo. Several officials executed, PM escaped because his brother-in-law was mistaken as him. The Emperor condemned the coup but it wasn't until the 29th that the navy was brought in to restore order. In order to ensure the authority of the Control Faction, the Army and Navy Ministers

would now have the right to approve all civilian appointments to the cabinet and the PM increased the military budget to finance rearmament. He also signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany.

Anti-Comintern Pact: the Anti -Comintern Pact was not meant as a groundwork for a future military or fascist pact. Japan signed it as they were worried about Soviet interests in Manchuria/Northern China. Japan tried to have Britain and Poland join the pact. Secret clause that if one of the signatories went to war with USSR none of the countries would aid USSR.
Japan = Honorary Aryan Italy = Mediterranean branch of Aryans

Sino-Japanese War 1937- 41: The Marco Polo Bridge Incident: Could be argued the inciting incident of WWII. On July 7th, 1937, a Japanese soldier wandered off to relieve himself. Fearing his kidnapping or death, his commanding officer called for a search. There was an exchange of fire with Chinese troops and a two-day standoff. At this point Jiang had to decide whether to write it off as another mistake or to draw the line to Japanese expansionism. The new Prime Minister, Prince Konoe Fumimaro, used this to stir up nationalism and shown support for the military by sending additional troops into northern China. Had little control and tried to shift blame.

Battle of Shanghai: On the 26th of July, Japan issued China an ultimatum: Leave Wanping within 24 hours (attacked early). China officially declared war on Japan on August 7th stating it was a war of self defence. Tokyo called for a war ending battle. China accidentally bombed the International Settlement. LN and the West did little to stop this conflict.

Brussels Conference: China went to the other signers of the 9 Power Pact for help. Britain was concerned as Shanghai had the most investment outside of the UK, but was reluctant to get involved because tensions were already brewing at home and would not economically sanction Japan without the US agreeing to too, but they were insistent on their isolation. Little to no support from other countries.

The Panay Incident: In December 1937 a patrol boat, the USS Panay, was sunk and a British gunboat, HMS Ladybird, came under fire as well. Britain was ready to send 9 ships if the US did the same, but they were isolationist. Britain realized that it couldn't depend on US assistance and all of Britain's dominions were also hesitant for another World War. However, the Soviet Union helped. They signed a nonaggression pact with the Nationalists on August 1st and sent significant aid to China. By the end of November the Chinese retreated and moved their capital from Nanjing to Chongqing

Nanjing: Japan's next target, this was the most horrendous battle of the 2nd Sino-Japanese War. The Japanese rounded up and executed men of military age, raped and killed women and girls, and were generally brutal towards the Chinese.

Response to Nanjing: In February 1938, a conference of the International Peace Campaign was held in London. That called for a boycott of Japanese goods and widespread protests. It argue that private boycotts could be effective (as the Government wasn't likely to do anything). Similar boycotts happened in the US as well. It was celebrated in Japan but the Government was upset that they hadn't captured the Chinese Government. It controlled the most densely populated coastal region, but had failed to end the conflict.

Historian and School	View Point
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Eri Hotta:

Immanuel Hsu:

Ian Buruma:

Gong:

Takemaro Mori:

Jonathan Fenby:

Colonel Ishiwara Kanji was magnetic an eccentric.
Manchukuo was a puppet state/client regime

Gov. lacked credibility as it preached non-expansionism while military continued in Manchuria.
Jiang's reaction was a mix of non-resistance, non-compromise, and non-negotiation. Some resistance would have served as argumental fodder for the moderates in Tokyo.
London times reported that Japan had unnecessarily cast themselves as the villian, US claimed Tokyo was not at fault for the independent actions of the military, and Soviet Union was cool with it as long as Siberia was safe, so China was left alone

Compares the start of National Unity Cabinets to the end of the Weimar Republic
Those in favor of Manchuria Campaign stressed the resources garnered were vital to continual Japanese growth and without them the economy would collapse.
The Japanese believed that under their governance and investment, the region would transform from impoverished into a paradise and be free of racial tension
Those who fought for Japan in the Shanghai Incident were described as heroes and human bullets (Reference to RvJ War) by propaganda.
In 1935, officer given task of demoting Imperial Way officers was killed with a sword.
In rational for the Rape of Nanjing, Japanese were divine and Chinese were inferior in Japanese mind. This was a holy war. Any savagery done in the name of the emperor was holy. An enemy of the emperor could not be right, so the more brutal they were the more loyal they were being.

Russo-Japanese War had been an important reason for the public support of Manchuria Campaigns.

emigration to Manchuria was for economic and military reason. Encouraged to settle along S. Manchuria Railway and USSR border

Jiang (Nationalist Leader) urged Zhang (the Young Marshal) not to respond violently to the Japanese invasion, he hoped it would be limited and the West could reverse it.

Manchurian Public was furious with men wanting to fight, women offering to be nurses, workers strikes, and boycotts on Japanese companies and banks. Jiang's actions were the first instance of appeasement towards an axis power. Jiang was willing to ignore Japan if they would stay contained to Manchuria.

Jiang sent GMD troops to the Shanghai Incident after he realized the League wasn't going to help.

Chinese response was to say it was military and nothing political, but were told to shut up and sign.

Tokyo called for a war ending battle.

The rape of Nanjing was so brutal because the Japanese saw the Chinese as insects

Historian and School View Point

TJP Taylor:

Pantsov and Levine:

Chickering and Foster:

Ferguson:

Rana Mitter:

Crozier:

Mikiso Hane:

Stimson doctrine didn't impact the amount we traded with Japan.

LN acted as it was designed to as it limited and ended the conflict. Furthermore, Manchurian Crisis was limited to moral sanctions but led to economic sanctions against Italy.

Stalin's greatest fear was Japanese encroachment

Mao Zedong suggested the CPC declare war on Japan for propaganda purposes.

The United Front and Soviet Defences allowed them to keep Japan out

Despite the Fascist Blue Shirt Movement, Jiang insisted that it was not the right time to go to war with Japan in 1934, sensing a broader conflict coming.

The Anti -Comintern Pact was not meant as a groundwork for a future military or fascist pact. Japan signed it as they were worried about Soviet interests in Manchuria/Northern China. Japan tried to have Britain and Poland join the pact. Secret clause that if one of the signatories went to war with USSR none of the countries would aid USSR

Jiang saw the Marco Polo Bridge Incident as the turning point in the future of China

Jiang forced the world to take notice of the situation in Shanghai

By the end of November the Chinese retreated and moved their capital from Nanjing to Chongqing

The time it took to end Chinese resistance in Nanjing angered Japanese officials

Britain was concerned as Shanghai had the most investment outside of the UK

US would only take the most modest of gestures IF Japan really angered the American Public.

Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement was unsurprising considering the lack of Dominion support.

Samurai culture had carried over to idolize military brutality, officers were normally disciplined but when let loose they were animals. Japanese culture stressed community (mob) identity to your own group so individualism and empathy to an "other" is unlikely