

Japan's "World War II"

Emerging Tensions

- US immigration
 - 1905: “Gentlemen’s Agreement”
 - 1922: Takao Ozawa v. United States
 - 1924: Immigration Act bans Japanese
- 1915: “Twenty-One Demands” to China
- 1918-1922: Siberian Intervention

Anti-Colonial Movements

- March 1 (Korea) and May 4 (China), 1919

Establishment Response

- **Compromise and Co-opt**
 - 1922: relax ban on women's participation in politics
 - 1920: Social Affairs Bureau within Home Ministry
 - 1925: universal male suffrage
- **Confrontation**
 - 1923: Post-earthquake massacre
 - 1925: Peace Preservation Law
 - 1928: JCP crackdown

Establishment Response

- Compromise and Co-opt
 - Accept postwar disarmament: “5 : 5: 3” naval ratio
 - Cut military spending: 55% (1918) to 29% (1924)
 - Approach to China’s Nationalist government
 - Returns Shandong Peninsula in 1922
 - “Cultural Rule” in Korea
- Confrontation
 - Refuse China’s tariff autonomy
 - Critique of “weak-kneed” diplomacy at home

Crisis of Imperial democracy

- Perceptions of Japan at a dead end
 - Vs. reality: not as bad?
- People still saw threats all around: abroad, at home, rural and urban, all connected
- Democracy as means and not an end in itself
- Rising voices from the Left and the Right for a different, more *statist* kind of modernity

Politics of Terror at Home

Minseitō PM Hamaguchi Osachi assassinated
(1930)



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More Assassinations

Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi, 1930
“God of Constitutional Government”

Finance Minister Inoue Jun'nosuke, 1932

Mitsui Chairman, Dan Takuma, 1932
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Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi, 1932
Signal end of party government



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2-26 Incident (1936)

Finance Minister Takahashi Korekiyo and several other cabinet ministers assassinated

Demand for “Showa Restoration”

Led by “Imperial Way” faction of army

Breaking the Impasse: Manchuria

- Kwantung Army (1906~)
- Ishihara Kanji (1889-1949)
- 1928: Assassination of Zhang Zuolin
- 1931: Manchurian Incident

Popular Response

- Enthusiastic support for war
- Anti-imperialist critics change
- Justice Ministry's *Monthly Thought Bulletin* see “divine wind”
- Army Ministry report: “Since the Manchurian Incident, confrontational attitudes between social classes have subsided. The incident seems to have bred a spirit of solidarity.”

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