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to such a plan would be so bitter as effectually to prevent its adoption except under military coercion. For these reasons, this form of the "buffer state" proposition seems to me untenable. So long as Russia holds Eastern Siberia, Korea must be subject either to Japan or to Russia, and Manchuria must be ruled either by China or by Russia.

A further suggestion is now made as a possible alternative. It has been discussed at length with the Japanese themselves, and has invariably met with approval. American friends, however, tell me that the plan is visionary; that it demands too high a type of altruism. Now the solution of any difficult problem depends on the source from which the difficulty comes. In the present case the source is Russian, German and French commercial and territorial ambitions, with the methods involved in carrying out these ambitions. So long as Russia possesses Eastern Siberia, so long must she, as already shown, look with covetous eyes towards Manchuria and Korea, and not until she controls those lands and also a large part of China will her ambitions be satisfied. This is the source of the difficulty and it points the way to its solution.

In presenting this plan to the Japanese, I have frequently stated the case as follows: