

I think that the truth lies between the extremes: the Chinese weakened Japan so that the Japanese started their wider aggression too late for it to have even the slightest hope of ultimate success; but, at the same time, the Chinese inadvertently strengthened Japan by forcing the entire Empire into full mobilization long before the other great powers (with the exception of Germany, Italy, and the far-sighted Soviet Union) were turning seriously to the task of getting ready for war. The Japanese used the China theatre as a training ground; the Chinese forced the Japanese to fight, and fight hard, so the Japanese -- profiting by the inevitable -- "blooded their troops" in the Chinese countryside. When Japan was ready to fight us, Japan's army was an army of veterans.

Not only had the army been made a veteran army, but the administrative and political machinery necessary to economic, psychological, and purely military warfare was already set up. The Japanese capitalist economy was cut down and converted into a totalitarian adjunct of the military machine. The Japanese learned how to extract the last ounce of food, the last minute of labor from the populations of conquered areas; they found how narcotics could be used as an instrument of subjugation; they became expert in the manipulation of quislings, and were able to try out half a dozen different techniques before hitting upon the device of governing-by-facsimile -- that is, governing through quislings who copied their legitimate predecessors in everything except sincerity, honesty, patriotism, and independence. Along with this, the Japanese got ready to meet the counter-shock of American and British resources and production by hiding their real strength while building up reserves of supplies.

Throughout the decade preceding Japan's attack on us, the Japanese were using their imports to establish stockpiles of critical materials. They built up the machinery they needed to keep their machine tools and other industrial needs supplied. They hoarded incredible quantities of petroleum products. They bought chemicals, medicines, scrap iron, cotton, rubber and a variety of other products. They distorted their whole peacetime economy by these pre-military measures. Indeed, they drove themselves into war by getting so thoroughly ready for war that there was literally nothing else for them to do -- unless they were prepared to accept a thoroughgoing peace system. To pay the cost of this preparation, they needed foreign territory to loot, since they simply did not have the goods at hand to keep fair international trade going. The Lebensraum theory which they took from the Germans was based upon the ethical assumption that no nation or combination of nations, has a right to prevent the intimidation and robbery of weak nations by potential aggressors who need free supplies to feed into a growing military machine.

When the Japanese blow finally came, the Japanese were prepared. They were stronger than we were in the Far East -- stronger even than the combined forces of America, Britain, the Netherlands and their dependencies. They had made themselves stronger at the outset.

Even today, the Japanese are not sitting still. They are preparing for the further phases of this war. They are getting ready for the United Nations counterattack. They are undoubtedly attempting to meet every ruse and device

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