

Verbatim Report taken by D. McArthur

HOW JAPAN LOOKS AT CHINA AND RUSSIA.

Yusuke Tsurumi, Canadian Club
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The subject before me today is "How Japan looks at China and Russia." China is essentially the pivotal point of Japanese foreign policy. All other policies of Japanese diplomacy are based upon and connected with the policy towards China. Japan stands with China; that has deeply sunk into the consciousness of the whole nation. Therefore, when it comes to the question of China the whole Japanese nation is very sensitive. The late Mr. Roosevelt used to say that the Japanese are a very sensitive and proud people. About the pride I do not know but about the sensitiveness I know; experiencing earthquakes on the average about five times a day, we are naturally sensitive. But the most sensitive part of the Japanese nation lies in its dealing with China. The policy which existed up to 1922 was based on Japan's fundamental desire to keep China safe; the war between Japan and Russia was based on the safeguarding of Japan's own integrity and then of stemming the tide the best it could; and also the approach of Japan towards Russia at present is based upon her policy to China.

Why is it? It is very simple. Japan lies on the coast of the Asiatic continent and therefore Japan's political integrity is seriously menaced the moment there is a strong foreign power entrenched on the Chinese continent. The first need of Japan in regard to China is to protect Japan's own national integrity. That was the first period of Japan's foreign policy towards China, dating from 1867 to the beginning of the twentieth century.