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THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE FAR EAST

by

VICTOR A. YAKHONTOFF

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FOREWORD

THE purpose of the present pamphlet is to serve merely as a concise outline of the relations of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union with the neighboring countries of the Far East.

It is addressed primarily to the English speaking students in this field, and therefore offers a rather extended, but exclusively English bibliography. There is also a chronology limited to the events which are most important from the point of view of Russian and Soviet Far Eastern relations.

For those who read Russian there is to be found a wealth of material in that language, particularly among the books, pamphlets and periodical literature published in recent years. A great many of these works are of high scientific value, and no student can afford to neglect them.
OLD RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST

The Russian state is considered to have come into existence in 862 A.D. as a group of Slavic principalities centered around the city of Kiev. For many centuries before this its Asiatic neighbors already had had long and colorful histories. China had its "Golden Age" between 2600 and 2200 B.C., Korea was founded as a kingdom in 1122 B.C., and Japan's first emperor, Jimmu-Tenno, lived between 660 and 585 B.C.

Mongolian Invasion of Russia

The first contact between the Russians and the Mongols took place in 1227, when Ugaday, a son of the great Mongolian conqueror Genghiz Khan, sent his nephew, Batyi, at the head of a host of Tartars, to the land of the Russians. After crossing the Ural Mountains, Batyi hewed down the Volga Bulgars, crossed the Volga River and penetrated into what was then the center of Russia. Defeating and sweeping away all the troops that offered any resistance, pillaging and killing the population, burning the towns and spreading terror, the Tartars devastated an enormous area, including Moscow, Riazan and Suzdal; but in 1238, with Novgorod almost within their grasp, they turned back towards Asia, taking with them booty and prisoners.

The next year the Tartars renewed their raids, following southern routes. In 1240 they occupied and demolished Kiev, but soon afterwards again turned back towards Asia. Before withdrawing they left representatives in the main communities of the conquered lands, and for over two hundred years Russia was under a Mongolian yoke, a yoke which taught a brutal lesson, but also stimulated the unification and growth of the country. During all these years the Russians had to pay heavy tribute to the Tartar Khans, the overlords of Russia.

Finally, about 1480, the Mongolian yoke was cast off by the Russians. Most of the Tartars gradually returned to Asia while some remained around the Volga River, occasionally making local raids across the Russian borders. In the XVIth century it became imperative to put a stop to these raids as Russia was growing, becoming stabilized, and was bringing order not only into its own house, but also into regions along its borders. Thus, in 1552 the conquest of the Kazan Khanate was undertaken and achieved. Astrakhan was taken four years later.
These victories, extending the frontier to the Urals, opened the way for Russia's expansion eastward, and marked the turning point in its relations with Asia.

**Russian Advance to the East**

The first step in Russia's Asiatic expansion was the "conquest," in 1582, of Sibir, a town in Western Siberia, by a certain Cossack, named Yermak. Though this was undertaken by him on his own initiative, without any authorization from Moscow, and even against the wishes of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, the success pleased the Tsar, who ordered Siberia incorporated in his domain. By 1586 Russia began colonization of the newly acquired area. At the same time Cossacks, hunters and adventurers, still without any guidance from the center, continued the eastward penetration on their own initiative. First they followed the rivers, as the easiest path in the wilderness, then expanded farther and farther by land and by the Arctic Ocean. By the middle of the XVIIth century they had reached the Pacific and were in control of practically the entire north of Asia.

Gradually the Moscow government became interested in the new territories and desired to establish friendly relations with its new neighbor, China. A succession of embassies sent by Moscow to Peking failed to achieve this end, for the Chinese had begun to show their displeasure at the advance of the Russians. Armed clashes occurred in the Amur basin between the Cossacks and Chinese troops, and Albazin, a Russian settlement, was besieged and captured by the Chinese. The negotiations that followed ended in the Treaty of Nerchinsk, signed in 1689, by which for the first time the respective territorial interests were delimited, somewhat normal intercourse was established and trade relations were inaugurated.

Then followed a period of legalization. A number of treaties were signed in which, for one reason or another, the Russians usually obtained the better of the bargain. By the middle of the XIXth century they had acquired through the treaties of Aigun (1858), Tientsin (1858) and Peking (1860) China's recognition of their rights to the lands north of the Amur River, which they had gradually occupied in the previous two centuries. In 1871 they also added to their holdings a part of Chinese territory to the west, but by the Treaty of St. Petersburg, signed in 1881, they returned most of it to China.

At the beginning of the nineties the Russians began to build the
great transcontinental railway across Siberia. Russia’s interest in the Far East, of which this railway was both a sign and an instrument, soon involved the country with China’s other neighbor, Japan. The latter, which had just entered the road of imperialist aggression and had started to encroach on China’s possessions, frowned on the approach of the Muscovites.

**Russo-Japanese War**

Relations between Russia and Japan actually were begun only in 1855 by the Treaty of Shimoda. Numerous attempts made by the Russians following 1719 to establish intercourse with Japan had failed, for the latter remained in seclusion under the Shogunate of Tokugawa, and turned a cold shoulder to the advances made by the “northern barbarians.” Born in suspicion, their relations developed in an atmosphere of intrigue, and finally passed through the “purgatory” of war.

After having attacked China in 1894, Japan forced the former to sign the Shimonoseki Treaty, by which it obtained a foothold on the mainland of Asia; Russia, together with France and Germany, advised Japan to withdraw in order to preserve peace in the Orient and Japan, being unable to resist such pressure, withdrew. Russia then obtained from China the concession of the Chinese Eastern Railway (1896) and the South Manchuria Railway (1898) as well as the leases of Port Arthur and Dairen (1898) on the Liaotung Peninsula which Japan had just been forced to return to China. Manchuria thus became a sphere of influence of the Russian Empire. Early in 1904, encouraged by its alliance with England concluded in 1902, and by the sympathy expressed by numerous Americans, Japan began a war with Russia. Without any formal declaration, it launched a surprise attack on the latter’s squadrons at Port Arthur and Chemulpo. The war was fought on China’s land, in Manchuria, where some Russian troops still remained after their participation in the international expedition sent to curb the Boxer rebellion.*

The war was won by Japan, for the Russia of the Tsars was decaying. Its army was not prepared and was dependent on the single-track Trans-Siberian Railway, which was inadequate to bring enough troops and supplies from the sources of men and materials far away in the European part of the empire. As a result of the war Russia’s position in the Far East was weakened. The Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)

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*The Chinese anti-foreign mass movement which occurred in 1900.
transferred to Japan part of the concessions Russia had extorted from China—Liaotung and the South Manchuria Railway. Japan became a powerful factor in Asia.

China, too weak to resist, had no choice but to sign, late in 1905, the Peking Protocol, by which it "recognized" the changes brought in the wake of the Portsmouth Treaty. Now Japan was definitely embarked on its expansionist policy, in which it was following the western powers. As for Russia, its advance was checked, and the two rivals for the Manchurian plain soon became virtual allies as a result of the treaties signed in 1907, 1910, and 1916. Together they effectively protected their respective spheres of interest from the encroachments of other powers.

World War and the Revolutions in China and Russia

The period that followed was marked by events which drastically changed the outlook in the Far East. The World War enabled Japan to intensify its policy of expansion on the mainland, and stimulated the awakening of China. After the 1917 Revolution, Soviet Russia was not interested in expansion and annulled all the treaties contracted by the Tsarist régime which had granted it special privileges in China.

The Chinese Revolution of 1911 had ended the monarchy in that country, but failed to bring forward any well-organized group to establish some kind of a new order. Japan took advantage of the weakness of its neighbor, and during the World War, when the great powers were unable to prevent its action, served on China the "Twenty-One Demands," which, if legally accepted, would have made China a vassal state of the Land of the Rising Sun.

This daring stratagem of Japan was checked only after the end of the war at the Washington Conference (1921-22), and then only temporarily. The Soviet Union was not a party to this conference, for its new régime was not as yet recognized by the powers, but its interests in Manchuria were safeguarded. These consisted mainly of the control of the Chinese Eastern Railway, which had been constructed by the Russians under the concession given to them by China in 1896. Not only was the Russian right to the road confirmed, but the conference also arranged for the withdrawal of Japanese troops from the railroad zone and from Soviet territory. Japanese troops had remained there since 1918, when they, together with other powers, had participated in the armed intervention in Siberia. In the early nineteen-
twenties there was growing recognition of the fact that the Soviet régime was not a short episode destined soon to disappear; already several states realized the necessity of dealing with it. In 1924 Soviet Russia concluded a treaty with China, by which it renounced all the concessions and special rights and privileges obtained by the old régime, and retained only its share in the control over and management of the Chinese Eastern Railway, to be considered as a purely commercial enterprise. A few months later, Japan also signed a treaty with the Soviet Union in which it recognized the new régime.

THE SOVIET UNION IN THE FAR EAST

Sino-Soviet Relations

The restoration of relations with its eastern neighbors did not mean smooth sailing for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which had taken the place of the former empire. Immediately after the signing of the agreement with Peking, Soviet Russia felt the animosity of Chang Tso-lin, the war lord of Manchuria and an old friend of Japan, who had fought on the latter's side in the Russo-Japanese War. In order to normalize their status in his domain, through which ran the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Soviets made an additional agreement with Chang. It was unavoidable, since Peking was impotent to control Chang's acts or to dictate a policy to him. This new agreement, signed at Mukden in September, 1924, was even more advantageous for China than the one signed in May at Peking, in that it provided that China could redeem the railroad immediately and reduced the time that must elapse before the line was transferred free of charge to China.

In 1923, a number of Russians were invited by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, then the head of the revolutionary Nationalist régime of South China, to act as political and military advisers. They helped Dr. Sun in building a strong army that soon started, under Chiang Kai-shek, the campaign against the reactionary North, ending in the defeat of the latter. In March, 1925, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen died, and two years later General Chiang Kai-shek, his devoted disciple in the past, broke with the revolutionary elements and created his own régime, relying on the privileged classes of China and the foreign powers. As a corollary, he severed relations with the Soviet Union, and the country experienced a wave of anti-Soviet feeling, as was manifested in the assassination of the Soviet consular agent in Canton in December, 1927.

All this was in line, of course, with the attitude of the already de-
The success of the Sovietization movement in China has been ascribed, not entirely without reason, to the Russians. There can hardly be any doubt that the Russian advisers, who were invited by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen to work in the south of China, left marks of their influence; the leaders of the Chinese Soviets were mostly the followers
of their Russian teachers and advisers. Fighting the Chinese communists, Chiang Kai-shek naturally found it difficult to establish sincere friendly relations with the country from which his political enemies borrowed their ideas. Having left the revolutionary movement in 1927, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, the actual head of the Nanking régime, continued to rely on the opposing groups, and was not disposed to restore good relations with his former collaborators. Therefore Chinese-Soviet relations, though nominally reestablished, have in reality seen little or no improvement.

When Moscow completed the arrangements for the transfer of the Chinese Eastern Railway to Manchoukuo in 1935, Nanking protested, accusing Moscow of selling the road to a "third party," not to China, as was agreed upon by the treaty of 1924. Commissar for Foreign Affairs Litvinov answered that the road was sold to the Chinese who were on the spot and able to transact business. Nanking had no jurisdiction over that territory, and never made any attempts to redeem the road when Manchuria was still more or less under its control.

In 1936 when the Soviet government made public the agreement for mutual assistance concluded with the Outer Mongolian government, Nanking immediately lodged a protest. But Moscow rejected it as unfounded on the grounds that China was unable to protect Outer Mongolia, further explaining that the Soviet Union had no ulterior motives, no plans of annexing Mongolia or taking any advantage of its weakness.

Early Soviet-Japanese Relations

The first agreement concluded by Japan with the Soviet Union, that of January, 1925, registered the change which the Russian Revolution had brought about in the Far East. The only old treaty between the two countries which was explicitly retained in force by the new agreement was the Portsmouth Treaty of 1905; all the others, concluded by Japan with Tsarist Russia, were declared annulled. That included the conventions signed respectively in 1907, 1910, 1912 and 1916, delimiting the interests of those two nations in Manchuria and Mongolia. North Manchuria, Outer Mongolia, and West Inner Mongolia had been recognized as Russia's sphere while South Manchuria and East Inner Mongolia were granted to Japan. The secret convention of 1916 that virtually made those former adversaries allies was also annulled. In other words, the Revolution of 1917 put an end to the alliance between Japan and Russia.
Soviet-Japanese relations up to 1931 developed more or less peacefully. Not only did the Japanese refrain from any systematic abuse of the Soviet diplomats stationed in their country as had occurred in China, but they even gave diplomatic support to the USSR when the Chinese attempted to take the Chinese Eastern Railway by force. On that occasion Tokyo declared that the Soviet Union was in the right, and even declined to join the other powers in censuring Moscow for allegedly neglecting the Kellogg-Briand Pact when it launched a counter-attack against the Chinese.

Recent Events in Manchuria

Since the occupation of Manchuria in 1931 Soviet-Japanese relations have become strained. At the very beginning Moscow declared its determination to remain strictly neutral, while Japan promised to respect Soviet rights and interests and to refrain from interference in the management of the Chinese Eastern Railway. The Japanese fulfilled their promises for but a short time.

As Japan extended the area of its occupation, its troops crossed the Soviet-controlled railway zone in pursuit of "bandits," penetrated to the north of the zone, and thereby encircled the Russians. Subsequently a series of raids over the Soviet border threatened to provoke a large scale armed clash.

Moscow offered to Japan in January, 1932, a non-aggression pact, similar to those the USSR has concluded with all its western and Near-Eastern neighbors, but Japan rejected the offer. It became apparent that it was impossible satisfactorily to adjust relations between the Manchoukuo authorities and the Soviet commercial enterprise, the Chinese Eastern Railway. Therefore, the Soviet Union in May, 1933, offered to sell its share in the line. The Japanese government gladly approved the idea, and at the end of the next month negotiations between representatives of Japan, Manchoukuo, and the USSR were started in Tokyo. There were elements, however, in Japan which disapproved of this procedure and wished to obtain the road without paying for it. They advocated taking it by force and claimed that they were ready for such action. Fortunately, the civil branch of the government succeeded in keeping the over-zealous empire-builders under control and continued the parleys. Finally, after two years of negotiations, complicated by extreme disparity between the initial prices offered and
demanded, as well as by numerous provocative incidents, the sale was concluded in March, 1935.

One focal point of friction was removed, but Soviet-Japanese animosity continued. The Japanese minister of war even went as far as to declare that if pretexts were needed to start trouble with the Soviet Union, there would be no difficulty in finding them.

While trying to eliminate dangerous incidents, the Soviets did not neglect their military defenses. Following 1931, they fortified their side of the border. Furthermore, they concentrated forces in the Soviet Far East in order to be ready if Japan decided to strike. Although these defensive preparations undoubtedly had a restraining effect upon the Japanese government, the representatives of the Kwantung Army of Japan continued their tactics of pinpricks. In 1935 they extended their anti-Soviet actions by turning their attention to the Mongolian People’s Republic, the close friend and neighbor of the Soviet Union. Obviously, they were anxious to add that territory to the Mongolian “state” created by the Japanese in the west of Manchoukuo, in order to eliminate Soviet influence in that part of Asia, and obtain a spring board for further advance either north into Siberia or south into China proper. But their efforts failed to bring the desired result. Their demands for admission of permanent representatives of Japan and Manchoukuo into the interior of Outer Mongolia, presented during the course of negotiations over border incidents, were rejected by the latter. Raids over the Outer Mongolian border increased in number and seriousness.

Late in 1935 and early in 1936 Soviet-Japanese tension again became so acute that war between these two countries seemed imminent. Then certain events occurred that reintroduced hopes for the establishment of amicable relations.

Present Situation

On February 26, 1936, just one week after the general election in Japan had demonstrated the widespread disapproval of the adventurous policy led by the militarists on the mainland of Asia, the extremists of the army attempted a coup d’etat in Tokyo. Their plans failed to materialize, but took a heavy toll of victims from among the most prominent statesmen. When order was restored there was a reshuffling of the personnel of the army, particularly in Manchuria, and some revision of tactics toward Japan’s neighbors.

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About the same time, Stalin, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR, in an interview with Roy Howard, then head of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, declared emphatically that the USSR would come to the defense of the Mongolian People’s Republic, if it were attacked by Japan. This declaration climaxed a series of moves made by the Soviet government in its determination to be more firm in checking Japan. It was crowned a few days later, on March 12, by the signing of a mutual assistance pact between the USSR and Outer Mongolia. The publication of this pact in April made it clear to the Japanese that now they were facing a formidable barrier in the west as well as in the north. The situation was clarified and a noticeable diminution of frontier incidents immediately occurred. By the end of April, 1936, Tokyo and Moscow had come to an agreement in principle on forming special commissions to settle the Soviet-Manchoukuo frontier controversies, and since then the alarming news from that part of the world has ceased to adorn the front pages of newspapers.

Analysis of the Present Situation

In 1936 the Soviet Union has become much stronger, with a large and well equipped modern army, highly mechanized and abundantly supplied. The newly developed industry of the USSR, already second in the world as far as the volume of production is concerned, is far ahead of that of Japan. Moreover, the natural resources of the former are incomparably richer than those of the latter. The man power of the USSR is greater than that of Japan and its morale is in striking contrast to the lack of support which the Russian people accorded to the war of 1904. With a mighty air force, the USSR seems to be ready to resist any encroachment. None the less, it is anxious to prevent armed conflict, and is making every effort to do so.

There are no concrete points at issue between Japan and the USSR, such as fishing and oil concessions, which cannot be solved through peaceful negotiations, and the more reasonable elements in Japan, including the Imperial Court and a part of the business interests, prefer such a course to a costly and dangerous war. The left wing parties, that won a few seats in the Diet in the election of 1936, are not yet strong enough to decide the policies of Japan, but their votes may exercise certain influence on public opinion at large. They are on record for immediate conclusion of the non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union, for redemarcation of the borders between USSR and Manchoukuo, and also between the latter and Outer Mongolia.
The danger of a clash is by no means removed. It is only in suspen-
sion for as long as the extreme militarist elements are not in complete
control of the Japanese government. If they should obtain control,
the danger that their country would be dragged into some kind of war
would be greatly increased.

To suppose that the future of Soviet-Japanese relations depends
solely upon the attitudes taken by their respective governments would
be rather naïve. It certainly will be conditioned by the policies of other
countries interested in the Far East. The so-called Far Eastern problem
is rooted in the conflict between those countries which seek to control
the China market. The chief competitors in that field are Japan, Great
Britain and the United States.

Soviet Russia has no particularly important economic interests in
China, for it is not in urgent need of foreign markets. Neither is it
interested in the acquisition of territory or natural resources outside of
its own richly endowed domain. Actually its eastern interests are
limited to the protection of the Soviet Far East and to its obligations
under the mutual assistance pact with Outer Mongolia against the
encroachment of Japan. Contrary to some assertions, the Mongolian
People's Republic is not a part of the Soviet Union, neither is it con-
trolled by the latter. They have many political and economic interests
in common, and both are anxious to prevent Japan from acquiring a
dominant position in that part of Mongolia.

Great Britain's interests and holdings in Asia are large and diverse,
and its trade with China is of great importance to the empire. The
present policy of Japan in Manchuria and in China proper, as well as
its aggressive commercial policy, are decidedly harmful to Great
Britain. Unable to resist effectively, the latter has pursued a policy of
compromise. It cannot check its former ally alone and apparently has
not yet been able to find a basis for cooperation with the United States.
For a long time certain elements in England have considered that a
clash between Japan and the Soviet Union would be desirable and
have done their best to shift Japan's attention from the south towards
the north, but latterly those advocating cooperation with Moscow have
gained in influence in London.

America's interests in Asia are by no means insignificant though they
are based rather on future expectations than on present realities.
Japan's new position on the continent of Asia has so alarmed Wash-
ington that it has issued a series of protests. The famous declaration

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made on April 17, 1934, by the spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Office, to the effect that his country was determined to resist any further interference in Chinese affairs, was tantamount to warning its competitors to stay away from China. It was protested by the United States and Great Britain alike, but these protests failed to move Japan, and the situation created by the latter in China continues dangerous for its rivals.

Since Tokyo renounced the naval treaties concluded at Washington in 1922 and at London in 1930, and it became probable that the naval race would be renewed, the chances for amicable settlement, to say the least, did not improve. The new agreement between Germany and Japan, which was made public in November, 1936, added to the chances of war in the Far East. Under such circumstances international cooperation of all powers interested in preserving peace in the Far East becomes imperative.
CHRONOLOGY

B. C.  7000—First records of civilization in Central Asia.
       2800—China’s early legends.
       2600–2200—China’s traditional “Golden Age.”
       1122—Kingdom of Korea founded.
       1100–500—China’s “Age of Classics.”
       660–585—Jimmu-Tenno, traditional first emperor of Japan.
       100 B. C.–210 A. D.—China’s “Era of Wide Empire”
                 (Han Dynasty).
A. D.  69—Buddhism introduced into China.
IVth Century—First records about the Slavs.
       552—Buddhism introduced into Japan.
       650–900—China’s “Age of Renewed Vigor and Greatness”
                 (Tang Dynasty).
       862—Traditional date of the beginning of Russia.
       988—Christianity introduced into Russia.
XIth Century—Russia’s struggle with the Nomads.
XIIth Century—Decline of Kiev, under the pressure of the Nomads; and the
                decline of trade with Byzantium.
       1186—Shogunate of Minamoto established in Japan.
       1223—Battle of Kalka between the Russians and the Tartars.
       1223–1480—Russia under the Mongolian (Tartar) yoke.
       1245—Franciscan missionaries active in China.
       1267—Peking becomes the new capital of China.
       1280–1368—China’s “Age of Pan-Asiatic Empire” (Yuan Dynasty—
                        Mongolian).
       1326—Moscow becomes the capital of Russia.
       1368–1644—China’s “Age of Seclusion and Arrested Development”
                 (Ming Dynasty).
       1380—Battle of Kulikovo between the Russians and Tartars.
       1395—Tamerlane in Russia.
       1492—Columbus discovers America.
       1516—Portuguese reach China.
       1542—Portuguese reach Japan.
       1549—Jesuit Missions in Japan.
       1553—Beginning of trade between Russia and England.
       1582—Yermak captures Sibir (Siberia).
       1585–1628—Russians advance toward the Lena and Yenisei Rivers.
       1600—Shogunate of Tokugawa established in Japan.
       1614–1854—Japan in seclusion.
       1620—First records of Russians in Manchuria.
       1644—Ming Dynasty overthrown by the Manchus.
       1646—Poyarkov reaches the Okhotsk Sea.
       1648—Dejnev reaches the Pacific Ocean.
1650—First record of Russians on the Sungari River.
1651—Albazin founded.
—Khabarov reaches the mouth of the Amur River.
1652—Irkutsk founded.
1653–1675—Attempts made to normalize Sino-Russian relations. Russian envoys Baikov, Perfiliev, Milovanov and Spafria visit China.
1654—Nerchinsk founded.
1682–1685—Siege of Albazin.
1689—Nerchinsk Treaty between Russia and China delimiting frontiers. First treaty of China with any Western nation.
1696—First Russian caravan to China.
1719—First Russian expedition to Japan.
1727—Treaty of Kurla opening Ili to Russian trade.
1727–1728—Sino-Russian Treaty at Kiakhta delimiting the frontier.
1732—Russians under Bering visit Japan.
1733—Toshi appointed Chinese envoy to Russia.
1776—Russians reach the Kurile Islands.
1784—First ship flying the flag of the U. S. A. arrives in China.
1792–1793—Russians under Adam Laxman visit Nagasaki.
1804–1805—Russians visit Nagasaki; the envoy, Riezanov, not recognized by the Japanese.
1811—Russian Captain Golovnin arrested by the Japanese on his arrival and detained for two years.
1842—Treaty of Nanking, ending the "Opium War" between Great Britain and China.
1849—Sakhalin Island occupied by the Russians.
1850—Russian flag hoisted at the delta of the Amur River.
1851—Treaty of Kulja opening Ili to Russian trade.
1853—American expedition to Japan under Commodore Perry.
—Russians visit Nagasaki.
1854—American-Japanese commercial treaty of Kanagawa.
1855—First Russo-Japanese Treaty, signed at Shimoda, opening the ports of Shimoda, Hakodate and Nagasaki to Russian ships.
1858—Franco-British war with China.
—Aigun Treaty by which China recognizes Russian right to the Amur region.
—Tientsin Treaty confirming Russia's territorial rights in the Far East and giving her privileges in China similar to those of the other powers.
1860—Peking Treaty by which China recognizes the Maritime Province as Russian.
1861—Russian warships at Tsushima.
1862—China grants to Russia the right of free trade in Mongolia.
1863—Shimonoseki bombarded by the western powers.
1864—End of the Taiping Rebellion in China (1851-1864).
1867—End of the Shogunate in Japan. Restoration of Imperial prestige.
—Emperor Mutsuhito begins the Meiji Era.
1871—Russia occupies Kuldja and the Ili region.
1875—Exchange of Sakhalin Island (to Russia) for the Kuriles (to Japan).
1879—Sino-Russian Treaty of Livadia, by which Western Ili remains under Russian control.
1880—Treaty of Livadia denounced by the Chinese government.
1881—Sino-Russian Treaty of St. Petersburg by which Ili is returned to China.
1883—Russian migration to the Far East increases.
1891—Trans-Siberian Railroad begun.
—Nicholas, then Tzarevitch of Russia, assaulted by a Japanese while visiting Japan.
—First railway in the Russian Far East (Ussuri Line).
1894—Survey for the Amur Railway made.
—First Russian steamship on the Sungari River.
—Dr. Sun Yat-Sen organizes a revolutionary party in China (Hsing Chung-hai).
1894-1895—Sino-Japanese War.
1895—Shimonoseki Treaty, ending the Sino-Japanese War.
1896—Sino-Russian secret treaty (Li-Lobanov) of defensive alliance against Japan.
—Russians secure concession to build the Chinese Eastern Railway.
1897—Germany occupies Kiaochow.
—Russian squadron arrives in Port Arthur.
1898—China grants concessions to Russia in Liaotung, to England in Weihaiwei and to France in Kwangchowwan.
—Construction begun on the Chinese Eastern Railway.
—U. S. A. acquires the Philippine Islands.
1899—Russia recognizes Japan’s special interests in Korea.
—British-Russian agreement on railroads in China.
1899-1900—American notes on the “Open Door” in China.
1900—Boxer Rebellion.
1901—International agreement at termination of the Boxer Rebellion.
1902—Sino-Russian convention on the evacuation of Russian troops from Manchuria.
—Anglo-Japanese treaty of alliance.
1904-5—Russo-Japanese War.
1904—British military expedition to Tibet.
1905—Portsmouth Treaty, ending the Russo-Japanese War.
—Abortive revolution in Russia.
—Kuomintang, Chinese Nationalist Party, organized by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.
—Second Anglo-Japanese Alliance.
—Sino-Japanese protocol of Peking.
1907—Russo-Japanese conventions on Manchuria, determining spheres of influence.
1909—Knox project for neutralization of railroads in China.
1910—Russia protests Aigun Railroad project.
—Korea annexed by Japan.
—Russo-Japanese conventions on the maintenance of the status quo in Manchuria.
1911—Chinese Revolution.
—Mongolia proclaimed independent.
—Meiji Tenno (Mutsuhito), Emperor of Japan, dies.
—Secret Russo-Japanese convention in regard to Inner Mongolia.
—Russo-Mongolian agreement at Urga, pledging Russia’s support of Mongolian autonomy.
1913—Yuan Shi-Kai proclaimed President of China.
—Sino-Russian declaration recognizing Mongol autonomy.
1914–18—World War.
1914—Russian-Mongolian railway agreement.
1915—Sino-Russian-Mongolian Treaty of Kiakhta, establishing the autonomy of Outer Mongolia under Chinese suzerainty.
—Japan serves on China the “Twenty-One Demands,” following them with an ultimatum.
1916—Yuan Shi-Kai attempts to restore monarchy in China.
—Russo-Japanese conventions regarding China.
1917—Revolution in Russia.
1918—Powers recall their representatives from Russia.
—Japan and China conclude an agreement on military cooperation against Russia.
—(April) Japanese and British forces land at Vladivostok.
—(Sept.) American forces land at Vladivostok.
1918–22—Allied intervention in the Asiatic possessions of Russia.
1919—Autonomy of Outer Mongolia cancelled by a mandate of the Chinese Republic.
1920—Urga taken by the “White” Russians.
—Chinese Communist Party founded in Shanghai.
—(March) American troops leave Vladivostok.
—Four-Power Consortium.
1921—Provisional Revolutionary Mongol People’s Government established.
—Urga occupied by Soviet troops. Outer Mongolia declared independent.
1921—Soviet Russia and Mongolia sign a treaty of peace and amity annulling all former treaties between them.
1922—(Oct.) Japanese troops evacuate Vladivostok.
1923—Dr. Sun Yat-Sen invites Russian advisers to South China.
1924—(May) Peking agreement between China and the Soviet Union, restoring normal relations between the two countries.
—(Sept.) Treaty of Mukden between Moscow and Manchuria.
1925—(Jan.) Soviet Union and Japan sign convention by which Japan recognizes the Soviet régime in the USSR.
1926—(Jan.) USSR sends ultimatum to China demanding release of the Soviet manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway who had been arrested by the Chinese.
—(March) General Feng Yu-Hsiang resigns and departs for the USSR.
1927—(March) Nanking incident.
—(Apr. 6) Raid on the Soviet Embassy at Peking.
—(Apr. 9) Withdrawal of the Soviet Embassy from Peking.
—(May 27) Establishment of the Nanking Government.
—(July) Borodin and other Russian advisers leave China.
—(Dec. 11) Communist coup d'etat at Canton.
—(Dec. 15) Nanking breaks with the Soviets.
1928—Peking surrendered by Chang Tso-Lin to the Nationalists.
—Chang Tso-Lin assassinated.
—(Aug. 27) Soviet Union signs the Kellogg Pact.
1929—(Apr.) First Five-Year Plan inaugurated in the Soviet Union.
—(May 27) Chinese raid on the Soviet Consulate at Harbin.
—(July 10) Chinese arrest the Soviet manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway and take control of the road.
—(Nov. 26) Mukden accepts Moscow conditions for starting negotiations.
—(Dec. 2) The Soviet Union and China reminded by the Powers of their obligations under the Kellogg Pact.
—(Dec. 22) Sino-Soviet protocol of Khabarovsk re-establishing the status quo ante on the C.E.R.
1930—(May) Turksib Railroad completed and open for operation.
—(Dec.) Conference at Moscow between Karakhan and Moh Teh-Hui on the Chinese Eastern Railway.
1931—(Sept. 18) Japanese bombard Mukden and start occupation of Manchuria.
—Soviet Union maintains strict neutrality.
1932—(Jan. 7) United States Secretary of State Stimson sends notes to Japan and China on non-recognition of the situation created by the use of force.
—Japan intensifies her movements in Northern Manchuria.
—Japanese clashes on the border of the USSR.
—(Feb. 18) Declaration of independence of Manchukuo.
—(Jan.-May) Japan conducts military operations in Shanghai.
—(Apr.) Commission of Inquiry, under Lord Lytton, sent by the League of Nations, arrives at Mukden and begins investigation.
—(May 15) Assassination of Prime Minister of Japan, Inukai. [21]
—Minister of War Sadao Araki, publicly declares that nothing other powers or the League might do . . . "would turn Japan from her plan to make a paradise out of Manchuria."

—(June) Friction between the USSR and Japan increases, as Japan refuses to sign the non-aggression pact offered by Moscow in January 1932.

—(Sept. 15) Japan signs protocol with Manchoukuo recognizing the independence of the latter and undertaking mutual military assistance.

—The chief delegate of Japan to Geneva, Matsuoka, visits Moscow in hope that relations with the Soviet Union can be settled before the debate on the Lytton Report begins at the League, but fails to enlist any support from the USSR.

—(Oct. 1) The icebreaker "Sibirakov" reaches Bering Strait, completing the northern passage from Archangel through the Arctic Ocean in one season.

1933—(Jan. 1) Beginning of the Second Five-Year Plan in the USSR.

—(March) Japanese delegates withdraw from the session of the League after the latter adopted the Resolution censuring Japan.

—Japan notifies Geneva of its decision to resign from the League of Nations.

—(March) Japanese and Manchoukuoan troops occupy Jehol.

—Tangku Truce between Japan and China.

—(May) Moscow offers the Chinese Eastern Railway for sale; Manchoukuo and Japan concur.

1933—(June 28) Negotiations on the Chinese Eastern Railway opened at Tokyo.

—(Sept.) Soviet Union sends note to Japan charging that Japanese militarists are planning to violate the railroad management rights of the Soviet Government.

—Moscow publishes documents exposing Japanese intrigues in Manchoukuo.

—Soviet Union and France begin rapprochement. (Edouard Herriot visits Moscow).

—(Nov. 16) The United States establishes normal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

—(Dec. 7) Soviet delegates withdraw from the Tokyo conference on the C. E. R.

—(Dec. 11) Decree of the Soviet Union providing special privileges for population of the Far Eastern Region.

1934—(Jan. 14) Soviet officials of the Chinese Eastern Railway released by the Japanese. Two days later, the Soviet Ambassador at Tokyo resumes conversation with Mr. Hirota on the sale of the C. E. R.

—(April 18) Japan recommends to the Powers, through her Foreign Office spokesman, a "Hands-Off China" policy.

—(Sept. 18) Soviet Union joins the League of Nations.

—(Sept. 23) Chinese Eastern Railway is sold to Manchoukuo, Japan guaranteeing payments.
—Frequent raids across the Soviet borders.

—Final negotiations on the Chinese Eastern Railway completed. China formally protests the sale of the C. E. R.
—Japanese Kwantung Army begins pressure on Hopei and other northern provinces of China. Its control over Inner Mongolia is intensified.
—(July 1) Soviet Ambassador at Tokyo delivers vigorous protest enumerating a long series of violations of Soviet territory by Japanese and Manchoukuoan forces.
—Japan shifts its actions towards Outer Mongolia. It demands that Manchoukuo be permitted to station military representatives in Outer Mongolia.
—(Aug. 12) General Nagata, Director of Military Affairs of the War Office, assassinated by his subordinate.
—Manchoukuo-Outer Mongolia dispute over the Barga border aggravated.
—Border clashes between Soviet Russia and the Japanese increase. Moscow proposes the immediate creation of a commission of investigation. Japan counters with the suggestion for a commission to delimit the frontiers.
—Soviet armed forces in the Far East are increased, fortifications are added and the doubletracking of the Trans-Siberian Railway is accelerated.
—"Independence" of parts of Hopei and Chahar declared. But more sweeping changes predicted and planned by the Japanese militarists, fail.
—Japanese troops move south through the Great Wall.
—Sir Frederic Leith Ross of the British Treasury reported working on financial reforms in China; reorganization of the Chinese Central Bank, nationalization of silver, etc. Japan expresses resentment over this.

1936—Relations between Soviet Union and Japan further strained by series of border incidents. Soviet Russia takes a much firmer attitude, and, in a number of clashes, forces the invaders to withdraw with considerable losses.
—(Feb. 3) Strongly worded statement by the Soviet Government refutes the Japanese explanation of the raids.
—Japanese Foreign Minister, Hirota, formulates a three-point program to put relations between Japan, China and Manchoukuo on a normal footing in order to "strengthen the foundations of the peace of Eastern Asia."
—(Feb. 20) New election in Japan reveals rising democratic sentiment.
(Feb. 26) Military mutiny at Tokyo. A number of outstanding statesmen assassinated by the Military, including the former Prime Minister Saito, Minister of Finance Takahashi, General Watanabe and others.

-Hirota named Prime Minister. His Cabinet is formed to satisfy the demands of the Militarists.

-Roy W. Howard, head of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, interviews Stalin. Stalin declares that in case Japan attempts to seize Urga (Ulan Bator), capital of the Mongolian People's Republic, the USSR would be forced to intercede; Japan had already been informed on that point.

-(March) Japan announces its willingness to negotiate about frontier disputes with the Soviets.

-(Mar. 12) Mutual assistance pact between the USSR and Outer Mongolia made public. Nanking protests.

-Japanese allege the Soviets have concluded a secret agreement with China. Both China and the Soviet Union deny this.

-(Apr. 13) Japan plans to link the East Hopei Autonomous Council with Manchoukuo "for common defense against Communists."

-(Apr. 22) Soviet Embassy at Tokyo accused of "plotting war."

-(Apr. 27) Japan and the Soviet Union agree in principle on frontier commissions for a section of the Soviet-Manchoukuoan border.

-(May 6) Japan announces intention of forcing North China into an anti-Communist pact.

-(May 18) Japanese claim that rumors of a secret treaty between China and the Soviet Union are one of the main reasons for a firmer policy toward China.

-(June 14) Japan proposes the creation of a demilitarized zone of fifty kilometres on each side of the Soviet-Manchoukuo frontier.

-(Aug. 25) Japanese army announces that nine Russians have been executed and seventeen imprisoned in Manchoukuo, charged with espionage.

-(Nov. 15) Japan and Germany conclude an agreement "Against Communism." Great Britain and other Powers entertain doubts as to real purpose of agreement. Soviet spokesmen assert new agreement masks military alliance.

-(Nov. 21) Soviet Union refuses to sign new fishery agreement because of tension arising over Japanese-German pact.

-(Dec. 28) Soviet Union extends for one year the present fishing agreement with Japan.
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