

Japanese Militarism Not Allowed to Take Old Road of Aggression

FULLY 40 years have elapsed since the "September 18 Incident." Now when reviving Japanese militarism is itching for action in an effort to embark on the old road of aggression, it is of great significance for us to review the history of that period.

Our great leader Chairman Mao pointed out in the 1930s: "The Incident of September 18, 1931, began the present stage of Japan's colonization of China." He also pointed out: "In the Nineteen Thirties, the internal and external contradictions of Japanese imperialism have driven her not only to embark on an adventurist war unparalleled in scale but also to approach her final collapse."

The "September 18 Incident" was the starting point of the large-scale aggression and expansion by Japanese militarism aimed at dominating Asia, and also the beginning of its journey to destruction. On September 18 forty years ago, Japanese imperialism launched a surprise attack on Shenyang under the pretext it had fabricated and then occupied the three provinces of northeast China. Less than six years afterwards, it set off an all-round war of aggression against China in a futile attempt to swallow up the whole of China. Under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people defeated the Japanese aggressors through protracted and heroic resistance, and won great victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan. Japanese militarism met an ignominious end.

Look at the past of Japanese militarism, and you can tell its present; look at its past and present, and you can tell its future. The prewar history of Japanese militarism was a blood-smeared history of aggression and war. Japanese militarism had risen through the seizure of colonies by armed force. Built up on armed aggression, the Japanese economy was inherently weak and on feeble foundations and had great difficulties in obtaining raw materials and markets. Japanese militarism had to launch a new war of aggression when all its inherent contradictions became ever sharper and insuperable. The "September 18 Incident" broke out precisely in such circumstances.

Since the war, Japan has rehabilitated and developed her economy speedily under the patronage of U.S. imperialism and by amassing a huge fortune out of war. Today, Japan's economic strength is seven or eight times that of prewar days and Japan has become an "economic power" in the capitalist world, second only

to the United States. The contradictions between the malignant swelling of Japan's economy and her shortage of natural resources and limited markets are even sharper than in prewar times. This determines that Japanese monopoly capital must seek a way out through expansion abroad. For many years, the Japanese reactionaries have done their utmost to put cunning neo-colonialism into effect. Behind the smokescreen of so-called "economic co-operation," they export capital in a big way, dump their commodities everywhere and plunder natural resources unscrupulously. Such colonial expansion inevitably encounters resistance from the people of the plundered countries and leads to clashes of interest with other imperialist countries. Japanese monopoly capital is sure to protect its colonial interests by armed force and scramble for spheres of influence. An "economic power" is bound to become a "military power" and economic expansion definitely leads to military expansion. This is an inexorable law of the development of Japanese militarism.

At present, the Japanese reactionaries are accelerating their pace in arms expansion and war preparations. They are expanding the navy and air force on a large scale, reinforcing their "striking power" and going in for so-called "offensive defence." While expanding arms production, they are strenuously developing the heavy and chemical industries, the basis of war industry, which can be instantly switched to arms and ammunition production when necessary. They are working actively for revising the existing constitution to pave the way for dispatching troops abroad. With increasing vigour, they are creating counter-revolutionary public opinion, openly reversing the correct verdicts on the "September 18 Incident" and all the aggressive wars launched by Japanese imperialism and conducting ideological mobilization for new military adventures. All these facts show that Japanese militarism has become a dangerous force of aggression and war menacing the people of various Asian countries.

Japanese militarism has become so rampant because it is backed by U.S. imperialism and abetted by social-imperialism. To get out of its predicament in Asia and revamp its counter-revolutionary global strategy, U.S. imperialism is eager to use Japanese militarism as its storm trooper in launching aggression in Asia. Social-imperialism, too, wants to enlist Japanese militarism in opposing China and undermining the revolutionary movement in Asia. It is precisely in these circumstances that the reactionary Sato government is stepping up its

aggressive activities in Asia by taking full advantage of the so-called "new Asia policy" of U.S. imperialism. In collusion with the Pak Jung Hi clique, it is vigorously intensifying its economic control over and military penetration into south Korea. In an attempt to lay hands on China's sacred territory Taiwan Province, it loudly trumpets the fallacy that "the status of Taiwan remains to be determined," actively plots and supports the so-called "Taiwan independence movement" and concocts the "one China, one Taiwan" scheme. It tries also to intrude deeper into Indochina. The Japanese reactionaries have openly clamoured to "take over the baton" from U.S. imperialism and "play the role of 'successor' to the United States" in Asia. This is indeed the height of aggressive arrogance.

However, the days when Japanese militarism could do whatever it liked are gone for ever. Today's Asia is no longer what it was at the time of the "September 18 Incident." Once colonial and semi-colonial, Korea and China have become socialist countries growing stronger day by day. The people of the three Indochinese countries, steeled in the war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, are stauncher than ever. In the struggle against the U.S.-Japanese reactionaries, the Japanese people are awakening daily and the revolutionary forces are growing ever stronger. The political consciousness of the people of all countries in Asia has been greatly enhanced and the international united front against U.S. imperialism constantly expanded and strengthened. At present, the struggle of the Asian people, including the Japanese people, against the revival of Japanese militarism by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries is developing in depth. Japanese militarism which reared its head more than half a century ago arrived at the very opposite of its hopes — destruction as a result of its frenzied aggression and expansion. Bent on taking its old road, reviving Japanese militarism will only fail again and speed up its doom.

It is entirely contrary to Japan's national interests for a handful of pro-U.S. Japanese monopoly capitalists to push Japan once again on to the road of militarism in collusion with U.S. imperialism. Japanese militarism wants to make a come-back by relying on U.S. imperialism, whereas the latter strives to tighten its control over Japan economically, politically and militarily and fasten her firmly to its war chariot. U.S. imperialism has no wish to see an independent, prosperous and strong Japan in Asia. While calling Japan a "close partner," it is actually ready to betray her at any time. To entice the Japanese reactionaries into its service, U.S. imperialism may temporarily concede some of its colonial interests as bait. But it will not hesitate to gain its own ends at the expense of its "partners." The "new economic policy" enforced recently by the Nixon government to tide over its economic crisis has dealt Japan's economy a telling blow. In their attempt to carry out expansion abroad with the patronage and "co-operation" of U.S. imperialism, the Japanese reactionaries are merely pulling chestnuts out of the fire

for the U.S. imperialists — they will only push the Japanese nation into an abyss of disaster. Far-sighted people in Japanese economic and political circles are also aware of this now.

What Japan should take is another road, the road of independence, democracy, peace and neutrality. That is to say, Japan must free herself from U.S. imperialist control, dismantle the U.S. military bases and achieve genuine national independence; she must renounce fascist dictatorship and let the people enjoy democratic rights; she must stop tailing after U.S. imperialism's policies of aggression and war, cease to be a U.S. tool for aggression and live on an equal footing and in peace with all countries; and she must abrogate the U.S.-Japan military alliance, and neither organize nor participate in any military blocs. Such a road fully conforms to the interests of the Japanese people of all strata except a handful of pro-U.S. monopoly capitalists. The masses of the Japanese people are waging an unyielding struggle for such a bright future. It is the Japanese people, not Japanese militarism, who determine the destiny of Japan. We are deeply convinced that the Japanese people's wish to build an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral new Japan is bound to come true.

Our great leader Chairman Mao has pointed out: **"Among the Japanese, except for the pro-U.S. monopoly capitalists and the militarists, the broad masses of the people are our true friends."** The fundamental interests of the Chinese and Japanese peoples have always been identical. The aggression against China by Japanese militarism at the time not only brought enormous disaster to the Chinese people but also plunged the Japanese people into abject misery. The people of China and Japan sympathized with and supported each other at that time. Today the people of our two countries are standing on the same front again to wage a common struggle against the revival of Japanese militarism by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries. Although a handful of Japanese reactionaries cling to their policy of hostility towards the Chinese people, the masses of the Japanese people firmly demand friendship with the Chinese people. At present, the mass movement for Japan-China friendship is surging to an unprecedented high in Japan and has become a mighty current. All the endeavours of Eisaku Sato and his ilk to hold back this current will certainly fail dismally in the end.

The Chinese people are determined to unite still closer with the Japanese people and the people of Korea, the three countries in Indochina and other Asian countries, intensify their struggle, firmly oppose the revival of Japanese militarism by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries and resolutely stop Japanese militarism from embarking on the old road of aggression and war. Should Japanese militarism dare to unleash a new war of aggression, it will be buried once and for all!

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