What Japan Wants

Kuno Yoshi Saburo
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Author: Kuno Yoshi Saburo

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WHAT JAPAN WANTS
“A man whose judgment can be wholly respected, and who is not accustomed to saying or doing wild things. He knows whereof he speaks.”

—Benjamin Ide Wheeler,

Pres. Emeritus, Univ. of California.
WHAT JAPAN WANTS

BY

YOSHI S. KUNO

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIF.

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FOREWORD

It is the purpose of this small volume to set forth plainly and without bias what Japan wants both at home and abroad. The author would request the reader to bear in mind that the material contained in the first six chapters portrays existing conditions and does not of necessity reflect his personal ideals and policies. However, the solutions offered both in these and in the concluding chapter, being based upon knowledge gained through years of extensive research work, set forth his personal opinions as to what Japan and other nations should do. The mission of this treatise is therefore twofold:

First, to acquaint Occidental readers with the state of public opinion in Japan regarding these various subjects.

Second, to formulate plans for the solution of the numerous problems involved.

YOSHI S. KUNO.

August 25, 1921.
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CHAPTER I

WHAT JAPAN WANTS IN AMERICA

Without question, Japan may rightly claim to be the oldest existing empire in the world. Furthermore, she holds the unique distinction of having been ruled throughout by the same Imperial line. Although, according to tradition, the Empire was founded in 660 B.C., Occidental scholars, versed in the history of Japan, and even prominent native historians hesitate to place the date earlier than that of the founding of the Roman Empire, or about the time of the beginning of the Christian era.

During this long period of her national existence, Japan has undergone four great national reformations. The first of these, which was consequent upon the introduction
What Japan Wants in America

of Chinese civilization and methods of government, took place in 640 A.D., the second was consummated by the completion of the system of feudal government in 1192. Japan entered upon the work of the third in 1854, when the country was re-opened to Occidental civilization by Commodore Perry. The Great War of 1914 marks the beginning of the fourth period of reformation.

The strength of the nation was rooted in the work of the first and second reformations, while through the third and fourth, Modern Japan has come to rank as one of the five leading powers of the world. The third reformation was concerned chiefly with the introduction of Western ideas, principally from the United States. The fourth is also being carried out largely along American lines. Therefore, "What Japan Wants" is a question of vital importance in America as well as in Japan.

In considering the question "What Japan Wants in America," we are confronted with