

CHAPTER II

JAPANESE HISTORY BEFORE AND AFTER WORLD WAR II

Japan has such interesting history before Japan had bad national image. Discussing about the bad image of Japan post World War II, it is necessary to have an assessment to know about the history of Japan in the era of World War II from the beginning until the rest from World War II (WW II). The history here is to inform in details or at least give the general over view about Japan in the past or in specific thing especially all about what Japan has done before Japan got the bad image. This chapter will include the history of Japan before WW II, during WW II and post WW II.

In this chapter the author would explain and provide the information and also the history about Japan in the era of World War II, the defeat of Japan in World War II and Japan Post World War II. The purpose of this chapter actually to inform and to explain about what Japan has done in the history that could give the evidence about the reason why Japan could get the negative image and what the image are, that Japan got in the era post World War II and how it could lead Japan to rebuild its image to the international world post World War II..

Last but not least, this chapter will discuss about what has been described above, aiming to provide an understanding of the conflicts of Japan with other countries that gave the impacts for Japan itself to improve or to rebuild the image before entering into discussion about how the efforts of Japan to rebuild its image.

A. Japan before World War II

In the era before World War II Japan had their great time and Japan had a good image especially because of its economic sector. The party cabinet system and the diplomacy based on international cooperation especially with the United States were implemented during most of the 1920s . The world recognizes that Japan has been transformed into a strong and modern state and the position of Japan in the major power of the world was aligned with the State in the West at that time. (Auslin, 2004) Japan had made progress in the fields of industry, commerce, education and the armed forces. So, Japan had changed from traditional country into an industrial country that developed rapidly after becoming a strong country. Then, Japan began to get involved itself into international world and it also had conflicts with other countries (such as Korea and China). Japan started practicing imperialism politics as west countries.¹³

The restoration process that took place in Japan was the reason why Japan became the first country of imperialism. The imperialism of Japan was bringing in progress quite rapidly to the Japanese in various sectors. At first, Japan wanted to manage to become a developed and modern country, and could be in line with other western countries. However, then it raised the desire and ambition of Japan to do imperialism against others. The greatness of Japanese development as a modern state and the first industrial country in Asia instead brought unwanted effects. Such advances were accompanied by rapid population growth. The island

¹³Kenichi Ohno, “the economic Tokyo: Yuhikaku Publishing Co 2005. Ltd, Development of Japan” (the path travelled Japan as a developing country), page 14.

of Japan was small and poor in natural resources. As the way out, the Japanese initially took the immigration policy. However, after because the other countries closed their doors for the Japanese immigrants, then it made Japan angry and was also thirsty of land. Being backed by the powerful and modern military weapons, the Japanese began to perform military adventures disturbing the world. Problem of overcrowding became early difficulties of Japan and a factor in the Japanese imperialism in Asia.¹⁴

The involvement of Japan to the war was actually for bringing their imperialism into reality. Japan also had an ambition to take over Korea, but for taking over Korea, Japan fought a war with another country.

Japan - China (1894-1895)

Basically, Korea is originally the area of China, then when the Japanese wanted to take over Korea, China was ready to do battle in defense of Korea.

According to Roy H. Akagi (1936) Korea is very attractive to Japanese, Korea geographically was a machete to the heart of Japan. If Japan could take over Korea then it could be used for Japan as a blockhouse for Japan. Meanwhile, Korea itself wanted to make changes and updates so they think that it would be difficult if China was still in Korea. At that time, the King of Korea asked Japan to drive away Chinese troops from Korea. Then China asked for help from United Kingdom and finally England set fire to the Japanese vessel in 1894. Japan was very angry so that on the 1st of August 1894 Japan declared war with China.

¹⁴Faktor Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Jepang Sebagai Negara Imperialisme, <http://www.astalog.com/6171/sebutkan-faktor-faktor-yang-mendorong-jepang-sebagai-negara-imperialisme.htm>, accessed 20 July 2016.

The war between Japan and China ended up with an agreement, named as Shimonoseki agreement dated April 17, 1895. Because of the agreement it made Japan became a state influential to Chinese and Korean. The image of China as a big country slumped down after the war because of Japan and the Japanese became stronger and bigger¹⁵.

Japan had the ambition to become a major world power and control on China. Japan hoped that their support for the allies during World War I would make them acquire additional territory when Germany stripped colonies. However, the Japanese contribution was so small at the time for World War I that it is impossible to be given the huge rewards. Japanese intentions to dominate the Chinese was regarded as a threat to the United States that was conducting "open door approach" towards China as a way to increase trade. Japan got the right by the peace treaty to take control of the former Germany trade concessions. Besides the Japanese got protested by China and was hated by the US. The main reason why Americans did not like the Japanese peace treaty obtained was actually because the American feared that sooner or later Japan would be a threat to American interests in the Pacific. To limit the Japanese threat, the Japanese was invited to attend a naval conference in Washington in 1921-1922. At this conference, the ship size of the naval country allies were determined, where each naval vessel size was limited and the number of the ship as a whole. This

¹⁵Imperialistic Expansion 1984-1910, <http://wgordon.web.wesleyan.edu/papers/imperialism.htm>, accessed 20 July 2016.

conference happened because the Americans wanted to prevent the start of the race with the Japanese naval forces.¹⁶

Japan experienced a change of circumstances in the country and in the chronology book of World War II also explained that Japanese Feodal system increasingly obsolete. Then, Japan introduced universal suffrage in 1924, and it was received by abroad but the Japanese progress towards representative democracy raised many problems. The universal suffrage was introduced by the Japanese in 1924 but it was a step too quick that have been taken up by Japan, because Japan was country with a traditional system but changed into a system of democratic government. Because of that, it was causing great instability. Instability that has been experienced by Japan at the time actually was because the system of government which was used by the Japanese was really not in accordance with the democratic values. The Japanese had difficulty and also got a lot of problems. One of the problems that Japan faced is the problem of corruption and political scandals.¹⁷

Some of the problems that Japan faced eventually made a lot of Japanese people turn to the extreme parties. Some parties still oriented on the belief that China was the future of Japan. It was when Japan could take over on China. It could make Japan got the benefit and could overcome various problems of Japan itself. If Japan could take over the China, it would raise the position of Japan in the eyes of the world and Japan could also have economic benefit. Basically,

¹⁶ David Jordan, *Kronologi Perang Dunia II* (Jakarta: PT.Gramedia, 2015), page. 131-132

¹⁷ *Ibid*, page 132

Japan was experiencing economic problems caused by population growth. It made the Japanese was in a difficult position and unemployment and poverty had increased. Therefore the Japanese was looking for ways in order to resolve the problems they were facing.¹⁸

Since it got some problems, Japan was figuring out how to solve the problem. Eventually, Japanese nationalist was thinking to cast their eyes on Manchuria, Manchuria is a region which is rich in natural resources. The areas in Manchuria were shared between Japan and Russia because the area actually was already under the influence of Japan. The Japanese nationalists started thinking to exploit natural resources in Manchuria and would like to expand the influence of Japanese in Manchuria solely for the benefit of Japan in order to be able to strengthen the position of Japan in the international world. In addition, Japan also wanted to resolve their economic problems. Japan had future goals, it wanted to become a great country. Moreover, the Japanese believed that military force was the only way to realize the dream of Japanese that wanted to become a great country.¹⁹

With regard to the desire of the Japanese to be the great state, Japanese wanted to take over the Manchuria but the Japanese knew that their intent would be tripped by west countries. Then, the Japanese approached Manchuria carefully, in order to take over Manchuria. However, some territories of Manchuria were still controlled by warlords of China (Marshal Chang), and Japan committed

¹⁸David Jordan, loc. Cit.

¹⁹Ibid

atrocities in order to realize their intentions. They were trying to get rid of Chang and finally on 4 June 1928, Chang was killed while he was traveling by the train. The mine laid for making the train break down and finally killed the Chang, was on the orders of a Japanese nationalist officer. After the death of Marshal Chang, actually three years after the death of Chang, the Japanese successfully managed and took over Manchuria, and Manchuria was being under the influence of Japan in September 1931. The Japanese did the acts of brutality again by placing explosives near an army barracks in the city of Mukden China, but Japan said that it was done by the terrorist of China. Then after that incident, the Japanese took over Mukden.²⁰

After knowing the behavior of the Japanese that were ruthless and ambitious, nation league finally lodged a protest against the Japanese. However, Japan responded by leaving out the race nation league in March 1933 and other countries were confused by the decision taken by the Japanese. After being out of the league, the Japanese founded Manchukuo. Manchukuo was a puppet state in the territory of Japan. Japan was increasingly ambitious and brutal, and the foreign policy of Japan was becoming an international concern. After that, the Japanese surprised international world because in April 1934 Japan issued a statement that only Japan that could be responsible for matters of international relations and military security in the Far East, region under the influence of Japan, like what was done by the United States through 1823. According to David Jordan in his book, he mentioned that Japan also wanted to cancel the Washington

²⁰ Ibid, page

agreement in 1936. By cancelling the agreement, Japan could build ships as much as they wanted and also with the appropriate size. Japanese desired to have no intervention or regulation of other parties. Because the behavior of Japan that had been beyond the limits, then the United States and the international community no longer put their sympathetic towards Japan. However, Japan did not care about it, and after that the Japanese were becoming more ambitious to realize their future goals, which was to become a great Japan.²¹

B. Process of Japan to Join World War II

The World War II, or also known as the Second World War happened in 1939 to 1945 in Europe. World War II was a global war that most of the countries in the world joined the war. The World War II was also the largest armed conflict in the history, spanning the entire world and involving more countries than any other war including all of the great powers, and fighting as part of two military alliances the Allies and the Axis. The major Allied powers were Britain, France, Russia, and the United States. The Allies was formed mostly as a defense against the attacks of the Axis Powers. In addition, the Axis powers were Italy, Germany and Japan. World War II killed more people than any other war in human history.

Japan had done something that was not favored by western democracy countries, especially what had been done in China, Japan made western democracy countries angered. Therefore, on 25 November 1936, Japan decided to seek new allies.

²¹ Ibid, page

The involvement of Japan in World War II actually was the result from the Japanese imperialism and militarism because Japan wanted to begin to industrialize, but Japan lacked oil, oil and iron ore. Then, because Japan realized that they had no natural resources, the Japanese government launched a plan to invade weaker neighbors who were rich in mineral deposit and to become such a powerful country Japan decided to seek new allies. Japan made plans to control the whole pacific and in 1940 Japan joined with Germany and Italy as the Axis.²²

At the first time Japan actually wanted to become an economic superpower then Japan became a player on the stage of the world and reminds people of limelight but when Japanese dream failed to become a reality then militarism became the answer for the problems of Japan. Japanese military and political readers wished to transform the political system into a one party system by the joining to the events in Europe to give further encouragement for Japan itself by becoming the member of tripartite with Germany and Italy.²³

Japan entered World War II with limited aims and with every intention of fighting a limited war. Japan adopted the operational strategy to initiate the war. Japan had an ambition to take over power in the pacific and to make it happen. Japan believed that it was necessary to destroy or to neutralize American striking power in the Pacific. Japan realized that American was such a threat for their ambition to take over the Pacific because Japan still wanted to make their

²²“Japanese Expansion Leads to World War II”, <http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/webpages/phyland/files/japanese%20expansion%20leads%20to%20world%20war%20ii1.pdf>, accessed 22 July 2016

²³ Joseph A Mauriello, “Japan and The Second World War: The Aftermath of Imperialism”, 1999. (Mauriello 1999)

ambition become a reality. Japan took the decision to carry out their first attack on America was by attacking the American Pacific armada based in Pearl Harbor. Japan decided to attack America to eliminate the threat of Americans in order to be able to freely perform an action of Japanese in the Pacific.²⁴

Japanese launched an attack on America after making the decision about attacking the United State at Pearl Harbor. Japan attacked the field of American and it gave a satisfactory result for Japan, because Japan had destroyed 200 American aircrafts, and 160 American aircrafts were damaged. The attacks against Americans in Pearl Harbor were really destroying but that did not mean that Japan had won. The attack basically was Japanese gambling for them because if the attack towards US were successful, it would make America would not be able to return in the near future. However, when Japanese gambling failed because the US was angry, President Roosevelt said that the event on December 7 was the event where the Japanese had awakened the sleeping giant. Then, after the Japanese attacked on Pearl Harbor, United State did not immediately respond because there was no attack that Japan got from western allies. Japan regained great success and western allies were in crisis in the war zones of Pacific. The crisis in the Pacific occurred due to an act of the Japanese, but the Japanese did not care, Japan launched its assault wherever they wanted and in any attack from Japan in every region, Japanese always got success.

Because of the success that had been achieved by the Japanese, then Japan became a country that intervened weaker countries that eventually brought

²⁴World War II The War Against Japan, <https://www.google.co.id/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=WORLD+WAR+II+THE+WAR+AGAINST+JAPAN+pdf>, accessed 20 July 2016.

disaster for allies. According to Jordan (2004), he mentioned that only in eight months, Japan have managed to expel the UK from Malaya, Singapore from Burma, US from the Philippines in the Pacific Dutch and Japan was defeated in the eastern Dutch East Indies. India and Australia was also threatened. Finally, in the month of June 1942 it was impossible to prevent Japan as the dominant power in the Pacific. Moreover, also many small islands have been taken over by the Japanese and it made the position of Japan in the Pacific was very strong when the strength of the Japanese in the Pacific was very intense, and the success that had been achieved by Japan was not arguable then it made the western allies felt down. However, the western allies were not just silent despite the fact that the Japanese victory in the Pacific was very possible and finally the western allies attempted to conquer Japan reaching its peak. Japanese setbacks beginning with victory propaganda that had been done by America. America had imposed an air raid on Tokyo. The attacks impacted so much towards Japan and Japanese ultimately sought to improve their air defense systems.

However, the attacks of the US against the Japanese did not stop there. US would seek to bring down Japan in various ways.

C. The Defeat of Japan in World War II

As the result of what Japanese had been done in ambitious, brutal and cruel way, it to indirectly made the US take part in the Pacific War, and it was time for the US to do something to beat the Japanese back. It was because basically the US could not stand and watch the Japanese action where the

Japanese were very brutal, ambitious and ruthless. Just as President Roosevelt said, Japan has awakened the sleeping giant then it was the time the giant woke up and was ready to beat Japan

US decided to invade Japan in order to end the Pacific war. The United State carried out the action to make Japan surrender by dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the two of the biggest cities in Japan, Hiroshima was an industrial city in Japan and Nagasaki was a port city where Japanese made the Japanese vessel. After Japan got several attacks from western allies, it eventually made Japan surrendered to the western allies after the bombardment. After the tragedy that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan accepted the offer from US as the first alternative to the Japanese, and then on 10 August 1945 Japan wanted to surrender but announced after 5 days later. It was a sign that the war had finished and the surrender of Japan made the American people had party to celebrate in New York.

Japan surrendered on August 14 1945. Although the Americans had managed to attack Japan, but actually US itself felt sorry because US had killed many people. Besides, Americans thought that the decision was taken because the US had a view that Japan had very scary forces and atrocities of Japanese soldiers during the torture. Because of the intent of US to stop the atrocities of Japan, then, the US took the decision to drop the bomb on Japan in order to make Japan surrender and willing to end the Pacific war.

On August 15, 1945 Hirohito the emperor of Japan announced that Japan had surrendered to the Allied powers, He announced the information with his first radio broadcast. Japanese people who listened to the surrender announcement were surprised and shocked at the same time because actually for eight years Japan had done everything for the sake of great and victory to liberate Asia from the British and American evils, but in the end Japanese should realize that Japan had been falling down. According to Jordan (2004) Hirohito explained that the decision to surrender with one of the most remarkable understatements in history: “the war has not turned in Japan’s favor”. He also offered words of regret for other people who had worked for Japan. The surrender of Japan also made about 350 military officers committed suicide right after the surrender announcement because the military soldiers gave their lives to the state and they were always ready to do the battle to the death.

The formal statement of Japanese surrender was submitted by the Japanese on board in the battleship of USS Missouri on September 2 1945. The Japanese surrendered unconditionally to the allies and it marked as the end of World War. Then, after the defeat of Japan, it made Japan in a difficult time and Japanese people faced the starvation for several years.

D. Japan Post World War II

After the Japanese defeat in World War II, Japan had a difficult period of time. Japan in the past was a country that had the confidence, high ambitions and a big dream to become Great Japan but in the aftermath of Japan's defeat in World War II, the attitude of Japanese nation changed. The ambition of Japan, to become a great and super power country was not there anymore, because the defeat that they got in the Second World War made the Japanese people no longer had big ambitions. The changing attitude of the Japanese was actually because of the disappointment on their country, and because it was known that Japan had become imperialist and joined the World War II to make the country become a great country and also super power. However, in the end the Japanese could not get it all after the world war ended. Beside the defeat that made Japanese shamed, Japan also now have a poor image in the world. Their image as powerful country was no longer exist because as the writer has explained, Japan had made mischief in the world especially in the Pacific and Japan also had done violence, murder, occupation, aggression against other countries, and so on. All things that Japan has done, really made Japanese in a difficult time after the Second World War. The Japanese officials felt tremendous shame because they were not able to bring Japan to victory, and the citizen people as a victim of their own country's ambitions and now they suffered and experienced hardship to live.²⁵

²⁵Jepang Pasca Perang Dunia, <http://repository.usu.ac.id/bitstream/123456789/28645/3/Chapter%20II.pdf>, accessed 4 august 2016.

In the post World War II, Japan returned to Asia, but it was not a happy homecoming because the Southeast Asia memories about Japan were very bad. Japan has made a huge mess and also brutally. For Korea and China the return of Japan to Asia was very suspicious, they thought about what it was exactly behind the intention of Japan to return back to Asia after Japan ravaged Asia and joined with the west, because basically the western imperialism that had been used by Japan was a form of crime and they were very anti-Japan. However, Japan had no remorse and it wanted that Japan was accepted by Asian countries. Japan regretted of doing such things that were adverse for Asia as in the Japanese war in Asia and the Pacific. They tried to explain that all the problems that Japanese did had been finished. Japan also already received a penalty in the post war. However, the explanation from Japan made Japanese look like they did not feel guilty for what they had done. The suspicion towards the Japanese attitude was triggered by provocative statements by right wing Japanese who denied that the Japanese had other intentions behind the apology. Actually it was a strategy of Japan to gain the trust of Asia for making their country could rise from the adversity, Japan at that time already had good relations with the US because Japan thought the US could lead back the country toward the revival, but Japan also thought that they needed to improve the relations with the Asian countries.²⁶

World War II has a meaning and is still elusive for the Japanese people. Japan was collapsed right after the end of world war and also the post world war. It was not only about inability of Japan to be the great Japan and made Japan feel

²⁶ John H. Miller, Japan Between Asia and The West: March 2004, page 6.

down more but also post World War II was the time for Japan to rebuild all the sectors after the defeat, although actually Japan still felt sorry because they could not bring the country to victory. Japan has complicated wartime history and it also made Japan fall down and lost their ambition to take over the world. According to the Koshiro, Japan has not come to terms with any of the history.²⁷

Japan destabilized the world, and the Second World War have impacted throughout the world. In addition, the International world view about Japan changed. Japan was a country considered cruel and was destroying other countries. However, after the defeat of Japan, the Japanese were trying to bounce back through the economy power and the industry to rise from the adversity, to improve and to rebuild the image of the country in international world. Japanese would use soft power. The soft power used by Japan are manga and anime.

²⁷ (Koshiro, Japan's World and World War II n.d.) Yukiko Koshiro, Japan's World and World War II, page 425 and 441