Translator's Note

An English Translation of Mori Tetsuro's *The Tale* of the Two Kannons Who Crossed The Warring Seas (Choeisha, 2002)

Part 1 of 3

森哲郎『戦乱の海を渡った二つの観音様』鳥影社 2002 三部構成の第一部

Seng Ong

Currently sequestered in Nagoya's largest peace memorial park, the Senju Kannon statue (千手観音像)is displayed to the public only five times a year. An ostensible footnote to a failed and forgotten exchange, it was a return gift from Nanjing's oldest and most famous Buddhist temple, sent in exchange for a towering Eleven-faced Kannon statue(十一面観音 像)from the Nittai-ji in Nagoya. This gift exchange was part of an elaborate system of humanitarian discourse and practices which had emerged in Japan during the internationalist fervor of the 1920s, and which gained particular prominence in the wake of the Nanjing massacre as a way of memorializing casualties on both sides of the conflict. While the Japanese gift was eventually destroyed during the Cultural Revolution, the return gift from China has survived. Owing to the efforts of Japanese Buddhist peace activists in the postwar — the very same figures who were at the vanguard of Japan's wartime Sino-Japanese 'friendship campaigns' — the Senju Kannon statue was installed in 1961 as the centerpiece of Nagoya's Peace Pavilion(平和堂). In the sixty years since, the monument has been a virtual Rorschach for Japan's complex reckoning with its imperial past: reviled by right-wing nationalists as an admission of events that never happened, promoted by leftists who champion its repatriation to China, and ignored by a majority uneasy about its ties to wartime appropriations of the concept of peace.

Mori Tetsuro's (1928-2008) non-fiction manga novel, The Tale of the Two Kannons Who Crossed the Warring Seas, tells the story of the prewar and postwar histories of the two Kannon monuments. It takes up the story of their origins and the historical actors behind their creation, and tracks their deployment in the wartime 'humanitarian and friendship' campaigns in China. It then traces the monuments' postwar fortunes, elucidating the unusual circumstances in which one of the monuments ended up as the fugitive symbol of Nagoya's recovery from and reconciliation with the past. The work presents a significant

contribution to our understanding of Japanese war history and war memory. It is one of the very few attempts in Japanese literature to explicitly articulate and flesh out the intimate historical relationship between Japanese pacificism and Japanese militarism. Eschewing a top-down, state-centered narrative, it presents a rarely-told history of grassroots and religious activism during and after the war, giving us much-needed insight into the extent to which wartime ideologies were repurposed by and woven into Japan's postwar settlement. The work highlights the diversity of visual cultures of war remembrance in Japan, whilst posing difficult questions about the challenges which beset a fuller recuperation of that historical memory.

The translation will be published in three parts. The first instalment introduces us to the historical events leading up to the Japanese invasion of China and the fall of Nanjing. The second deals with the Sino-Japanese 'friendship campaigns' during the war and the events which led to the symbolic gift exchange of the two Kannon statues. The third and final instalment brings us into the postwar period. It introduces us to the major figures behind the construction of the Heiwa Park, showing us how they sought to repurpose the Kannon monument from China as a symbol of Nagoya's successful reconciliation with the past. In lieu of an introduction to the work, a longer research essay will be published after the final instalment. It will address the broader historical issues raised by Mori's work, looking in particular at the light it sheds on the longer history of Japanese pacifism and the complexity of positions articulated therein.



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ビジュアル・ドキュメン・

一一つの観音様戦乱の海を渡った

監修・長岡 森 哲郎

進

Vho Crossed The Warring Seas

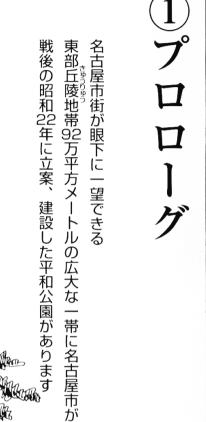
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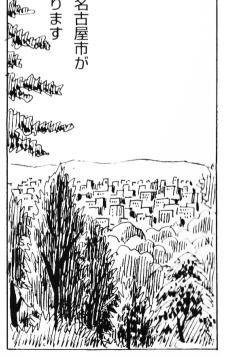
Tetsuro Mori

Editor: Susumu Nagaoka

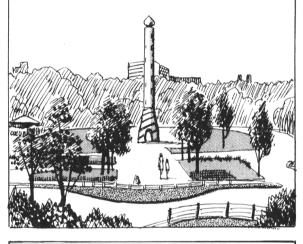






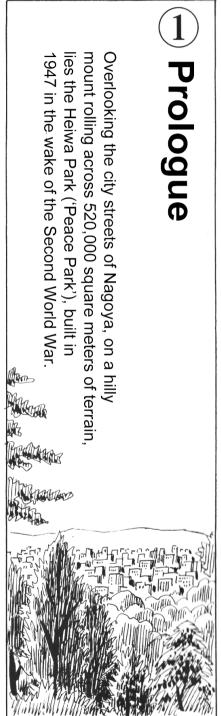


To be exact, the entire urban area in Nagoya, encompassing the first to the third district of Chikusa ward, was designated as one massive burial ground.

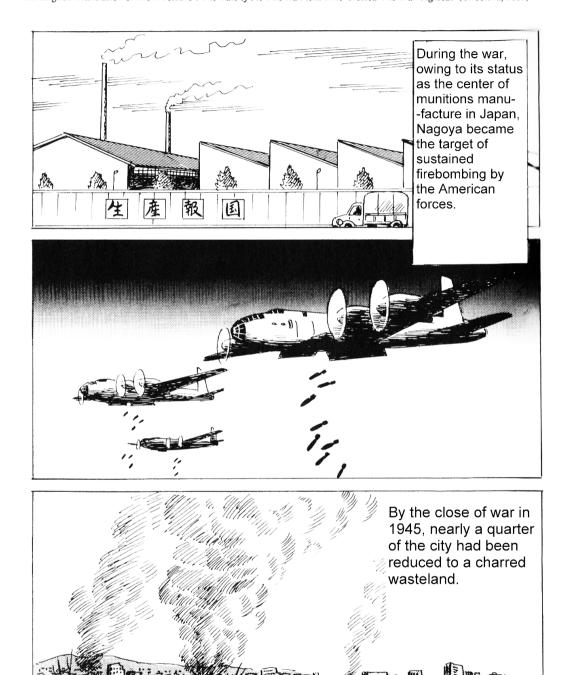


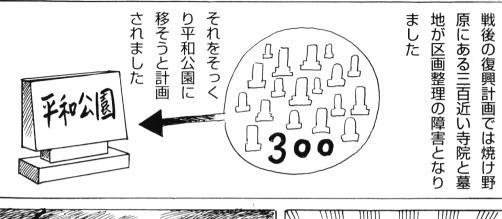
In the past, the cemetary
was regarded alongside the
100-meter boulevard as
the defining symbols of
Nagoya's post-war revival.







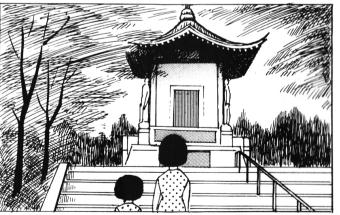




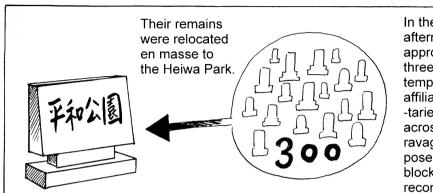


のです たが、その後、平和堂に変更されたとして平和塔の建設が計画されましずとして平和公園のシンボル・タワー





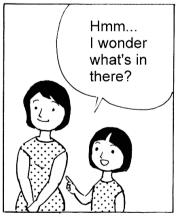
平和堂、それは



In the immediate aftermath, the approximately three hundred temples and their affiliated ceme-taries, scattered across the warravaged city, posed a stumbling block to reconstruction.



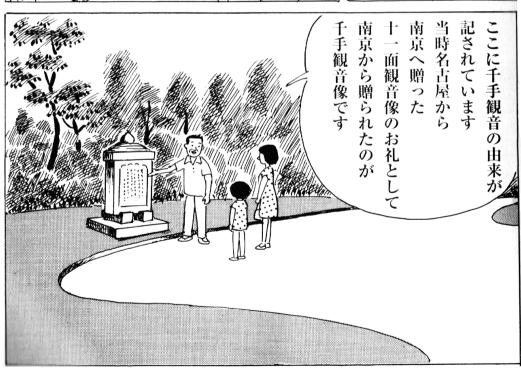
The Hall of Peace! Well, that ----- Then, although the original plan was to install a symbolic tower designated as a 'Peace Column', this was later revised and expanded into a much grander 'Hall of Peace'.

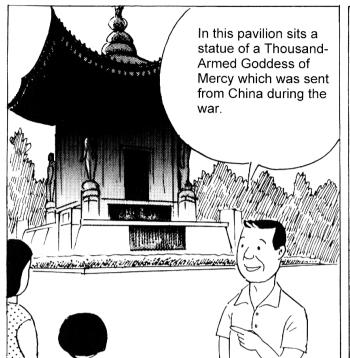




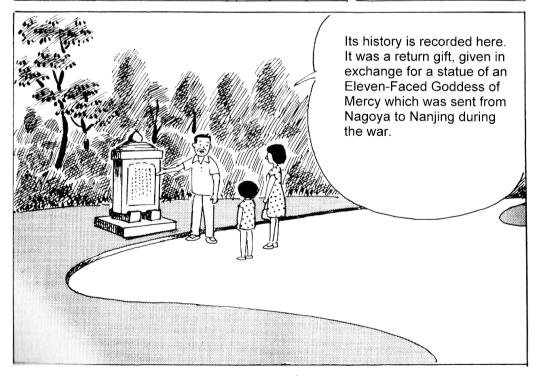




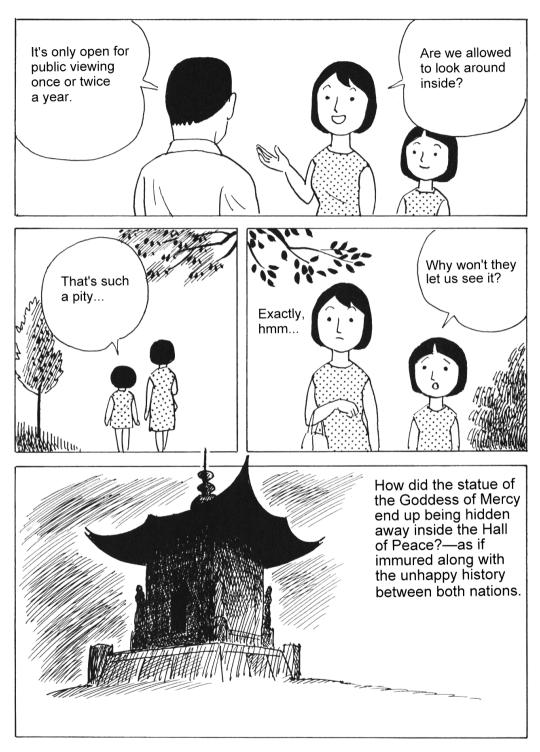






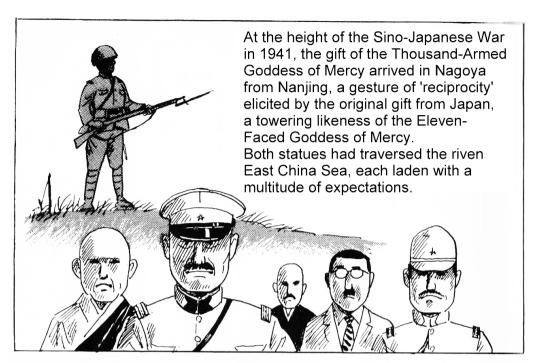


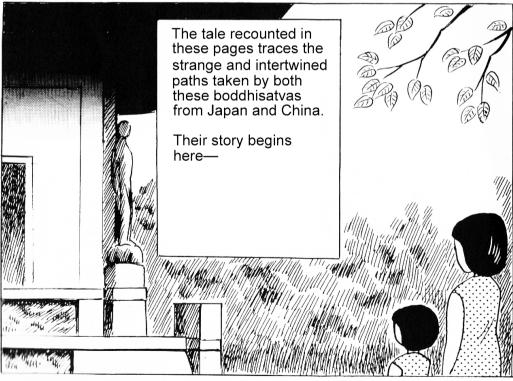




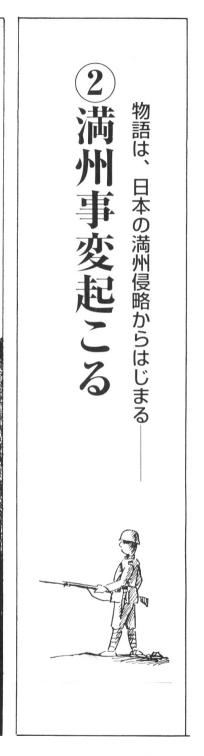






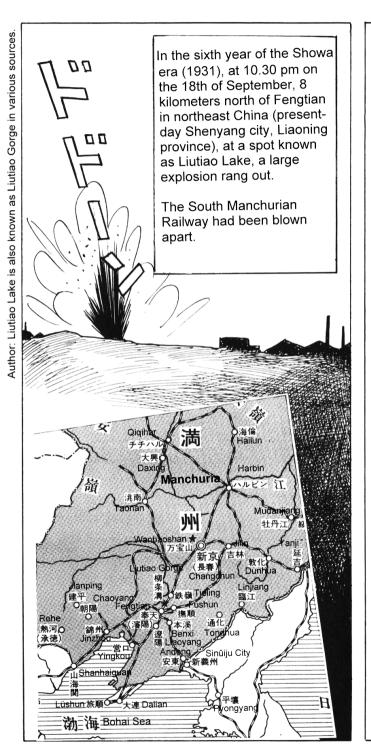






旅順

渤海



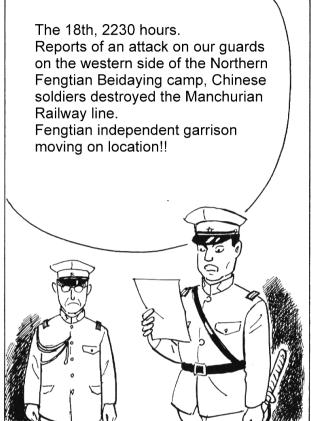




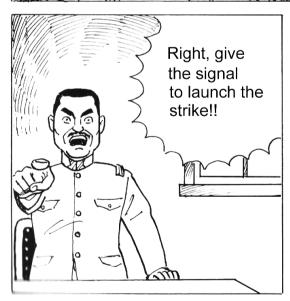


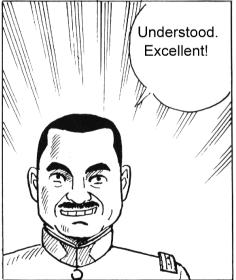


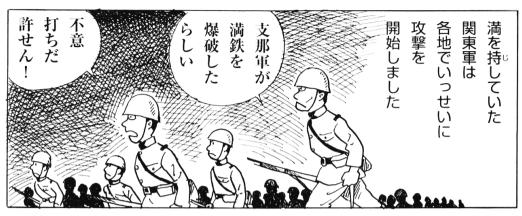




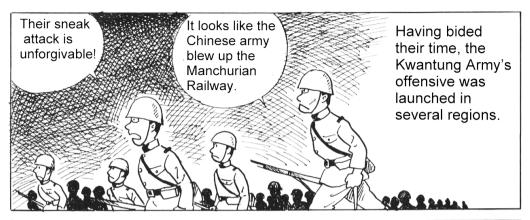






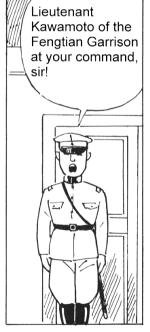








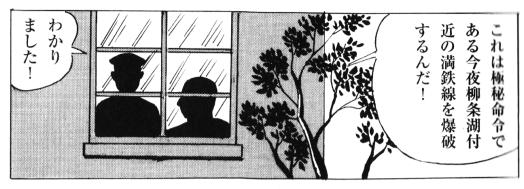
Ah, you've arrived.
Come in.

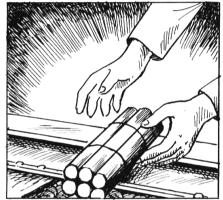


With breathtaking speed, the Kwantung Army seized Fengtian, simultaneously capturing both the cities of Changchun and Jilin.
The Manchurian

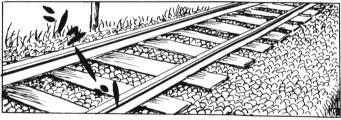
The Manchurian Incident had begun.







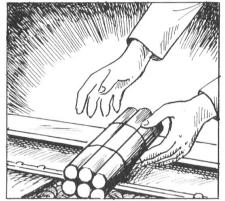




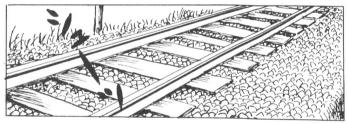












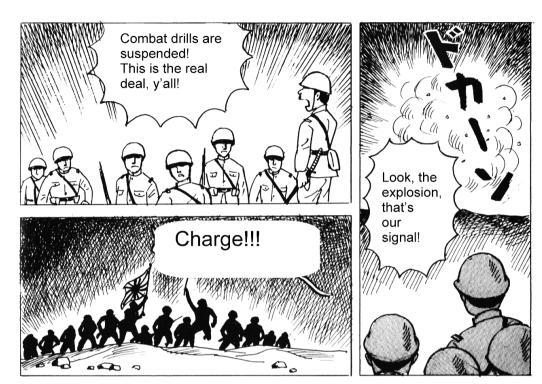








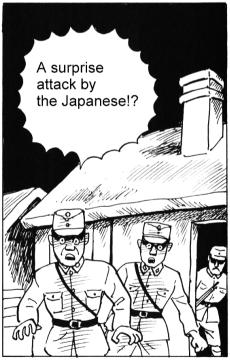




Kwantung Army's scheme to occupy Manchuria (Northeastern China) was set in motion.

The fangs of the Japanese colonial project were finally bared.

With this false flag operation, the





態度に出たのです

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「関連は有効な行動をとろうとしませんでした。」
「「

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争へと発展していった

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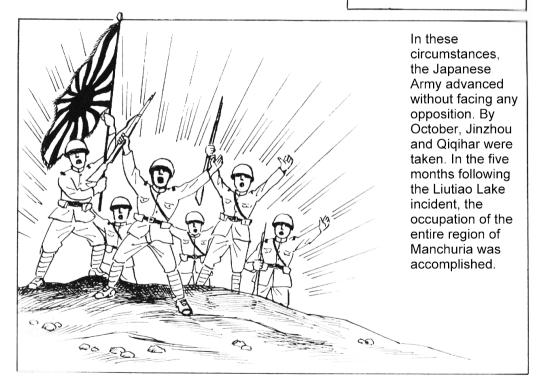


Although Chiang Kai-shek reported Japan's invasion of Manchuria to the League of Nations, the League did not attempt to intervene. From its standpoint. China's Communist Party and its nationalist ideology presented an existential threat. whereas Japan, which shared the imperialist ambitions of the League's principal member states, could be tacitly condoned.

And so, from this day, an all-encompassing Sino-Japanese conflagration and the quagmire of a 15-year conflict unfolded.



(As illustrated in a Chinese cartoon)

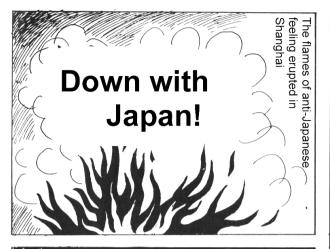






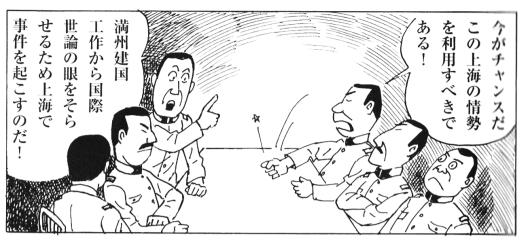
上海事変から盧溝僑満州事変は「抗日運動」に火をつけた――







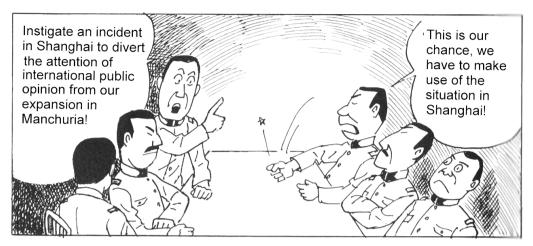


















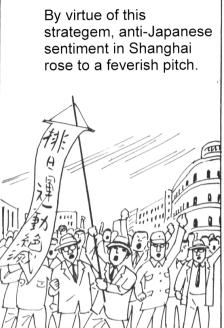






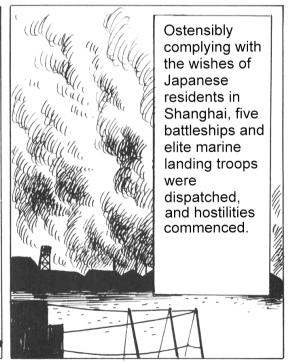




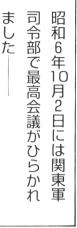


Surprised by the staunch local resistance, Japan sent massive reinforcements, and finally, on the 3rd of March, the enemy withdrew and accepted a ceasefire.









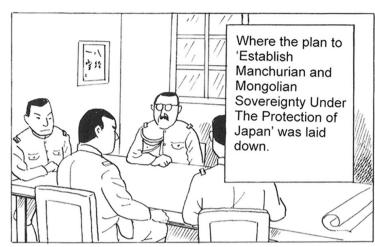




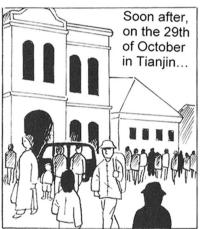
土肥原賢二でした

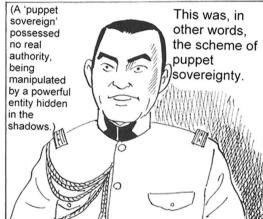


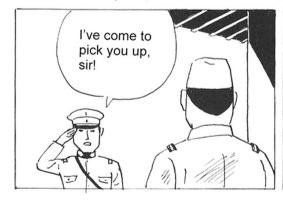




On the 2nd of October 1931, the Kwantung Army Headquar-ters's highest command council convened.











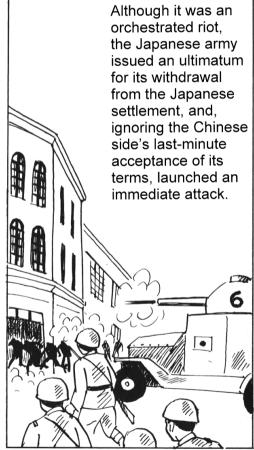






The riot plotted by Kenji Doihara created the necessary turmoil allowing the Japanese to secretly spirit Puyi, who they would later enthrone as the 'Last Emperor of China', out of Tianjin.





かくて、昭和7年3月1日、天津から連れ出した。
内外に宣言されました

の建国でした そして、それはあくまでも住民による「自主的発意」のようにつくろってはいましたが、その内実は、「国防・人事については、すべて日本に委任する」という日本側が作った書簡に溥儀が署名するという関係にありました

それは、「王道楽土」満州国

――「王道楽土」とは正しい道と徳とで天下を治められる安楽な地、という意味です

註

An explanatory note∷The Kingly Way in Paradise' 【王道泰惠】connotes a utopian empire governed by righteousness and morality.

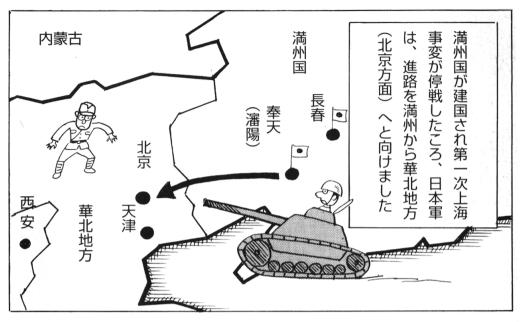


Thus, on the 1st of March 1932. Puyi—freshly smugaled out of Tianjin—was installed by the Japanese as the governor of Manchuria, and in that capacity, he issued a domestic and international statement proclaiming Manchuria's independence from China.

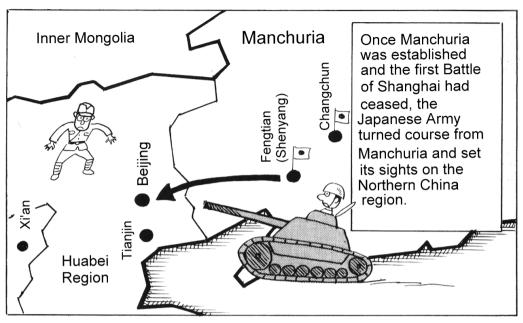


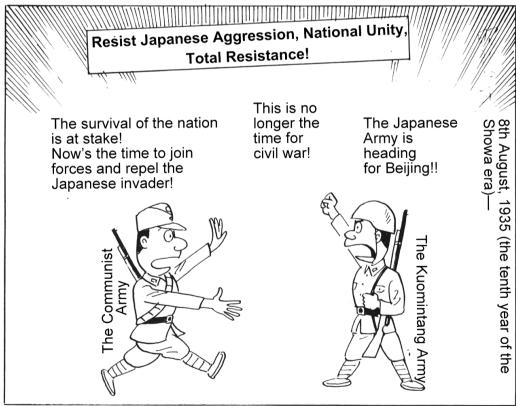
This so-called 'The Kingly Way in Paradise' was Japan's state-building enterprise of Manchukuo (or Manchuria). Alhough it was portrayed as an autonomous initiative by the local citizens, the truth, as revealed in secret documents signed by Puyi for the Japanese, was that the management of all affairs concerning national defence and labor had been handed over to the Japanese.

















昭和12年

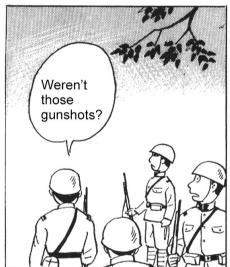
(1937年)



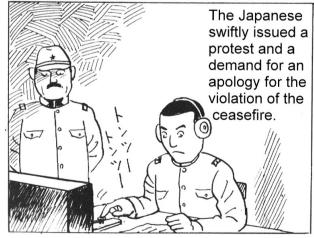




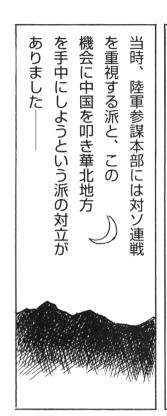
7th July 1937 (the twelfth year of the Showa era)—approximately six kilometers north of Beijing, at a spot known as Lugou Bridge, several gunshots rang out in the area and shattered the silence. On this day, a Japanese military unit launched its night time deployment exercise—













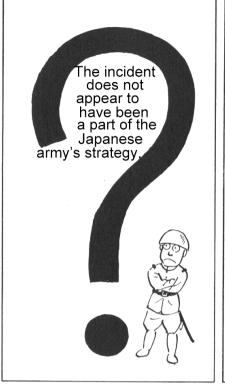




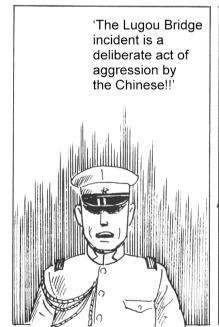
しかしこの発砲事件は

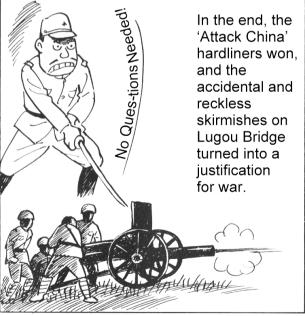
At the time, there was a conflict within the Imperial Japanese Army General Staff Office between a faction who advocated prioritizing the conflict against the Soviet Union and a faction who wanted seize the initiative in the Chinese mainland and seize the entire region of Northern China.

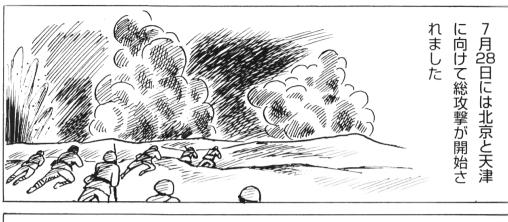






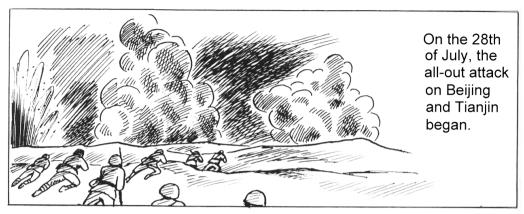




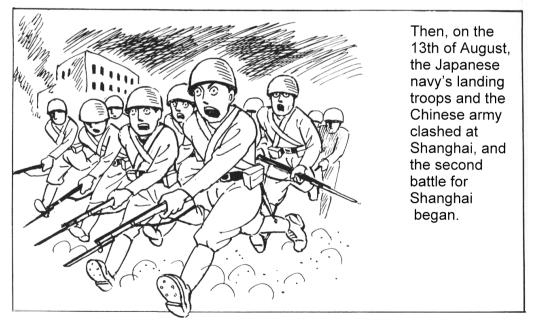


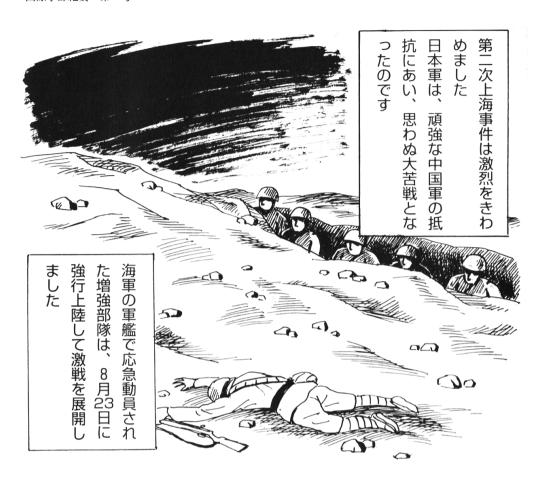




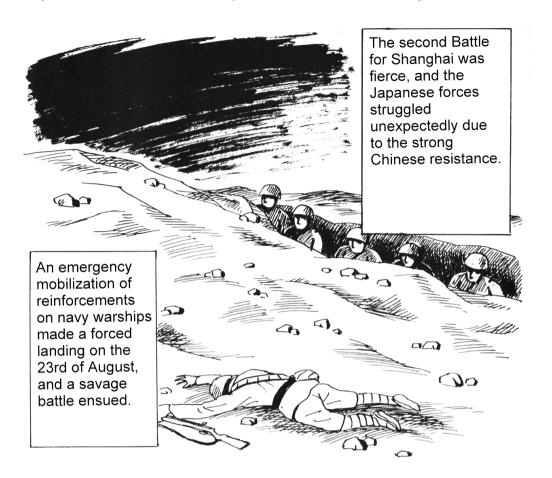


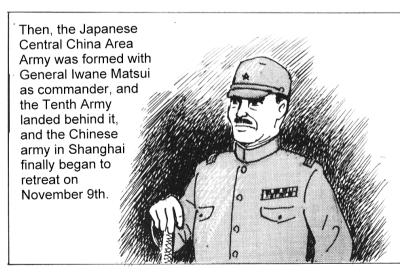




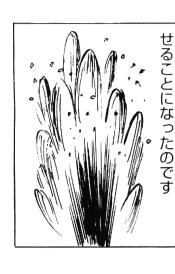








The struggle in Shanghai continued. The Army General Staff shifted the strategic focus of its war in China from Beijing to Shanghai, and raised an Expeditionary Army as further reinforcements.





す 行為がくり返されたので はすべてみな殺しという

っていくのです

国際法は無視され、 捕虜

兵にはげしい敵ガイ心をたぎら このような大苦戦は日本軍の将

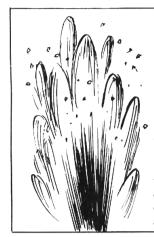
> 武器を持たない一般市民にも向けら このように高ぶりすさんだ感情は、



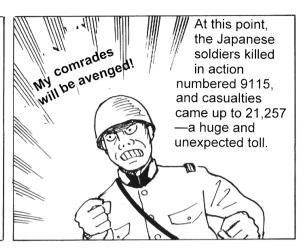
とづいて執筆しました(筆者)

が、本篇は、多くの証言にも

本人も少なくないようです った」と現在でも反論する日 南京でそんな大虐殺は無か



The losses sustained by the Japanese army generated a deep sense of resentment and hatred for the enemy which seethed through the entire corps of officers and men.



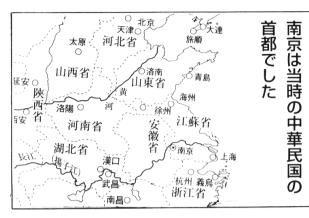


International law was ignored, and the slaughter of prisoners of war was indiscriminate and widespread. The animosity and anger occasioned by the loss of their comrades erupted.

Although quite a few Japanese still deny that the Nanjing Massacre ever took place, what follows in this volume has been collected from numerous testimonies.



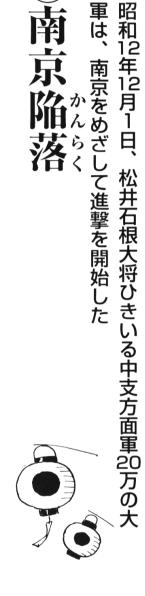
And in this way, their callous and hardened indiffe--rence turned ineluctably towards unarmed and innocent civilians as well.

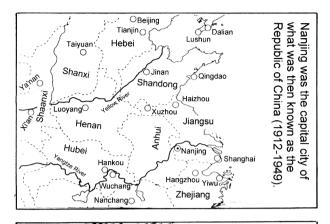




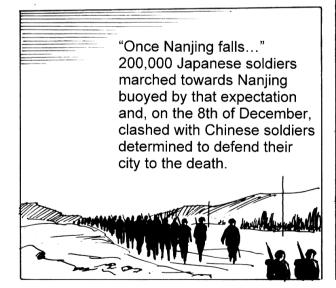


軍は、











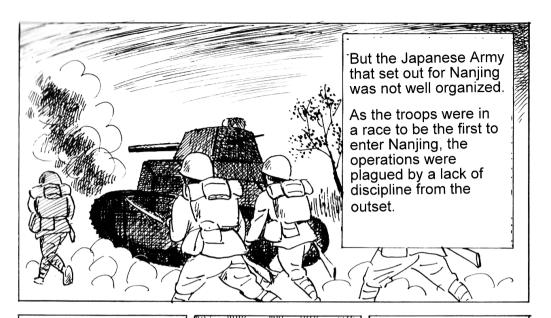


ことです





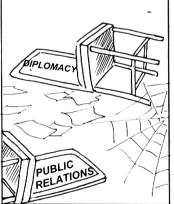




Third, the military police tasked with enforcing discipline and conduct was small in number, and it was impossible for them to crack down on criminal behavior in a 200,000-strong army.



Secondly, in attacking the capital (Nanjing) where all the foreign embassies were located, the army command needed a diplomatic and public relations function which it lacked.



There were three major issues with the Nanjing offensive.

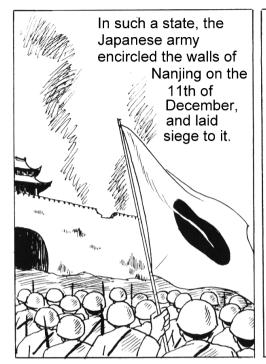
The first was that instead of establishing a food supply system for military personnel, the army adopted a policy of 'procurement from local sources'.



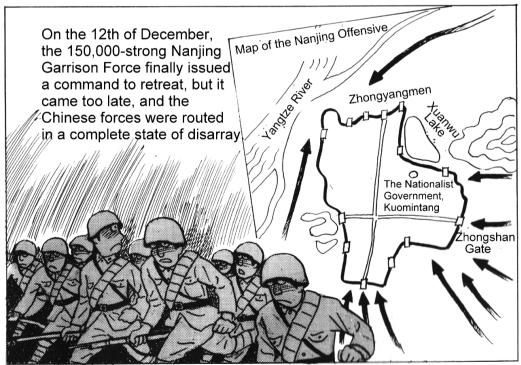




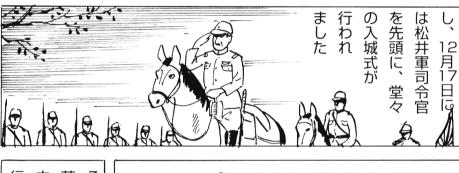


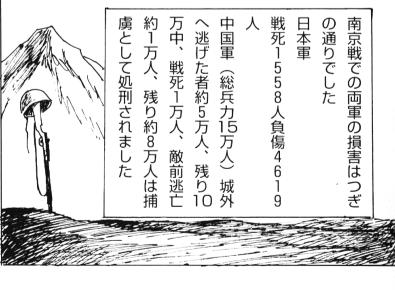










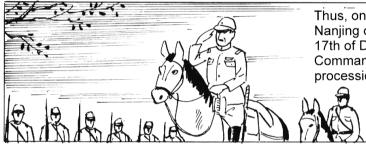


かくて12月13日

首都南京は陥落



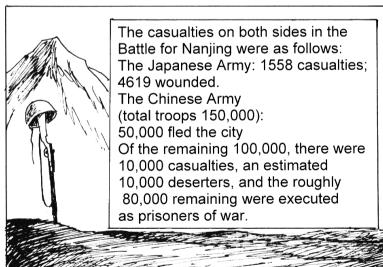
The commander, Iwane Matsui, was a Sinophile who was keen on protecting the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum and other historical sites in the city. However, his command to take evasive measures was ignored by the troops who had by then grown oblivious to anything resembling diplomacy or public relations—they stormed the city through its three main gates.



Thus, on the 13th of December, Nanjing capitulated, and on the 17th of December, with Commander Matsui leading the procession, a magnificent victory parade was held.

At this time, news of Nanjing's surrender reached Japan, the country burst into joy and night-time lantern processions were held throughout the country in celebration of the victory.





To be continued...

つづく…