



Sergius Witte. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.

### RUSSIA - ロシア

Before Witte returned home, he learned that many in Russia were disappointed with the treaty's final terms. One reporter noted, "In St. Petersburg, the war party and the autocracy have not been consoled by Japan's failure to exact an indemnity. They only remember Russia's loss of prestige in Europe as well as Asia, her exclusion from the Pacific seaboard and the concession of what they were pleased to call Russian territory, the southern half of Sakhalin." For Russia and Tsar Nicholas, the war with its military defeats and the loss of half of Sakhalin were major steps in the path that led to the 1917 Russian Revolution and the creation of the communist Soviet Union. Despite the resentment that the treaty had created in each country, both the Tsar and the Mikado finally ratified the peace on October 15.

### WITTE - ウィッテ

Witte was made a Count for his efforts. In retirement, Witte wrote his memoirs and continued to express his views on politics. In 1914 he opposed Russian involvement in the First World War and later urged peace negotiations with the German government. Witte died in March 1915 and is now considered one of the Russia's greatest public servants.



Statue of Komura at Nichinan, Komura's birth place. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.

### JAPAN - 日本

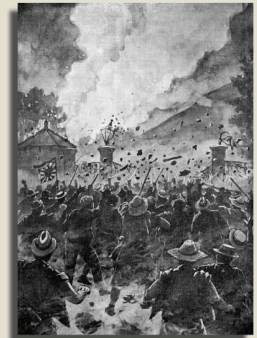
In Japan, when it was learned that the country would not receive an indemnity and would be giving up half of Sakhalin, riots broke out. One massive protest attracted more than one hundred thousand people; in other demonstrations, several people were killed and hundreds were wounded. Although many Japanese originally opposed the treaty, the government and the military supported it for, in spite of no indemnity and the loss of half of Sakhalin, it marked the first time that an Asian nation had confronted a European power, was victorious on the battlefield, and essentially dictated the terms of peace. For Japan, the Treaty of Portsmouth is a strong symbol of its emergence as a major power in the community of nations. The fact that Japan gave up its claim for the indemnity and half of Sakhalin is viewed today as a magnanimous gesture for peace.

### KOMURA - 小村

Komura was sent back to work, negotiating with China in November 1905 a convention with China based on the terms of the treaty. When the agreements were signed, the government of Prime Minister Katsura, including Komura, resigned. Later, he returned as Foreign Minister under the second Katsura cabinet and completed the annexation of Korea in 1910, a year before his death. During his second tenure as foreign minister, Komura initiated an unusual use of Japanese businessmen to establish business ties with the United States in order to improve relations. This was an informal approach used to foster formal diplomacy. Komura is now revered in Japan as one of its greatest diplomats.



Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.



Japanese crowds, unhappy over the treaty rioting, in Hibiya Park, Tokyo. Harper's Weekly.

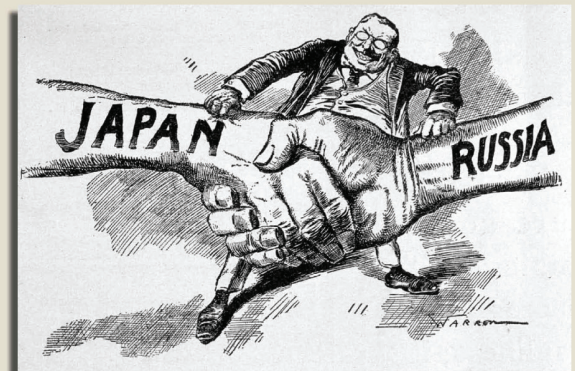
### BALANCE OF POWER - 勢力均衡

Roosevelt's goal for a balance of power in the Far East was established, at least for a time. For Japan, its military victories and rapid industrial growth cemented its position as a powerful nation. Japan's military victories over Russia destroyed the myth of European invincibility over colonial peoples and strengthened local independence movement through Asia. It marked the first time that an Asian nation had defeated a European power. The weakness of Russia's army and navy upset the balance of power in Europe and helped set the stage for World War I. Meanwhile, Japan proceeded on an imperialistic course on the Asian mainland that led to a war with China in 1937, an event many historians call the beginning of World War II.

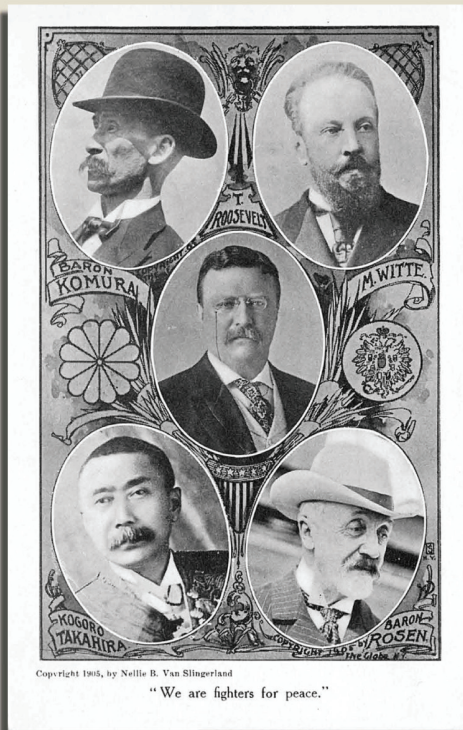
### JAPAN AND RUSSIA - 日本とロシア

Japan and Russia drew closer diplomatically in the years after 1905. They shared a peace treaty for several years and later had a neutrality agreement in the early 1940's. This continued until August 1945 when the Soviet Union declared war on Japan despite the existing Japan-Soviet neutrality agreement. Soviet troops took back southern Sakhalin, occupied the Kuril Islands and the four Japanese northern islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and Habomai.

Although World War II hostilities ended in 1945, Japan and Russia have yet to sign a final peace treaty due to the dispute over the issue of the four islands which Japan calls the Northern Territories. Discussions between Russia and Japan over this occupation have continued intermittently for over sixty years, and while many economic and cultural agreements have been signed, no permanent agreement has occurred.



Harper's Weekly.



Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.