

CONTROL OF CHINA – JAPAN DEFEATS CHINA, 1894

中国の支配 日清戦争(明治27年)

In 1894 Japan defeated China in a war over the control of Korea. Japan was to control the Liaotung Peninsula and strategic Port Arthur, while China recognized the independence of Korea as a protectorate of Japan. Russia, France and Germany, however, interfered in the peace negotiations, carving up China for themselves, and suggesting that Japan not take Port Arthur in the peace settlement and recognize Korean independence. The so-called Triple Intervention would not be forgotten by the Japanese.

RUSSIA TAKES CHINESE LEASES - ロシアによる中国の租借

In 1896 Russia won Chinese concessions to extend the Trans-Siberian Railroad across Chinese-held Manchuria to the Russian seaport of Vladivostok, thus gaining control of an important strip of Manchurian territory. Russia then obtained Chinese concessions for a 25-year lease on the Liaotung Peninsula - land which Japan believed, should have been theirs after the 1894 war.



"The Chinese Cake." A French postcard depicts Russia and Japan beginning to cut up China and Manchuria as Italy, France, the United States, and England watch. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.

BOXER REBELLION AND EUROPEAN CONTROL IN CHINA

義和団事件と欧州列強の中国支配

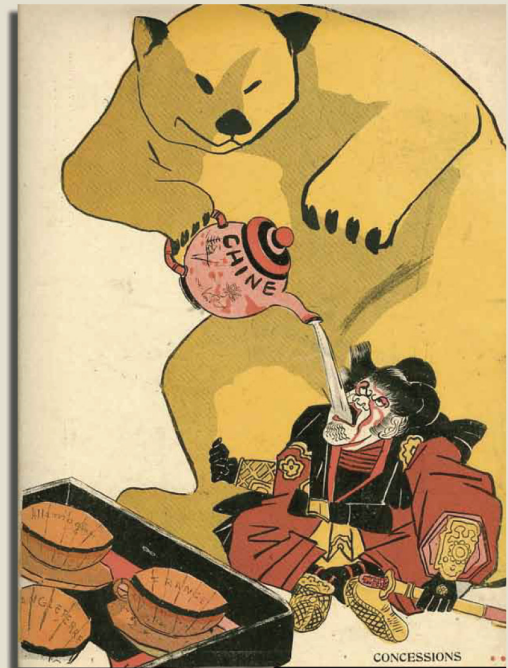
After the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, Russia, France, Germany and England continued to have ports and spheres of influence in China. Russia solidified its position in Manchuria and began a political and economic expansion into Korea.

THE JAPAN-BRITAIN ALLIANCE OF 1902 - 日英同盟(明治35年)

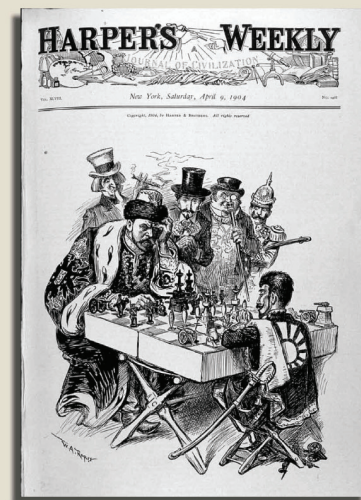
When Japan and Britain signed an alliance in 1902, Japan received the European support it needed to challenge Russia. The alliance recognized both nations' interests in China and pledged neutrality should either country, in support of its interests in the Far East, become involved in a conflict with another power. However, either country would go to the aid of the other should more than two countries attack.



"After China, Korea." Japan has to watch as Russia begins cutting Korea in this French cartoon. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.



This French cartoon shows the Russian bear forcing the Japanese samurai to accept concessions in China. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.



Harper's Weekly illustration of the European nations, led by Russia, preventing Japan from realizing its mainland acquisitions after the Sino-Japanese war of 1894.

CONTROL OF KOREA - 韓国の支配

Russian and Japanese competition over control of Korea intensified. With the British alliance behind it, Japan tried to negotiate with Russia over spheres of influence in Manchuria and Korea. According to the terms of an earlier agreement with China, Russia was to withdraw its troops from Manchuria, but by April 1903, the date when the withdrawal was supposed to be in effect, the Russians were still in place. Russia refused to negotiate with Japan and instead began building up its army in Manchuria and continuing to pursue Russian interests in Korea. Sentiment in Japan began to mount in support of a military solution. When Japan was unable to receive concrete assurances from Russia regarding her intentions in Manchuria and Korea, Japan decided on war.