

RUSSIA AND JAPAN, READY FOR PEACE

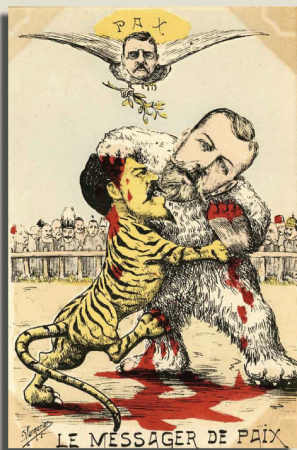
ロシアと日本、講和へ

Defeated on land and sea, Russia clearly had had enough of the war, but so had Japan. The Japanese generals, led by Field Commander Oyama, urged an early termination of the conflict recognizing that Japan's war resources of men and material were nearly exhausted. The Japanese had pushed the Russian army back nearly to the limits of Japan's own ability to supply its troops. Both countries had difficulty acquiring international loans to fund further battles.

陸に海に敗れたことでロシアには明らかに厭戦気分が漂っていたが、日本にも困難な状況があった。人的、物質的に日本の戦争資源はほとんど使い果たされており、大山巖総司令官率いる日本の将軍たちは戦争の早期解決を力説した。日本軍は兵力補給ができる限界の地点までロシア軍を後退させていた。戦争を継続するために必要な外債の発行は両国ともに困難になっていた。

THE ONLY NEUTRAL POWER - 唯一の中立勢力

While President Roosevelt may have advocated speaking softly and carrying a big stick in the Western hemisphere, he was anxious for peace in the Far East. Roosevelt was concerned with the balance of power in the region. He wanted China to remain neutral and he feared that Britain, France, Germany and Italy, each of whom had interests or allies in Asia, would be drawn more actively into the affair. Roosevelt represented the United States as the only neutral power capable and eager to help the Japanese and Russians negotiate for peace.



Various cartoons depicted Roosevelt accepting the task of bringing the warring nations to the peace table. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.

ENTER ROOSEVELT - ローズベルトの登場

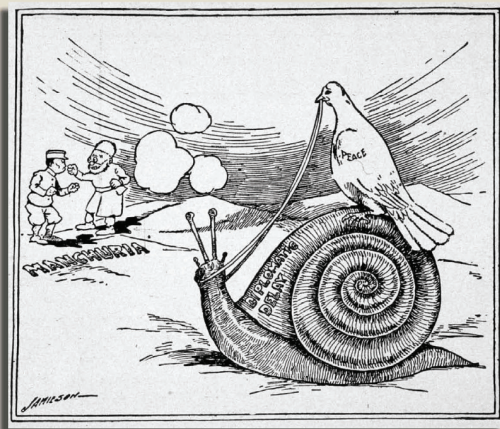
On May 31, 1905, Japan secretly asked Roosevelt to use his influence to bring the two countries together. Tsar Nicholas, at first, vowed to fight until Russia was successful. However, after Tsushima, the Tsar was finally convinced of the war's strain on Russia's resources, and the Tsar secretly agreed to accept a proposal for direct negotiations with Japan if proposed by Roosevelt. The President then formally extended his offer of mediation to end the war. The invitation was accepted by Japan on June 10 and by Russia two days later.

A LAST MILITARY MOVE - 最終局面での権太進軍

Japan conducted one more crucial military move in July, 1905, by taking Sakhalin Island from the Russians, territory that was once Japan's. Japanese delegate Komura sought to use this action to full diplomatic advantage at the conference. The consequences of this last minute occupation were to have a major impact on the peace conference.



After Tsushima, the Emperor Meiji attempts to convince the Tsar that continuing the war is futile.



To the combatants, the diplomatic effort could not come too soon. Harper's Weekly.

RUSSIAN NEGOTIATION POSITION - 交渉に臨むロシアの状況

As the countries prepared for the peace conference, there was a clear fundamental difference in their views of the war. Although Russia had lost every major battle, it remained a military power and had not surrendered to Japan. The Tsar entered negotiations vowing not to give up any Russian territory or pay any expenses of the war.

JAPANESE NEGOTIATION POSITION - 交渉に臨む日本の状況

For the people of Japan, however, results of the battles indicated a great victory over a nation that had not only denied them their claims in Korea and China, but also had taken over the very land Japan had won from China in 1894. Now Japan, as the victor, occupied this long sought territory in Korea and Manchuria and had taken Sakhalin, an island that was once Japan's. Japanese citizens believed Japan was entitled not only to the land they had taken in battle, but also Russian reimbursement for the cost of the war.