



Postcard. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.

INTRODUCTION - はじめに

The Russo-Japanese War was fought from 1904-1905 between Russia, an international power with one of the largest armies in the world, and Japan, a tiny nation only recently emerged from two and a half centuries of isolation. This exhibition explores the causes of the war, the conflict on land and sea, President Theodore Roosevelt's back channel diplomacy, and the formal peace negotiations hosted by the U.S. Navy and the State of New Hampshire. The people of Portsmouth encouraged the delegates' efforts for peace at numerous social events, especially during the times when formal negotiations were breaking down. The Portsmouth peace process provides an important example for diplomacy today.

日露戦争(明治37-38年)は、世界最大級の陸軍を擁した大国ロシアと、鎖国体制から抜け出たばかりの小国に過ぎなかった日本との間で戦われた。戦争の原因、両国の戦い、ローズベルト大統領の舞台裏での外交努力、そしてアメリカ海軍とニューハンプシャー州が世話役を務めた講和会議、この特別展はこれらを考察するものである。交渉が膠着状態に陥ったとき、ポーツマスの人々は様々な社交行事を催して、和平を模索していた日露両政府代表団を励まし続けた。現代の国際関係を考えるにあたって、ポーツマスで繰り広げられたこの平和への取り組みを振り返ることで、我々は貴重な教訓を得ることができるのではないだろうか。

WAR - 戦争

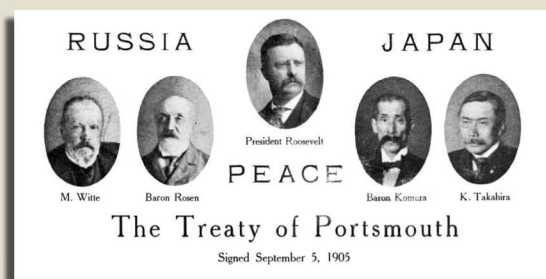
The Russo-Japanese War is unique in that the warring nations fought over, and only on, the territory of two neutral countries, China and Korea. Prior to World War I, this war marked history's greatest battles between two nations in numbers of troops and ships involved. It was the first modern war involving both telegraph and telephone, machine guns, barbed wire, illuminating star shells, mine fields, advanced torpedoes and armored battleships. If not for the military restraint displayed by the other European nations and the diplomacy of the United States, this might have become the first world war.

ROOSEVELT - ローズベルト

The Russo-Japanese War set the balance of power in the Pacific for the next century. The conflict and its treaty signaled the emergence of Japan as a world power. Due to the role played by President Roosevelt, the United States became a significant force in world diplomacy. Roosevelt was the first American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his diplomatic efforts before and during the peace negotiations, even though he never came to Portsmouth.

DELEGATES - 政府代表団

As the primary representatives of their governments, plenipotentiaries Serge Witte of Russia and Jutaro Komura of Japan debated, risked their reputations as diplomats, and successfully negotiated a peace treaty that resolved the grave concerns of each nation.



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Many postcards were published during the treaty negotiations; this one has all of the major participants pictured. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.