

# THE GREAT CASE OF ASIA

## Continued Military Activity of the Japanese Shows an Especially Significant Feature Just Now in the Strong Naval Base Which Has Been Established at Makung, Six Hundred Miles from Manila.

HOSE observers who have made a study of Japan's policy, long ago became impressed with her apparent determination to be the dominant nation in the East, to control Asia and to enthronize Japan as mistress of the entire Orient. That the Pacific will be the theater of the great commercial war of the future, if it is not the scene of a conflict of some nature, has also been freely predicted.

Thanks to the military which swung from the conquered in her two recent wars, Japan has now an almost unbroken cordon strung along the great eastern coast of China, in all the places where she has a glance at the appended map will show her chain of island possessions reaching southward as far as Formosa and the Pescadores. Makung is reckoned as of vital importance in Japan's struggle for dominion, be that struggle for commercial supremacy or for military success.

What Japan has been doing with these outlying possessions becomes therefore a subject which at the present moment must have a special interest. Realizing this the New York Times has made an exhaustive inquiry into the matter and herewith presents the results of its investigation.

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from Manila. Hitherto the island of Formosa had been something of a burden upon Japan. But her possession of that island, together with her possession of the Pescadores, has made possible to Japan a strategic device which may fairly be compared for importance to Japan with the advance made by Russia when she reached Port Arthur.

When the Russian fleet was approaching the Strait of Malacca, Japan scouts went far south through the China sea to keep the enemy's movements. But the main fleet was of necessity kept in strictly home waters, both because of the extent of her coast along which the Russians might approach Vladivostok and of the extreme undesirable position of the fleet in the event of a battle.

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first effort at colonization, and shows that the little brown men are capable of when Chinese imperialism is her with Japan, ended Formosa for her conquerors the island was one of the wildest of all in the Pacific Ocean, a savage headland occupying most of its territory, and the few scattered towns the embodiment of the worst features of Chinese civilization—filthy, out of touch with civilization, unprogressive. A recent visitor to the island, who had been made familiar with its prior to its occupation, testifies that there was little or no machinery to carry out the work of civil government. The treasury was a mere collection of tin and copper, and there had been no attempt at sanitation, and the fifth and superior of the towns were appalling. The natives had grown accustomed to this state of affairs and were ill-fitted for the system and order which their new rulers seemed determined to bring about.

Effects of Japanese Rule as Seen in Better Regulations.

Baron Shimpei Goto, a physician by profession and formerly president of the bureau of hygiene in Tokyo, is now the civil governor of Formosa. He recently made an extended report of his administration of the island's affairs. In this he said that when Formosa was placed under the sovereignty of Japan a feeling of anxiety was entertained as to the effects of the new regime. The recurring outbreaks of insurgents were one of the greatest difficulties encountered. Attempts to suppress them by superior forces were resorted to, and then conciliatory measures were adopted.

Prior to the Japanese occupancy there were no public schools in Formosa. Now primary schools for Japanese children have been established in all of the important towns. There are also auxiliary schools, these being for the benefit of the native young. One year after the cessation of the island's "central language school" was established for the double purpose of teaching Japanese to the natives and

States giving up the Philippines and trusting them to the slender mercies of nature and government. It is of Philippine independence would be exceedingly brief duration. Few seriously believe that the Philippines are capable of maintaining an independence without falling into a state of anarchy that would early in the same demand for forcible foreign protection for the protection of their citizens in the islands.

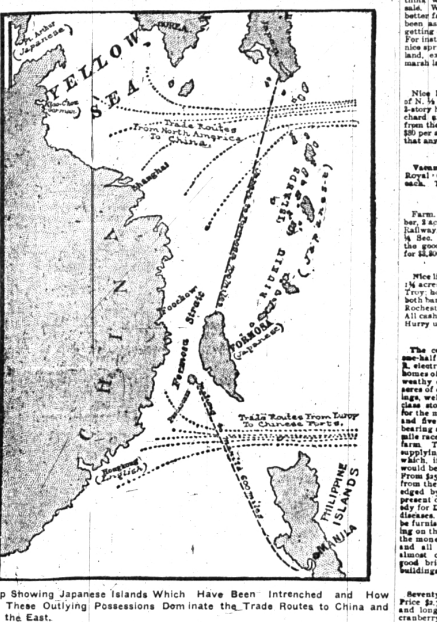
Awaiting a Filipino Republic Before Completing Program.

As the history of the Suluon Islands illustrates very vividly, protection of interests is exceedingly prompt when there is anything to be gained by it; and in the event of the coming of a wholly independent Filipino republic, it is safe to assume that Japanese interest in the islands would suddenly reach a degree of importance which there is no present sign of. Germany and in a lesser degree France have shown an active disposition to accept such Southern Pacific traffic in the way of American abandonment of the Philippines would seem to promise the probability of a struggle between Germany and Japan for the possession of the Philippines.

An obvious motive for Japan's wanting the Philippines is the outlet they would give for her emigration, and the resources they would give her. Manchuria and Korea. It is true, are now absorbing a great portion of Japanese energy, but no one is so rich or so busy that he would refuse to pick up money that he finds in the street. And the Japanese development of Makung may well be taken as proof that Japan is not unwilling to assume such further enrichment as the islands of events may thrust upon her.

Controlling Chinese Commerce a Possibility for Japan.

The relation of Japan and China as regards strategic questions is curious. Japan has a policy of non-interference with the British islands. The position of the British islands makes the British fleet



Map Showing Japanese Islands Which Have Been Intrenched and How These Outlying Possessions Dominate the Trade Routes to China and the East.

able to threaten the commerce of a large part of western Europe. Just as it now practically holds the club over the whole foreign trade of Germany and Russia and the Low countries. In a precisely similar way the Japanese, with naval stations stretching from Korea to Makung, have it in their power, in case of need, practically to threaten the commerce of the United States. The island has an area approximately as large as that of Long Island. The population is estimated at about 3,000,000. Still Hsisha of Columbia university is authority for the statement that in the first year of the Japanese administration China continued to enjoy the lion's share of the Formosa trade. Ten years later Japan's trade with Formosa exceeded the total of Formosa with all foreign countries. The foreign exports in 1914 were 12,351,124 yen, the imports for the same year being 12,384,414 yen.

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