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Japan in WW2

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Japan in WW2

While the world shares the grief of the souls that were lost eight decades down the line since the Japanese bombing raid on Pearl Harbour, it is vitally important to reflect on the fact that it is this attack on Pearl Harbour that sparked the liberation of Asia from domination of Western colonialism. While the colossal damage of the attack was definite, the issue of who was to blame for being at fault or right is a weighty issue with freely accessible and available present-day substantial evidence proving that Japan was not wholly culpable. With no option left, Japan was hard-pressed into the war under inevitable circumstances and had to secure oil to guarantee its survival as a nation, post USA irrespective of the outcome purposely stopped oil exports to Japan in July 1941. Thus, this essay aims to examine Japan's actions in the early stages of the war and during WWII, and how they helped Asian liberation from Western colonialism.

In the early phase of the twentieth century, Japan of all the global countries stood out amenably to have Asia liberated from Western colonialism. Despite the zeal, Japan likewise had the resources as well as the aptitude to take the challenge. With a Pan-Asian slogan of "Asians for Asia" no other country accompanying India, as well as China, had the guts nor military strength to spearhead such a slogan at the moment (Foster, 1994). A day before the attack on Pearl Harbour, the prime minister of Japan read out the emperor's declaration of war to the empire which pronounced the inevitable circumstances that had forced their emperor to war with Britain and America.

The war policy of Japan envisioned a complete detachment from Western dependence (Kasza, 2002). Comprising this dependence was the denunciation of insolvent western cultural traditions that had been accepted from the Meiji period. Japan holistically aimed at establishing a source for national enormity by returning to Asian mindfulness as divergent to Western as well

as evolution ethos. Besides, Pan-Asia camaraderie under the headship of Japan that was expressed as the novel order for Asia in revolt to Western colonialism, cultural as well as political renaissance were vital to the country's persistence in the middle of unrestrained Westernization.

Correspondingly, during the formation of League of Nations as well as the Treaty of Paris of 1918-1919, Japan championed the cause of people under the European colonial rule. It wished for changes to the treaty of the League to ensure all races' equality as well as fair treatment based on lack of favoritism, equal treatment before the law, nondiscrimination based on nationality or race (Shimazu, 2009). However, the colonial western powers turned down all human equality ideology to avert any imminent threats to white colonial order and sovereignty. Nonetheless, Japan's proposal earned it Asians and Africans' acknowledgment of spearheading equality for all. Between the periods of 1941-1942, Japan single-handedly attained military triumphs. It besieged the possessions of Britain, Netherlands and US in SE and East Asia. In this regard, Japan's victory made Asian people proud who became ready than ever to fight for their liberation. Hence, countries such as India and Burma was granted independence in 1947.

In a nutshell, the Japanese actions before and after World War II was a sure challenge to the minds of Asians. Even though Japan was defeated, its military exertion amounted to something. Western countries that then sat on enormous tracks of land the likes of France, Britain and US were significantly weakened as well as dispirited. Forcing these colonial powers to quit Asia with immediate effect. Notably, it is political correctness and revelation of Japan's behavior in battle-associated atrocities during WWII that prevented Japan from being accorded the crown for its unmatched contributions towards hastening the liberation of Asia from western

imperialism. It is saddening to see Japan's heroic contributions as well as sacrifices to driving out European colonialism neither really commemorated nor acknowledged today.

References

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