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The Return of Protectionism to Japan and the United States: The Manchurian Example

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1. Introduction

Protectionism Exclusivism + Expansionism + unstable country = military risk

Timeline Outlook

Sino-Japanese War 1894-95

Russia's rights: Eastern China Railway concession & Liaotung Land Lease

Russo-Japanese War 1904-05; Portsmouth Treaty & Sino-Japanese Treaty

Land lease of Liaotung (Kwantung) peninsula [see map.1 (handout p. 4)]

Russian railway rights in South Manchuria

*Railway loan agreement: railway control & prior rights to finance
(=exclusion of other powers)

*Organization of Japanese encroachment in Southern Manchuria

Kwantung Military Government (until 1905)

Kwantung Government-General (1906-1919)

divided into Kwantung Cho (civilian governor) and Kwantung Army

S.M.R. (South Manchurian Railway Company)

Twenty-One Demands & Sino-Japanese Agreement of 1915

Extension of land lease period and railway possession to 99 years.

Prior option to finance for railway construction.

Japanese people's rights of leasing land.

New Four-power international banking China Consortium 1920

Washington Conference 1921-22

[No positive cooperation for China's development]

Manchurian Incident 1931 [Kwantung Army's occupation of main cities in Manchuria]

Proclamation of the state of Manchukuo 1932

2 "Open Door" Policy

Secretary of State John Hay's declarations in 1899 and 1900

Respect of the territorial and administrative integrity of China

Equality of opportunity for trade of all nationals

Four-Power China Consortium

Negative achievement No positive achievement Unsettled issue

6. Different justifications for Japan's "special position" in Manchuria

• **Japanese Embassy's statement in 1920**

"From the nature of the case, the regions of South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia which are contiguous to Korea stand in very close and special relation to Japan's national defense and her economic existence. Enterprises launched forth in these regions, therefore, often involve questions vital to the safety of the country. This is why Japan has special interest in these regions and has established there special rights of various kinds."

• **"Right to Live"**

The affirmative duty of the richer state to open wide its door to an economically weaker state

The negative responsibility of that state gifted by nature to refrain from placing obstacles in the way of the development of those raw materials by an outside state.

• **Right of investment-return**

• **Peace and Order in Manchuria, not only for Japanese but also for all nationals**

Conclusive Remark

Hara's statement

"It follows that it is the great duty of every government today to open wide its economic doors, and to extend to all peoples free access to what is vital to existence, and thus to save the more unfortunate from unnatural misery and discrimination..... The "open door" and the abolition of world barriers must be our policy, as it is the first principle of a lasting peace..... By "open door" I do not mean a complete throwing down of national boundary stones. What I have in mind is the removal of the economic insecurity of some peoples by extending to them the opportunity for free access to the world's resources, eliminating other artificial economic barriers, and adjusting as much as possible the inequality arising from the earlier discriminations of nature and of history".

(Gaiko Jiho September 15, 1921 [English translation in The Living Age, January 7, 1922])