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Our task is to inform public opinion by a broad hospitality to divergent views and ideas that promote cross-cultural understanding, tolerance, and the dissemination of knowledge unreservedly. Papers adopting a comparative, interdisciplinary approach will be especially welcome. **Graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit their work for consideration.**

\* 'Asia Pacific region' as used here includes East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania, and the Russian Far East.

## Jack London Reporting from Tokyo and Manchuria: The Forgotten Role of an Influential Observer of Early Modern Asia

By Daniel A. Métraux, Ph.D.

### Abstract

Jack London is regarded as one of America's most popular writers for his novels and short stories. Less known today is the fact that he was also a first-rate observer of East Asian politics, societies, and peoples. Working as a journalist for several newspapers and magazines, he filed numerous articles and essays covering the Russo-Japanese war and even foresaw the rise of Japan and China as world powers. This paper provides an overview of his journalistic and literary contributions about Asia, his insights into Asian ethnic and political complexities, and his vision for pan-Asian/American cooperation.

Jack London (1876-1916) remains one of the most popular and beloved American writers nearly a century after his death. He is famous for his adventure stories in the Yukon, Polynesia and across America, but he was also a renowned socialist and fabled journalist whose brilliant work *The People of the Abyss* depicts the poverty and squalor of the low end of life in the capital of the British Empire. What is certainly less known about Jack London is that he was also a first-rate observer of Asia. His journalistic coverage of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) and his essays and short stories provide not only excellent coverage of the war, but also a detailed view of social and political conditions in East Asia at the turn of the last century. What makes London even more interesting is his ability to discern the potential power of both Japan and China and to predict their rise to dominance later in the twentieth century.

London's firsthand essays and photographs on the Russo-Japanese War present a very clear in-depth picture of the early phase of the conflict. He filed at least twenty-four articles, each several thousand words long, to the Hearst newspapers. He not only presents his own views of the development of the war, but also analyzes the development of Korea, Japan, and China in their struggle to modernize and thus defend themselves from the onslaught of Western imperialism. London's Russo-Japanese War articles, if ever published as an anthology, might well be the best contemporary work on the subject. His analyses of East Asian development, especially his views on the down-trodden state of China and its potential for greatness, are especially perceptive. London made uncanny predictions of a future Japanese invasion first of Manchuria and later China and of China's rise as a world power. Any student of early twentieth century Asian Studies would do well to read London's insightful analyses that cover political, economic, social and cultural themes.

London was a very prolific essayist and fiction writer who prided himself on composing at least a thousand words

a day. A great many collections of his essays appeared during his lifetime, but, oddly, he never published his Asian essays except for a couple in other anthologies. A much later collection of his journalism essays<sup>1</sup> includes some of his war correspondence in Asia and Mexico, mixed in with his avid sports reporting, but makes no effort to actually highlight London's Asian pieces. A full in-depth study of London's Asian writings would be an invaluable contribution to the field of early modern East Asian history.

It is important to note, however, that London was much more of a journalist, novelist, and essayist than a scholar of Asian affairs. He was certainly not ignorant of the complexities of Asian culture and history. A dedicated reader of scholarly works on Asia, he also consumed everything he could find by writers like Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904), whose work he lavished with praise in his essays. London very correctly focuses on the role that China's conservative governing "learned classes" had on slowing the modernization of the country. London writes that China would only progress when its masses rose up and overthrew their masters. On the other hand, London formulated several stereotypical views of various Asian societies that left out certain important elements. For example, he wrote that the Japanese were a nation of warriors who decried commerce, totally ignoring the critical role of the merchant class throughout Japanese history.<sup>2</sup>

London made two trips to Japan and East Asia during his brief lifetime. In 1893, at age 17, he signed on to the sealing schooner *Sophie Sutherland*, bound for the coast of Japan. He spent a raucous time in the Bonin Islands and had a chance to explore Yokohama when his ship stopped there on its return to San Francisco.<sup>3</sup> London vividly describes the trip itself in his acclaimed novel *The Sea Wolf*, but does not mention anything in the novel about his stops in the Bonin Islands, Tokyo and Yokohama while on the voyage. After his return he wrote several short stories based on his time in Tokyo and Yokohama including "Story of a Typhoon," "Sakaicho, Hona Asi and Hakadaki," "A Night's Swim in Yeddo Bay," and "O Haru."<sup>4</sup> These stories reflect a deep affection for Japan and its people, especially those from the lower classes. They are also among the first pieces composed by the young writer.

London demonstrated his ability to depict the lives of ordinary Japanese in "OHaru" where he described the Japanese geisha:

The *geishas* or dancing-girls are the brightest, most intelligent and most accomplished of Japanese women. Chosen for their beauty they are educated from childhood. Not only are they trained in all the seductive graces of the dance and of personal attraction; but also in singing, music, and the intricate etiquette of serving and entertaining; nor are their minds neglected, for in wit, intelligence and repartee, they excell. In short, the whole aim of their education is to make them artistically fascinating. In class, they occupy much the same position as do our actresses, and though many are frail beauties that grace the tea house festivals, here and there will be found gems of the purest luster.<sup>5</sup>

A decade later, when he had already achieved fame as a novelist and short story writer, he became the premier American correspondent covering the Russo-Japanese War.<sup>6</sup> His services as war correspondent and photographer for the

forthcoming conflict between Japan and Russia had been sought by *Collier's*, the *New York Herald*, *Harper's Magazine*, and the Hearst Press.<sup>7</sup> The latter had made the best offer and going off to war had definite advantages for him besides financial gain. He would be well-paid, have a splendid adventure, and would be able to develop considerable material for future novels and stories.

London was both a keen observer and, as already noted, hugely prolific writer. The only Western reporter to reach the front in northern Korea, along the Yalu River, and later in Manchuria, London's many lengthy dispatches describe not only the travails of war, but also provide fascinating descriptions of people and life in Korea and Manchuria. Later when the Japanese brought his reporting to a halt,<sup>8</sup> he wrote a series of lengthy essays where he compared the modernization process of Japan, Korea and China and made bold but surprisingly accurate predictions about the rise of China as a modern superpower in the late twentieth century.

London's essays on Korea, Japan, and China provide a penetrating analysis of the state of each of these nations a century ago. London clearly saw the stirrings of a new Asia, one that when fully awakened would directly challenge the West for world supremacy. He had little use for Koreans, whom he found to be a physically powerful but immensely ignorant and servile people totally unable to save their own country from wrack and ruin. London admired the Japanese not only for their unique ability to modernize so quickly, but also for what he forecasted as their potential to awaken Asia from its sleep and to lead it to its renaissance vis-à-vis the West. But it was China, once awakened by the Japanese, which he predicted would thrust small Japan aside and itself rise as the world's preeminent superpower by 1976.

### **London's View of Korea and Koreans**

London actually spent most of his time in Asia traveling through Korea. When he arrived in Tokyo aboard the *S.S. Siberia* after a difficult three-week passage across the Pacific on 25 January 1904, he discovered to his horror that the Japanese had no intention of permitting foreign correspondents to travel to the front lines. Very strict censorship rules were in force, but London was not going to let a few Japanese censors get in his way. While other foreign correspondents hung out in Tokyo-area bars and begged Japanese officials to let them join Japanese forces marching north in Korea, London caught two rattle-trap steamers in early February that took him to the southern port city of Busan and then along the Korean coast to Chemulpo where he began a long march to Manchuria in tandem with Japanese forces.

The Japanese military was surprised when London suddenly showed up in Korea, but they were preoccupied with the movement of their own forces and tended to ignore London as long as he kept a low profile and did not interfere with Japanese military operations. London employed a Japanese civilian translator and a young Korean assistant as they moved north just ahead of the Japanese army.

London wrote numerous reports as he traveled from Seoul to Manchuria where he offered his in-depth analyses of Koreans, Japanese and Chinese. London was writing in an era

when many of his fellow Californians had developed a strong sense of racial prejudice against Asians, especially those Japanese and Chinese immigrants who had settled in the San Francisco area and elsewhere. London on occasion reflected some of these prejudices in his novels and essays, especially when he was writing about Koreans, but he more often shows genuine sympathy and respect for the Asians he encountered. In that sense, most of London's writing differs greatly from the anti-Asian diatribes found in many newspaper articles and books of the period.

London had little faith in the ability of Koreans to save their nation, but was full of praise for the Japanese and Chinese whose rise he predicted in his early writings:

The menace to the western world lies not in the little brown man [the Japanese], but in the four hundred millions of yellow men should the little brown man undertake their management. The Chinese is not dead to new ideas; he is an efficient worker; makes a good soldier, and is wealthy in the essential materials of a machine age. Under a capable management, he will go far. The Japanese is prepared and fit to undertake this management.<sup>9</sup>

One of London's first dispatches in early March 1904 belittled the Koreans:

A stalwart race are the Koreans, well muscled and towering above their masters, the [Japanese] "dwarfs" who conquered them of old time and who look upon them today with the eyes of possession. But the Korean is spiritless. He lacks the dash of Malay which makes the Japanese soldier what he is.

The Korean has finer features, but the vital lack in his face is strength. He is soft and effeminate when compared with the strong breeds, and whatever strength has been his in the past has been worked out of him by centuries of corrupt government. He is certainly the most inefficient of human creatures, lacking all initiative and achievement, and the only thing in which he shines is the carrying of burdens on his back. As a draught animal and packhorse he is a success.<sup>10</sup>

London developed an even more damning view of Koreans by the time he reached Manchuria in June 1904:

War is to-day the final arbiter in the affairs of men, and it is as yet the final test of the worth-whileness of peoples. Tested thus, the Korean fails. He lacks the nerve to remain when a strange army crosses his land. The few goods and chattels he may have managed to accumulate he puts on his back, along with his doors and windows, and away he heads for his mountain fastnesses. Later he may return, sans goods, chattels, doors, and windows, impelled by insatiable curiosity for a "look see." But it is curiosity merely—a timid, deerlike curiosity. He is prepared to bound away on his long legs at the first hint of danger or trouble.

Northern Korea was a desolate land when the Japanese passed through. Villages and towns were deserted. The fields lay untouched. There was no ploughing nor sowing, no green things growing. Little or nothing was to be purchased. One carried one's own food with him and food for horses and servants was the anxious problem that waited at the day's end. In many a lonely village not an ounce nor a grain of anything could be bought, and yet there might be standing around scores of white-garmented, stalwart Koreans, smoking yard-long pipes and chattering, chattering—ceaselessly chattering. Love, money, or force could not procure from them a horseshoe or a horseshoe nail...They have splendid vigour and fine bodies, but they are accustomed to being beaten and robbed without protest or resistance by every chance foreigner who enters their country.<sup>11</sup>

London wrote about the material poverty of the Korean people. He especially disliked the *yangban* aristocracy which he claimed to be ruthless in its suppression of the Korean people. He gives several examples where the Japanese would pay for food and supplies taken from a Korean village. The local aristocrat would collect the money from the Japanese, but would only give a quarter to the villages, pocketing the rest for himself. Some of London's most compelling articles and photographs from the war are of Korean refugees, dressed in white, showing the devastating plight of war on civilians. One is especially impressed by a very poignant description of a young girl, perhaps no more than six or seven, carrying a younger sister on her back, a bandage covering the younger girl's hand, a terrible, worried expression on her sister's face.<sup>12</sup>

### **Jack London on Japan**

As a journalist, London was quite annoyed with Japanese government officials because they refused to allow Western reporters to actively cover the war at the front and because Japanese army officials and police detained him several times when he took pictures in sensitive areas or wandered too close to the front lines. Nevertheless, despite his disdain for Japanese officialdom, he certainly respected Japan's ability to modernize so quickly and he often befriended ordinary Japanese. He employed a string of Japanese menservants during the last dozen years of his life and developed close friendships with each of them. London was sure that Japan was headed for greatness as a major world power, equal to the West not only in military and industrial power, but also in terms of the depth of its religious and cultural heritage. He reported an exchange with a Japanese civilian after his country's army had won a battle in Manchuria ("You people did not think that we could beat the white. We have now beaten the white.") as evidence of Japan's self-confidence in its efforts to gain great power status.<sup>13</sup>

Americans, London notes, were infatuated and often surprised by Japan because of their total ignorance of Japanese history and civilization.<sup>14</sup> They had created an image of the Japanese based on their own culture and then expected Japanese to behave in a manner predictable to Americans. The reality, however, was that "we know nothing (and less than nothing in so far as we think we know something) of the Japanese. It is a weakness of man to believe that all the rest of mankind is moulded in his own image, and it is a weakness of the white race to believe that the Japanese think as we think, are moved to action as we are moved and have points of view similar to our own."<sup>15</sup>

London respected Japan's extraordinary ability to modernize while other Asian states had not. "Japan is the one Asiatic race, in that alone among the races of Asia, she has been able to borrow from us and equip herself with all our material achievement. Our machinery of warfare, of commerce, of industry, she has made hers."<sup>16</sup> London reflected that Japan had also developed a taste for empire building much like the West. The Japanese are

...a race of mastery and power, a fighting race through all its history, a race that has always despised commerce and exalted

fighting. To-day, equipped with the finest machines and systems of destruction the Caucasian mind has devised, handling machines and systems with remarkable and deadly accuracy, this rejuvenescent Japanese race has embarked on a course of conquest the goal of which no man knows. The head men of Japan are dreaming ambitiously, and the people are dreaming blindly, a Napoleonic dream. And to this dream the Japanese clings and will cling with bull-dog tenacity.<sup>17</sup>

London commented frequently on the collective nature of Japanese culture. While he admired and respected many individual Japanese, especially certain Japanese generals who showed great courage and fighting skill, he was amazed at the Japanese ability to coalesce and at the high degree of patriotism he found. Writing in late 1904, he stated that:

The Japanese is not an individualist. He has developed national consciousness instead of moral consciousness. He is not interested in his own moral welfare except in so far as it is the welfare of the State. The honor of the individual, per se, does not exist. Only exists the honor of the State, which is his honor. He does not look upon himself as a free agent, working out his own personal salvation. Spiritual agonizing is unknown to him. He has a "sense of calm trust in fate, a quiet submission to the inevitable, a stoic composure in sight of danger or calamity, a disdain of life and friendliness with death." He relates himself to the State as, amongst bees, the worker is related to the hive; himself nothing, the State everything; his reasons for existence the exaltation and glorification of the State.

The most admired quality to-day of the Japanese is his patriotism. The Western world is in rhapsodies over it, unwittingly measuring the Japanese patriotism by its own conceptions of patriotism. "For God, my country, and the Czar!" cries the Russian patriot; but in the Japanese mind there is no differentiation between the three. The Emperor is the Emperor, and God and country as well. The patriotism of the Japanese is blind and unswerving loyalty to what is practically an absolutism.<sup>18</sup>

It is interesting that London's observations here come from an article that he entitled "The Yellow Peril." "The Yellow Peril" was a very derogatory term of the period meant to demean the squalor and poverty that so typified Asia in the eyes of so many Western writers and political leaders. Although London uses this expression in his title, his writing contradicts the typical view of Asians. London respects the determination of the Japanese to save their nation through modernization and the hard work and endurance of the Chinese that he had encountered.

### **Jack London and China**

London also had considerable admiration for Chinese civilization and predicted that when its people "woke up," it would become a world superpower, becoming so powerful by 1976 that the nations of the West would rally together to curtail China's dominance. He found the Chinese to be intelligent, clever, pragmatic and extremely hard-working. Tragically, however, China had been held back by a conservative governing elite who feared innovation and who looked to the glories of their nation's past and shunned chances to learn from the technologically superior West or from the recent achievements of the Japanese. London believed that the only hope for the Chinese is a revolution from below, because the lethargic literati who governed China did so with an iron hand. The rulers would make no concessions to modernize

China, for to do so would cause them to lose their power and wealth. The real tragedy, notes London, is that so little had changed in China for centuries because “government was in the hands of the learned classes, and that these governing scholars found their salvation lay in suppressing all progressive ideas.” He continues:

The Chinese is the perfect type of industry. For sheer work no worker in the world can compare with him. Work is the breath of his nostrils. It is his solution of existence. It is to him what wandering and fighting in far lands and spiritual adventure have been to other peoples. Liberty to him epitomizes itself in access to the means of toil. To till the soil and labour interminably with rude implements and utensils is all he asks of life and of the powers that be. Work is what he desires above all things, and he will work at anything for anybody...

Here we have the Chinese, four hundred millions of him, occupying a vast land of immense natural resources—resources of a twentieth-century age, of a machine age; resources of coal and iron, which are the backbone of commercial civilization. He is an indefatigable worker. He is not dead to new ideas, new methods, new systems. Under a capable management he can be made to do anything. Truly would he of himself constitute the much-heralded Yellow Peril were it not for his present management. This management, his government, is set, crystallized. It is what binds him down to building as his fathers built. The governing class, entrenched by the precedent and power of centuries and by the stamp it has put upon his mind, will never free him. It would be the suicide of the governing class, and the governing class knows it.<sup>19</sup>

London predicted that the Chinese Revolution and future ascendancy would be triggered by a Japanese invasion of China. Looking to the future in 1905, London conjectured that Japan would never be satisfied with control over Korea. Just above Korea lay Manchuria, with its huge deposits of coal and iron, the very ingredients that Japan would need to expand its industrial empire. South of Manchuria lay 400 million highly disciplined workers who, if harnessed by the Japanese, could become the factory workers and miners who would make Japan a truly great world power.

London’s predictions for the future of East Asia are found in his 1906 short story, “The Unparalleled Invasion.”<sup>20</sup> London presents an Orwellian drama where he tells of the rise of China in 1976 as a threat to world peace and how the Western powers combated this threat through the use of biological warfare. Japan, after its victory over Russia, had moved into Manchuria and then China and had persuaded the Chinese to work with the Japanese as kindred brothers. This collaboration included the building of a vast modern Chinese army that was to be at the beck and call of the Japanese, but then something happened that the Japanese had not counted on. The Chinese woke up. They realized their great power and own potential. It was time for China to throw the Japanese out and to seek its own fortune in world affairs! London writes:

China rejuvenescent! It was but a step to China rampant. She discovered a new pride in herself and a will of her own. She began to chafe under the guidance of Japan, but she did not chafe long. On Japan’s advice, in the beginning, she had expelled from the Empire all Western missionaries, engineers, drill sergeants, merchants, and teachers. She now began to expel the similar representatives of Japan. The latter’s advisory statesmen were showered with honours and decorations, and

sent home. The West had awakened Japan, and, as Japan had then requited the West, Japan was not requited by China. Japan was thanked for her kindly aid and flung out bag and baggage by her gigantic protégé.<sup>21</sup>

London predicted that Japan would go to war with China to maintain its status as a great power, but ultimately the Japanese met defeat and lost their empire in Taiwan, Korea and Manchuria. Japan then became a peaceful nation no longer interested in remaining as a major military power. But to everybody’s surprise, China too was not war-like—her strength lay “in the fecundity of her loins” and by 1970 the country’s population stood at a half billion and was spilling over its boundaries. In 1970, when France made a stand for Indo-China, China sent down an army of a million men and “The French force was brushed aside like a fly.” France then landed a punitive expedition of 250,000 men and watched as it was “swallowed up in China’s cavernous maw. . . .” Then as China expanded Siam fell, the southern boundary of Siberia was pressed hard and all other border areas from India to Central Asia were absorbed, as well as Burma and what is now Malaysia.

The Great Powers of Europe came together and decided that the Chinese threat must be eradicated. They sent a great military and naval force towards China which in turn mobilized all of its forces. But although the great armies approached each other, there was no invasion. Instead, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1976, an airship flew over Peking dropping tubes of fragile glass that fell on the city and shattered. In due course all of China was bombarded with the glass tubes filled with microbes and bacilli. Within six weeks most of Peking’s 11 million people were dead of plagues and every virulent form of infectious disease: smallpox, scarlet fever, yellow fever, cholera, bubonic plague. Before long much of the rest of China experienced the same catastrophe and much of the country became an empty wilderness. London concludes his story commenting on the downfall of China with its billion citizens:

Such was the unparalleled invasion of China. For that billion of people there was no hope. Pent in their vast and festering charnel-house, all organization and cohesion lost, they could do naught but die. They could not escape. As they were flung back from their land frontiers, so were they flung back from the sea. Seventy-five thousand vessels patrolled the coasts. By day their smoking funnels dimmed the sea-rim, and by night their flashing searchlights ploughed the dark and harrowed it for the tiniest escaping junk. The attempts of the immense fleets of junks were pitiful. Not one ever got by the guarding sea-hounds. Modern war-machinery held back the disorganized mass of China, while the plagues did the work.

But old War was made a thing of laughter. Naught remained to him but patrol duty. China had laughed at war, and war she was getting, but it was ultra-modern war, twentieth century war, the war of the scientist and the laboratory, the war of Jacobus Laningdale. Hundred-ton guns were toys compared with the micro-organic projectiles hurled from the laboratories, the messengers of death, the destroying angels that stalked through the empire of a billion souls.

During all the summer and fall of 1976 China was an inferno. There was no eluding the microscopic projectiles that sought out the remotest hiding-places. The hundreds of millions of dead remained unburied and the germs multiplied themselves, and, toward the last, millions died daily of starvation. Besides,

starvation weakened the victims and destroyed their natural defences against the plagues. Cannibalism, murder, and madness reigned. And so perished China.<sup>22</sup>

It is highly ironic that London so clearly foresaw Japan's eventual seizure of Korea and Manchuria, and its long, difficult invasion of China. Most importantly, he saw that Japan would not be satisfied with the mere defeat of Russia and the seizure of Korea and small parts of southern Manchuria. He foresaw that the Japanese would want to become the powerhouse of Asia and that they would come to realize that they would benefit if they could employ the power of four hundred million Chinese working on their behalf. History tells us that Japan did indeed invade Manchuria for its fertile land and rich natural resources in 1931 and that it invaded China later in the 1930s and 1940s to force the Chinese to accept Japanese supremacy there. A number of Japanese industrialists did indeed build profitable factories in several Chinese cities employing cheap Chinese labor and the Japanese military even installed its own puppet Chinese government in China. London correctly predicted that Japan's incursion into China would so enrage the Chinese that they would rise up and expel the Japanese. This awakening of the "sleeping dragon" of China which in turn would lead to that nation's emergence as a major world power.

### London and "Racism"

Many writers have accused London of being a racist and white supremacist. His essays after leaving Manchuria have frequent references to "The Yellow Peril." He wrote in an essay of that title that the "yellow" Chinese and "brown" Japanese might one day embark on an adventure that would shatter the domination of the West.

His many political speeches as the Socialist Party candidate for mayor of Oakland and elsewhere made it clear that socialism would only work in advanced societies and would fail in less developed societies until the inferior races were able to advance themselves sufficiently.

While London may well have harbored some beliefs about white supremacy, he clearly admired many of the Asians he encountered and strongly urged a forum where East and West could exchange views and ideas on an equal basis. These are hardly the thoughts of a racist; rather, they are the words of a true internationalist. He resolved that Hawaii was the ideal place for this encounter to take place and in 1915 urged the creation of a Pan-Pacific club where people of all races could meet to discuss the issues of the day.

In one of his last essays, "The Language of the Tribe," London describes what he perceives to be some of the reasons for cultural misunderstanding between Japanese and Americans. He saw the Japanese as a patient and calm people while Americans are hasty and impatient in their daily lives. These and other extreme differences have made it difficult for Americans to understand Japanese and difficult to accept their immigrants to the United States as citizens. There had to be a place where both Americans and Japanese could come together and better understand their respective cultures: He wrote:

A Pan-Pacific Club can be made the place where we meet each

other and learn to understand each other. Here we will come to know each other and each other's hobbies; we might have some of our new made friends of other tribes at our homes, and that is the one way we can get deep down under the surface and know one another. For the good of all of us, let's start such a club.<sup>23</sup>

Jack London traveled extensively over the course of his short life. He encountered people of many cultures and empathized with the suffering of downtrodden people not only in the United States, but also in Europe, East Asia and the South Pacific.

He lived in California at a time when many of his neighbors supported openly racist legislation against the many Japanese and Chinese immigrants who had settled there.

London took the time to know many foreigners as individuals and realized their potential worth as fellow human beings. Even as a very young writer he wrote stories and essays where he sympathetically portrayed the suffering and aspirations of Japanese, Chinese and Inuit characters. His reporting in Manchuria emphasized the great progress that the Japanese had made in the late nineteenth century as well as the Chinese potential for greatness. His writing on the squalor in London showed the disdain that people in Britain had for unfortunate persons in their own country.

London, unlike many writers of his time, was an internationalist who made a genuine effort to get to know the people and cultures in the lands that he traversed. His "Pan-Pacific Club" essay is his final appeal for the West to remove its stereotypical view of Asians as inferior peoples who needed Western domination for their own good. He wanted his readers to get to know persons of other cultures as real people. He also correctly foresaw the rise of a powerful new Asia and hoped that the West would develop peaceful and respectful relations with emerging nations like Japan and China.

### ENDNOTES

1. King Hendricks and Irving Shepherd, Eds., *Jack London Reports* (Garden City NY: Doubleday & Co., 1970).
2. Jack London, "If Japan Wakens China" in *Sunset Magazine*, December, 1909.
3. For accounts of his adventures aboard the *Sophie Sutherland*, see Russ Kingman, *A Pictorial Biography of Jack London* (Glen Ellen CA: Jack London Research Center, 1979), 42-46, and Richard O'Connor, *Jack London: A Biography* (Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1964), 50-55.
4. These stories were published in the Oakland High School literary magazine *Aegis* in 1895 and later in other literary journals and anthologies. London attended Oakland High School upon his return from the *Sophie Sutherland* adventure.
5. [http://www.jacklondon.net/writings/ShortStories/o\\_haru.html](http://www.jacklondon.net/writings/ShortStories/o_haru.html)
6. There were many other renowned journalists sent over to cover the war including Richard Harding Davis, but London was the only one who managed to actually provide first-hand coverage of the war from the front lines. Davis and other reporters found themselves marooned in Tokyo because they lacked London's boldness in actually finding passage from Japan to Korea.
7. London was also a respected photographer whose detailed pictures of the Japanese army in Korea and Manchuria were published in many newspapers.
8. Japanese officials frequently warned London to stay away from the front lines in Korea and Manchuria. They frequently detained London, took away his camera, and finally expelled him from Korea-Manchuria in the summer of 1904 because of his failure to follow Japanese censorship laws.

9. Quoted in O'Connor, 220.
10. Jack London, "Royal Road A Sea Of Mud," in King, Hendricks, and Irving, 44.
11. Quoted in London, *The Yellow Peril*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, 25 September, 1904. Korea's weakness was exposed when it proved unable to defend itself against forced entries by the Japanese in the 1870s and 1880s and by both Japanese and Russian forces between 1895 and the start of the Russo-Japanese War a decade later. The Korean government fell victim to several intrigues launched by Japanese, Chinese and Russian forces between the mid-1880s through the early 1900s.
12. London, "The Yellow Peril," *The San Francisco Examiner*, 25 September 1904.
13. Jack London, "Give Battle to Retard Enemy." Dispatch to Hearst papers written in Antung, Manchuria on 1 May 1905. During China's Qing dynasty (1644-1911) Manchuria became a part of China, but the Qing court, which was Manchurian in origin, reserved their ancient homeland for ethnic Manchurians only. Manchuria caught the attention of imperialists in Russia, Japan and elsewhere because of its fertile land, abundant resources, and its sparse population.
14. London gained his understanding of Japan not only from his own experiences in Japan and with the Japanese army in Korea, but also from his avid reading of books and articles by Lafcadio Hearn, who had just died when London arrived in Tokyo in early 1905.
15. Jack London, "If Japan Wakens China," *op. cit.*
16. *Ibid.*
17. Jack London, "The Yellow Peril," *San Francisco Examiner*, 25 September 1904.
18. London, "Yellow Peril."
19. London, "Yellow Peril."
20. Written at the end of 1906, "The Unparalleled Invasion" was published in book form in 1910 with the same title together with several other short stories.
21. Quoted in "The Unparalleled Invasion." <http://www.jacklondon.net/writings/shortFiction/part14.html>
22. *Ibid.*
23. Jack London, "The Language of the Tribe," in *Mid-Pacific Magazine*, August 1915. Reprinted in Daniel J. Wichlan, *Jack London: The Unpublished and Uncollected Articles and Essays* (Bloomington IN: AuthorHouse, 2007), 126.

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