JAPAN'S NUMBER ONE WAR CRIMINAL

AND

AMERICAN POST-WAR CONNIVANCE

WITH

JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS

By Elsie Tu

(Based mainly on research by Sterling Seagrave
and Herbert Bix)
Writer's Introduction

This article is written out of respect for my husband, Andrew H.K. Tu, who for the past twenty years has dedicated his life to seeking peace through genuine repentance on the part of the Japanese imperial family and its right-wing advisers for their aggression and brutality in China and Asia, 1931 - 1945.

Now in poor health, he still hopes to continue his crusade for peace, and an assurance that the Japanese right-wing militants and politicians, who still continue to withhold the truth from their compatriots, will never again attempt to seek domination of their neighbouring countries. He still hopes that they will officially compensate those victims who still live with the nightmare of those days of aggression, and those who were robbed of their savings.

Some of the information in this article has been gained from my husband, but a great deal is based upon the reading of the books of Sterling Seagrave, "The Yamato Dynasty" and Herbert Bix, "Hirohito", along with Iris Chang's "The Rape of Nanking", and Germany's John Rabe's Diary written in Nanjing at the actual time of the massacre, rape and looting.

All these books and others not named are essential reading for those who wish to know the truth of history, particularly for the Japanese themselves, and for Americans who can bear to hear the truth of the connivance of their leaders with Japanese war criminals in the aftermath of World War II, and even to this present day.

The article merely consists of a brief selection of some of the main facts, the intention being to draw attention to the crimes of the Japanese fascist regime, and the reasons why the Japanese are still considered a threat, with American support, in this region.

Those who study the books mentioned, all of them based on recorded documents, should demand the release of other documents that have long prevented the world from knowing the truth.

Elsie Tu
Hong Kong
November 2000
This article is an attempt to support those who for decades have tried hard to secure an apology from the Japanese Emperor for the appalling atrocities committed in China and other Asian countries during, and many years before, the Second World War. It is based almost entirely on facts given in two recently published books, namely, "The Yamato Dynasty" by Sterling Seagrave (1999) and "Hirohito", by Herbert Bix (2000).

The article is simplified to make the facts known to non-academics but it is recommended that all who are able should read the two books mentioned above, which give details taken from authentic records written by advisers and others close to the emperor. More importantly, the books should be translated into Chinese and Japanese, especially the latter, to try to reach the consciences of the many Japanese who were misled by their emperor and are happy to remain in ignorance of the barbarities as well as the unprecedented looting of Asian countries by their fellowmen with the full knowledge and consent of the Emperor, who even appointed his brother to oversee the looting. The books mentioned should also be read by Americans, to indicate the extent to which their country was a collaborator in deceiving the world about the involvement of Hirohito in the whole sorry affair, which the present Emperor, Hirohito's son Akihito, dismissed while on a visit to Beijing as "an unhappy incident". The word "incident" was used repeatedly by Hirohito for the worst atrocities of rape, violence and robbery in world history.

I begin with two brief quotations, one by a trusted adviser of Hirohito, the Privy Seal Marquis Kido Koichi, who himself escaped with a short prison term imposed at the farce named "The Tokyo Trial" of Japanese war criminals. Kido wrote personally to the emperor saying, "I think it is most proper for you to take responsibility and abdicate.... If you do not do this then the end will be that the imperial family alone shall have failed to take responsibility, and an unclear mood will remain which, I fear, might leave an eternal scar." Kido was right. Fifty-five years later, that scar remains. Japan remains the most hated country in Asia and there is little likelihood of Asian countries accepting Japan as a trustworthy partner in Asia until that scar is removed by a humble apology from the Japanese emperor, and compensation for life and suffering, including stolen goods.

The second quotation, from a leftist magazine, gets down more
to the root of the problem; the belief in the superiority of the Japanese race in Asia, and their god-king descended from the sun goddess, a religious interpretation of Hitler's belief in the superiority of the Aryan race, remnants of which beliefs can be found today in several European countries and in the United States. The magazine quotes a feudal politician, Ieyasu, who said: "Influence the people but do not inform them". The writer then poses the question as to whether the Meiji government still carries out Ieyasu's teaching while pretending to be a democracy. The writer concludes, "We shall not know the answer to that question for eighty years". That prediction seems likely to become true.

Fifty-five years have gone by since the war ended, and the true facts are just beginning to come to light. Both Sterling Seagrave and Herbert Bix have researched the facts from records just now being opened to the public, and no doubt there are still many more records to be disclosed. One problem faced by Chinese, and some Japanese of conscience, is how to get the facts to the people. In Japan, efforts are met with opposition, even threats and violence by right-wing thugs who surround the throne. Many Japanese, fearful of speaking out, many who know nothing about the truth of the war, many who are too busy with their own personal interests and do not care, are unlikely to press their emperor to take responsibility for the atrocities committed and the true cause of their own bitter suffering in defeat, unless all the facts are made public worldwide.

Nor are the American President and the clique working under General Douglas MacArthur, guiltless for Japan's return to military power and emperor worship. The war-time allies of Europe demanded trial for war crimes of all those responsible for World War II, and both Hitler and Mussolini paid for it with their lives, albeit probably self-inflicted. Hirohito alone escaped, thanks to General MacArthur, who, under the name "Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" (SCAP), ran the Tokyo Trial only on behalf of America, ignoring most nations' demands for Hirohito to be put on trial. In MacArthur's team, which turned the trial into a charade, were Bonner F. Pellers, Joseph Grew and Herbert Hoover, with Japanese friends or distant Japanese relatives, but all with one purpose, to take advantage and use Hirohito to fight any sign of communism in Japan: indeed, the forerunner of the war against Korea and Vietnam. Assisting them were Hirohito's advisers, Kase,
Yoshida and Terry Terasaki, the latter having been opposed to the attack on Pearl Harbour but who appeared to believe that when the war was over, Japan would become a more liberal democracy. In that he misjudged the case because within a few years, Hirohito was again the divine emperor, and all was under his direction because all his old advisers were released from prison and back in power.

Herbert Bix's book shows clearly that Hirohito was in full command of the war in China and remained in charge to the very end in 1945. It is likely that the Japanese commanders in Manchuria sparked the first incident, when the Manchurian railway was bombed and China was blamed. Hirohito was informed clearly that his own army had carried out the bombing to create an excuse to invade China from Manchuria, which they had already seized from China. Hirohito was angry only that it had taken place without consulting him, but in this case, as in all future cases, he was concerned not with aggression, but merely that all acts of aggression must be sure of success. From that time on he was consulted on all attacks to be made on China, and the final decision was his. He covered his guilt by working through his advisers, who gave him the details of the venture, and conveyed his consent to the military commanders. In his doublespeak language, every act of aggression was labelled "a war of self defence".

In passing it is interesting to note that the United States either by chance or by learning Japanese tricks, used the same kind of language for its aggression in Korea, Vietnam, in the countries of Central and South America, even in the tiny island Grenada, that it was a war for "national security". Apparently that is another doublespeak term for "national expansionism" whether territorially or economically. Any country that mentions land reform or social reforms is also labelled "communist" by the United States, and therefore a "threat to national security".

To cover up Hirohito's true status as a military dictatorship, he pretended to be following the British style of monarchy, where the sovereign "reigns" but does not "rule". The British sovereign is required to take advice of her Parliament and not make any decisions herself. Hirohito adopted the position that in theory the Diet ruled, but in fact it had little say in decision-making. Hirohito had a body composed of seven relatives, barons or rich elites with whom every important issue was discussed, but the final
decision was invariably his own. Any member who disagreed was expected to resign and be replaced by someone who would agree with the emperor.

As a student, Hirohito had rejected the idea of his being a god-emperor, but once on the throne after his father's death, having gone through all the shinto rites, he gradually took charge and considered himself the heaven-sent saviour of all Asia. At school Hirohito had been given a military and naval education, in which he was taught actual combat. His family was extremely wealthy, and the huge royal family enjoyed special privileges, in appointments to high office, and travel abroad which was rare in those days. If the people became restless because of their poor standard of living, their uprisings were crushed by the army. It seemed uncertain whether the army was intended to defend the country from enemies abroad, or to defend the imperial family from the Japanese people, some of whom were believed to have turned to communism.

Hypocritically, besides being trained for the army and navy, Hirohito was taught that he must be the head of 'civilisation and enlightenment'. He was taught that yellow races are superior to white races. To "save Korea from Russian domination", he had to occupy Korea. The Korean people obviously did not accept Japanese "protection"; nevertheless Korea was annexed and remained so until after World War II. He learned from the history of World War I that communist revolution was the greatest threat to the monarchy, but that in Japan there was no conflict between monarchy and the constitution, as the emperor is 'the state' and acts on behalf of the people. To protect the imperial house he sought to build up a strong middle class, satisfied with things as they were, and therefore unlikely to turn to socialism or any social change on behalf of the underprivileged. The fact is that Hirohito's main obsession was to protect the power of the imperial house. Even while the people finally suffered horrifically from American incendiary and atomic bombings, Hirohító was still considering how he could protect the 'kokutai', the national policy, that is the arrangement whereby Japan kept up the appearance of having a constitution while the emperor maintained his divine stature in
the determined effort to preserve the Maiji's divine hierarchy. As Herbert Bix says in his book entitled "Hirohito", "The main principle was never to implicate or cause harm to the Emperor. Governance required extreme secrecy, simulation, dissimulation, indirection and conniving - and dual morality on the part of emperor and others".

Hirohito claimed, and the Japanese right-wing politicians still claim, that Japan was seeking peace in Asia against colonials, and that China did not understand that peaceful purpose. If Hirohito had to allow Chinese to be massacred to achieve his purpose, it was merely "compassionate killing" to save the Chinese nation. This expression "compassionate killing" is echoed today by Americans and British leaders when they bomb innocent civilians in the name of 'humanitarian intervention'. One wonders if they also learned this from Japan! The 'troublemakers' have to be killed in order to bring peace to those who survive! And the remainder who survived were then offered a 'peace treaty' which robbed them of their land, and possessions, which went to Japan. Such was their 'holy war' to 'save' Asia!

When the emperor contemplated entering into a war with the United States, even his trusted prime minister, Konoe, considered the hope of success poor, but when Hirohito insisted on taking that chance, Konoe resigned, and his place was taken by hawkish Tojo, whose appetite for war satisfied Hirohito better. Konoe, no dove himself, is reported to have said: "Considering 'kokutai', (that is the national policy in which Hirohito was supreme over his elected Diet) unless the emperor assents to it we can do nothing. When I think of the madmen leading this present situation, I can't help but feel weary of life." (quoted from Herbert Bix) Later Konoe committed suicide. Says Bix, "Konoe may well have included Hirohito among the 'madmen'."

After sixty Japanese cities had been almost wiped out, Hirohito eventually realised that he must sue for peace with the United States and its allies. But even at that point, he hesitated and conferred with his "court party" how to preserve his own position and the policy known as 'kokutai'. According to a report referred to in Bix's book, Baron Hiranuma, president of the privy council said quietly to the emperor: "Your Majesty, you also bear responsibility for this defeat," and Hoshima, Chief of Naval Affairs, confirmed the report, adding, "If he is not clear about this, then
his responsibility is grave."

Even after the second atom bomb, when Hirohito informed his imperial family of his decision to surrender, and his young brother asked him whether the war would be continued if the 'kokutai' could not be preserved, Hirohito replied, "Of course". His own position was obviously more important to him than the lives of his subjects who were already suffering for his sins.

However, Hirohito need not have worried for his own safety. There were unprincipled Americans in power prepared to assist him under conditions favourable to themselves. According to the Potsdam Agreement, there was to be total and unconditional surrender by all the fascist countries involved in the war, mainly Germany, Italy and Japan. All their leaders were to be tried as war criminals. In the event, Japan became the exception in that the emperor was to escape punishment, though even some German war criminals are also believed to have escaped to America where they were to be used to overthrow governments in Central and South America which did not meet with the approval of the United States. (Countries that planned land reforms or social improvement policies were dubbed "communist" and were overthrown. Examples are Chile, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Granada et alia. Attempts to overthrow Cuba have failed repeatedly up to this day, but not for want of trying on the part of the United States.)

General Douglas MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), but while the Allies almost all insisted on harsh punishment for the war criminals, MacArthur made his own rules, and occupied Japan like a dictator. His job was to establish a democratic constitution in Japan and change the god-emperor into a normal human being in the eyes of the Japanese people. He would also prepare for the setting up of the war crimes hearing, a mockery known as the "Tokyo Trials". MacArthur had other ideas in mind. Contrary to American public opinion, he intended to intimidate Hirohito with threats of death as a criminal, but to save him once he had succeeded in enforcing his conditions.

In a charade to "humanise" the emperor before the Japanese people, he had Hirohito tour Japan dressed like an ordinary citizen, meeting the people and showing himself a democrat who had regrettably been misled by his army generals, but that he personally had made no decisions himself, except the final decision to stop the war. However, his aides made those visits so spectacular that
they failed in their purpose and the Japanese people would fall on their knees on seeing the emperor who had always been depicted as a god. MacArthur hoped to show the world how he had changed Japan into a democracy and Hirohito into a human, constitutional monarch. Afterwards, at the next presidential election, he hoped to become the American president; a reward for his good work.

Assisting MacArthur on his team he had persons friendly and even closely connected with the imperial house: Joseph Grew, known to have friends in Japan; Herbert Hoover (a sworn enemy of communism); and the unprincipled Field Marshall, Bonner F. Fellers, later recalled to the United States for his malpractices. On the Japanese side, Hirohito's liaison group with MacArthur were Admiral Yonai, who had been responsible for shipping Asian loot to Japan; Kase, an expert at propaganda; and Terry Terasaki, who appears to have believed that the Japanese constitution was being liberalised. To achieve the goal of saving Hirohito and fulfilling his own ambitions, MacArthur and his clique intended to tamper with witnesses at the war criminal trials. General Tojo, who had attempted to commit suicide, was perfectly willing to say that it was he, not Hirohito, who had made the decision to enter and continue the war against the allies.

Tojo had always been Hirohito's favourite prime minister because both were interested in expanding the power of the Japanese in Asia. Yet he allowed Tojo to accept complete responsibility, as Tojo's lawyer later revealed. During the trial, Tojo slipped up during cross-examination by saying "No Japanese subject would ever go against the will of the emperor" making it clear that the emperor was the one responsible for calling the shots. MacArthur's clique was shocked and the same day sent Kido, himself a war criminal, to see Tojo in prison and tell him to amend his statement, which Tojo did at the next hearing. In fact, this "international" war tribunal became purely an American court, with witnesses bought and sold, granting by MacArthur of immunity to business leaders involved in the war, and lavish dinners by the imperial family for defence lawyers. MacArthur was under instructions to allow no action against Hirohito without permission from Washington.

Consequently, of the 300 blacklisted accused war criminals, only 28 eventually went for trial, and of those only seven were dealt the death penalty. Those sentenced to imprisonment were soon
released and some returned to be advisers of Hirohito. MacArthur's clique had ordered Hirohito to remain as emperor as a mere symbol, with no right to make decisions under a new "democratic" constitution. However, once off the hook at the trials, for which he was not even investigated for possible guilt, let alone tried, he continued to take charge in decision-making and to meet with his advisers, men of the old fascist regime. He was again the same divine god-emperor in fact if not in theory.

Those committed for trial were carefully chosen, not necessarily for their guilt, but for political reasons. One of those found guilty in the Nanjing massacre, for example, was not stationed in Nanjing at the time of the massacre. Those eventually hanged are believed to be only men of the political rival clan of Choshu. It was replaced by the Yamaguchi Prefecture on the Japanese map, and became famous for its underground criminal organisation, the Yamaguchi Gumi.

Since most of Hirohito's military clique were eventually restored to power, it is not surprising that militarism once again reared its ugly head, and Japan has recently been exposed as a corrupt regime, its misdemeanours being revealed when the bottom fell out of the Asian stockmarket in 1997. They were no longer in military uniform, but in big businessmen's suits.

All this manoeuvring created confusion and uncertainty in the minds of the Japanese people. They believed that the constitution had been democratised; but the power of the emperor remained virtually intact because Hirohito presented democracy as a legacy of his Meiji forbears.

For his part, MacArthur warned America that loyalty to the Japanese emperor was so deep that if he were to be charged as a war criminal the United States would have to support an enormous military force in Japan to keep the people from rioting. Yet, even Hirohito's own brothers had proposed that he should admit responsibility and abdicate in favour of his son Akihito, who would have one of his uncle's as regent until he was of age. He was then in his early teens. Yet the MacArthur clique did not even try to investigate Hirohito's wartime actions, a fact which obfuscated the Tokyo Trials, where time after time it was clear from witnesses' statements that he was deeply involved in decision-making.
Among the atrocities not even mentioned in the Tokyo Trials was the criminal use of chemical weapons by Unit 731, which had used Americans as well as Asians as guinea-pigs. One would have expected trial for using American guinea-pigs in line with the United States' official policy of counting American lives more precious than the lives of those of other nations. It seems that actual chemical and biological weapons were used mainly in the communist-held areas, and the United States has always considered it their god-appointed duty to kill communists by methods that are not even suitable for killing animals. In this war, however, the murderers of Unit 731 were saved in order to share their findings on chemical and biological weapons with Americans, who later used them "for national security" on imagined enemies, dubbed communists if they did not accept American values, for example, in the American aggression in Vietnam where numerous atrocities were committed by the United States, breaking all international conventions with impunity.

America also bargained on the emperor's life to gain a military foothold in this Pacific area. Hirohito took little persuasion in granting large military bases in Okinawa, saying that the people of Okinawa were not Japanese anyhow. The people of Okinawa have repeatedly objected to the stationing of American troops there, but they have no power to evict the troops, who have left their legacy of sexual violence. Indeed, many Asians were victimised because of American paranoia against communism, and in order to maintain their own ideology of rampant capitalism, under the name of laissez-faire.

In 1952, Japan, virtually unchanged in its dictatorship except for lack of military power for aggression, gained independence from the United States, though still under United States military "protection". The United States violated the peace treaty gradually by strengthening Japan militarily, economically and politically, until it again began to pose a threat to neighbouring countries, especially China, while also stationing troops in Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and other bases surrounding China.

In 1957 a Japanese book written by Japanese military veterans entitled "Burn all, kill all, steal all" became a best seller.
The title of the book echoes the orders given to the military by the emperor during the years of aggression, and among those who had carried out the orders were members of the Imperial family, including at least two of his brothers, one of whom had the loot transported to Japan through Japanese-occupied Korea, and the other, at a later stage, through the Philippines and other parts of South-east Asia. The book was quickly banned, and its writers threatened by right-wing thugs and dubbed "communist dupes".

One soldier, Azumo Shiro, who had actually taken some part in the massacre in Nanjing, and named those who had committed inhuman atrocities which he had witnessed with his own eyes, wrote a diary which he attempted to publish. He has suffered persecution, charges of libel, and had his case dismissed time after time in the Japanese courts. Aged 88 now, he still tours cities of China weeping at the shrines for the dead war victims, and attempting to make the truth known to his Japanese fellow-citizens. The right-wing elements around the throne have continued to prevent the younger generation from knowing the truth. Consequently, millions of Asian victims of the war, relatives of the dead, victims of rape, and those robbed of their valuables, will continue to harbour feelings of hatred and hostility. These victims include Asians, as well as American war veterans, British, Dutch and others who suffered from the crimes of the Japanese imperial army.

The struggle continues on both sides. As late as 1999, the Japanese imperial war flag with the rising sun symbolising the expansionist aims of the nation of the sun goddess and her earthly "representative" the emperor, a symbol banned at the end of the war, has been restored, along with the national song. In spite of Japan's hypocritical assurances to her neighbours, no change of heart can be seen, but merely empty words. Moreover, Japan has formed an alliance with the United States, to act on America's behalf as their "police" in the Pacific rim, with the right, illegally granted against all former agreements to the contrary, to "protect" the neighbouring countries, including Hong Kong and Taiwan, both Chinese territory.

One question now to be dealt with in this article, is what role the United States' militarists, bureaucrats and politicians played in the farce in Tokyo after the war ended. The peace they made benefitted only the United States. The "democracy" they introduced was still guided by the Meiji and their right-wing
militarists-turned-businessmen, bureaucrats or politicians.
As already mentioned, MacArthur had his own arrogant and selfish ambition to make a show of bringing peace and democracy to Japan, and reaping his reward as future President, which did not materialise.

The United States succeeded in gaining for itself a foothold in the Pacific region, bargaining Hirohito's life for military bases in Japan, with the intention of using the bases for wars to root out "communism" (as they called everything that was not subservient to the United States economically) in Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and elsewhere in the region.

And beneath all this, other sinister activities are now surfacing. General MacArthur had declared Japan to be totally bankrupt after the war. It was a lie and he knew it. It did, however, prevent war victims from attempting to seek compensation. Research shows what happened to much of the treasure looted in the Japanese operation "Golden Lily" throughout the years 1931 to 1945. Sterling Seagrave records in much detail how the records show the looting of banks, factories, churches, mosques, temples, pagodas as well as families and individuals throughout the Asian countries they invaded. The gold, including ancient Buddhist statues, was melted down and made into gold bars with special markings to identify and keep a check on their whereabouts. As mentioned, that taken from China was sent to Japan through Korea and filled the war chests with which to continue Hirohito's aggression. The loot from the south, loaded onto hospital ships in millions of metric tons, was taken eventually to the Philippines, where it was hidden in enormous underground tunnels to be taken to Japan later. It is said that the tunnel in Manila Bay still exists, and it is believed that some gold is still hidden in caves yet to be unearthed. Some of the huge boxes of gold were actually taken to Tokyo Bay, where the boats were sunk, to be retrieved after American occupation ended.

In chapter thirteen of his book, "The Yamato Dynasty", Seagrave tells how some Americans and Filipinos tracked how a cargo of boxes was unloaded and carried to the cave in Manila Bay, and how they examined the cargo after the Japanese forced slave-labourers had left, to find that the cargo was gold bars. The war ended soon after and the Japanese had not yet removed the gold.

After the war, a Filipino-American and two American generals were assigned the duty of retrieving the gold in Manila. But
instead of returning it to its rightful owners, documents show that the Filipino-American who had by now joined the CIA, deposited it in nearly 200 banking accounts in 42 different countries. Much of it became the secret fund of the CIA for its anti-communist subversion network. One account alone, in the name of an American General, says Seagrave, contained twenty thousand metric tons of gold. The Filipino-American took some for his private use, and another large account was in the name of Douglas MacArthur himself.

Yet another was in the name of Herbert Hoover. Seagrave leaves the reader to guess the connection between Hirohito's escape from the gallows, the suborning of witnesses, and the gold accounts.

Victims of the war seeking compensation should now understand where their precious belongings went, and why, without representation at the San Francisco Peace Treaty, Japan was not ordered to pay compensation to the victims. Moreover, when Japan offered to send industrial equipment to the victim countries on the excuse that the country was bankrupt, Washington stopped the deal and claimed the goods as reparations to American companies to settle former debts incurred by the Japanese.

"Japanese," says Seagrave, "have not been told the full story", but the younger generation has been "raised not to ask questions".

Those who read this account are urged to read the books referred to in this article, and to spread the news, whenever possible, among Japanese people and Americans, so that the world may be able eventually to know the truth and to seek peace only on the true facts about Japanese aggression, and American connivance with Japan after the war.