

MEIJI JAPAN THROUGH CONTEMPORARY SOURCES

when imported shall pay the amount of duty set against them in the list of exports.

XXIX. If vessels of the two countries are disabled and make the ports of the other, the local officers shall afford relief to the crew and forward them to a Consul, or if attacked by pirates the local officers shall endeavour to apprehend the pirates, and to recover and restore booty, failing in which they shall be degraded, but no claim can be entertained for making losses good.

XXX. The Custom-house officers of each country will adopt severe precaution to prevent smuggling, according to circumstances, and the regulations which they establish must be conformed to by traders.

XXXI. Merchants of either country at the open ports of the other, who desire a change in Customs rules, shall petition the Consul, who shall report the matter to the Minister at Peking.

XXXII. If either country should hereafter desire a modification of these rules, notice thereof is to be given ten years after the ratification of the treaty.

XXXIII. The trade regulation and tariff agreed on between the two countries shall, with the treaty, be maintained in good faith and without abatement, to which end the Plenipotentiaries of the two countries affix their respective signatures and seals.

Translated from Chinese Version in
Hertslet: *China Treaties*, I, 240-254 (adapted).

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2. *The Iwakura Mission to Western Countries*

B. Imperial Letter to Emperors and Presidents* on the Despatch of the Iwakura Mission, November 4, 1871.

SINCE Our accession to the throne by right of descent in the line of succession one and eternal from Our Heavenly Ancestor, We have not yet envoyed any mission to the powers at peace with Us, and now that We deem it absolutely necessary to send one, We have given to the minister envoyed Our confidence, Iwakura Tomomi, Minister of the Right, full powers as Special Ambassador, and named Kido Takayoshi, Councillor, Okubo Toshimichi, Minister of Finance, Ito Hirobumi, Vice-Minister of Public Works, and Yamaguchi Hisayoshi, Second Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Associate Plenipotentiaries.

They shall with full powers proceed to the United States of America and the governments of Europe, communicate to them Our friendly intention, and extend and increase the amicable relations happily existing between Us and those governments.

The time for the revision of the existing treaties will arrive in less than a year, and We wish to revise them considerably, so as to place Japan on the footing of equality with the civilized nations, and preserve our rights and interests resulting

* Addressed to those of Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Hawaii, the United States of America, France, Austria, and Switzerland.

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therefrom. But as the customs and laws of Japan differ much from those of foreign countries, We do not intend to undertake the revision at once. We will first study the institutions of the civilized nations, adopt those most suited to Japan, and gradually reform Our government and manners, so as to attain the status equal to that of the civilized nations. Hence, We now envoy the mission to the governments of the United States and other countries with instructions to explain to them the state of affairs in Japan, and deliberate with them on the best means of reforming Our institutions. We will consider the question of treaty revision on receiving the reports of the mission, and then accomplish Our constant desire.

Stead : *Japan by the Japanese*, pp. 155-156.

C. Speech by Ito Hirobumi at San Francisco, December 14, 1871.

GENTLEMEN,

Being honoured by your kind generosity I gladly express to you, and through you to the citizens of San Francisco, our heart-felt gratitude for the friendly reception which has everywhere greeted the embassy since its arrival in your state, and especially for the marked compliment paid this evening to our nation.

This is perhaps a fitting opportunity to give a brief and reliable outline of many improvements, being introduced into Japan. Few but native Japanese have any correct knowledge of our country's internal condition.

Friendly intercourse with the treaty powers (first among which was the United States), has been maintained, and a

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good understanding on the part of our people has increased commercial relations.

Our mission, under special instructions from His Majesty, the Emperor, **while** seeking to protect the rights and interests of our respective nations, will seek to unite them more closely in the future, convinced that we shall appreciate each other more, when we know each other better.

By reading, hearing and by observation in foreign lands, our people have acquired a general knowledge of constitutions, habits and manners as they exist, in most foreign countries. Foreign customs are now generally understood throughout Japan.

To-day it is the earnest wish of both our government and people, to strive for the highest points of civilization enjoyed by more enlightened countries. Looking to this end, we have adopted their military, naval, scientific and educational institutions, and knowledge has flowed to us freely in the wake of foreign commerce. Although our improvement has been rapid in material civilization, the mental improvement of our people has been far greater. Our wisest men, after careful observation, agree in this opinion.

While held in absolute obedience by despotic sovereigns through many thousand years, our people knew no freedom, or liberty of thought.

With our material improvement, they learned to understand their rightful privileges, which for ages had been denied them. Civil war was but a temporary result.

Our *duimyo* magnanimously surrendered their principalities, and their voluntary action was accepted by a general government. Within a year a feudal system, firmly established many centuries ago, has been completely abolished, without firing a gun or shedding a drop of blood. These

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wonderful results have been accomplished by the united action of a government and people, now pressing jointly forward in the peaceful paths of progress. What country in the middle ages broke down its feudal system without war?

These facts assure us that mental changes in Japan exceed even the material improvements. By educating our women, we hope to ensure greater intelligence in future generations. With this end in view, our maidens have already commenced to come to you for their education.

Japan cannot claim originality as yet, but will aim to exercise practical wisdom by adopting the advantages, and avoiding the errors, taught her by the history of those enlightened nations, whose experience is their teacher.

Scarcely a year ago, I examined minutely the financial system of the United States, and while in Washington received most valuable assistance from distinguished officers of your Treasury Department. Every detail learned, was faithfully reported to my government, and suggestions then made, have been adopted, and some of them are now already in practical operation.

In the Department of Public Works, now under my administration, the progress has been satisfactory. Railroads are being built, both in the eastern and western portions of the empire. Telegraph wires are stretching over many hundred miles of our territory, and nearly one thousand miles will be completed within a few months. Lighthouses now line our coasts, and our shipyards are active. All these assist our civilization, and we fully acknowledge our indebtedness to you and other foreign nations.

As ambassadors, and as men, our greatest hope is to return from this mission laden with results-valuable to our beloved country and calculated to advance permanently her

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material and intellectual condition.

While in duty bound to protect the rights and privileges of our people, we shall aim to increase our commerce, and, by a corresponding increase of our productions, hope to create a healthy basis for their greater activity.

As distinguished citizens of a great commercial nation, prepared for business, desirous of participating in the new commercial era now dawning auspiciously upon the Pacific, Japan offers you her hearty co-operation.

Your modern inventions, and results of accumulated knowledge, enable you to see and do more in days, than our fathers accomplished in years.

Time, so condensed with precious opportunities, we can ill afford to waste. Japan is anxious to press forward.

The red disc in the centre of our national flag, shall no longer appear like a wafer over a sealed empire, but henceforth be in fact, what it is designed to be, the noble emblem of the rising sun, moving onward and upward amid the enlightened nations of the world.

Black : *Young Japan*, II, 358-360.

D. Memorial of Kido Takayoshi upon his Return to Japan, July, 1873.

I, Takayoshi, have always been filled with fear at the thought that I, an unlearned man and of inferior capacity, have presumed to take a share in the conduct of affairs, and I am sensible that I have in many ways failed to discharge aright the diplomatic duties imposed upon me by my late appointment as envoy to the states of Europe and America. I have not succeeded in fulfilling the charge contained in the full