

nation, and a nation without heavy industries could not make munitions of war. The Japanese had thought that one out, too. Then came a day when the Japanese walked out of the League of Nations and Japanese armies appropriated still more pieces

The pattern of events from then on is familiar. Japan built her war machine, tested it in Manchuria and China and finally launched it in an all-out, win-or-lose throw of the dice against the Allies. That she miscalculated the odds against her the course of the war is now showing, but even when stared in the face by inevitable defeat the Japanese are still contesting every inch of Allied progress with a fanaticism that none can deny.

What sort of people are the Japanese? From where do they derive the fanaticism which has been made so apparent in war? What makes them fight on in the face of hopeless odds? The answer in each case is not hard to find. Long centuries of rigid training and example in intense pride of race have inculcated in the Japanese an almost hereditary faculty of self-control and stoicism even in enduring pain or death, and have taught him that personal cowardice is despicable and loyalty, especially to the throne, the supreme virtue. He is imbued from birth with the "sacredness and inviolability" of the person of the Emperor, whom his subjects call "Tenshi" ("Son of Heaven") or "Tenno" ("Heavenly King").



Shinto priest in paper robes

of Asia—pieces which had iron, coal and, to a lesser extent, oil. More, she began to lay the foundations for an expansion of industry which, if not as yet on a grandiose scale, was sufficient to enable her to compete in the markets of the world to an ever-increasing degree. The extent to which Japan came to undersell other nations even on their own markets is too well known to require elaboration.

But a new factor had arisen, of which only Japan was aware. The Japanese were using their screen of industrial expansion and competition in the sphere of world trade to hide their preparations for war, a war in which they well knew they would not be able to rely on their former allies for the munitions and supplies necessary to equip the armies of aggression.

In that passionate creed is moulded the *Kamikaze* suicide pilot and the soldier who fights to the death or commits suicide when threatened with capture, believing that in so doing he assures for himself a place in *Yakassuni*, the military shrine for all Japanese soldiers who die in battle. In this spirit, also, are preserved the traditions of the *Samurai*, the professional warrior-swordsmen of a few generations back. It is the *Samurai* to whom can be traced the code of *bushido* (way of the warrior) as it is known in the Japanese armed forces today, and the rigid rules of conduct laid down for Japan's famous swordsmen are in a large measure reflected in the demands made of the modern Nipponese soldier.