

temporal power in Japan was exercised by successive families of Shoguns, with the Emperors remaining in spiritual seclusion. The most important of these families were the Minamoto, who held the Shogunate from 1186 to 1219; the Akisaga, 1334 to 1573; and the Tokugawa, 1603 to 1867. In 1867, the Emperor Meiji, grandfather of the present Emperor Hirohito, restored the Imperial power after the abdication of the fifteenth and last Tokugawa Shogun Keiki, and four years later the feudal system was entirely suppressed.

Far from being the papier mache towns that legend has painted them, the cities of modern Japan upon which bombs have been raining with such devastating effect in the present war are as modern, solidly built and well appointed in essential respects as the major cities of Europe. Even the Japanese dwelling-house, which has long clung to the pattern of the Tokugawa period—a wooden building divided into rooms by sliding screens, with sliding windows of paper-covered lattice—is beginning to reflect the westernisation so evident in the business areas. Successive disastrous earthquakes and fires, and particularly those which destroyed large areas of Tokio and Yokohama in 1923, have taught the people their lesson, and the interest apparent in Western styles of architecture towards the end of last century has developed so strongly that all public buildings are now erected in accordance with the ferro-concrete principles of Western designing, with the incorporation of every possible earthquake and fire-resisting device. In the private home the maintenance of many old customs and the age-old taste for simplicity are responsible for the retention of most of the traditional features. Attempts have been made at times to harmonise the Western and native modes, but with little success.

Much has been made of the influence of great industrial interests on the trend of Japanese national life, and to a large extent this is justified. More than half of Japan's actual wealth, with the exception of the Emperor's fortune and the funds of the national treasury, lies in the hands of a few families, of which the most important are the Mitsui. These families, which are nothing more or less than great trading houses, virtually control, by their immense wealth and power, the destinies of the seventy million or so people of Japan proper, and to some extent those of the millions within the sphere of Japanese domination, in so far as they handle a staggering percentage of the manufactures and products which go to build up every-day commercial life. Practically every bomb which hits an industrial target in Japan strikes in some way at the pockets of the Mitsui or one of the other patriarchal clans whose names spell "Big Business" in the land of Nippon.

Japan had a sizeable empire even without the territories she has dominated since she began her war of conquest. In addition to the four main islands of Honshiu, Kyushiu, Shikoku, and Hokkaido, there are many smaller islands, said to number 4,223 in all, in the homeland group. Formosa and the Pescadores were ceded by China at the close of the Sino-Japanese war in 1895; Japanese Karafuto (Sakhalin) was ceded by Russia in 1905 (Port Arthur and adjacent territory and waters were leased to Japan at the same time); Kwantung Province, a peninsula to the south of Manchuria, was obtained on a 99-year lease from China in 1905; Korea was annexed in 1910; and under the Treaty of Versailles of 1919 the Marshall, Caroline, Ladrone (excluding Guam) and Pelew Islands, former German possessions in the north Pacific, were placed under Japanese mandate with the name of Nanyo. Japan also has a "protective"