

日本軍將兵諸君

日本紀元の節二月十一日は實に又
 欽定憲法御下賜の紀念日でもある
 明治元年三月十四日主上紫宸殿に
 出御公卿諸侯を率ひ天神地祇を祀
 り開國公明の國是五條を御誓ひ遊
 ばさ丸

一、廣ク會議ヲ興シ萬機公論ニ
 決スベシ。

二、上下心ヲ一ニシテ盛ニ經綸
 ヲ行フベシ。

三、官武一途庶民ニ至ルマデ各
 其志ヲ遂ゲ人心ヲシテ倦マ
 ザラシメンコトヲ要ス。

四、舊來ノ隔習ヲ破リ天地ノ公
 道ニ基クベシ。



五、知識ヲ世界ニ求メ大ニ皇基
ヲ振起スベシ。

と宣はせられた。後二十一年、憲法を
公布翌二十三年國會を御集召あら
せられた。以來五十年、萬機は公論に
決し、人は天賦を全ふせしめられ國
運隆々、萬國に仰がるしに至った。然る
に最近十三年、萬機は一部の私論に
決し、人は其天賦の性を遂げ得しめ
られず、外事を構へ、兵を弄び、人を殺
し、且專制獨斷の獨伊と結び、大東亞
戰を馴致した。明治大帝の大御心
に背き奉る甚しきものがある。東亞
戰第三回の紀元節を迎ふるに當り
今昔の感に堪へざるもの豈以教憂
國の士のみならず、諸君も亦其感
を同じふせらるゝ者であるう。

昭和十九年紀元節の日しるす。

The festival day of Kigensetsu is at the same time the commemoration day of the granting of the Constitution. On March 14th of the first year of the Meiji era (1868) the Emperor, in the presence of the court nobles and the daimyo, worshipped in the Hall of Ceremonies of the Imperial Palace and promulgated the Charter Oath of five articles, which embodied the national polity of the opening of the country. They read as follows:-

1. Assemblies shall be established on a (nation) wide basis and all matters of importance be decided after open discussion.
2. The governing and the governed shall henceforth of one heart actively engage in the promotion of the national welfare.
3. It is necessary that Court and Camp and the whole of the nation be given scope and that thus mental weariness shall be prevented.
4. Old ways and habits which are out of date and unsuitable, shall be abolished and everything shall be based upon broad principles of heaven and earth.
5. Knowledge shall be sought for all over the world and the Imperial foundation thereby strengthened.

Twenty-one years later the Constitution was promulgated and in Meiji 23, the following year, the first Diet was convoked. Since then, for fifty years matters of importance were decided after open discussion and scope was given to each individual to fulfill his destiny according to his talents. The nation flourished and was respected by other peoples.

However, in the last thirteen years important matters have been decided by clan opinions (group opinion; minority opinion) and people have been deprived of scope. Troubles were started abroad, frequent recourse was had to unjustified military force, assassination and killing became the order of the day. Moreover, an alliance was concluded with the dictatorial rulers of Nazi-Germany and Fascist-Italy, and finally the G.E.A. war brought about. The acts committed are in flagrant conflict with the high and benevolent intentions of Emperor Meiji.

As we are approaching the third commemoration of Constitution day since the start of the G.E.A. War, those genuine patriots who have the real welfare of their country at heart are mourning the present, whilst remembering the past. If you contemplate matters you will certainly share their feelings.