

現代イギリス社会 科目	Contemporary British Society
<b>English and the English-language Press in East Asia</b>	
One aim of this course is to understand how the language and society, games, music and social rules of a small island nation have spread around the world.	
In the spring term, we looked at British society in Britain. In this autumn term, we study the export of British society and British values, prejudices and cultural affectations around the world, through language, culture and military and economic power empire.	
In the heyday of the British Empire, the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, British culture and British ideals and values spread throughout the world. English became a world language as the language of power and governance in the British World of the Dominions (South Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Australia) and in Africa and India, and further east. The British empire only extended as far east as Singapore and Malaya, but in China and Japan, the British had established Treaty Ports. In China, these included Canton and Shanghai. In Japan, the main treaty ports were Nagasaki, Hakodate, Yokohama, and Kobe. Korea was colonized by Japan from 1905/1910 until 1945 and so taken out of the picture early in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	
Under the 19 <sup>th</sup> century Treaty Port system, foreigners were allowed to live in designated areas around ports in China and Japan. Here they imported goods and traded with the host nation. They held their own courts to try their own foreign criminals, built homes, factories, clubs, hospitals, schools and shops, and ran their own newspapers in their own languages.	
In China, Japan and Korea, these English-language newspapers reported local news for the benefit of expatriates and for curious readers in the West. The longer-established newspapers had small but loyal readerships in Europe and the USA and in other Treaty Ports in East Asia.	
<b>The Weapon of Language</b>	
The information deficit: most Western correspondents and journalists in East Asia were functionally illiterate. Their main source of information was the English-language press. This ‘deficit’ made the English-language newspapers of East Asia vital to international perceptions of East Asia	
Governments saw that if they could influence the English-language news provided to journalists and establish their own news sources in English-language media and news agencies, they could influence their despatches to the West.	

## Language and Propaganda

In the Pacific War, Japan tried to remove western influence from East and South-east Asia. One way of doing this was to half the use of English and introduce Japanese, or “Nippon-go”.

IV SATURDAY SUPPLEMENT JUNE 6, 1941 17

★ **Nippon-Go Popularising Week** ★

**YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS UPON  
A KNOWLEDGE OF NIPPON-GO**

**Start To Learn Now!**

*THIS week has been set aside for the popularising of the study of the Nippon language, so as to convey to the public the will of our Government that every man, woman and child should learn Nippon-Go*

A very large proportion of the people have made no effort at all to commence upon the study of Nippon-go, and it is difficult to understand the reasons for this failure on their part.

It is quite possible that they are unable to understand that, without a knowledge of Nippon-go, their futures in this country will be beset with difficulties, hardships, and even unemployment and destitution, unless they will be content to work as unskilled labourers or coolies.

It is, of course, quite possible that they have not thought about the matter at all.

**IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO MARK THE POSITION IN THE FUTURE QUITE CLEAR, AND I WILL NOW ENDEAVOUR TO DO SO.**

When the British were in power in Malaya, the business of every government department the law courts, hospitals, industrial and commercial houses was carried on in the English language. To-day the British are no longer in power

**Civilians To Be Mobilized Into Govt. Service**

Tokyo, June 5. (Dated.)

The mobilization of civilians with specialized knowledge or ability to various State and Government agencies was decided in principle at Tuesday when the Government in the Cabinet decided to create committees in the Cabinet and Ministries, based on reports from Tokyo.

This decision was taken with the view to improving administrative efficiency and facilitating co-operation between Government and civilian organizations.

According to the plan for establishment of committees, civilian organizations will be assigned to the Cabinet and each Ministry excepting the War and Navy Ministries. It is possible that some of these committees will be formed in one year.

The committees will be chosen by the Cabinet from among members of the Tokoku Gikai and other outstanding civilians. It is considered that some of these committees will be formed in one year.

**JAVA HAS WORLD'S RICHEST FISHERIES**

NOT only will plenty of fish, caught in the waters of the East Indies, can be supplied to the people of the East Indies but Japan

**437 Allied Ships Sunk In Four Months**

MILITARY observers commenting on the staggering Allied shipping losses declared that the Anglo-American

*Nippon public schoolboys carrying Takarashi as a part of their physical training.*



Unfortunately, by 1941, when Japan launched its attack upon the western colonies in East and South-east Asia, English was well-established as a common language. People in Japan's new colonies such as Singapore, Penang, the Philippines and of course Shanghai were familiar with English and with English-language newspapers. Japanese was not easy to learn. In the end, Japan gave up trying to make people learn and use Japanese. Japan closed down the foreign English-language newspapers in the new empire and set up their pro-Japanese

English-language newspapers. These newspapers formed the 'Japan network' of wartime English-language newspapers, which continued until Japan's defeat in August 1945.



### The Power of the Press

These newspapers were important because of the images of Japan and China that they conveyed to readers and officials in Western nations. Foreign journalists in Japan and China spoke very little Japanese or Chinese and were heavily dependent on the English-language newspapers for their stories and reports. Because they were professionals, the foreign journalists would mention the titles of the newspapers of Japan and China in their reports to Washington, Paris, London and so on. Thus these newspaper names were often mentioned in reports from East Asia. For this reason, we can measure the influence of these newspapers on Western audiences by looking at databases of US, and British newspapers.

In the end, the most successful and influential newspaper in Japan was owned by the Japanese, the Japan Times / Nippon Times because the Gaimushō version of events was far more broadly distributed and cited than that of the most-cited newspapers of the other networks (*North-China Daily News* and *Japan Advertiser*). In China in October 1949, the Communists gained power with the cheapest, flimsiest press network of all.

The chart below is a historical view of all the newspaper networks in East Asia from 1913-1949. It measures the number of times these newspapers were

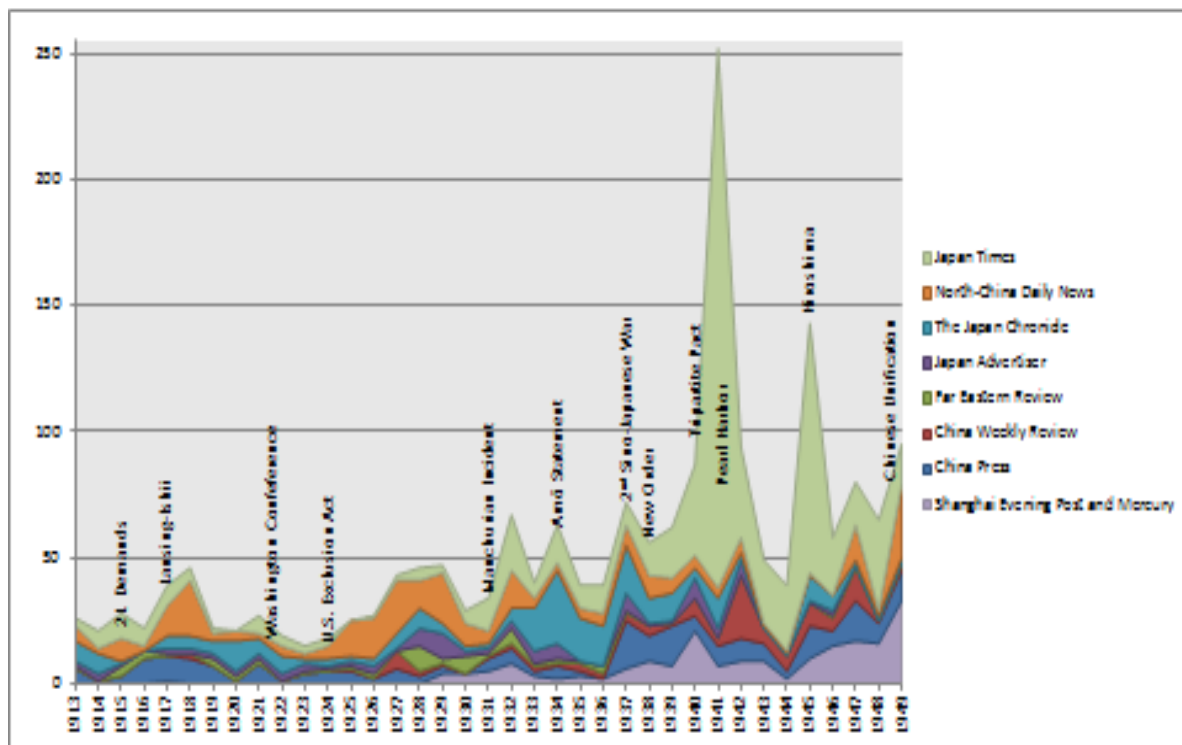
mentioned in the western press. In other words it measures their access to western readers, rather than their influence (which cannot really be measured).

### English-language press: individual titles in US & British national dailies, 1913-1949

. *The Japan Times* is consistently way ahead on citations in Western papers (but these are qualified)

. *North-China Daily News*, *Japan Chronicle* and *Japan Advertiser* all in contention, esp. in 20s & 30s

. Citations pick up for those papers revived in 1945 (*Chronicle* and *Advertiser* not revived by SCAP)



It's hard to say how much any of this matters, because even when newspaper readers are presented with facts and information, or propaganda, we cannot be sure to what extent they are influenced by what they read.

The opinions of individuals are not necessarily direct functions of the information they receive.

- Ernest May, 1973