

Editorial

The death of the emperor

The recent death of Emperor Hirohito, and his replacement by his son, the new Emperor Akihito, calls for a suppleness of statecraft which to date the United States has yet to display. This event represents a potential shift of the direction of the entire nation of Japan away from its traditional close cooperation with the United States.

Let us explain.

Emperor Hirohito represented the era in Japan called the Showa or "Enlightened Peace." Despite the tragedy of World War II, Hirohito faced the consequences of his nation's defeat with both dignity and humility, and forged with America's military hero and occupation chief, Douglas MacArthur, a new era of cooperation between Japan and the United States. This unique relationship between the Emperor and General MacArthur endured, despite every problem which has arisen between the two countries—most emphatically, notwithstanding the U.S.'s idiotic financial and economic policies, which have led the U.S. to conduct a trade war against Japan on behalf of the International Monetary Fund and its banking and insurance cartels.

With the enormity of these problems, Japan is still determined to continue to finance the U.S. deficit as well as to invest into U.S. industries. Although this is not sufficient to meet the global catastrophe unfolding in the Third World and key industries in the advanced sector, Japan's present interest and intent is to ensure that the United States remains a superpower, despite itself.

This outlook in Japan is in part due to the unique relationship that the Showa Emperor forged with MacArthur. Now that the two nations stand on the threshold of a new era led by Emperor Akihito, any major error on the part of the United States could undo their work. The name of the new era, Heisei or "Consolidated Peace," indicates that Akihito intends to follow in his father's footsteps, despite being educated by an American Quaker, followed by years at Oxford University. However, he is known to harbor a different outlook, more hostile to the United States; the British Royal Household, specifically Prince Philip, views

Akihito as the key in breaking the unique relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

In the last century, the British gameplan was aimed at breaking the arrangement of the Emperor Meiji and his court with the United States. The financial and political interests of a pro-British faction in Japan, called the Mitsui interests, were mainly responsible for pushing Japan into a war with the United States.

It must be understood that the Emperor, even since World War II, is not simply a symbolic figure. Representing the world's oldest royal institution—26 centuries—the Emperor, while appearing to play only a ceremonial role, sets the cultural tone for the direction and meaning of the Japanese nation.

Therefore, if the present combined forces of the pro-British faction and its international allies, who have prepared the U.S. financial collapse, succeed in shifting the Japanese Emperor and his court to break with the U.S., then the full extent of the disaster will hit the U.S. and the world with a far greater impact than the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor.

The incoming Bush administration's first major foreign policy decision has been a correct one and that is to have President Bush attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. This has signaled the beleaguered pro-American forces in Japan that at least the new President intends to maintain the bridge to past policy. The decision has also sent a message to the European oligarchs that their attempts to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Japan might not easily succeed.

The recent release of a BBC documentary accusing the Emperor of being a war criminal, a piece of virulent anti-Japanese propaganda sanctioned at the highest levels of the British intelligence establishment, has not, apparently, succeeded in swaying Bush and his advisers. What remains to be seen, is whether circles around Bush can seize the opportunity to break openly with the forces of the International Monetary Fund and forge a new era of a "Consolidated Peace," based upon a U.S.-Japanese alliance for the development of the Third World.