

Tsunejiro Miyaoka and the Diplomacy of the International Mind

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Background: Tsunejiro Miyaoka (1865-1943) was a Japanese lawyer and diplomat who played a pivotal role in the movement for international conciliation during the early twentieth century. As the sole Asian correspondent for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) from 1911 to 1931, Miyaoka promoted the Endowment's principle of "the international mind" by advising the CEIP on candidates for Japanese-American academic exchanges and facilitating speaking tours of foreign proponents of international cooperation to Japan. In addition, Miyaoka provided Japanese policy makers and news media information on peace and arbitration issues, urged CEIP leaders to counter anti-Asian narratives and practices in the United States, assisted the reorganization and revitalization of Japanese peace societies, and more.

Objective: To introduce Tsunejiro Miyaoka as an exemplar of the informal diplomacy pursued by the movement for international conciliation and arbitration during the early twentieth century.



Portrait of Tsunejiro Miyaoka (1912)

Quote #1:

The international mind is nothing else than the habit of thinking of foreign relations and business, and that habit of dealing with them, which regard the several nations of the civilized world as friendly and cooperating equals in aiding the progress of civilization, in developing commerce and industry, and in spreading enlightenment and culture throughout the world.

- Nicholas Murray Butler, "The International Mind" (1912)

Quote #2:

[T]here are no two types of humanity that can not be reconciled to each other. The Pacific Ocean is not the barrier between the two opposing forces of human activity. The so-called two types of civilisation will in course of time blend with each other. The so-called ideas of the East and of the West are not irreconcilable but stand on the common basis. It is the mere accidentalia with reference to which the people of Japan differ from the people of the American continent. In all essentials humanity is the same.

- Tsunejiro Miyaoka to Nicholas Murray Butler (September 26, 1911)

Quote #3:

No effort should be spared on the part of the leaders of thought in Japan to make the American point of view known and appreciated in this country. On the other hand, for the more intimate relation between the two peoples separated by the Pacific Ocean it is also essential that the Japanese point of view should be thoroughly understood and sympathized with, if not acquiesced in, by the American people. The doctrine of "Keep the two races apart so as to preserve peace" seems to me much the same as saying "Brother, I love you dearly. Let us not embrace each other, lest we quarrel."

- Tsunejiro Miyaoka to Nicholas Murray Butler (February 3, 1912)

Question 1: How do the views of Butler and Miyaoka expand the notion of diplomatic action and actors? How do they perpetuate limits in the notion of what diplomatic actions and actors are valid?

Question 2: What assumptions—cultural, social, historical, and otherwise—can be discerned in the views expressed by Butler and Miyaoka?



Medal bearing the motto of Conciliation Internationale, *Pro Patria per Orbis Concordiam* ("For country through world concord")



Members of the American Peace Society of Japan (1911)

THE OBSERVANCE OF HAGUE DAY.

ORIGIN AND MEANING.—To commemorate the first Hague Conference in 1899, May 18 has been set apart as "Hague Day" by educational authorities and peace workers in many lands. Last year witnessed a great increase in the observance of the day, particularly in England, France, Germany and America. A number of States in the U. S. A. observe the day by rendering peace programmes in the public schools.

TO BE OBSERVED IN JAPAN.—Recognizing that the observance of this day furnishes one of the best opportunities for teaching the principles of peace and encouraging the highest ideals of education, art, and industry, the Japan Peace Society has decided to recommend a wide observance of May 18, 1907, the sixth anniversary of the opening of the first Hague Conference.

WHAT THE FIRST HAGUE CONFERENCE ACCOMPLISHED.—The first Hague Conference, which was composed of delegates representing twenty-six governments, under which live nine-tenths of the population of the world, sat in the palace of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and worked out the provisions of the Hague Treaty, which contains the following three plans for preventing or stopping war: 1. Commissions of Inquiry to investigate the actual facts involved in a given international dispute, such as the Dogger Bank difficulty between Russia and England; 2. Mediation by a third power, according to the provisions for which President Roosevelt's peaceful services led to the closing of the Russo-Japan War; 3. Arbitration, either by special arbitrators or by chosen judges of the Hague Court.

To provide for regular, systematic arbitration, the Conference did its best work in the completion of plans for the formation of the Permanent Court of International Arbitration, the opening of which in April, 1901, has given great impetus to the formation of arbitration treaties, stimulated diplomacy to higher service, and by its actual settlement of several vexed questions has made for itself a large place in world-politics. The Conference did much to demonstrate the fact that the nations can find some peaceable way of settling their misunderstandings when they really set themselves to the task, as the best service which they can render to the world.

Article on "Hague Day" (Peace Day)
Japan Daily Mail, May 4, 1907.