

Japan-China Relations Need 'New Westphalia'

by Kathy Wolfe

Saner heads in Japan and China acted to cool tensions April 22-24 during the Bandung Asian-African Summit in Jakarta, with an eye to the goal of Eurasian-wide economic development. Chinese President Hu Jintao held his first head of state meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Koizumi, after a drubbing by pro-Asian diplomats in Tokyo, issued an apology for World War II in his conference speech. "In the past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries," Koizumi said. "With deep remorse and heartfelt apology always engraved in mind, Japan . . . again states its resolve to contribute to world peace and prosperity in future."

China's government, calling for calm, managed to cool anti-Japanese demonstrations April 23-24, in contrast to the previous two weekends, in which hundreds of thousands of Chinese smashed Japanese Embassy, business, and other property in a dozen cities across China. They protested Tokyo's recent publishing permission for a Japanese textbook—whose last edition approved in 2001 was adopted by fewer than 1% of schools—which calls the 1937 rape of Nanjing an "incident." China reports that 300,000 were butchered.

"No one condones lawless violence," a Korean diplomat told *EIR*, criticizing the serious beatings of Japanese college students in Shanghai and elsewhere, "but all Asian nations are concerned about American efforts to push Japan into an anti-China attitude."

Indeed, Hu and Koizumi's approach contrasted with U.S. threats during the Bandung conference. Following the dangerous collapse of talks with North Korea, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice threatened on April 20 that if Pyongyang did not surrender arms unilaterally, she would haul them before the UN Security Council or take "other measures" such as embargo or worse. Her State Department greeted the opening of Bandung by sending an "emergency warning" on April 22 to Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo, that North Korea may be about to test a nuclear bomb.

The root of Japan's frictions with China, Korea, and other neighbors, is in Washington. Sudden flaring of Asian tension is especially suspicious, just after Koizumi and the central banks of China, South Korea, India, and Russia all warned in March that the dollar cannot long continue as the world reserve currency, if the United States does not change its economic and financial policies.

A January 2004 U.S. Army study forecast that Japan may opt to ally with Eurasia, due to recent Washington policy. Tokyo could drop the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, it warned, as it can't stomach the new U.S. military doctrine of "first strike." The study, "Paths Diverging?" called for pressure on Japan to confront China, otherwise Japan may make new alliances with China, Russia, and Asia. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and ex-deputy Paul Wolfowitz, after hot arguments with Tokyo counterparts, forced Japan to mention Taiwan in a recent communiqué. While only a press statement, this was inaccurately reported as an amendment to the U.S.-Japanese security treaty, which would mean Japanese interference into the internal affairs of China. China was duly affronted.

The Western media is also hyping conflict among Japan, China, and South Korea over raw materials. The *New York Times* on March 29 claimed that China and Japan came close to coast guard hostilities over the Chunxiao gas fields between Shanghai, China and Okinawa, Japan. South Korea and Japan are in a war of words over Tokdo Island, where Korea Gas Corp. said on March 18 that it would develop \$150 billion in gas reserves. Even after Russia agreed last year to build two transcontinental oil pipelines from Lake Baikal to both China and the Sea of Japan, the German weekly *Der Spiegel* alleged on April 16 that China and Japan could go to war over Siberian resources or Chunxiao gas.

Chinese and Indian diplomats told *EIR* that while China-Japan relations need repair, war talk is media hype—and there is diplomacy behind the scenes on cooperation to "deal with" the dollar. "All of Asia is now working together to solve the problem of the dollar," said an Indian source. "China, Japan, and many others are withdrawing money from the dollar. China and Japan have developed a very big trade, so big that the U.S. is worried that Japan may move over to the anti-dollar group. The U.S. is trying hard to woo India and Japan out of this, telling them to be a counterbalance to China."

"Anti-Japanese passions are just an alibi by Chinese students, to make the government allow protests," said a China scholar. "They are really protesting the offenses of globalization, of McDonalds, Wal-Mart, and the wide income inequality inside China, against real estate speculators who take the farmers' best land," and other serious criticisms of China's adaptation to Wall Street.

Lyndon LaRouche on April 24 said he was encouraged by the Hu-Koizumi meeting, which signalled that sane forces inside Japan, China, and Korea are ready to move toward their natural interests in a Eurasian alliance, with Russia and India as well. What is needed, LaRouche said, is a "New Westphalia" approach to development of natural resources in the region, modeled on the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, which stopped wars in Europe and allowed an economic renaissance. China, Russia, Japan, and others should join together with India and the other Bandung nations for a common approach, in the interest of the general welfare.