

**THE WHITE PERIL IN THE FAR  
EAST; AN INTERPRETATION  
OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF  
THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR**

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The white peril in the Far East; an interpretation of the significance of the Russo-Japanese War  
by Sidney Lewis Gulick

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An Interpretation of the Signifi-  
cance of the Russo-Japanese War

By

SIDNEY LEWIS GULICK, M. A., D. D.



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## Preface

ON the 8th of February, 1904, Japan crossed swords with a European people. And from the destruction of the *Variag* on that day until the fall of Port Arthur on the 1st of January, 1905, nothing but failure has been Russia's fate, nothing but success Japan's fortune. For the first time in history has an Asiatic people successfully faced a white foe. The Russo-Japanese war marks an era, therefore, in the history of the Far East, and of the world, for now begins a readjustment of the balance of power among the nations, a readjustment which promises to halt the territorial expansion of white races and to check their racial pride.

To appreciate the significance of this war as one act in the tragedy of the white peril we must understand Japan. How has she attained the power, material and temperamental, which is enabling her to face the white man and to conquer him? This question we study in our earlier chapters. In those that follow we study the significance of the war, and the problems of the Far East in their world-setting. We are not con-

cerned with dates and battles, with armies and heroes. Rather shall we consider movements and tendencies, national ambitions and international relations.

Emphasis is laid on the peril to the Far East of the white man's ambitions and methods. Justice to white races, however, demands recognition also of the blessings they confer upon those lands. In a real sense the white peril is becoming the white blessing of the Orient. Yet the aim of the present work in these pages precludes adequate emphasis of this point.

Certain graceful writers, masters of imaginative style, have described Japan as ideal in every direction, a view widely popularized to-day by Japan's brilliant military record. But of course no thoughtful man will be misled, for national as well as individual perfection is impossible. Highly admiring Japan as I do, absence of criticism in the following pages does not signify acceptance of the popular unbalanced admiration.

Whatever value this work may have must be ascribed in large measure to my Japanese friends whose thought as to their national character and destiny and the real meaning of this war has definitely influenced my own point of view.

I wish also to express the deepest gratitude to

my sister, Mrs. Frances Gulick Jewett, for her inspiration in the inception of this study and for her laborious and invaluable assistance in revising the manuscript. Indeed this volume owes to her pen whatever of literary excellence it may possess.