

The conviction often expressed in the US that Japanese morale is impervious to propaganda is obviously not shared by Japanese officials and publicists.

The tone and content of articles warning against enemy propaganda are similar. Lines and methods of psychological warfare are described in detail and there is constant repetition of the admonition that the people of Japan must maintain unwavering faith in inevitable victory in order to withstand the coming barrage.

Success of psychological warfare in Italy has given pause to the Japanese. A round table conference reported in Jikyoku Zasshi for 7 October 1942, discussed the effect of British and American propaganda in turning the Italian people against Mussolini and warned that similar tactics were sure to be tried against Japan. The same theme is repeated, with details of methods used, in an Asahi article for 16 July 1944.

Japanese leaders have been worried not only about enemy propaganda from the outside but also about the insidious effect on national morale of defeatist rumors and propaganda of domestic origin. Genda of October 1943, pointed out that enemies both without and within the country must be attacked with equal vigor. Such enemies cling to the theories of individualism and liberalism and are found largely among the intellectual classes. "If they had their way, the Army and Navy would never fight."

The 10 April 1944 issue of ~~K~~ Jikyoku Jiho publishes a round table discussion on the subject of "How to Attack Dangerous Rumors", participated in by a representative of the military Police, two Metropolitan Police officers, and a member of the Board of Information. One of the police officials reports 50 to 60 cases of dangerous rumors coming to his attention monthly. According to his analysis, two-thirds of these rumors are propagated by persons over 40 years of age and 30% of the propagators are women, the majority over 70. 60% of the rumors concern economic matters, 10% are of a military nature, and 30% miscellaneous. Again, intellectuals are most often guilty. Specific violators of speech control laws were the head of an economic research organization, a school superintendent, and a teacher in a girls' high school.

The Asahi of 16 July 1944, in an article headed "Next Will Come Paper Bombs", expresses deep concern over the effect of leaflets to be dropped in Japan by planes operating from China bases and Saipan. To quote, "Of course we do not believe your people will be taken in by such propaganda, but the United States and England are clever old hands at it. They were successful in Italy and other places. Unfortunately the Japanese are without experience and are much too naive in the face of such psychological warfare. We must strengthen our convictions of inevitable victory, harden our minds until they become "air raid trenches", and thus prepare ourselves against the enemy's propaganda." Three times in the course of this article the necessity to "Strengthen the conviction of inevitable victory" is repeated.

Again on 17 July 1944 the Asahi published a warning against enemy psychological warfare.

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