

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR AND ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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ABSTRACT: The article covers issues such as the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905 and its aftermath. Issues such as the Russian Empire's policy in the Far East and the conflict of interests of imperialist states in the region will also be discussed.

KEYWORDS: Russia, Japan, Port Arthur, Vladivostok, Varyag, Nicholas II, Portsmouth Peace Treaty.

INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the Far East became one of the regions with conflicting interests between the imperialist countries. In China, the weakness of the central government has led Western countries, Russia and Japan, to seek to expand their sphere of influence in Chinese territories. Authorities in Korea were also much weaker.

The intensification of competition between the states eventually led to the Russo-Japanese War. The Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905 was the first major conflict of the early twentieth century.

The main reasons for the war were as follows:

- Russia's desire to take its place in the Far East;
- The desire of Japan and Western countries to prevent this;
- Japan's desire to invade Korea;
- Construction of military facilities by the Russians on the leased territory of China.

Japan has also sought to gain an advantage in the field of armed forces.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The small fishing port in Lyushunkou, China, has been reconstructed since 1884 by German engineers. The port was renamed Port Arthur in 1860 in honor of William Arthur, commander of British ships, and established customs ties with the British ship. The Europeans, on the other hand, have long used the name and set up camp at the port for trade concessions.

In 1894, the port and the Liao Dong Peninsula were occupied by the Japanese. But under Western intervention and pressure, China was able to retake it. At that time, the Russian Empire was at the peak of construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Part of the road was headed south to make it easier to get to Vladivostok. The Germans, on the other hand, had used Xindao for 99 years. In addition, the United Kingdom also took Hong Kong in 1897 for 99 years.

Russia has decided to strengthen its position on the advice of Foreign Minister Muravyov in order not to lag behind in China and to make it easier to access the Pacific. In 1897, while diplomats were negotiating in Beijing, Russian ships entered Port Arthur. Russia won the right to use the port for 25 years this year. He then accepted the whole peninsula under such conditions.

As a result of the Ixetuan Uprising in China in 1900, Russia, like other superpowers, received compensation from China. The goal was to establish a protectorate over Manchuria. This began to bother Japan, which was armed by Germany and wanted to strengthen its position in the region. Japan, which increased its military budget fivefold between 1894 and 1905, sought to occupy Manchuria.

Britain remained committed to the 1902 friendship treaty with Japan and promised to go to war against Russia if France attacked Japan (as part of the 1892 Russia-France friendship treaty). Britain closed its ports and the Suez Canal to the Russians. This made it very difficult for Russia's fleet, mainly based in Europe, to attack Japan.

Under the 1902 Russia-China agreement, Russian troops in the region were to be evacuated. But in 1903, Nicholas II repealed it. This prompted Japan to take action.

In January 1904, Japan severed diplomatic relations with Russia, and on January 27, 1904 (February 8), it attacked warships near Port Arthur. That was the beginning of the war.

The first naval battle took place in Port Arthur on February 8-9. In this battle, the Russians used a mine operation to resist the Japanese fleet. Sea mines have sunk many Japanese ships. A few months later, on August 7, 1904, the Japanese attacked Russian fortifications from the east. As a result, two days of fighting ensued. The Japanese lost 1,200 and the Russians 450. During the siege, the Japanese later used Kamikaze tactics used in World War II. By August 19, the Japanese

had begun bombing the Russians' eastern front. On August 21, General Nogi began to attack from the western front. There were heavy losses on both sides. By September, the Japanese had gained more strength and decided to continue the siege. The Russians did not have time to do so. It would take six months for Russian ships to reach the Pacific, indicating that the end was near. But the Japanese still failed. From October, the Russians began to run out of food. The Japanese continued to build fortifications. But even in October, the Japanese were unable to capture the fortifications. By the end of November, additional forces arrived at General Nogi and he attacked the eastern front. As a result of this attack, he lost 10 percent of his men. By December 5, the 203rd hill had been occupied by the Japanese. The Japanese lost 10,000 soldiers and officers in the nine-day battle. A total of 6,000 Russian soldiers were killed.

The next day, the Japanese rose from the hill and began targeting Russian ships in the port. The ships Poltava were lost and sank on December 5, Retvizan on December 7, Pobeda, Presvet, Pallada cruise and Boyarin on December 9. On January 2, during the capitulation of the port, the Sevastopol ship sank on the orders of Admiral Nicholas von Essen. The Japanese, meanwhile, lost two fighters and a Takosago cruise.

On January 2, 1905, General Anatoly Stessel, against the wishes of the military council, expressed his desire to negotiate a surrender to the Japanese General Staff. This was adopted by the Japanese General Staff on 5 January. Japan lost 60,000 people during the siege. More than 23,000 Russian soldiers, including 16,000 wounded and sick, were captured and sent to the Nagasaki base. In September 1905, the Russo-Japanese War ended, in which the Russians were defeated. It was the first defeat of a non-Western power in Europe. Port Arthur, which leads to Manchuria, is now in Japanese hands. Russia has also been forced to cede half of Sakhalin Island and part of Manchuria to Japan. Since then, Japan has become one of the most powerful countries in the world and has pursued an imperialist policy in the Far East.

The reasons for Russia's defeat:

- The unstable situation in the country and the government's interest in the immediate end of the peace;
- It took about 3 days to transfer the Japanese army and Russia could do it in a month;
- Japan's weapons and ships were better than Russia's.

Western countries supported and assisted Japan. In 1904, Britain supplied Japan with a machine gun, the latter of which had not been available before.

In 1905, a revolution began in the country [5]. Anti-government sentiment demanded an end to the war with Japan, even under unfavorable conditions. Although Russia had enough resources and opportunities to win, if the war had lasted another few months, Russia could have won, as the Japanese forces began to weaken. But Japan has asked the United States to influence Russia and persuade it to negotiate.

In both countries, the war had a negative impact on the financial situation. Prices and taxes have risen. In addition, the debt of the Japanese government has grown significantly.

Russia has learned from the loss. At the end of the decade, the army and navy were reorganized. The Russo-Japanese War was the impetus for the revolution. He revealed many problems of the current government. Many did not understand why this war was necessary at all. As a result, anti-government sentiment only escalated.

The results of the war:

After the war, Japan's foreign debt quadrupled, and Russia's debt increased by 1/3.

More than 38,000 soldiers died of injuries in Japan and more than 17,000 in Russia.

Nevertheless, Russia lost this war. The reasons for this were economic and military backwardness, weakness of intelligence and command, the remoteness and remoteness of the theater of operations, poor supply, and weak interactions between the army and navy. Moreover, the Russian people did not understand why they had to fight in distant Manchuria. The revolution of 1905-1907 further weakened Russia.

The reasons for Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War are as follows:

- The vulnerability of a group of Russian troops in the Far East.
- An unfinished Transsib that did not allow for the full surrender of troops.
- Errors of Army Command.
- Japan's superiority in military equipment.
- In terms of technical equipment, primarily in the navy, Japan was far ahead of Russia.

Japan has asked US President Theodore Roosevelt to mediate to bring peace between the countries. Negotiations began and the Russian delegation was headed by Witte [6]. Nicholas II sent him back to his post and entrusted the negotiations. This talented politician, Vitte, took a really tough stance and prevented Japan from making great strides out of the war.

The terms of the Portsmouth peace were as follows:

- Russia has recognized Japan's right to dominate Korea.

- Russia ceded part of Sakhalin Island (the Japanese wanted to occupy the entire island, but Vitte was against it).
- Russia ceded the Kwantung Peninsula to Japan, along with Port Arthur.

CONCLUSION

No one paid compensation to anyone, but Russia had to pay the enemy to feed Russian prisoners of war.

During the war, Russia and Japan each lost about 300,000 people, but given Japan's population, it was an almost devastating loss. The losses were due to the fact that this was the first major war in which guns were used.

An important fact that many ignore is that after the Russo-Japanese War, the Entente (Russia, France and England) and the Trinity Alliance (Germany, Italy and Austria-Hungary) were formed.

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