

In the first place, I doubt very much in the existence of such
because
a thing as race psychologyxx/Race itself is only a concept. How-
ever, I do grant that ~~there~~ the concept of race may have a part
in man's psychological make-up. I don't believe that/race is
what we call
as great a factor as some other agents ~~xxxx~~ in determining
psychological behavior. On the other hand, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ people
~~when well thinking are very~~ ~~where~~ ~~thought~~ ~~patterns~~ ~~on~~ ~~national~~ ~~terms~~ are enc
living in a nation such as Japan/is very likely liable to react
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to these other agents in a pattern that is
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ fairly well defined. This reaction is the nearest
thing to race psychology as I see it.

I was in Japan from ~~October~~ September, 1939, to December, 1940;
I am very probably wrong, but I'll venture a guess that the thought
(politically at least)
pattern/of ~~the~~ a large group of Japanese people ~~xxxx~~ underwent a
greater change in those fifteen months than any other 15 month
period in the last decade; so I was able to witness rather ob-
jectively ~~the formation of~~ ~~xxxx~~ one aspect of the formation
of what we are discussing today as race psychology.

Before I undertake to outline my version of the transition that
took place during my stay in Japan, I had better mention a few
national characteristics of the Japanese people. When I was in
grammar school in Los Angeles, I was, so they tell me, a model
child. ~~I was invariably at the head of the class and~~ Being shy
and reticent by nature ~~anyway,~~ I didn't get into any major scrapes
that might have gotten me in bad with my teachers; so they all
patted me on the head and told ~~me~~ everyone how courteous and
mannerly the Japanese were. ~~If they could have seen me years later,~~ ~~xxxx~~ I might have
told them ~~xxxx~~ my so called courtesy was not due to my
Japanese descent, but to my parental upbringing. ~~But that wouldn't~~
have done any good probably and besides, I wasn't aware of that

*he might
have
patted
me on the
head, with
a big
stick*

Race 4 in Japan

Race 4

at the time. ~~Was~~ At any rate, I grew up with the idea that the main Japanese characteristic was courtesy and politeness; possibly all of you were brought up with the same idea prior to Pearl Harbor. Until I went to Japan, ~~I had no other notion~~ I ^{was unaware of} didn't know any other characteristics existed. In the first place, I was the last of five children born about three years apart and ~~xxxxxxx~~ by the time I came along, I suppose the rest of the family had exhausted any curiosity that may have existed concerning our parents' ^{motherland} ~~xxxxx~~. Then again, I didn't go to Japanese school; so I never learned of other aspects of Japanese culture.

~~When I landed in Yokohama, I was armed with the belief that the~~ ^{My first day in Yokohama this belief} ~~xxxxxxx~~ at least that ~~xxxxx~~ one belief. It held true, during ~~that one day~~ the two days I stayed there. All the people I came into contact with were inordinately polite. And when I went to Tokyo I found the same thing true--at least at the home of my cousin. But when I brushed up against the seven million other people jammed into Greater Tokyo, my bubble burst. People ~~xxxxx~~ were too much in a hurry to take time out for the ~~xxxxxx~~ painstaking courtesy required of them in the home. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ Several times I was left at the ~~xxxxxxx~~ platforms of the elevated railway circling Tokyo because I was foolish enough to step aside and let other people on first. I don't suppose such ~~xxxxxxx~~ purely animalistic boorishness exists anywhere else ~~xxxxxxx~~ among civilized people with the possible exception of the New York subway crowds. I ^{probably} ~~suppose that~~ various circumstances contributed to their behavior in the railway stations, but it was still a shock to discover that people who were so ceremoniously ^{+ painstakingly} polite in private company could

be so unbridled in public. ~~And yet,~~ ^{quite the so sorry please} their politeness in their homes ~~isn't~~ ^{we hear about nowadays} hypocrisy; ~~possibly~~ it isn't as bad as the two-faced conversations we carry on in our society; ~~the contrast~~ ^{still} between their public and private life ~~was~~ ^{at} quite startling to me.

This condition was restricted largely to the cities; In the country there was little of this ~~discourtesy,~~ and yet their ^{the still} manners seemed highly superficial, contrasting sharply with Yankee frankness. However, in my case ~~language difficulties~~ may have contributed to this.

~~Joseph xlix xly~~ ~~the~~ ~~founder~~ ~~of~~ ~~one~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~universities~~ ~~in~~ ~~Japan~~ ~~left~~ ~~the~~ ~~word~~ ~~of~~ ~~"Be~~ ~~ambitious~~ ~~as~~ ~~you~~ ~~can~~ ~~"~~ ~~which~~ ~~is~~ ~~rather~~ ~~vicious~~ ~~This~~ ~~is~~ ~~only~~ ~~a~~ ~~minor~~ ~~thing~~ ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~deserving~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~time~~ ~~I~~ ~~spent~~ ~~on~~ ~~it~~ ~~it~~; I only mention it to show the misconception ~~many~~ ^{of} us had.

Aside from this, one of the first things I noticed was the class stratification there; there are no social outcasts except ~~for~~ ~~the~~ beggars and criminals, but stratification is much more evident there than here and is based almost entirely upon economic ~~and~~ factors. A man earning 80 yen a month is very ~~superior~~ ^{superior} and condescending toward one earning only 70 yen a month largely because he receives similar treatment from one earning 90 yen and so ~~ad~~ ^{on} ~~ad~~ infinitum. Like much of their behavior, I think that this can be attributed to ~~an~~ inferiority complex coupled with a persecution complex, two things which I think directly responsible for their waging war on us.

To get on to the ~~xx~~ transition I ~~xxxx~~ mentioned earlier, I regard the steps that took place then as ~~x~~ the culmination of a development that subordinated the individual to the state. To be sure, Japan has been a totalitarian state from shortly after 1937 when she invaded China, but it was not until 1940 ~~xxxx~~ that individual rights were almost completely obliterated. In the interim three public elections had been held throwing the military government out each time thereby requiring coups by the military to regain power in the government. Even after these so-called elections ~~xxxx~~ were ~~xxxx~~ halted, however, two liberally-inclined cabinets held ~~xxxx~~ office for a short time. ~~xxxx~~ In the Abe cabinet, which was in power when I got there, and the Yonai cabinet which replaced the Abe cabinet some months later, the individual still had some voice. Britain had long since been in disfavour ~~xxxx~~ and several anti-British demonstrations had taken place, but by and large people looked ~~xxxx~~ upon America without any hostility. ~~xxxx~~ Yonai's cabinet was short-lived and made way for Prince Konoye with his ~~xxxx~~ "New Order in East Asia" catch-phrase. Although some anti-American feeling had run rife prior to the ~~xxxx~~ United States' abrogation of the 1911 Commercial treaty, Japan's disapproval of America became much more outspoken after the abrogation. ~~xxxx~~

So by the time I returned, the thinking of the majority of the Japanese people had become wholly geared to their national policies. The main factor ~~xxx~~ contributing to this condition, I think, is their educational system. Japan ~~W~~ claims the highest percentage of literacy of any nation in the world; something

is the best way to get unity. That is a very simplified explanation and probably too bare to be much more than naive reckoning.

I have touched on a very few things concerning what ~~xxx~~ I think you call race psychology; you ~~xxxxxxx~~ can undoubtedly think of a good ~~xxx~~ many other things which I have forgotten to mention. ^{due to my haste in slapping the typewriter last night.} Probably much of what I have said lacks coherence. If so, ~~ix~~ you're welcome to ask questions; I leave myself to your mercy.

Race of in Japan