



The Valor of Ignorance; With Specially Prepared Maps

Homer Lea

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In 1909 when first published, "The Valor of Ignorance" told of Japan's Attack on the USA. In this, Lea's most famous work, he warns about Japanese plans to attack the United States and he predicted the landings in the Philippines and recognized the strategic importance of Hawaii and Alaska. Some thirty years later most of his predictions would come to pass. The new introduction by Miss Boothe contains a long biographical sketch of Lea. It took WWII and the threat of Japanese arms to bring out this new edition for propaganda purposes. Written shortly after the Treaty of Portsmouth which ended the Russo-Japanese War (10 Feb., 1904 to 5 Sept., 1905). It was a conflict that grew out of the rival territorial ambitions over Manchuria and Korea. The major theatres of operations were Southern Manchuria, the seas around Korea, Japan, and the Yellow Sea. Theodore Roosevelt presided over negotiations. Homer Lea (1876-1912) authored two works on geopolitics: "The Valor of Ignorance" predicted the rise of Japanese militarist aggression and a Japanese empire in the Pacific, while "The Day of the Saxon" (commissioned by British Field Marshal Lord Frederick Roberts) predicted the rise of a greater German Reich based on national supremacy and ethnic purity. Neither of these books sold particularly well in America, but "The Valor of Ignorance" sold 84,000 copies in Japan and impressed both Generals Adna Chaffee and Douglas MacArthur, who tried unsuccessfully to make it compulsory reading at West Point. Both of these books contained a ring of truth about future events, but entrenched isolationists in America were not about to have their views challenged by a young, unknown upstart, and he was effectively ignored.

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