



HARA ROKURO



TEXT AND ILLUSTRATION BY MANPUKUYA MOGUMOGU

TRANSLATION BY NORMAN CHAN

HARA ROKURO WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 9, 1842 IN THE VILLAGE OF SANAKA IN TAJIMA PROVINCE (PRESENT DAY ASAGO, HYOGO PREFECTURE), THE YOUNGEST OF SIX SONS AND FOUR DAUGHTERS OF SHINDO JOEMON, A WEALTHY LANDLORD.



THE HOUSE HE WAS BORN IN REMAINS STANDING IN SANAKA.

HIS BIRTH NAME WAS "SHUNZABURO." "HARA ROKURO" WAS AN ALIAS THAT HE ADOPTED LATER IN LIFE.

DEVOTE YOURSELF TO STUDIES AND BECOME GREAT.

DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR PARENTS OR SIBLINGS.

INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE



IMAGINED PORTRAIT OF TOSE.

HIS MOTHER DIED WHILE HE WAS STILL YOUNG. HIS ELDEST SISTER TOSE, 25 YEARS HIS SENIOR, TOOK HER PLACE.

IN 1853, COMMODORE PERRY AND HIS "BLACK SHIPS" ARRIVED AT URAGA, FORCING AN END TO JAPAN'S ISOLATION.



IN 1855, HE ENTERED THE SEIKI SHOIN ACADEMY, IKEDA SOAN'S SCHOOL OF CHINESE STUDIES IN THE VILLAGE OF SHUKUNAMI (PRESENT DAY YABU, HYOGO PREFECTURE).

KNOWN AS THE "SAINT OF TAJIMA"



IKEDA SOAN

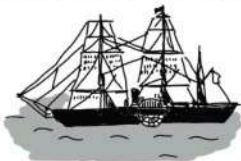


SEIKI SHOIN ACADEMY

HE HELPED OUT WITH HIS FAMILY'S SILK SPINNING BUSINESS, PURCHASING COCOONS FROM NEARBY VILLAGES AND HONING HIS BUSINESS SKILLS.



IN 1858, II NAOSUKE, GRAND ELDER OF THE SHOGUNATE, ORDERED WITHOUT IMPERIAL PERMISSION THE SIGNING OF UNEQUAL TREATIES OF AMITY AND COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE NETHERLANDS, RUSSIA, BRITAIN AND FRANCE, GIVING RISE TO THE ANTI-SHOGUNATE MOVEMENT WHOSE RALLYING CRY WAS SONNO JOI ("REVERE THE EMPEROR, EXPEL THE BARBARIANS"). INFUSED WITH THIS SPIRIT, SHUNZABURO, ALONG WITH HIS CLASSMATES



KITAGAMI KUNIMICHI (WHO LATER BECAME GOVERNOR OF KYOTO PREFECTURE) AND NISHIMURA TETSUJIRO, LEFT THE ACADEMY TO JOINED THE MOVEMENT.

HE STUDIED "KOKUGAKU" (JAPANESE STUDIES) UNDER OKUNITAKAMASA AT THE ONO DOMAIN SCHOOL.



OKUNI TAKAMASA

IN 1862, WITH HIS FORMER CLASSMATES KITAGAKI AND NISHIMURA, HE PARTICIPATED IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE AN ARMY OF CONSCRIPTED FARMERS TO GUARD THE COAST.



THE SONNO JOI MOVEMENT LED TO "THE IKUNO INCIDENT," AN UPRISING AGAINST THE SHOGUNATE LED BY HIRANO KUNIOMI AND KAWAKAMI YAICHI IN TAJIMA PROVINCE IN 1863. SHUNZABURO JOINED THE REBELLION AND EMBARKED ON A MISSION TO KYOTO TO PROCURE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. HE RECEIVED NEWS OF THE REBELLION'S DEMISE AT THIS TIME AND WAS FORCED TO GO INTO HIDING FROM THE SHOGUNATE FORCES.



HIRANO KUNIOMI



KAWAKAMI YAICHI

THE IKUNO INCIDENT WAS ONE OF THE TRIGGERS THAT CULMINATED IN THE RESTORATION OF IMPERIAL RULE.



SUITS OF ARMOR



PAPER LANTERNS



CEREMONIAL CURTAINS



CHAIN ARMOR



A MONUMENT HONORING THE FALLEN HEROES OF IKUNO WAS ERECTED AT YAMAGUCHI SHOKONSHA SHRINE (NOW CALLED "GOKOKU SHRINE") IN THE CITY OF ASAGO IN 1916.

WHILE ON THE RUN FROM THE SHOGUNATE, HE MADE A STOP AT HIS FAMILY HOME ON HIS WAY TO KYOTO.



ARE YOU SHUNZABURO OR A GHOST?

MONK AT JIKOJI TEMPLE WHERE HE HID OUT.

FEARING CAPTURE BY THE SHOGUNATE, HE BIDS FAREWELL TO HIS FAMILY.



PLEASE THINK OF SHUNZABURO AS DEW THAT HAS EVAPORATED AT IKUNO.



FROM THIS TIME ON, HE USED THE ALIAS "HARA ROKURO."

ON THE RUN WITH KITAGAKI AND NISHIMURA, HE SPENT TIME IN EDO (PRESENT-DAY TOKYO) AT OKEMACHI DOJO OF CHIBA JUTARO, A MASTER OF



HE STUDIED KENDO UNDER CHIBA.

HE MET SAKAMOTO RYOMA.

THE BASIS OF A RICH COUNTRY AND A STRONG ARMY LIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.



SAKAMOTO RYOMA

STILL ON THE MOVE, HE FLED TO CHOSHU (YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE).

THROUGH A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH TAKASUGI SHINSAKU OF THE CHOSHU DOMAIN, HE AND KITAGAKI JOINED THE DOMAIN AND FOUGHT WITH THEM AGAINST THE SHOGUNATE ARMY AT KOKURAGUCHI.

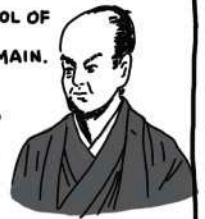


HE STUDIED ENGLISH AT THE MITAJIRI NAVAL ACADEMY AND FRENCH MILITARY TACTICS UNDER OMURA MASUJIRO AT THE YAMAGUCHI MEIRINKAN SCHOOL OF THE CHOSHU DOMAIN.



ROKURO COPYING A BOOK ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR WITH A BRUSH AND INK.

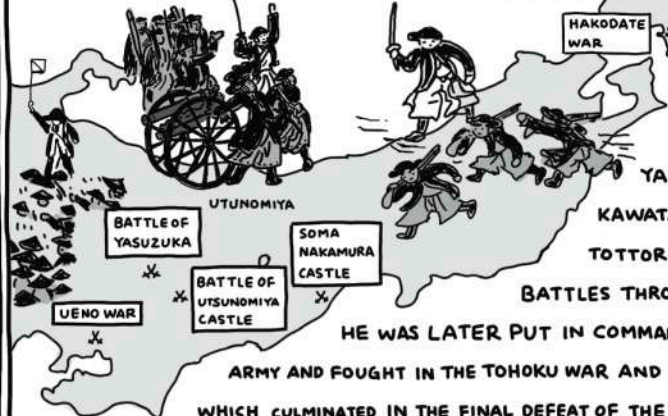
OMURA MASUJIRO, MILITARY LEADER AND THEORIST KNOWN AS THE "FATHER" OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY.



IN 1867, THE "DECREE FOR THE RESTORATION OF IMPERIAL RULE" WAS DECLARED, MARKING THE DAWN OF A NEW WORLD.



ABOLITION OF THE SHOGUNATE. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT



IN JANUARY 1868, THE BOSHIN WAR BROKE OUT. AS A COMMANDER OF THE YAMAGUCHI ARMY UNDER KAWATA KAGETOMO OF THE TOTTORI DOMAIN, HE FOUGHT BATTLES THROUGHOUT THE LAND.

HE WAS LATER PUT IN COMMAND OF AN IMPERIAL ARMY AND FOUGHT IN THE TOHOKU WAR AND THE HAKODATE WAR WHICH CULMINATED IN THE FINAL DEFEAT OF THE SHOGUNATE FORCES.

HE WAS GIVEN THE RANK OF SAMURAI IN THE TOTTORI DOMAIN IN 1869 AND ASSUMED THE RANK OF BATTALION COMMANDER IN 1871.



HARA ROKURO AS A YOUNG MAN

IN JUNE OF THE SAME YEAR, BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE AND IKEDA NORIMASU WERE CHOSEN BY THE TOTTORI DOMAIN TO JOIN AN OBSERVATION MISSION TO AMERICA AND EUROPE. AFTER ARRIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO, THEY TRAVELED TO CHICAGO, NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. SOON AFTER THE MISSION ARRIVED IN BOSTON, ROKURO RECEIVED NEWS THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD ABOLISHED THE TRADITIONAL DOMAINS, REPLACING THEM WITH PREFECTURES UNDER CENTRAL CONTROL. ROKURO'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM HIS DOMAIN AND APPOINTMENT AS BATTALION COMMANDER THUS CAME TO AN END.



HE WAS FACED WITH THE NEED TO PAY FOR HIS STUDIES BY HIMSELF.

HE WAS SET ON STUDYING ABROAD FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS!!



AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, HOWEVER, HE WAS ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COLLAPSE OF AMERICA'S PAPER CURRENCY DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. BY BUYING UP DOLLARS WITH THE JAPANESE MONEY HE HAD BROUGHT FROM JAPAN, HE WAS ABLE TO REALIZE A HUGE PROFIT WHEN THE U.S. CURRENCY REBOUNDED. THIS PROFIT WOULD BANKROLL HIS STUDIES FROM THEN ON.



IN THE SAME YEAR, HIS FATHER JOEMON AND HIS OLDER SISTERS CHIYO AND TOSE DIED ONE AFTER ANOTHER OF TYPHOID FEVER.



LEONE LEVI

HE STUDIED ECONOMICS AT YALE UNIVERSITY, THEN BANKING THEORY UNDER THE PROMINENT STATISTICIAN AND ECONOMIST LEONE LEVI AT KING'S COLLEGE IN LONDON.

HE DECIDED THE BEST WAY TO SERVE THE NATION WAS TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY. SO HE BECAME A BUSINESSMAN.



WHILE IN LONDON, HE JOINED THE STUDY CIRCLE OF THE INFLUENTIAL POLITICIAN INOUE KAORU WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO LONDON TO STUDY. THEY MET EVERY SATURDAY AND READ BOOKS ON ECONOMICS.



KOIZUMI SHINKICHI



NAKAMIGAWA HIKOJIRO



INOUE KAORU



OKU MORIKATA



YOKOYAMA MAGOICHIRO

HE RETURNED TO JAPAN IN MAY 1877 TO JOIN INOUE KAORU AND OTHERS IN A PLAN TO PURCHASE A SILK-WEAVING FACTORY AND ESTABLISH THE TOMIOKA SILK COMPANY. THIS PLAN, HOWEVER, DID NOT PAN OUT.



BUSINESSES HARA ROKURO WAS INVOLVED IN

HE ENTERED THE MEIJI-ERA WORLD OF BUSINESS WHERE HE PLAYED A PART IN THE MOVEMENT TO RESTORE COMMERCIAL RIGHTS.

BANKS

IN 1878, THE 100TH NATIONAL BANK WAS FOUNDED BY A GROUP LED BY THE IKEDA FAMILY, THE HEAD OF WHICH WAS THE FEUDAL LORD OF THE FORMER TOTTORI DOMAIN AND ROKURO WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT. THE BANK ENGAGED IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS WHICH WAS STILL A RARITY AT THAT TIME. IN 1880, HE HELPED ESTABLISH TOKYO SAVINGS BANK, THE FIRST PRIVATE BANK SPECIALIZING IN SMALL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND SERVED AS ITS PRESIDENT.



TOKYO SAVINGS BANK



IN 1883, AT THE SUGGESTION OF MATSUKATA MASAYOSHI, MINISTER OF FINANCE, HE WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK WHICH WAS FACING CRITICAL CONDITIONS AT THE TIME. TO CLEAR UP THE BANK'S HUGE LOSSES AND CLARIFY ITS ROLE AND BUSINESS, HE PROMOTED THE PROMULGATION OF THE ORDINANCE OF THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK. DEVOTING HIMSELF MAINLY TO THE HANDLING OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTARY BILLS, HE INTRODUCED DRASTIC MANAGEMENT REFORMS, RETURNING THE BANK TO SOLVENCY.



YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK

SUPPORT AND COOPERATION

HE CARRIED OUT REFORMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH MATSUKATA MASAYOSHI'S BANKNOTE RESTRUCTURING.



MATSUKATA MASAYOSHI

EVEN AFTER RESIGNING AS PRESIDENT OF THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK IN 1890, HE CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY, SERVING AS A FOUNDING COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE, BANK OF TAIWAN, INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN AND OTHERS.

RAILWAYS

IN 1881, HE WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF JAPAN'S FIRST PRIVATE RAILWAY COMPANY, NIPPON RAILWAY, AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MANY OTHER RAILWAY COMPANIES. HIS VARIOUS ROLES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF EACH COMPANY INCLUDED SHAREHOLDER, PROMOTER, FOUNDING COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR.



GYEONGJIN RAILWAY LP



MINING

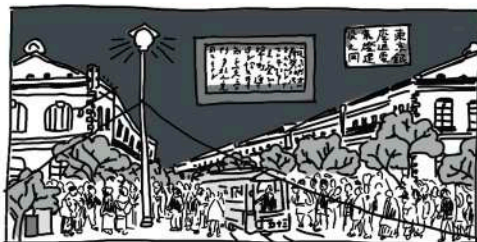
FROM AROUND 1889 UNTIL LATE IN HIS LIFE, HE WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY INVOLVED IN THE MINING INDUSTRY WITH ENDEAVORS IN COPPER MINING, COAL MINING AND GOLD MINING. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PASSIONATE ABOUT SETTING UP COAL MINING COMPANIES IN KYUSHU, INCLUDING THE BUZEN COAL MINING COMPANY.



OTO COAL MINE

OTHER BUSINESSES

HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE FOUNDING OF ENTERPRISES IN THE AREAS OF POWER GENERATION, SPINNING AND HOTELS IN VARIOUS REGIONS.



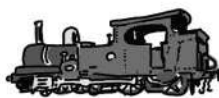
TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY



YOKOHAMA DOCK COMPANY



IMPERIAL HOTEL



TRAIN MANUFACTURING (KISHA SEIZO) JOINT STOCK COMPANY



INAWASHIRO HYDROELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

FIVE LEADERS OF THE WORLD OF JAPANESE FINANCE



SHIBUSAWA EIICHI



OKURA KIHACHIRO



YASUDA ZENJIRO



FURUKAWA ICHIBEI

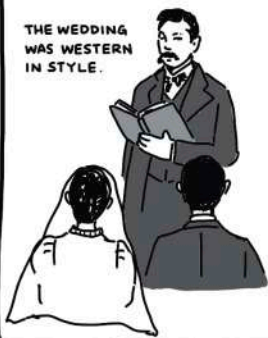


HARA ROKURO

OTHER COMPANIES INCLUDE TOKYO KISEN CO., LTD., FUJI PAPER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, FUJI SPINNING COMPANY, TAIWAN SUGAR COMPANY, SHOKYOSHA, CHUGAI SHOGYO SHINPO (NEWSPAPER), ETC.

ON FEBRUARY 25, 1888, AT NAKAMURA-ROU IN KYOTO, IN A CEREMONY LED BY NIJIMA JO, THE FOUNDER OF

THE WEDDING WAS WESTERN IN STYLE.



DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY, HE WAS MARRIED TO TOMIKO, THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF DOGURA SHOZABURO, A FORESTRY MAGNATE IN YOSHINO, NARA PREFECTURE. THE GO-BETWEENS WERE HIS OLD FRIEND KITAGAKI KUNIMICHI AND HIS WIFE.

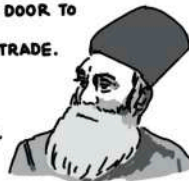
AN ENTHUSIASTIC PROMOTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HE MADE LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY AND JAPAN WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, AS WELL AS THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL RESEARCH (RIKEN).



MONEY DONATED TO DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY WAS USED TO CONSTRUCT A DORMITORY THAT WAS LATER CALLED THE "HARA DORMITORY" AT THE END OF THE MEIJI PERIOD.

IN 1891, HE MADE HIS THIRD OVERSEAS TRIP ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE TOMIKO. AFTER AMERICA AND ENGLAND, HE WENT ON TO INDIA WHERE HE NEGOTIATED THE IMPORT OF INDIAN COTTON, OPENING THE DOOR TO JAPAN-INDIA TRADE.

MEETING WITH JAMSHETJI TATA, FOUNDER OF THE TATA GROUP



HE COLLECTED WHATEVER CAUGHT HIS FANCY. //



MARUYAMA OKYO'S LANDSCAPE OF YODO RIVER



KANO NAGANOBU'S AMUSEMENTS UNDER THE BLOSSOMS (NOW OWNED BY TOKYO NATIONAL MUSEUM).

FROM THE MID 1880S HIS JOURNEYS TO THE KINKI AND KYUSHU REGIONS INCREASED. EACH TIME, HE WOULD VISIT KYOTO AND NARA WHERE HE STARTED TO BUY EAST ASIAN ART WHICH WOULD LATER COMPRISE THE HARA ROKURO COLLECTION.



CELADON VASE WITH LONG NECK ON GLOBULAR BODY (NATIONAL TREASURE)



IN 1892, ROKURO PURCHASED THE ESTATE OF THE MEIJI-PERIOD POLITICIAN SAIGO TSUGUMICHI IN THE GOTENYAMA SECTION OF SHINAGAWA, TOKYO. THERE, HE HELD GARDEN PARTIES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN THE SPRING AND AUTUMN FOLIAGE IN THE FALL.

DURING A VISIT TO THE NIKKO-IN GUEST HALL AT MIIDERA TEMPLE (OFFICIAL NAME "ONJOJI TEMPLE") IN OTSU, SHIGA PREFECTURE, HE WAS MOVED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE PARTITION PAINTINGS LOCATED DEEP WITHIN THE DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE. HE PURCHASED THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE AND RELOCATED IT TO HIS GOTENYAMA RESIDENCE. HE HAD THE PARTITION PAINTINGS MOUNTED ON SCROLLS.

* THESE WERE PAINTINGS DONE ON SHOJI SCREENS, SLIDING DOORS, FOLDING SCREENS AND WALLS.



HOW BEAUTIFUL! I WANT TO BUY AND PROTECT IT.

THE BUILDING WAS BUILT IN THE SHOIN STYLE OF THE MOMOYAMA ERA (1573-1615). ROKURO NAMED IT "KEICHOKAN" BECAUSE OF INDICATIONS THAT IT HAD BEEN REPAIRED DURING THE KEICHO ERA (1596-1615). HE USED IT TO DISPLAY HIS COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE ART AND ENTERTAIN GUESTS. IN 1928, HE DONATED IT TO GOKOKUJI TEMPLE WHERE IT WAS RENAMED "GEKKO-DEN."



KEICHOKAN

IN HIS FREE TIME, HE ENJOYED HORSEBACK RIDING, CYCLING, HUNTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY. HE WAS A STUDENT OF NOH SONGS, JAPANESE POETRY, AND CALLIGRAPHY, AND AT THE END OF 1913 PUBLISHED HIS FIRST COLLECTION OF POEMS.



"KANKAI-ROU" HANDWRITTEN BY ROKURO ON A PLAQUE THAT HUNG ON THE WALL OF HIS VILLA IN ATAMI.

IN HIS LATER YEARS, HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME AT HIS VILLA IN ATAMI WHICH HE CALLED "KANKAI-SO." "KANKAI" WAS ROKURO'S SELF-GIVEN NICKNAME INSPIRED BY A PASSAGE IN THE "WORKS OF MENCIOUS."

"WHEN CONFUCIUS CLIMBED THE EASTERN HILL, (THE STATE OF) LU APPEARED SMALL TO HIM. WHEN HE CLIMBED THE TAI MOUNTAIN, THE ENTIRE WORLD BENEATH HEAVEN APPEARED SMALL TO HIM. HE WHO HAS SEEN ('KAN') THE OCEAN ('KAI') WILL NOT BE EASILY MOVED BY OTHER WATERS. HE WHO HAS SPENT TIME WITHIN THE GATE OF THE SAGE WILL NOT BE EASILY IMPRESSED BY THE WORDS OF OTHERS."

"THE WORKS OF MENCIOUS, BOOK XII, PART 1: TSIN SIN" (TRANSLATION BY JAMES LEGGE)

THE NAME "KANKAI" LIVES ON IN THE JAPANESE NAME OF KANKAI PAVILION, HOME OF THE HARA ROKURO COLLECTION.



HE WAS AN AVID ATTENDEE AT THE LECTURES OF UCHIMURA KANZO, A CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST AND FOUNDER OF THE NON-CHURCH MOVEMENT IN JAPAN.

IN 1922, HE WAS BAPTIZED AS A CHRISTIAN. THE SEEDS OF FAITH THAT WERE PLANTED IN HIM WHILE STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES CAME TO FRUIT AFTER HE MARRIED TOMIKO, WHOSE EDUCATION AT THE DOSHISHA GIRLS' SCHOOL WAS FIRMLY BASED ON THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY.

HE DIED SURROUNDED BY HIS CLOSE RELATIVES ON NOVEMBER 14, 1933. HE WAS 92 YEARS OLD.

KANAMORI MICHITOMO, TOMOKO'S FORMER TEACHER AT DOSHISHA GIRLS' SCHOOL PERFORMED THE LAST RITES.

