

Ideologies of Crises

World War I Boom

- Industrial output: 1.4 billion to 6.8 billion yen between 1914 and 1918
- Cotton cloth price increase 185%
- Rise of “*narikin*” (nouveau riche)
- Massive inflation

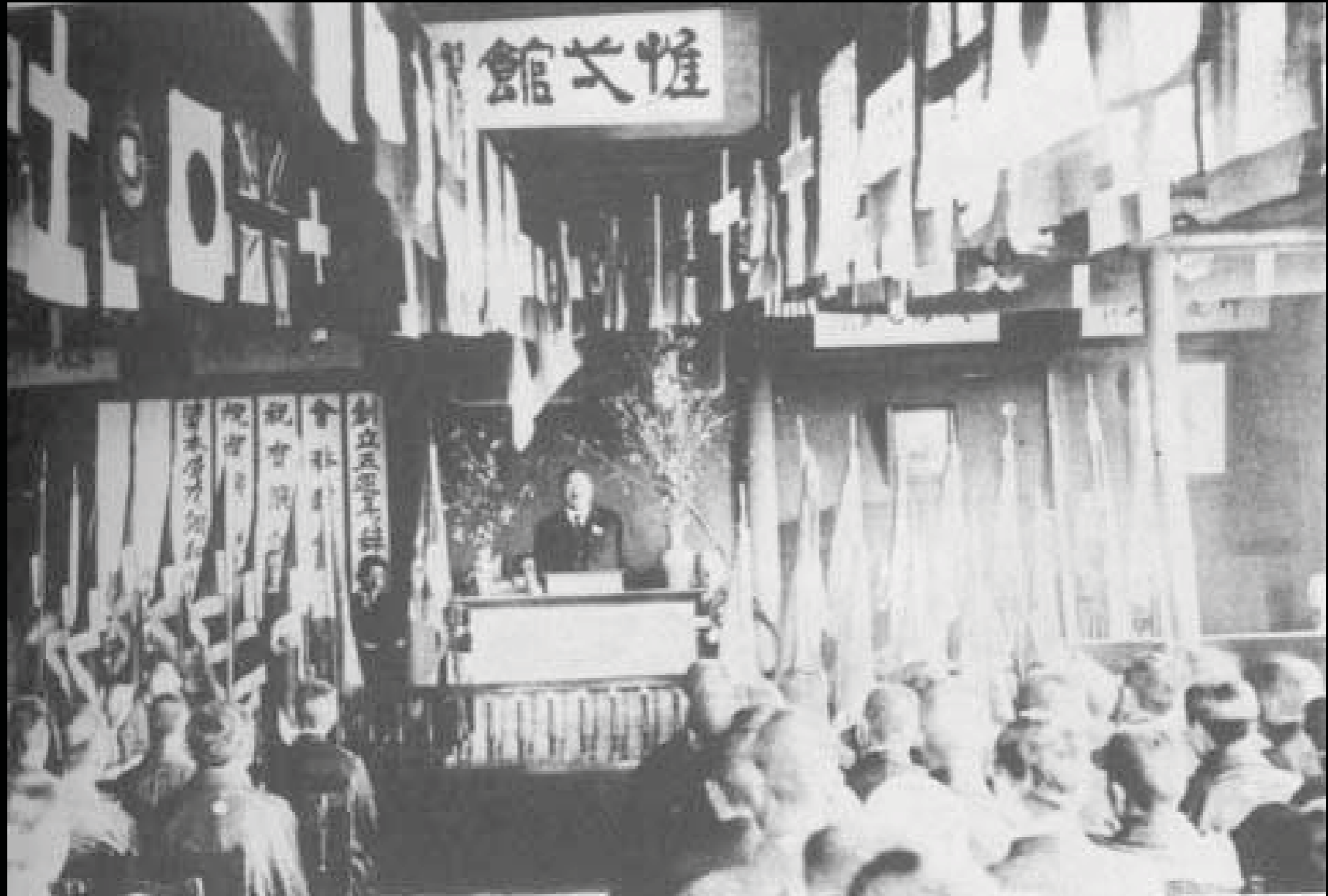
Postwar Bust and Crises

- Stock market collapse in April 1920
- Underlying issues: export driven growth and return of foreign competitors
- 1927: Banking Crisis
- Overall economic growth slows in the 1920s

Urbanization and its Discontents

- Rapid rise in increasingly industrial workforce
 - Men: 317,388 (1911) to 968,000 (1933)
 - Women: 476,497 to 933,000
- Suzuki Bunji's Friendly Society (Yūaikai, 1912)
 - Renamed Greater Japan Federation of Labor (1919)
- 1919: Year of Strikes=497 strikes; 1891 pre-strikes

Approaches to Labor Movement



Courtesy Ohara Institute for Social Research, Hosei University. License CC BY-NC-SA.

The Rise of *Zaibatsu*

- “financial clique”
- Mitsui, Mitsubishi, etc.



This image is in the public domain.

Rise of Mitsui Zaibatsu

- Close with Restoration government
- Establish Mitsui Bank in 1876
- By 1890, core of bank, trading company, mine
- Expansion into manufacturing, cotton-spinning, pulp, etc.
- Enterprise held together by “Holding Companies”
- Top 8 in 1918: 20% of private capital in manufacturing, mining and trading (12% Mitsui/Mitsubishi)

Dan Takuma

- MIT '78, Course 3
- Mitsui Chairman, 1914~1932



This image is in the public domain.
Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

Competing Ideologies of Crises

日(金)ヨリ 20時マデ
11月 18日 9時ヨリ
日(日)マデ

見よ!
力と望みに充ちた
十年間の建設の
跡を!

主催
日本。ソレタリア藝術聯盟
前衛藝術家同盟
産業労働調査所
無産者新聞
後援 全國無産団体協議會

その他
統計。ポスター。漫画。彫刻。新聞。雜誌。書籍。

會費 10セツ

無産者新聞推賛
岩波文庫版
河上肇、宮川實、共訳
マルクス 資本論
第一分冊 実價二十銭
第二分冊 近刊

於東京第一相互館二階

Courtesy Ohara Institute for Social Research, Hosei University. License CC BY-NC-SA.

Emerging Tensions

- US immigration
 - 1905: “Gentlemen’s Agreement”
 - 1922: Takao Ozawa v. United States
 - 1924: Immigration Act bans Japanese
- 1915: “Twenty-One Demands” to China
- 1918-1922: Siberian Intervention

Anti-Colonial Movements

- March 1 (Korea) and May 4 (China), 1919

Establishment Response

- **Compromise and Co-opt**
 - 1922: relax ban on women's participation in politics
 - 1920: Social Affairs Bureau within Home Ministry
 - 1925: universal male suffrage
- **Confrontation**
 - 1923: Post-earthquake massacre
 - 1925: Peace Preservation Law
 - 1928: JCP crackdown

Establishment Response 2

- **Compromise and Co-opt**
 - Accept postwar disarmament: “5 : 5: 3” naval ratio
 - Cut military spending: 55% (1918) to 29% (1924)
 - Approach to China’s Nationalist government
 - Returns Shandong Peninsula in 1922
 - “Cultural Rule” in Korea
- **Confrontation**
 - Refuse China’s tariff autonomy
 - Critique of “weak-kneed” diplomacy at home

Crisis of Imperial democracy

- Perceptions of Japan at a dead end
 - Vs. reality: not as bad?
- People still saw threats all around: abroad, at home, rural and urban, all connected
- Democracy as means and not an end in itself
- Rising voices from the Left and the Right for a different, more *statist* kind of modernity

MIT OpenCourseWare
<https://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.155 Modern Japan: 1868 to Present
Spring 2017

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.