

## Chapter 5: Merciful Mechanical Hands



*Every end of the time is another begun'*



**Wada Hiro**  
**The Dreamer**

Designer:  
Johnny Come Home

Few expected the Social Bureaucrats to crawl out of the wreckage of the Constitutional Crisis, and nobody believed they would take power. The Innovation Bureaucrats did not, until Japan denounced their administrative deadlock. The Kwantung Army did not, until Japan castigated them for the catastrophic raid at the Palace. The Social Bureaucrats did not, until Japan admitted through gritted teeth that they were the only ones who had acquitted themselves decently through these absurd trials.

Wada Hiroo, the new Prime Minister of Manchukuo, is torn between two dreams. The first is the Empire of Japan and the Pan-Asian ideal, to which he proclaims genuine loyalty. The second is his sympathies towards the farmers and laborers of Manchukuo, to the dream of a better future many had come to Manchukuo to build—to socialism, for lack of a better term. No matter how incompatible these dreams are, Wada will try to balance them and drag them into reality, building a state that is equal parts Pan-Asian and socialist. He walks a dangerous path, paved with constant betrayals and compromises, yet he feels it is the only path he can walk.

It may destroy him, but will it save Manchukuo? And will Manchukuo accept its salvation?

# The New Age

## Setting The Stage

### Factionalism

- Though the Bureaucracy has triumphed, the victory of the Social Bureaucrats has divided it. The SB's have always been a small faction, and are unable to take on the burden of governance by themselves. They have also been a much maligned faction, distrusted by the army and Japan. Now that they are in power, they will need to find a way to work with old and new bureaucrats which do not share their origins or their more social ideals.
- The Bureaucracy has softly splintered into three factions: Innovation Bureaucrats, Asian Socialists and Progressives. All three are kept in line by the leadership of Wada Hiroo (Left-wing Corporatism), who seeks to make ambitious reforms while not upsetting Japan or threatening the stability of the Manchukuo state. To this end he will, especially in his earlier years, include important IB aligned individuals in the planning and goal setting of the state. He will also seek to find a balance between the two SB factions: Asian Socialists and Progressives. However Wada is at heart a progressive himself, and will increasingly empower and prioritize progressive faction members/plans. Whether he can do this fast and thoroughly enough for the progressive SBs to survive after he leaves is another question.
- Innovation Bureaucrats (Reform Bureaucracy): Led by Sakomizu Hisatsune, the IB's have had to adapt to life in "opposition" rather than in power. This "opposition" is not a formal or tightly disciplined thing; it is merely the tendency of former highly influential IBs to push against SB ambitions within the planning organs of the state. These individuals remain highly respected within the bureaucratic establishment, and have spent years building personal contacts within Manchuria. If they should remain powerful and not be pleased by the way Wada is running things, either because of lackluster results, careers being stalled or egos being bruised, then they will cause trouble for Wada's administration. This trouble can be seen in large numbers of internal complaints, finding ways to avoid working on SB projects, going to the Japanese press, instructing delay and disruption within the National Council, and at its most extreme going on strike until their demands are heard.
- Ideologically the IBs retain their totalitarian and idealistic ideology, focused on technological innovation and economic growth without social "frills". But their most grandiose dreams have been sidelined in favor of attempting to restrain and redirect Wada. For example, the IBs wish to retain a focus on heavy industry and macro economic

growth, while the SBs wish to focus on light/consumer industry and increasing worker welfare/income. The IBs will not seek to sabotage this shift in its implementation, but they will attempt to mold it to their own vision in the planning stage. Protecting the arms industry, inserting IB strategies into the Auto industry, generally slowing or lessening the transition. This is done through Sōmuchō, the policy making organ of government in which the IBs have a significant presence. In this way they function as a counterweight to the more ambitious (or foolhardy) programs of the Social Bureaucrats.

- Asian Socialists (Mass Socialism): Led by Itō Masaya, they form the first of the two Social Bureaucrat sub-factions. A loosely defined faction in the beginning, they draw from urban/industry centric former IBs, rural social bureaucrats who distrust Wada's increasing authoritarianism, and newly promoted Han, Korean and Manchu bureaucrats who do not entirely conform to the social ideals of Wada. Institutionally they are strongest in Mangyo and the National Council, though they also may grow in Sōmuchō if Wada chooses to favor them. Until the end of the golden age they consider themselves to be allies of Wada, and Itō is personal friends with Wada.
- Ideologically, they envision Manchukuo as a common frontier for all of Asia, a land of opportunity unfettered by traditionalist privilege or militaristic waste which is open to all Asian men and women of tallent. In this they consciously emulate America, but they do not hold to free markets. Instead they wish to make Mangyo, the state and the cities into a machine which rewards excellence via empowerment within its system, and builds modernity to plan. They claim to be socialists, but put a greater emphasis on economic growth than other factions, and are willing to make "free market" and localist concessions for that. Their economic aim is to first grow the ranks of the middle class, building an educated and wealthy population, and only then move on to more aggressive equalizing/social justice objectives. To do this they are willing to co-opt rather than replace old elites and institutions if they believe it will aid this goal. By offering opportunity for advancement, higher worker wages, and relative social freedoms the Asian Socialists hope to entice the best and brightest of Asia to join their project and prepare the ground for a more equitable Manchuria someday in the future.
- Progressives (Neo-Corporatism): Led by Katsumata Seiichi, they are the second of the SB sub factions. Drawn from all but exiled marxist inspired bureaucrats, agrarianists, native middle class social radicals, and the newly promoted natives which have embraced the New Life Movement in full, they are the faction which Wada is closest to personally. They are strong institutionally in the Concordia Association, the Manchurian State Police, and Green Leaf. However they start weak in Sōmuchō, and are reliant on Wada to make their voices heard and their plans realized within that most important institution.
- Ideologically, they envision Manchukuo as a laboratory and show piece, one which can be remade to prove that planned collectivist economics, an expansive social role for the

state and a state enforced progressive culture are able to create an ideal society. Said society is one where communities are rationally organized to sustain the rationally devised social role of the individual. This means the individual is sustained in full security by the state, and works for the state, in a system devised to innovate for the people to improve their lives without the “losses” of private profits. The social role is to be progressive: equality between men and women, a collective civic identity rather than concerns over race or heritage, peace and humility over war and pride. The economic role is technological and factory inspired, with workers being trained by the state in the most recent innovations of the state for their ultimate benefit. Both of these roles are collective, in that the individual ought to be motivated by their role in the collective to serve that collective, rather than seek to exploit their neighbors for personal profit.

- For these ends the Progressives will use the organs of a totalitarian colonial state: The police and army to enforce, the state control over vital food and services to incentivise, the unreachable planning apparatuses to order. The people’s participation in the planning of the revolution is not desirable as they are too naive and traditionally minded to envision the correct, new future. Even their consent is not strictly necessary: the progressives expect some resistance to change at first, and are prepared to override the people’s objections for their own good. Only their submission is required, as this will allow the planners to use the people as they see fit, and the progressives are confident that they know best. As the benefits of the new society become felt, they expect the people to embrace, and once sufficiently educated to participate, in the great social experiment the Progressives are conducting.

### The Rotten Bargain

- Wada was unable to gain power on his strength alone: he had to cut a deal with Sejima and the Kwantung army to outmaneuver the other factions. Now Sejima controls the Kwantung Army and the Kwantung Army de facto controls outer Manchuria and the Russian border areas.
- Their rule is brutal, corrupt, and short sighted. Using anti-partisan operations as an excuse to extort and exploit the people under their control is their MO. This is not merely for the Army’s immediate gratification however, it also serves the political ambitions of Sejima as a war chest and protected home base.
- From his base in North-East Manchukuo Sejima will seek to infiltrate the Wada administration, turn collaborators and Japanese settlers against his policy, make business and political connections in the wider sphere, and will at times undermine Wada’s policy directly by selling drugs and slave labor into Manchukuo proper. Certain events, such as an Amur victory and a Hitachi takeover will benefit Manchukuo, but will benefit Sejima more.

- Despite all this Wada will be unable to act against Sejima overtly as Sejima sells himself and the Kwantung Army to Tokyo as a loyal and stabilizing hand in Manchukuo, and Wada as not to be trusted due to his “communist tendencies”. It is only in the endgame crisis that the conflict will be able to reach a conclusion when Sejima makes his play for ultimate power.

## Domestic Policy

### Government

- **National Spirit: Evolving Beyond The Present**
- Reforming the Concordia Association by launching the “New Life Movement”. This will be expanded on in later sections. For now, understand that Concordia is empowered as *the* major land holder in Manchukuo and its leadership is replaced with Progressive faction bureaucrats with a mission to transform the rural areas both economically and socially.
- Increasing the executive power of the Prime Minister over the bureaucracy, and the power of the bureaucracy over the collaborators, seeking to eventually displace autonomous collaborators entirely. This is done in order to safeguard reforms and keep the state united, as Wada (justifiably) fears that a more lax rule will lead to badly implemented reforms and stonewalling.
- To this end Sōmuchuō is directly empowered as the official policy making body which works under the PM directly. Its membership is entirely bureaucratic, made of government ministry appointees, as well as temporary outside experts brought on for specific ad hoc committees. The PM is the explicit head of the organization, decides on its agenda and holds veto power over its proposals.
- Sakomizu’s position in Sōmuchuō holds greater significance than it would otherwise due to his personal connections within and beyond the state apparatus. This permits him to act as a counter to Wada’s ambitious reforms, though there are areas where the two will happily cooperate, such as the early stages of agricultural collectivisation.
- Establishing the Manchukuo National Council to fill the hole left by the dissolution of the court. The MNC is meant to entice greater Chinese/Manchu support for the new program by giving an appearance of participation. It (in theory) has two main powers: the power to officially declare policy from Somucho law via majority vote, and the ability to audit/review other organs of government. Less officially it is also a prime body for Somucho to draw members for ad-hoc committees and an area where grievances may be aired without actually causing any issues. Finally it is useful for developing ways to “sell” bureaucratic policy to the people and the wider world, as its members are more

politically inclined. This is especially the case with the appointed speaker of the council Itō Masaya, who is about the closest anyone in this government gets to charisma.

- The representation of the MNC is a mix of corporatism and “merit based selection”. This means that different industries are represented by high ranking members of those industries, most often the highest ranking native managers. The exact industries represented have been manipulated to give greater weight to the military, bureaucratic and Mangyo affiliate industry. Officially a new member is nominated by the Prime Minister, and then is confirmed by a council sub committee. In practice, the corporate interest groups provide a short list of recommended candidates, who are then accepted by the PM and forced through on the basis of Quid-pro-quo. Itō Masaya will try to change this by ensuring these lists first go through him, allowing him to convince Wada to select candidates he wants, slowly turning the MNC into more of an independent body. Only the KA is able to resist this.
- Fostering and controlling a massive bureaucratic middle class to staff the expanded machinery of state, and to deliver social services to the masses through the limited expansion of the General Affairs Section (Sōmushi) of each of the ministries within the Sōmuchuō, the potential expansion of Mangyo, and a large expansion of the Concordia Association into rural areas. As Itō Masaya does his work, the MNC will slowly become a club and mouthpiece of this new social class, generally hewing to a Managerial Mass Socialist ideology.
- Mangyo will see the least reform, simply appointing Genshichi Asahara following the death of Takasaki Tatsunosuke in 1967, which will have preferential hiring for IB’s and Asian Socialist technocrats. Mangyo will be responsible for pursuing the new strategy of mass consumer industry and by extension managing the cities which grow up around it. However the lion's share of the state’s attention will belong to the rural areas.
- Officially “ending” colonization in Manchukuo by attacking racial privileges and ceasing to build exclusively Japanese settlements. The question of post-colonial nationalism is divisive however, with Asian Socialists wishing to build an ideal state open to all Asians as a common “land of opportunity”, and Progressives wishing to justify the state through its improvement of those already inside its borders, closing the country to further immigration.
- All sides maintain discrimination against “non-asian” races (Russians, Ukrainians) though with Sejima controlling most of their land that is not entirely their decision to make.
- Cracking down hard on the aristocrats that exist “counter to the interests of the Manchurian people through decadence and backwardness”. However, a few Aisin-Giorios will be given the opportunity to retain “civil” positions in order to show “the unity and enthusiasm of all people in the state’s new direction”.

- Wada will often need to give concessions to the IB's and Kwantung Army to push through his reforms, though he may need to do this less over time as the power of the executive and his support within the institutions expands.

## Economy

- National Spirit: **Production For Consumption**
- Despite the inspiration Wada and the Social Bureaucrats take from socialism, they are not socialists and will not build socialism in Manchukuo. "Manchurian Socialism" is best understood as a paternal, bureaucratic, progressive modernism which takes lessons from socialism, but is its own economic system close to corporatism, and it is corporatism which will be used as the economic type.
- There is a general consensus within the SB's on economic matters. Both Asian Socialists and Progressives will seek to increase worker safety and wages, and believe that combining scientific planning with the power of the state and the capital of Mangyo should result in increased living standards for all. Both agree that the purpose of an economy is to simultaneously eliminate poverty and reduce disparities in wealth, and that production exists for household consumption. Where they split is on how this should be done, and which of these goals should take priority.
- Asian Socialists wish to build a "economy of development" focused on expanding the middle class, expanding Manchukuo's exports and expanding opportunities for foreign capital to penetrate Manchukuo. Though they do not subscribe to capitalism, they believe that the best way to increase the welfare of the people is to increase their purchasing power, and seek to emulate the capitalist practices of the United States for the purpose of rapidly growing the economy, while using state power to direct this growth into building a middle class. As is the case in all the bureaucratic paths that middle class is to be beholden to the state institutions, although the Asian Socialists are willing to give more personal freedoms to this class. To this end they will use Mangyo as a state run investment bank and "locomotive" which pulls along the rest of Manchukuo industry via strategic construction in key sectors rather than as an all encompassing command center. They seek to give autonomy to Mangyo subsidiaries which will distribute the produced consumer goods on the basis of individual purchase. In this way the Asian Socialists hope to both harness and defang the power of capitalism for national, and ultimately Pan-Asian ends.
- Progressives wish to build a "economy of security" which will guarantee social protections for all workers as well as provide guaranteed employment. They seek to use Mangyo as a state monopoly over the entire industrial economy, bureaucratising it to be in line with the new social goals/regulations. Through Sōmuchuō the needs of the

consumer will be calculated, through Mangyo consumer goods will be produced, then the state will buy those goods at a state set price, and the state will then equitably redistribute the goods to the population. Production will be encouraged through increased benefits from the state to factories which produce superior quantities of goods. In this way the poor will see the benefits of the new policy without exploitative middle men and none will need to fear deprivation due to not being “profitable” enough to serve.

- In both cases Mangyo will be tasked with transitioning away from heavy and military industry and towards mass consumer industry, producing large amounts of quality goods through IB methods. These goods will either be prioritized for Manchukuo itself (Progressives) or for export to the wider sphere (Asian Socialists). The expansion of public services in urban areas will either be done through Mangyo (Innovation Bureaucrats) or through a separate government organ (Asian Socialists). Progressives and their new Concordia will not be able to significantly penetrate the urban strongholds until the end game.
- Due to the emphasis put on rural reform and production, industrial uses for agricultural goods will be invested in and coordination between the two will be prioritized.
- A moderate role in larger-scale electronics through Hitachi, though pursuing this will come with extra political costs due to Sejima’s and the IB’s connections.
- Collectivizing farms by replacing the landlord class with Concordia administrators (see Rural Reform section)
- Building rail connections broadly across the country, with hubs in the large cities and many connections in the reformed villages. Priority for rural accessibility.
- Placing control of housing under the state and hand design over to Kenzo Tange Associates, whilst retaining Mangyo as builders. The management and maintenance of industrial housing is contentious, with all three factions fighting for their strongholds (a separate entity for the IB’s, Mangyo for the Asian Socialists, Concordia for the Progressives) to be granted power. Granting housing to Concordia will badly strain their resources and may backfire greatly.
- Expanding Manchukuo’s harbors (potentially through Weihaiwei)

## Rural Reform

- National Spirit: **The New Life**
- A major point for Wada specifically is agriculture. The modernization, collectivization and “liberation” of the countryside is the centerpiece of Wada’s plans and one of the areas he will be less willing to bend to factional pressure.



- The goal of Wada's rural reform is to transform the Manchukuo countryside into model examples of a new, modern and better way of life inspired by socialist and rural idealism. It includes self-sustaining but large and scientifically organized "villages" in which farmland is worked and owned in common. It would be at the forefront of both technology through the green revolution as well as socially through progressive cultural reforms. These "villages" will be examples to the world of a more productive and happy way of life. This is the dream, and it will not come into reality un mutilated.
- Stage 1: Break the power of the local collaborator landlords which Japan has relied on until now. A new state agency, drawn from former Mangyo holdings, will be used to purchase land and equipment with prices pushed down via laws designed to force the landowners into selling. This is accompanied by an expansion of the rural bureaucracy to cope with the added responsibility of administering the rural land. New bureaucrats can be found in the old elite class (Asian Socialist), or lower class locals (Progressives). Both wish to bring in "agricultural experts" from the wider sphere to provide leadership at this stage.
- Stage 2: State land is reorganized into collective farms termed "villages", with laborers acting as citizen employees of the state monopolies. This is done through the "New Life Movement" organization, a consolidation of the rural bureaucracy and agricultural monopolies under the Concordia Association. The decision to focus on specialization and cash crops (Asian Socialist) or national self-sufficiency and staple crops (Progressives) is made.
- Stage 3: Mass state investment of technology and money into its newly reorganized villages. Private land holding for agriculture and forestry in these areas are restricted, with New Life holding a monopoly, but other uses such as private food plots are still permitted. The question of how much to invest in social services at the cost of autonomy and productivity (Progressives) vs wage increases at the cost of the social transformation and services (Asian Socialist) must be answered.
- Stage 4: Frustrated with the slow progress of willing land sales to the villages, the corruption seen in many New Life villages, continued outflow of rural workers to cities, continued resistance of peasants to the "New Life" and lower than projected output from the collectivized farms Wada will turn to more aggressive tactics. New orders to coerce owner-cultivators into joining the villages, restrictions against exiting one's village, and increased labor discipline are ordered. To implement this the national police are sent to the rural village as a means to monitor and enforce regulations. The question of these police being locally commanded and professionalized (Asian Socialist), or centralized and politicized (Progressives) must be answered.
- Stage 5: Though production has certainly increased it has not been to the level hoped for. Social resentment is building and costs are increasing. When the oil crisis hits the

countryside will be convulsed with unrest and paralyzed economically. More will be said in the crisis section, but part of the response must come through the New Life Movement. Either through granting more autonomy to local village leadership (Asian Socialist) or doubling down to fully centralize and prioritize the New Life villages for social protection (Progressives).

## Culture

- National Spirit: **Calculated Liberation**
- Within the Japanese population, attempting to counter the feelings of distrust and betrayal by the SB's equalization programs. Cannot succeed in the TNO1 timeframe, but it can cushion the blowback from these groups during the crisis.
- Reformed and expanded primary education and training programs for non-Japanese, as well as potentially ethnic quotas to ensure representation (this will be fought against).
- Divesting Opium to Green Leaf and attempting to decrease its production and use in Manchukuo as far as is possible, as it is seen as detrimental to social reform and economic production, with the exception of outer Manchukuo where shoving it down the throats is seen as necessary (and Sejima is calling the shots). The radicalism of this "clean up" is variable, and can extend to a full nationwide ban.
- Making Manchukuo a beacon of free(ish) intellectual life, most prominently through expanding Hsinking University into a state of the art and massive campus.
- Heavily cracking down on the religious societies and folk religion in general by placing them under hostile state oversight, as they are seen as regressive and disloyal to the new regime.
- Pushing rationality and a politicized "high culture" of performative agreement onto the masses. For the individual this "social rationalization" means rejecting native traditions and becoming the code compliant and ever obedient "new man" which the colonial state wishes it commanded.
- "Social Rationalization" includes pushes for gender equality, a more inclusive view of child and disability protections, a removal of militarism, a push for sobriety, higher standards of personal hygiene, and attempts to break down the racial hierarchy.
- High culture/refinement is pushed onto the masses, seeking to displace native popular culture such as it exists, and one cannot help but notice that most of what is defined as "high" culture comes from Japan.
- This social reform is pushed through several vectors including the New Life Movement, through state education services and in the branding of new consumer products. It is

also pushed through a state organized recreation program which takes inspiration from the German “strength through joy”. It is meant to organize and harness the people's “leisure” time, the amount of which a person has is dependent on the state by which they are employed.

- The cultural and economic programs are justified by appeals to “Asian moral socialism” in the tradition of Yosuke Matsuoka and 1930-40s W.E.B. DuBois. In this view East Asian and especially Japanese society is grounded in the sense of communal ownership and the common good—and as such is morally communistic. Rather than resorting to revolution, through state intervention Manchukuo can transition to the next, socialist, stage of human development and thus be an example to the world.
- In urban areas the IBs and Asian Socialists will be able to pursue a scaled down version of what is found in Sakomizu’s Manchukuo: an ultra-modernist style of architecture and experimental housing projects to replace the slums on the edges of the cities. But the cities will receive less of the budget pie than they would under Sakomizu, and must still comply with worker protections and health/safety regulations pushed by the Social Bureaucrats as a whole.
- New Rural “villages” will be constructed in a modern aesthetic as communal and efficient housing, government services, cultural institutions and more through detailed planning. They aim to remove the people from regressive traditions as well as harness economies of scale in agricultural production.
- The fact that the state may not be able to actually provide these expansive projects in the time, scale and quality required, or that local geographies may not be compatible with state plans, is considered an acceptable cost of progress. This is not as bad as OTL examples in the USSR or Maoist China: these are idealistic technocrats, not reckless revolutionaries. Regardless, deficiencies and difficulties will arise.
- The massive middle class of bureaucratic planners/administrators' embrace (willingly or not) of the New Life makes them increasingly alien to the masses they in theory serve. Though the disconnect is not so total as it is under Sakomizu the fact remains that class tension between the progressive, educated elite which has gained near totalitarian power and the common laborer class increases during Wada’s tenure.
- Finally the cultural construction pursued by the Social Bureaucrats is not always consistent. Asian Socialists want to make Manchukuo an open land of opportunity for all Asians, and to dismantle ideas of nationalism/particularism in favor of a Manchukuo “frontierism”. The Progressives will seek to make Manchukuo as a model of social progress and anti-capitalist modernity, and encourage a civil Pan-Manchukuo nationalism to that end.
- Sakomizu’s Manchukuo is described as being soulless. If this is the case then Wada’s Manchukuo is one which attempts to have a soul, but there is no substance to it. The

emphasis on rationality, dismissal of history, loyalty to the state and “progress” at the expense of clan and tradition, its refusal to allow free cultural expression from the “uneducated” and its politicized guidance for those who are educated makes for grand shows of a “New Culture” which melt away immediately after the state which organized it leaves. There may be decent parks, but they are filled by the state which built them, and good luck trying to get the permits needed to hold your own event there.

## Security

- National Spirit: **Buttons Over Bullets**
- Wada and the SB's believe that because resources are finite, all military expenditure reduces what can be spent elsewhere, and as such is a cruel luxury which the people of Manchukuo cannot afford. But they do need to keep Sejima boxed out and their programs enforced.
- Asian Socialists and Progressives seek to reduce the size and expense of the military as well as demilitarize Manchukuo society. The Asian Socialists seek to retain a professionalized core as well as downsize but modernize the military-industrial complex. Progressives wish to go further, reducing military expenses even further in favor of an expanded police force. Both recognize that the Kwantung Army is out of their hands.
- They plan to suck strength from the partisans through the New Life Program in two ways. Through the social, economic and cultural benefits of the villages they hope to reduce the desire of the people to rebel. The villages also serve as ways to separate the people from the partisans, and further control the population via concentration.
- The main focus of Wada will be on reforming the police. Progressives seek to expand the force as well as create gendarme police battalions which are under national command, while Asian-Socialists seek to use statistical, technological and localization efforts to increase performance. Neither are willing to greatly increase the wages or expense of the police however, as security is meant to be guaranteed by the new, social role taken on by the state and god knows they need to cut costs somewhere.
- Unchaining the MNA from the KA and modernizing its structure and tactics, while also downsizing the force and cutting costs more generally. Maintain Gobulo Runqi in command as a fig leaf for the dispossessed aristocracy, while actual authority devolves to local commanders.
- Attempting to downsize the Kwantung Army where possible by removing any Korean soldiers under its command to the police, and generally doing what little they can to keep KA and Sejima in their box (this will not work and will be taken as potential treason in the end crisis).

- Sejima and the KA will be the only force to remain un-gutted, which gives them a great deal of leverage when the oil crisis comes and partisan attacks spike.

## Foreign Policy

### Japan

- Wada's view of Japan is complicated and will evolve over the course of the game. On the one hand he is a Japanese patriot, proud of his country's accomplishments and celebrates the "liberation" of Asia from western imperialism. On the other he hates the brutality of that liberation, and despairs about Japan's conservative establishment holding it back from what he believes it should be.
- As such Wada's opinion of his overlord shifts as Japan's domestic politics do. Conservatives or old rival forces coming to power will make him withdraw even further from Japan and incline him to empower the Progressives more (Ikeda, Kaya, Kishi, Kawashima), while reformist and more genuinely pan-asianist governments will see warmer ties and boost the Asian Socialists (Takagi, Kono, Miki).
- When it comes to Vladivostok, Wada wants to secure domestic legitimacy by holding it, thus he will try to take it off Japan in 1968 like all other leaders. In a slight twist of the general social theme, the city is almost immediately handed over to Sejima and the IBs as Wada's reformed institutions are already straining to capacity in Manchukuo proper. One more broken promise to the pile.

### China

- In all cases Wada seeks to become closer to China. There is little that can be done however, and as Chinese economic growth starts to cut into Manchukuo's export share relations will continue to cool. Additionally, Wada's refusal to acknowledge Japanese missteps and crimes in China to anyone but himself will strain relations with some leaders.
- Those Chinese leaders which hold a more Pan-Asian outlook will see warmer relations (Chen), while the more right leaning will see a sharp decline.
- Due to the economic weakness of Wada's Manchukuo compared to Sejima or Sakomizu there is simply less for either side to gain from the relationship.

## Guangdong

- The economic competition with Guangdong is important for Wada as a means of proving the legitimacy of his system to Japan and to critics within his own government. If economic growth stagnates and Guangdong surpasses Manchukuo it will be a devastating embarrassment. At a personal level Wada hates Guangdong's "Pan-Asian" capitalism, and wants to prove that scientific and socially conscious management of society is the better system for the people as well as the empire.
- For these reasons he is not willing to play ball with Komai and Hitachi: he wants to simply beat Guangdong, not subvert or co-opt them. In fact, though Hitachi seizing power will benefit Manchukuo economically, it will damage Wada politically as the remnants of the innovation bureaucrats and the KA will be empowered by it.
- Despite all this Wada can see the potential for cooperation between the two. If Manchukuo can benefit from the tragedy of Guangdong, he is not above grasping it. Especially the need to feed all those rapidly growing cities. As such, university exchange and trade of goods will expand under Wada in spite of his desire to outcompete them.
- This vacillating stance on Guangdong will enable Komai and Hitachi to more easily break away from Manchukuo, though this will also be less damaging than it would have been otherwise
- From least to most interaction is Morita -> Ibuka -> Matsushita -> Komai
- In the case of Shigano, Wada will have the conflicted reaction of being sickened by the brutality and civilian massacre, while also being elated that his rival is gone and the contacts of Sejima are no longer a threat. Fundamentally he will be comfortable with the fact that there is nothing he can do, and so he will do his best to ignore his feelings on the matter.

## Russia

- As part of the rotten bargain, relations with Russia are mostly under the control of Sejima and the Kwantung Army via their military control of the border region. As such Russian diplomacy mostly follows Sejima's doc, with the addition that success for Sejima will lead to an increase in his and the end game conspiracies power, as well as economic benefits for Manchukuo.
- Wada is willing to work with Rodzaevsky the most, as his Russia is not one which will supply the partisans and the economic penetration Japan and Manchukuo can achieve through him is the greatest.
- Wada will be the only Manchukuo to compete with Russia for the fishing industry, countering the far-east unifier's state fishing fleets with his own.

## Miscellaneous

- Thailand and SEA are primary competitors for the agriculture export market due to their cheap labor and favorable climate.
- The need for revenue means that Wada Manchukuo will seek international exports to neutral countries much as Guangdong does, although with consumer goods (especially motor vehicles via Nissan) and foodstuffs replacing electronics.

## Arcs

### Wada & The Manchurian State

- After having spent his life in service to but at the same time as an outsider to the Japanese state, Wada's actions when in power and the type of state he commands will shift over time.
- He starts off surprised and relatively weak but enthusiastic. Being handed power revives the spark of optimism he had in his younger years, and in that optimism is assertive in ruling.
- However this is balanced by the cynical necessity of surrendering large portions of the state (The military, Mangyo, outer Manchuria, portions of his own governing institutions) to competitors and outright enemies.
- Over the course of his time in power Wada's governing style becomes more abrasive and confrontational. His goal of pushing "unreliable" elements out of the state gains strength as his projects progress. However this increases tension within the ranks of the rapidly expanding bureaucracy, which Wada may be able to contain but cannot stop.
- This tendency is exacerbated by his 1967 heart attack. Though he is saved due to quick intervention and a heart transplant, when Sejima hears the news he almost moves too quickly by having the National Council attempt a vote of no confidence. Wada's recognition of his own limited time and the fragility of his government leads to a further determination to push his goals through the state, and his conviction that said state is out to get him.
- From 67 on Wada's paranoia, at first a background trait, will grow in importance and prominence.
- Similar to Sakomizu, Wada will be cushioned from the abuses, shortcomings and casual cruelty which his projects can create/enable. This issue is exacerbated by the accruing of personal powers, and the desire of those beneath Wada to be assigned to important commissions by him. As with any bureaucratic dictatorship, incentives to fudge reports and cater to the boss corrupt the process. As such Wada will be inclined and enabled to

blame his project's difficulties on other's shortcomings rather than on the projects themselves.

- Through all of this Wada is hoping to win the people over by the projects and the benefits he grants them. This is the acclamation he feels he needs to justify his prior actions to himself, along with the entire Co-Prosperity Sphere project.
- When the oil crisis hits, the people still revolt, his internal enemies strike, and Japan launches an investigation, all of Wada's fears will come true. The state, expanded but polarized, will need to be managed with only letters from Japan while Wada defends himself in the eyes of the law, of his countrymen, and of his own conscience.
- The revelation which Wada will be forced to make is that he cannot be the solution. In the good ending he recognizes that his dreams are bigger than him, and he must make way for either Itō Masaya or Katsumata Seiichi to continue their own dreams within the space he has built. Having done this he will focus fully on defending himself in court.
- In the bad ending he recognizes that there is no solution, that his ideals are impossible. He slumps into a depression, withdrawing from both the legal fight and the governance of Manchukuo.

#### Wada & Japan

- Wada, despite all that is said about him, is no traitor. He feels genuine loyalty to his nation as well as the dream of Pan-Asianism and progress which he feels it embodies. However his desire for Japan to live up to his own ideas of Pan-Asianism and Progress makes him despair over the state of his nation.
- These feelings have gotten him and his colleagues suppressed by the Japanese state and sent them into de facto exile in Manchukuo. As such when Wada finally gains power with Japan's blessing he is both afraid of disappointing Japan as well as eager to prove Japan wrong by making a successful new society in Manchukuo
- Wada will be surprised to learn that Japan actually cares very little about his ideology in his new position: they care about his results and what he can provide for Japan. As such both his hopes and his fears are, to an extent, phantoms of his own mind rather than real threats/opportunities.
- This relationship is expressed through the Japanese cypher Tsuji. Tsuji only wants a Manchuria that is stable and loyal. If Wada can prove to him that his policies provide that then he will lose nothing. If he cannot, Tsuji's denunciation of Wada will be a big step towards the Kwantung army marching in to "restore order".

#### Sakomizu & The Japanese Manchurians

- Sakomizu represents a more brutal form of bureaucratic rule, and the dark mirror of Wada's own managerial instincts.



- While they were professionally tolerable, the circumstances of Wada's ascension has forever driven a wedge between the two; conversations are curt, infrequent and icy
- And yet they must work together, as both are too powerful to be destroyed by the other. Specifically, both are powerful within Sōmuchō and so Wada must give concessions to Sakomizu in order to govern in his first years.
- Sakomizu also represents the distrust and outrage of the Japanese settlers. Like the Innovation Bureaucrats they have enjoyed a powerful and secure position within Manchukuo which is being threatened by Wada's reforms. Though he is hardly a voice of the people, Sakomizu is the closest thing they have to a representative in power. As such Sakomizu will often receive political support from the settlers and will support them in turn.
- Wada will increasingly suspect Sakomizu of sabotaging his plans, privately laying the blame for failures on him and the IB's, as well as a host of other factors.
- Despite this Sakomizu is only ever a rival to Wada, not an enemy. His goal is to (in his view) save Manchukuo from Wada's excesses by restraining and revising the "waste" wherever possible. After a decision has been reached he is a professional, and will seek to implement it.
- When Wada betrays Sakomizu, it's yet another insult; Sakomizu is harboring these injustices and secretly looks forward to redressing them. However his ability to do so is decreased with time as he cannot control the bureaucracies expansion. This increases his desperation.
- When the oil crisis hits Sakomizu will be courted by Sejima to join the plot in full. Will he accept a deal with the devil to get back at Wada for taking what should have been his? Or will his professionalism reassert itself in time to prevent a governmental crisis? Ultimately Sakomizu is an engineer: his loyalty will depend on how effective Wada has been in meeting economic goals.

#### Itō Masaya & The New Middle Class

- Itō Masaya represents the new, native and bureaucratized "middle class" of educated managers.
- His position in the National Council allows him to both see and represent these interests. Through his and Umehara Keiichi's efforts in the council these interests are synthesized into a reformist right-socialist ideology and a Pan-Asian mission.
- This is in direct opposition to the reactionary Japanese settlers and the Kwantung army, and occasionally even to Wada himself. As such Itō Masaya serves as a personification of the evolving views of the managerial (and especially the urban) middle class, their struggle against the militarism and corruption of the status quo, and their struggle to gain the influence they increasingly believe is rightfully theirs.

- Wada and Itō met while the former was in Manchukuo; the relationship is more between a leader and a dedicated follower than equals. This relationship changes over time as Ito becomes more ideologically developed and Wada becomes more isolated.
- Itō must ultimately choose between his loyalty to Wada personally and his growing personal ambition when Wada attempts to rule Manchukuo via letters during the Oil Crisis. If he goes rogue this will negatively affect the government as a whole. Itō is a politician in the end, and his loyalty will hinge on how much support Wada has given him and his faction in the past.

### Katsumata Seiichi & The New Idealism

- Although he retains the caution and pragmatism necessary to have survived this long as a social bureaucrat, the flame of socialist idealism still burns in Katsumata Seiichi. He represents the great idealism Wada's project invites.
- Wada and Seiichi are personally close, having graduated from 'the Fuchū lecture circuit', and have stuck together as they left Japan for Manchukuo.
- Seiichi is known as a mediator within the administration, a skill which will become increasingly needed as Wada's rulership becomes more dictatorial and paranoid. But his desire to transform Manchukuo socially and economically according to the progressive vision remains untainted. As he sees his goals becoming more possible and Wada more irritable, his mediator role will recede in favor of his position as the Concordia head.
- Whenever Wada fails Katsumata's expectations, there is anger on both sides: Katsumata, who questions Wada's commitment to a better world; and Wada, who can't stand how Katsumata can't see the necessity of compromise.
- As with Ito Masaya his loyalty to Wada personally will be tested during the oil crisis, as his subordinates demand action from their leader. Ultimately Seiichi is an idealistic man, and his loyalty will hinge on how much Wada has been able to socially transform Manchukuo.

### Na Congtong & The Consequences of Idealism

- Na Congtong is a fictional character who will be used to show the conditions and consequences of the New Life Movement in rural areas.
- We meet Na Congtong on her wedding day. Her soon to be husband Aragaki Toshio (an ethnic Han man, has adopted a Japanese name) is a recently hired graduate of Hsinking University who has joined the Concordia Association, and is being transferred to a New Life village administration. Congtong expects that despite the rhetoric about equality her role will be the same as it ever was. She is neither upset nor enthused by this: this is just the way it is.

- She will find herself drawn to the state education and social services, as well as being put to work by her husband as a secretary. When her enthusiasm and skill catches the eye of a superior she is promoted to a position equal to her husband, which causes some friction as she becomes more independently minded and bored by Toshio. She loves the new world the New Life Movement opens to her, as well as the power she has over others through it.
- Congtong will become pregnant. This is something of a disappointment for her, as it ties her to Toshio and damages her potential for career advancement. As one may expect she becomes very interested in the child care of her village and starts a local initiative to improve it along collectivist and statist New Life Movement lines. This encounters pushback from the people of the village.
- During the oil crisis Congtong is informed by a police officer that Toshio was maimed by a partisan bombing of the railroad. Both her personal and public life come under greater stress than she ever would have dreamed. She copes either by committing herself fully to the New Life Movement, effectively handing her child and husband off to the state, or by withdrawing from public life to care for her family, seeking higher paid but less rewarding and career advancing work through Mangyo.
- If Congtong chose to prioritize her New Life career, a successful ending sees her officially rise to second in command of her village, adopting the Japanese name "Sondon". Toshio, now crippled, withdraws from public life and focuses on raising the child as best he can, while Sondon becomes increasingly distant from both of them. The fail state will see Toshio commit suicide and Congtong removed from her post. Left with nothing she will return home in poverty, finding it similarly transformed and unrecognizable.
- If Congtong chose to prioritize family, a successful ending sees her work a part time corporate job she generally dislikes. Toshio, retaining some mobility, returns to work with Concordia. They split care for the child, and are closer to each other and the child than in the career ending. In the fail state Toshio manages to retain his position in Concordia while Congtong is let go. The family survives, barely, but is only a bit less poor and miserable than the farmers they hypothetically lord over.

## The Heart Stops

### Oil Crisis

- The oil crisis will hit Manchukuo, and despite the turn away from heavy industry the system of capital intensive agriculture and broadly distributed transportation remains fuel intensive. As such the crisis will still hit hard.

- The lack of investment into oil and gas production has led to the Manchurian oil fields being outdated and unable to immediately increase production. Emergency investments of men and money are made, but it will take some time before the oil can begin to flow again.
- Despite all this Japan *will* demand oil, so much oil that harsh rationing and prioritization will be needed to keep the state functional.
- The lack of oil and need to fuel Japan leads to a retreat from the more capital intensive and humanitarian industrial efforts. The IB's and Mangyo old guard are once again empowered to utilize mass conscript labor to make up in manpower what has been lost.
- This is especially done through the New Life Villages: large concentrations of state organized labor are prime targets for conscription, and NLVs are "temporarily" gutted to speed oil and gas construction.
- With the social contract broken and years of resentment and polarization taking their toll, one of the New Life villages is convulsed by riots and its government offices are taken over. As the police are unable to quickly dislodge the occupiers the MNA is called in. Despite Wada's calls for calm local impatience wins the day, the offices are stormed and many are killed.
- Predictably, this causes sympathy strikes and riots in the other villages. Urban working districts are close to reaching the boiling point as well. Hsinking University is convulsed and occupied by its students and left wing staff. All of this only causes the economic situation to deteriorate further.
- The goal of this first stage of the OC is to maintain economic solvency and keep Japan happy - to prevent a total economic collapse and a Tsuji/Sejima intervention.

## The NAJUA Offensive

- Taking the social and economic crisis as their opportunity, the NAJUA-DSF-1RBA coalition strikes. The starting gun for this is the attempted assassination of President Gu Ciheng. During a public address Gu will be shot at range by a rifle, and though he will not die he will disappear into a hospital.
- Seizing a television station, a former JCP organizer and NAJUA-DSF liaison, Sanzo Nosaka, castigates Wada's government and (prematurely) announces the death of Gu Ciheng. He calls on all people to resist the state and aid the insurgents.
- The NAJUA-DSF-1RBA coalition within Manchukuo rapidly increases raids on oil production facilities, power stations and the rural railways, the key links keeping the state going. In outer Manchuria the revolt is more overt: the long abused Russians and Ukrainians flock to NAJUA units and commit to attacking the Kwantung army directly. This is a bad idea, and the KA will be able to claim "victory" in their area, giving

credence to their posturing as the only “responsible actors” in Manchukuo who can suppress the crisis.

- Wada will be heavily demoralized by all of this. Despite everything he has done the people are still revolting. Despite all his power the military still disobeys his orders, and Japan still has little faith in him. Was all his effort for nothing? Was he able to make no difference at all? Is everything Sanzo Nosaka said true?
- To counter the security crisis Wada can lean on the State Police or on the Manchurian National Army to suppress the insurgents and restore order to the countryside. This will empower the Progressives or the Asian Socialists respectively. In neither case can Wada totally destroy the opposition: the security forces have been neglected too much for that. His goal is to contain the uprising and hunt down Sanzo Nosaka while not breaking the dream of The New Life.
- Using the MNA will result in larger blows to the Dream, but will be more effective in chasing partisans out of a certain area. Using the police will have less of an impact in both. He will also use control over the state services and media to isolate and/or punish rebellious areas. The goal here is to outlast the offensive while not allowing the partisans to attack anything so brazenly that it gives the KA a pretense to throw Wada out.
- Failing by allowing the partisans to grow too powerful leads to a brazen attack in Hsinking. This attack will break the patience of Japan and Tsuji (Large decrease in Jap Opinion), giving Sejima the go ahead to take over and restore order by force. If instead the New Life Dream is damaged via brutal repression the state police will begin to mutiny against Wada, eventually leading to Japan losing faith in his administration and ordering his removal by the Kwantung Army.

## The Trial of Wada Hiroo

- After the (superficially) successful suppression by the KA in outer Manchuria, Wada is accused of treason and incompetence by a Sejima surrogate through a legal lawsuit, forcing Wada to travel to Japan to defend himself and his administration. Without his hand on the wheel the suppressed factionalism within the Social Bureaucrats breaks out into the open.
- Wada is only able to send letters, landline phone calls and personal messengers to try and sway things in his absence, which he does in great numbers.
- This will ultimately be unsustainable. Wada will either become a cynic and sink into depressed inaction, or will decide to let go of his own power for the sake of furthering the Dream. Which Dream exactly he enables depends on whether he advocates for the State Council/MNA or for the Concordia Association/Police to take the lead.
- During this Wada is defending himself in front of Japan. This will effectively be a “success check” for the player, as successful policy in the prior years will pay dividends

either through citing the numbers to prove competence or bringing in key witnesses to prove loyalty. If the player has not been successful Wada's position will become weaker, further exacerbating the above issues and bringing the KA closer to intervention.

- It should be relatively difficult for Wada to lose this case: it would require a decision to neglect the trial in favor of attempting to govern by letter, many prior failures, and an empowered Sejima. The trial is able to be lost however, and if this happens Wada will be arrested, and the Kwantung army will be ordered to arrest leading members of the Wada government.
- If the trial is not lost it has two outcomes: thrown out due to lack of evidence or an innocent verdict due to pro-Wada evidence, with matching rewards for the player.
- In all cases however Wada will be unable to keep his position. In keeping with his deteriorating health and his desire to prove his innocence, Wada will in a successful ending agree to resign as Prime Minister soon after the trial concludes. After all, is self sacrifice not the epitome of loyalty? (Many in Manchukuo dispute the accuracy of Wada sacrificing anything, whatever his own feelings.)

## Endings

### The Model Society (Progressive Success)

- *♪ In the town or the meadow ♪*
- *Katsumata Seiichi, Neo-Corporatism (Progressivism)*
- With Sanzo Nosaka dead, a return to rural normalcy and the underground supply lines cut, the siege of Hsinking University comes to an end with an agreement to pardon some of the students. This very public symbol of resistance falling marks the end of the crisis.
- Katsumata Seiichi succeeds Wada as PM, unceremoniously removing Gu from the government to live the rest of his days under de facto house arrest. Wada is granted the presidency, rendering him powerless and confined to a gilded cage. However he does remain a respected figure among the Progressives personally.
- The vision of a utopian society lives, with the state having accrued near totalitarian powers with an untouchable executive in the name of building said utopia.
- The Concordia Association and its New Life Movement have grown into indispensable parts of the state, although its increasingly diverse responsibilities has led to a dilution of unified mission within the organization.
- The social mission of the state has become the primary one, consistently edging out initiatives dedicated to economic growth as the Faction-State of idealist planners is closer to the center of power.

- This is further enabled by the gutting of the Kwantung Army. After their second attempt at taking over Manchukuo in less than a decade, and some of their crimes being exposed, Japan agrees to reduce the powers and autonomy of the Kwantung Army. The conventional military power of Manchukuo, never great, is now truly dismal.
- The National Police are further expanded and begin to be militarized. The pleas of Shin Hyun-joon and the National Army barely even make it to the Prime Minister's desk, as the state's internal focus blinds it to the rising storm on its doorstep.
- The Social Bureaucrats must hope that their investment into the hearts and minds of the masses will be returned in loyalty and sacrifice when the Chinese come calling.

### Asia's Greatest Champion (Asian Socialist Success)

- ♪ *In the billows, even over the sun* ♪
- ***Itō Masaya, Mass Socialism (Progressivism)***
- With Sanzo Nosaka dead, a return to rural normalcy and the underground supply lines cut the siege of Hsinking University comes to an end with the surrender and arrest of the students. This very public symbol of resistance falling marks the end of the crisis.
- Itō Masaya succeeds Wada and recognizes that Gu has become a burden on the state. He leads a newly empowered National Council to elect Wada as the new President. This renders him powerless, with Wada quickly becoming an irrelevant figure though the relationship between Wada and Itō personally remains cordial.
- Constitutional reform, rumored to expand State Council representation beyond occupation and Mangyo men, is teased by Itō. This is in large part a bribe to the newly empowered and autonomous New Life Village leaders to come over to the Asian Socialist side.
- Speaking of: the bureaucratized and empowered middle class, the personal leadership style of Itō, and the freedoms granted to local administrations, have enabled a noticeable rise in corruption and patronage cliques in the state. Without the harsh but diligent action of the politicized police, this will only continue.
- Mangyo is further empowered, with legal status given to large parts of cities as "Mangyo-towns", sections of urban areas which are fully controlled by the Mangyo ecosystem in which Mangyo and its subsidiaries dominate both private and public life with little state oversight. This takes lessons from Guangdong, especially Morita.
- Immigration into Manchukuo is directed towards the cities, rather than the more even rural/urban split previously. New York and San Francisco are taken as models.
- This is part of Itō's ambition to make Manchuria "self-sustaining". This means further internalizing the Pan-Asian identity within the people, better defining and more broadly spreading responsibilities across the state so that one visionary leader is no longer

required, and fully focusing on economic growth to break into high-middle income status.

- This also includes building a “responsible” state, which is more responsive to the concerns of its lower level bureaucrats rather than the dictatorial model Wada evolved into. Is this the first step towards democratization or an institutionalization of corruption? Regardless, it represents the end of the prior idealism.
- However these reforms are rudely interrupted by the threat of a third Sino-Japanese war. Despite the pleas of Shin Hyun-joon and the National Army, Itō only promises to consider military build up at a later date, as he does not truly believe that a war will break out, and that even if one does, Japan will be able to handle it. After all the last war did not take place in Manchukuo, why should this one?

## Back to the Beginning (Failure)

- ♪ *In the gallows or the ghetto* ♪
- *Military Junta (Despotism)*
- With overwhelming force the Kwantung Army has stormed Hsinking University and killed scores of students, bringing an end to the symbol but not to the resistance.
- Gu Ciheng “appoints” an emergency cabinet handpicked by Sejima, Gu returns to his powerless position as the most loathed man in Manchukuo. But the truth is that the state is now a servant of the Kwantung Army, rather than a strong agent in its own right.
- Wada himself along with Katsumata Seiichi and Itō Masaya are convicted and spend their final days in prison with Wada dying shortly after, news of which makes almost zero impact in Manchukuo or elsewhere.
- Although the structures of many Wada era reforms remain, such as New Life rural structures and the National Council, they are gutted and have army men appointed to lead them. They now serve only to regiment, suppress and exploit the people.
- The Kwantung Army, empowered by martial law and the subordination of the Manchukuo Army and Police, now extends their style of rule from the north to all of Manchukuo. What cannot be done via official state institutions will be done via threats and naked force.
- The main occupation of the Army is playing cat and mouse with the now emboldened and empowered insurgency which finds willing collaborators in the abused population.
- Sejima is just settling into the big chair when he receives an urgent report from Paik Sun-yup on growing hostility from China. Sejima is understandably concerned, but also sees the opportunity for self aggrandizement if he were to lead Manchukuo into being a



successful shield for Japan. With an ironic smile he dusts off the old Katakura proposals on how to prepare Manchukuo for war...

## Rural Endings (Variable)

Depending on how the New Life villages developed and what faction ultimately came out on top, national spirit "The New Life" will change to a new spirit.

### 1: A Slave Like Any Other

- If Sejima's plot succeeds and the Kwantung Army is placed back in control the myth of The New Life will be shattered, the rural apparatus will be stripped of its social element and be used as a method of mobilization and control of the rural labor army. However the loss of many idealistic administrators to resignations and political purges will cripple the organization even for this purpose, leaving most villages poorly led and resentful. Via the expanded police presence and renewed army primacy, life in the countryside is militarized and regimented, as well as brutalizing and inefficient. Promesses are made to improve the situation, but no one believes anymore.

### 2: The Phantom Limb

- If either success should be gained, but the victorious faction's rival was empowered to deal with the rural crisis, the rural administration will exist in a kind of limbo: too powerful to be purged but not in line with the remainder of the country. Production will continue as the machine of state trundles along, settling into a status quo. Rural migration to the cities increases as the regulations against it are allowed to lapse. Life does not improve or regress. Life simply continues in a stagnant routine.

### 3: The Modern Gentry


- Asian Socialist success sees the rural lands transformed into an engine of economic growth and a proving ground for new administrators. The return of local autonomy for New Life villages and the empowerment of their bureaucratic management has created a new class of rural gentry, albeit one which those of low birth may aspire to join through education and loyalty. Farmers are now almost all employees of the state, with wages tied to their villages' productivity and said villages increasingly favoring cash crops over staple foods. With many new bureaucrats seeing their stint in the villages as merely a stepping stone for their careers, the goal of self-sustaining and idyllic rural life will lapse in favor of squeezing the villages to the benefit of the urban centers and national economic plans.

#### 4. The Best Life

- Progressive success sees the land transformed into a series of model communities and a testing ground for enforcing the latest in social theory. The full centralization of the villages and the added responsibilities of providing good social services has massively expanded the bureaucracy in the countryside, with most rural revenue going into supporting it and individual life being dominated by it. Farmers are now effectively tied to their “village” with common necessities provided by the state. This state is also their sole hope for something like career advancement, and something which they have no way to contend with beyond humble petition making. The practice of bureaucratic hiring within the villages rather than bringing in outside experts has led to increasingly clear class differences, despite village income being shared communally.

## Institutional Lineup

### The Dreamers

	<p>Wada Hiro Director-General of Sōmuchō and Prime Minister Left-Wing Corporatism (Paternalism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A man of contradictions. At once bold and fearful, idealistic and pragmatic. He believes that a leader must be decisive and powerful, and so seeks to hide his own doubts and weaknesses</li><li>• Holds a deep distrust and fear for the Home Island old guard who he still sees as his jailors. However he remains personally loyal to the empire and Pan-Asianist project, and is thus also loyal to those same bureaucrats and politicians</li><li>• This contradiction, the stress of leadership, and the real threat of backstabbing leads to Wada developing a paranoid personality. This starts as a “jumpiness” but</li></ul>
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	<p>grows into a more autocratic, dictatorial and lonely personality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A colonial apologist when he thinks colonialism is working; refer to W.E.B. Dubois' comments on Manchuria to get an idea of what he thinks. And because he is now in charge, <i>it must be working</i></li> <li>● A competent administrator and planner in his own right, with a caution and professionalism instilled by years of bureaucracy work. Though he will push hard and far, he is not a reckless man or a revolutionary adventurer</li> <li>● Remains an uncharismatic man. Must rely on others to sell his ideas to the public. Wada's lack of political acumen leads to more natural politicians being able to bend his plans towards their own ends</li> <li>● Sees culture as a product which the state can and should design, build and sell. Does not understand the strength old grievances and traditions can have against his program</li> <li>● Loves fine art, and poetry especially. Looks down on "mass" entertainment.</li> <li>● Will suffer a heart attack on March 1967, but will survive due to an experimental heart transplant surgery conducted by Green Sun. In order to get the best chance of success, a fresh heart will be harvested from a still living Chinese man.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Itō Masaya</p> <p>Speaker of the Manchurian State Council</p> <p>Mass Socialism (Progressivism)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A natural politician, a charismatic speaker and a skilled writer, while also being comfortable in parliamentary</li> </ul>
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negotiations

- His knack for political judgments, emotion centric view of human nature, and personal confidence makes him attractive to Wada who feels Itō is one of the few men he can trust
- Religiously minded Shinto practitioner, though not a zealot, he is uncomfortable with the bureaucrats disdain for faith organizations and seeks to smooth over relations between the two
- Tries to sell himself and his faction as the first “real” Manchurians, a organic synthesis of culture unchained by the past which all can aspire to join
- This rhetoric is aimed almost exclusively at the educated middle class however: the working and farming class are all but invisible in his mind
- Places a great deal of value on loyalty, both for himself and others. Will faithfully serve Wada until he feels Wada has betrayed him and the Pan-Asian ideal




Katsumata Seiichi

President of the Concordia Association  
Neo-Corporatism (Progressivism)


- Although he retains the caution and pragmatism necessary to have survived this long as a social bureaucrat, the flame of socialist idealism still burns brightly in Katsumata Seiichi. He represents the great idealism Wada’s project invites
- Wada and Seiichi are personally close, having graduated from 'the Fuchū lecture circuit', and have stuck together as they left Japan for Manchukuo.
- Seiichi is known as a mediator within the administration, a skill which will become increasingly

	<p>needed as Wada's rulership becomes more dictatorial and paranoid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regardless, he is the face of the new Concordia Association, and is not afraid to lock horns with other factions in order to push the vision he and (he believes) Wada share</li> <li>• No particular connection with the rural people, sees the rural focus of Wada and Concordia as a necessary first step towards reforming the whole of Manchukuo</li> <li>• Feels a sense of ownership of and loyalty to the Concordia Association and those employed by it. This feeling will grow to compete with his relationship with Wada, who will at times sacrifice these in the interest of political unity</li> <li>• Ultimately these loyalties will trump his instincts as a mediator during the oil crisis, creating a mutual feeling of betrayal between Wada and Katsumata.</li> </ul>
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## The Supporters

	<p>Sakomizu Hisatsune</p> <p>Permanent Secretary in Sōmuchō Reform Bureaucracy (Fascism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "It should have been me! Me, not him!"</li> <li>• Leader of the Innovation Bureaucrats and former front runner for leader of Manchukuo as a whole</li> <li>• Eternally butthurt about losing the leadership contest to Wada, will often try to bend or even block Wada's plans through Sōmuchō</li> <li>• Wada will begin to see Sakomizu behind every setback, suspecting that he is sabotaging him from the inside. Sometimes, this is close to the truth</li> <li>• Despite this, Sakomizu is not in the antagonist section. He is only ever a rival to Wada, not an enemy. His goal</li> </ul>
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	<p>is to (in his view) save Manchuria from Wada's excess by restraining the agenda, but not by sabotaging the agenda itself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once a policy is decided on within Sōmuchō and made law by the National Council he will not go out of his way to disrupt it. Instead his professionalism reasserts itself and he plods along</li> <li>• This conflict between personal and professional is put to the test during the oil crisis, with failure seeing him betray Wada in favor of Sejima</li> </ul>
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	<p>Choi Kyu-hah/Umehara Keiichi National Council Member and Head of Foreign Ministry Mass Socialism (Progressivism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the political institutions being led by Japanese bureaucrats, Umehara Keiichi is "elected" to the new national council as the voice of the foreign ministry</li> <li>• A bit awkward about serving as a subordinate to his younger protogae Itō Masaya</li> <li>• Regardless he is enthusiastic in his new role, seeking to sell the dream of a New Manchukuo to the world</li> <li>• Acts as ideological whip for Ito in the Council, getting his hands dirty behind closed doors</li> <li>• Not actually that committed to Mass Socialism, mostly just towing a faction line while also paradoxically leading that line.</li> <li>• Will rise to Council speaker if the Asian Socialists succeed</li> </ul>
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Gobulo Runqi

Marshal of the Manchurian National Army

Let me retire-ism (Despotism)

- A bundle of fraying nerves and pessimistic desperation, even at the best of times
- Deeply committed to his role in the MNA, but now unable to meaningfully command or reform it. This increases his nerves, as he feels he is watching his house burn down with no way to stop it or leave it
- A military man because he believes in dedicating himself to a cause greater than himself
- Protective of his family; nothing drives him into a rage more than one of his family being insulted. This is the reason he accepted this humiliation: to use the position to protect what remains of his family
- What skill he brought to the army has been sapped by his antipathy towards the regime he serves. His reliance on his support staff has transformed into being dominated by that support staff




Udakawa Yoshihito

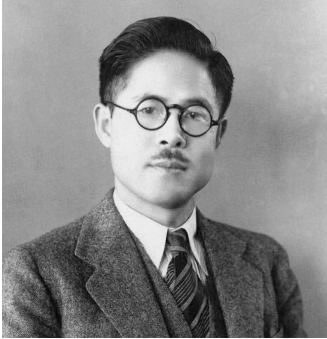
General of the Manchurian National Army

Corporatism (Fascism)

- Modernizer and loyal to the national administration, designated good cop of the MNA
- Commander of the Gando Special Forces, has served with Gando for most of his military career, and has acquitted himself well in many operations
- Prefers a hands-on approach, leading to feuds with other commanders. However his loyalty and competence will get him promoted to Marshal if the


	<p>Social Bureaucrats remain in power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers China to be the greatest military threat to Manchukuo and tries to convince Itō/Katsumata that they must prepare for a 3SJW</li> <li>• (They believe Japan will take care of it)</li> </ul>
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	<p>Nagasue Eiichi</p> <p>Chief of the Manchurian State Police</p> <p>Left-Wing Corporatism (Progressivism)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A political ally of Wada's with long experience in Manchukuo working for the South Manchurian Railway</li> <li>• Was drafted into the navy during WW2 but saw little combat. Regardless he became accustomed to military life and procedure</li> <li>• Not experienced in police or security work, will need to learn on the job to implement his and Wada's vision</li> <li>• Mostly focused on professionalization and anti-corruption campaigns alongside police expansion</li> <li>• To most other characters, especially those in the armed services, he is a political hire who deserves no respect. This may change as Nagasue learns on the job</li> <li>• Honestly can't find much on the man's personality</li> </ul>
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	<p>Genshichi Asahara</p> <p>President of Mangyo</p> <p>Reform Bureaucracy (Fascism)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (needs aged picture)</li> <li>• Influential member of the Innovation Bureaucrats, will often clash with Wada until his death in 1970</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However he agrees with Wada on removing land ownership and rent seeking from Mangyo's portfolio, allowing the rural reform to go through</li> <li>• Will seek to "protect" Mangyo from Wada's "foolishness" by constructing vertical monopolies over the production processes for mandated goods production</li> <li>• Despite this he is not so petty that he will risk sabotaging Manchurian development to get back at Wada. He will seek to fulfill the tasks given to Mangyo by Wada's development plans, but will do so on his own terms via IB means whenever possible</li> </ul>
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	<p>Yutaka Katayama  President of Mangyo  Corporate Paternalist (Paternalism)</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a long history with Mangyo and Nissan in the production of cars. Promoted to lead the effort to expand and diversify Mangyo's car exports</li> <li>• Becomes a go-to man for marketing to westerners, and is one of those helping to transition Mangyo from military/heavy industry products towards consumer goods</li> <li>• Famous OTL for designing the Datsun "Z" car, a sports car which was successful due to its cool factor more than its technical strengths</li> <li>• "Love cars, love people. Love life."</li> <li>• Has little to no faith in the ideology of statist productivism, is more capitalist and consumerist than Asahara</li> <li>• Chafes against statist and especially rural idealist commands, would prefer greater autonomy to greater security. Aligns with the Mass Socialists for this reason, as their vision for Mangyo is slightly less</li> </ul>
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	<p>restrictive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succeeds Asahara upon his death in 1970 via political favoritism from Wada, who sees him as reliably not IB</li> </ul>
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	<p>Hoashi Kei</p> <p>Chief Secretary of the New Life Movement Neo-Corporatism (Progressivism)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comm server portrait, needs to be updated</li> <li>• Most “far left” of the Concordia association characters. His belief in the need for social transformation and enthusiasm for state controlled economics exceeds even Katsumata’s</li> <li>• As with most of the Manchurian Bureaucrats, Kei does not have extensive agricultural experience. He is however a competent economist and technocrat more generally</li> <li>• His belief in the ability of technology and state led mass organization to increase output is deeply held, and he will approach rural reform with this mindset; seeing it the same as any factory, just with different inputs.</li> <li>• His weaknesses in agriculture are made up for by Wada’s personal interest in the project</li> <li>• For Kei the task of social/cultural change is to implant the principles of <i>the</i> productive and modernist lifestyle into the personal lives of Manchurian citizens</li> </ul>

## The Wreckers

	<p>Sejima Ryūzō General of the Kwantung Army Military Junta (Despotism)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You already know who this is</li><li>• Ssssssssssnake</li></ul>

	<p>Paik Sun-yup/Shirakawa Yoshinori General of the Manchurian National Army Corporatism (Fascism)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sejima's man in the Manchurian National Army, designated bad cop of the institution</li><li>• Direct, tends to use violent metaphors in his speech</li><li>• I FUCKING HATE PARTISANS</li><li>• Believes that working with Sejima and thus undermining the "weak" Wada administration will be a better anti-partisan strategy in the long run</li><li>• Is pulled in by Sejima's corrupting influence, he and his troops will indulge in increasingly non-military pursuits</li><li>• Decent, if slow administrator; tends to act with far greater speed than he plans</li></ul>



Tsuji Masanobu

Governor-General, Kwantung Leased Territory

Stratocratic Corporatism (Fascism)

- Brought into Manchukuo from the Home Islands after Katakura's recall
- Cautious, careful and always listening; plays a much longer game than Katakura ever could
- Respected by the Kwantung Army and the Japanese settlers; quickly forms a base of support there
- Generally tries not to interact with Wada, something which only makes Wada's paranoia worse