

## ANTHROPOLOGY

# No Certain Way To Tell Japanese From Chinese

## Even Anthropologists Are Unable To Distinguish Them By Looking at Their Faces; Far East Racially Complex

**A**GITATED by the war, Orientals in America are pinning paper badges on themselves to disclaim Japanese blood.

And perplexed Americans are asking: "How can I tell a Japanese from a Chinese or a Filipino? Is there some difference in the faces that science can point out?"

There isn't. You cannot tell the Oriental peoples in this country apart reliably and consistently by scrutinizing faces.

The answer comes from one of America's best known anthropologists, Dr. Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian Institution.

He explains that when you pick out a Japanese or Chinese readily, as you can in perhaps 30% of cases, it may be the manner, or psychological expression that aids your judgment. Japanese have a clever, smarter expression, the reflection of their materialistic and commercial interests. Chinese have faces that the anthropologist finds "mild and friendly and interesting." This reflects their philosophic and intellectual background.

Guessing nationality of Orientals has led Dr. Hrdlicka himself into errors, he admits. In Northwest fish canneries Filipinos and Japanese work with Indians and all dress in the white man's work clothes. In these circumstances the Asiatics—including the Indians, who have Asiatic heredity—are often indistinguishable. More than once, says the anthropologist, he has walked up to a surprised Filipino and asked "What Indian tribe do you belong to?"

Picking out Oriental nationals is rather like trying to pick out Italians from Spaniards or Portuguese on sight in a group. Science has found no quick and sure-fire test for it.

"Japanese have a melting-pot ancestry, and there is today no one Japanese type," Dr. Hrdlicka explains. "In northern islands of Japan the people are mixed with the old Ainu type. In southern islands they show Malay blood, and some traces of Negrito.

"Near the beginning of the Christian era Japan got waves of immigrants from northeast Manchuria and southeast Siberia. Before that there were other

immigrants to the islands, but we do not yet know their origin. China as well as Siberia and Korea contributed to the Japanese blend, and the Malay came, perhaps as a late admixture. There is some white blood, too, but we don't know its origin. Portuguese reached that part of the world centuries ago."

Chinese are less complex racially than Japanese, excepting in borderlands of China, says the anthropologist.

As for Filipinos, Dr. Hrdlicka describes them as having a good deal of Chinese blood, some Malay and Japanese and quite a few have a Spanish admixture.

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## ETHNOLOGY

## Japan Fights Nazi Style With Feudal Hang-Over

**A**T WAR with Japan, Americans should remember that we are in conflict with a nation that fights German-style with a feudal hang-over.

This in substance is the view of three anthropologists and archaeologists to whom Science Service put the question: What can we learn that is helpful in this Far Eastern war from scientific studies on the Japanese people?

Understanding Japan's past helps us to interpret present war moves and motives, all of these scientists believe.

Dr. Ralph Linton, Columbia University anthropologist in New York, in an interview pointed out that the Japanese in their medieval age were so courteous and formal in their fighting that they actually allowed ceremony to endanger welfare. When armies met, the Japanese custom was to send out champions from either side to introduce themselves and give a Who's Who biography of their exploits. The opponent might interrupt if he detected a wrong statement. Battling which followed was similar to that of European knights in combat. In the thirteenth century, the Japanese came up against Mongols who did not know about sporting rules of this warfare. Japanese, says Dr. Linton, lost heavily in champions

before they realized that Mongols fought blitz fashion.

Still, the Japanese remained in their feudal age until mid-nineteenth century, when the Western World broke in.

When the Japanese modernized their land fighting machine, from the start they copied first French, then German methods, sending a commission to study the German army. For their navy, they chose a British model.

But while they admire efficiency of Western war, the Japanese still linger partly in the feudal age. It is significant, Dr. Linton pointed out, that they are tremendously devoted to their Emperor—the last ruler of a nation on earth who is venerated as a god-king. Because of their form of government and the strength of their traditions, the Japanese are not likely to crack up readily. Their soldiers and sailors will put up a terrific fight, this anthropologist believes.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

## Sulfa Drug May Protect U. S. Army Against Plague

**S**ULFATHIAZOLE, one of the magic sulfa drugs, may provide protection against deadly plague for American troops should an AEF be sent to the Far East.

A cable has just been received in the United States by United China Relief from Dr. Robert K. S. Lim, director of the Medical Relief Corps of the Chinese Red Cross, reporting the drug is being used among Chinese in Hunan Province which has suffered a plague outbreak.

American physicians are anxiously awaiting results of Dr. Lim's plague treatment with the drug, for so far it has been tested extensively only on plague-infected mice. Results were 80 to 98% successful. It was pointed out, further, that plague is a more serious disease in mice than in men.

One human plague case was treated with sulfathiazole in California by Dr. Karl Meyer of that State's University in July, 1940. The patient did not receive the drug until the disease was ten days old—too late to save his life. However, the patient lived 30 days—much longer than would be normally expected.

Dr. Lim, Chinese physician with Edinburgh and University of Chicago training, asked the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China a year ago for a supply of the new sulfa drugs.

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