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**Ideological interpretations of Japanese-American relations between 1853 and 1941 and their political implementation**

**SUMMARY**

This paper is an attempt of political science analysis in order to shed some light onto relationship between Empire of Japan and United States of America between 1854 and 1941. It will present the newest research results regarding mutual relations and how the signed documents affected the development of their relations, and other important sources. Japan's history shows that Empire of Japan was raised to the level of world power through its relationship with United States and then vied for superiority over Asia's area of influence. Politicians of the country, which had been isolated for over 200 years were able to utilize the humungous amount of knowledge shared by the U.S. and other European superpowers. They kept society in line and used its potential to succeed in their particular plans. In approximately 90 years, from a feudal country they had created a global superpower which caught up with others and declassified some of them. United States' foreign policies of isolationism lasted until the second world war II. In accordance with Monroe Doctrine from 1823, the U.S were ought to not meddle in European internal affairs but concurrently it became interested in western countries. In 1854 expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry forced Japan to open its ports. The origins of Japan's expansionist vision reach to Meiji Restoration. Such expansionist aspirations grew inside Japan's elite, especially in the interwar period. The elite were under the impression that Japan is indeed choking within its boundaries. Its rapidly growing economy was dependent on the import of natural resources, which were scarce in the Empire of Japan. On top of it, it was the time of accelerated growth of Japan's population. Japan lacked in agricultural territories, hence the hindered ability to support food. Additionally the U.S had restricted existing immigration law which obstructed Japanese emigration. The foundation of bilateral relations between Empire of Japan and United States

of America was in the form of a treaty of mutual friendship and trade signed in 1854 in Kanagawa and Harris Treaty, which was signed a year later and it regulated the trade between the two. Vast experience and knowledge that had been acquired by Japanese elite, who visited United States and Europe gradually turned Japan into a serious international partner. However, with the passing years Japan had steadily become an aggressor and that made the U.S and European countries uneasy. They felt that their areas of influence are now endangered. In 1931 Japanese forces trespassed Manchuria's boundaries. It was the beginning of an ongoing offensive of Japan's forces at offshore Chinese provinces. This invasion sparked extensive international criticism of Japan especially in the U.S. At that time the Americans and their government were pro-Chinese. This and other limitations led to the withdrawal of Japan from the League of Nations. Alongside that a new notion of Japanese people superiority over other Asian races emerged with a subtle idea of them being the most suitable to lead the whole continent. The embodiment of it occurred in the form of Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in 1940. The Japanese doctrine based on *Bushidō*, a samurai code, depicted Imperial army as unbeatable with the perfect armament and its enemies as pacifistic, yielding and weak. Japan thought that with such attitude towards war against its the most dangerous enemy – the U.S.A – it would be possible to win with a powerful strike against their pacific fleet, which would result in breaking their potential. Japan's politics evolved so much that from a political and economic partner of the United States it became an aggressor who dared to perform a sneak attack on the morning of December 7, 1941.