

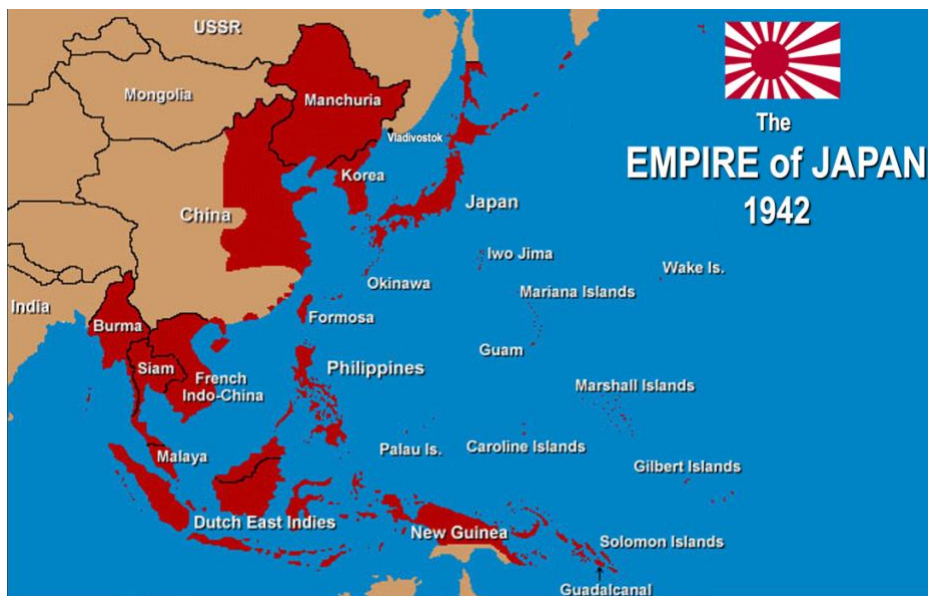
Japan's most ancient mythopoeic origins and traditions as described in the Kojiki and the Nihon Shoki paint a world of violence, amorality, death cultism, and expansionism by a master race descended from the Sun Goddess, Amaterasu. Japan's first of 126 Emperors was the mythical Jimmu, who famously declared:



This mythology was incorporated into both Shinto traditions and the first Japanese nation-state, Nihon ('Source of the Sun'). To some extent this would recede during the 700-year feudal period as Buddhism predominated, only to be revived- atavistically - in the Meiji Restoration during the latter part of the 19th century.



It has been said that "History doesn't repeat itself - but it rhymes." In this sense the dark story of 20th century Imperial Japan was a harkening back to the darker side of ancient Japanese traditions and psyche. Emperor Jimmu's vision was largely fulfilled by early 1942:



It would all come crashing down beginning at Midway in June of 1942 and ending with the August 1945 atomic bombings