

Assess the value and limitations of Source B for a historian studying Japan's ambitions in the Asia–Pacific.

Source B

Radio speech by the Japanese Prime Minister (Prince Konoye), 3 November 1938

What Japan sincerely desires is the development and not the ruin of China. It is China's cooperation and not conquest that Japan sincerely desires. Japan desires to build up a stabilized Far East by cooperating with the Chinese people who have awakened to the need of self-determination as an Oriental race ... History shows that Japan, Manchukuo* and China are so related to each other that they must bind themselves closely together in a common mission for the establishment of peace and order in the Far East by displaying their own individuality. It is a matter for deep regret, not only for the sake of Japan but also for the sake of the Far East that the realization of this ideal between Japan and China was hampered by the wrong policy pursued by the [Chinese] Nationalist Government.

* Manchukuo *puppet state of Japan established in Manchuria between 1932 and 1945*

U.S Department of State

Possible Plan**Value of Source B**

- **Primary Perspective:** As a radio speech by Prime Minister Konoye, the source provides direct insight into Japan's official stance and rhetoric regarding its ambitions in the Asia-Pacific in 1938.
- **Propaganda Analysis:** The language used, such as "development" and "cooperation," reflects Japan's attempt to justify its expansionist policies as benevolent, offering historians a view of Japanese propaganda strategies.
- **Contextual Understanding:** The mention of Manchukuo highlights Japan's geopolitical strategies, emphasising its efforts to legitimise its control over Manchuria as part of a broader regional vision.

Assess

- Make a judgement of value, quality, outcomes, results or size.

Limitations of Source B

- **Bias and Propaganda:** As an official speech, it presents a biased narrative aimed at justifying Japan's actions, limiting its reliability for understanding the full scope of Japan's ambitions.
- **Lack of Opposition Views:** The source does not reflect the perspectives of other nations or dissenting voices within Japan, which are crucial for a balanced historical analysis.
- **Temporal Specificity:** The speech reflects the specific context of 1938, which may not encompass the entirety of Japan's ambitions throughout the Asia-Pacific over time.

[Link to NESAs Marking Guidelines](#)

[Link to NESAs Marking Feedback](#)

Ambitions: Goals or objectives that a nation seeks to achieve, often involving expansion or increased influence.

Geopolitical: Relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.

Legitimise: To make something acceptable or justified, often through official or formal approval.

Manchukuo: A puppet state established by Japan in Manchuria between 1932 and 1945, used for strategic purposes.

Orientalism: A perspective that views Asian societies through a Western lens, often stereotyping and oversimplifying cultures.

Propaganda: Information, especially biased or misleading, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Self-determination: The process by which a country determines its own statehood and forms its own allegiances and government.

Temporal: Relating to time, especially concerning the specific period during which something occurs.

Useful Quote

"Japan must have full control of Manchuria and Mongolia." – Emperor Hirohito

When was this said and in what context?

- Said in the context of Japan's imperial expansion during the early 20th century.
- Reflects the imperial mindset and justification for territorial expansion.
- Highlights Japan's strategic interest in resource-rich regions like Manchuria.

Why was it important?

- Demonstrates the aggressive nature of Japan's ambitions in Asia.
- Provides insight into the imperial policies driving Japan's expansion.
- Highlights the contrast between official rhetoric and actual intentions.

Use it in an essay

- In assessing the value of Source B, it is crucial to recognise the underlying expansionist motives, as echoed by Emperor Hirohito's assertion that "Japan must have full control of Manchuria and Mongolia," which underscores the aggressive nature of Japan's ambitions despite the benevolent language used in the speech.