

How the military can shape foreign policy

From "An Instance of Treason: Ozaki Hotsumi and the Dorge Spy Ring", Chalmers Johnson, Stanford University Press, 1964

On September 18, 1931, acting on secret orders from Colonels Itagaki Seishirō^{received} and Ishihara Kanji of the Kwantung Army General Staff, Captain Imada Shintarō and several other officers attached to the Kwantung Army destroyed the South Manchurian Railroad tracks at Liut'iaokou, outside Mukden. The Kwantung Army then charged that China had sabotaged the railroad, and it used this incident as a pretext for driving the Chinese armies from Manchuria. The Manchurian Incident, as this action was called, was the opening scene in the Sino-Japanese war of 1937-45. It took the civilian Japanese government in Tokyo by surprise, and made it clear for the first time that the Japanese Army had passed beyond formal governmental control and intended to become a prime formulator, rather than an instrument, of Japanese foreign and domestic policy.