

HW:

This obviously was meant for Howard, so I'm returning it.

I remember Gropper's cartoons and the powerful mind that seemed clearly implied in them.

In regard to his cartoon which had the Japanese emperor pulling a ricksha with Japanese military in it, there is nothing to be amazed about in the State Department's apology for it. Such deference to the Japanese touchiness about the emperor was standard procedure in those days, partly because it cost little and partly because it paid off with the Japanese. The sacredness of the emperor was the base of the crazy inverted triangle or pyramid which symbolized the power organization of Japanese society and politics. Without an inviolable emperor, it would have crumbled. Consequently other governments paid it due lip service, knowing it was something no Japanese government could do without. Silly, of course, but no sillier than our own touchiness about the wickedness of Communism for so many years. In both the Japanese and American cases, touchiness had been oversold to the point where respecting it became a domestic political necessity.

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