



Revolution unaccomplished



Sun Yat-sen visiting Suzuki Tengan's home in Nagasaki February 22, 1913
From right to left: Saigo Shiro, Suzuki Tengan, Sun Yat-sen, Suzuki Tami, Fukushima Kumajiro, Miyazaki Toten, Kaneko Katsumi
(Provided by Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture)



Nagasaki-maru and Shanghai-maru, the Japan-China passenger liners that connected Nagasaki and Shanghai, which entered service in 1923
(Collection of Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture)

■ Allies

Many Japanese and overseas Chinese residents supported Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary projects. In Nagasaki, it is known that Suzuki Tengan, president of the Toyo Hinode Shimbun newspaper, Saigo Shiro, a reporter for the newspaper and a judoist, Kaneko Katsumi from Sasebo, and overseas Chinese as well as ordinary citizens, supported him. Nationally, his supporters included such prominent figures as Inukai Tsuyoshi (prime minister of Japan), Miyazaki Toten (philosopher), and Uchida Ryohei (political theorist).

■ Pan-Asianism

On November 28, 1924, Sun Yat-sen delivered a speech to supporters and economic groups in the auditorium of the former Kobe Girls' High School in Kobe. Sun advocated the idea of Pan-Asianism, in which the Asian peoples would use their solidarity and unity to oppose the invasion of Asia by the Western powers, who based their hegemony on military might, and to build a new Asia with the rule of right based on the ancient Asian morality of humanity and justice. The Toyo Hinode Shimbun published the gist of the Pan-Asianism speech given by Sun aboard the ship Shanghai-maru.

■ Sudden death of Sun Yat-sen

The post-war handling of World War I and Japan's Twenty-One Demands to China triggered the May Fourth Movement. Sun Yat-sen, mindful of the movements of this nationalist movement, formed the Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party) in 1919, and in 1924 he established a cooperative framework with the Communist Party, the First United Front. The Beijing government began to split internally, and Sun's Third Revolution was just about to be completed when he delivered his Pan-Asianism speech. However, by this time he was already suffering from liver cancer, and died suddenly in March 1925.

■ Followers in his footsteps

After Sun Yat-sen's death, Umeya Shokichi presented four statues of Sun to China in 1929 to honor his legacy. Meanwhile, Soong Ching-ling also followed in Sun's footsteps and devoted her life to the realization of the Three Principles of the People and the development of her country, so much so that she was called "the one who married the people." Sun's Xinhai Revolution was carried on by his comrades who fought at his side and by his supporters.