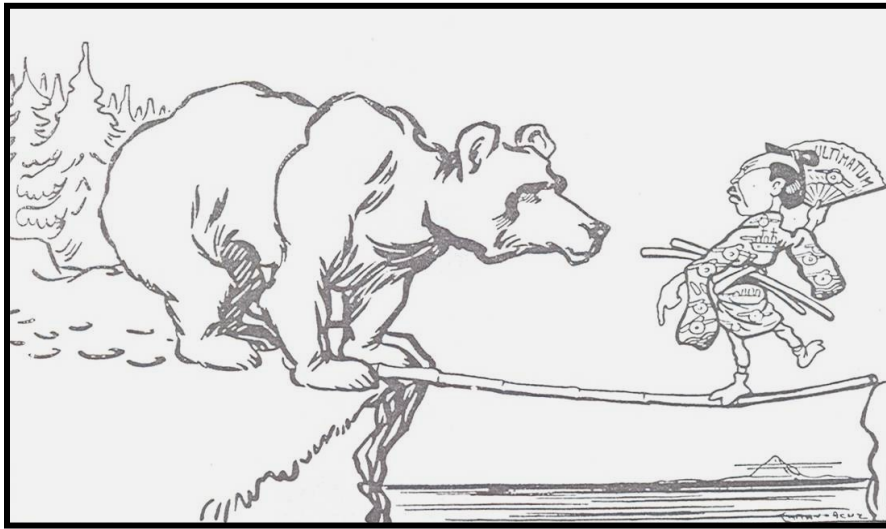




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Rising Sun over Bear: The Impact of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) upon the Young Turks



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Meiji Japan loomed in the consciousness of many Ottoman individuals as a model for reform, modernization, and the building of a national identity at the turn of the 20th century. The war between Japan and Russia signaled several dramatic changes in the world: for the first time in the contemporary era, an “Eastern” nation had defeated a “Western” one in a modern, technological war. It was also considered the defeat of an autocratic Czarist regime by a constitutional, parliamentary Japanese government; Japan was an independent nation-state that was victorious over an antiquated, multinational Russian Empire. Meiji Japan and its samurai-statesmen inspired the Young Turks in the Ottoman Empire to carry out a revolution in 1908 that reinstated the Ottoman Constitution, and Japan served as a pattern for the Young Turk Unionists’ conception of Empire – one that now conflated notions of racial identity with military might to form their new understanding of a *Turkish*-ruled Ottoman Empire.