

Debt of Honor Study Guide

Debt of Honor by Tom Clancy

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Plot Summary

Raizo Yamata's family jumped from a cliff to its death rather than endure capture by the barbaric Americans in 1944. Before the war, life was good on the island of Saipan, where his father supported the family as a minor merchant. When America occupied the Mariana Islands, moreover, Yamata remained in Japan with grandparents and is now a wealthy entrepreneur with a great deal of influence among his peers and the opposition party in the Japanese Diet. Yamata has always hated America, is obsessed with plotting revenge, and has developed a plan to accomplish this while building the Japanese Empire that should have been the result of World War II. This is his debt of honor both to his family and to his country. Yamata has been patient, waiting for the correct alignment of circumstances, to put his plan into action.

As the United States and Russia disarm in a new epoch of peace, Yamata secretly builds nuclear ICBM's, manages to place his puppet in the position of Prime Minister, and occupies the Marianas. At the same time, he throws the U.S. economy into crisis through computer espionage and develops treacherous alliances with China and India. The ultimate goal is the invasion of Siberia, for its resource wealth and, of course, a Japanese empire in Asia. China and Japan are to share in Siberian wealth and India can begin its empire in South Asia by the invasion and occupation of Sri Lanka.

Disarmed and with significantly reduced military forces, the United States and Russia are not in a position to defeat Japan militarily. They must rely upon intelligence gathering, attacks on a few key targets, and political maneuvering, as a part of an overall plan developed by newly appointed National Security Adviser, Jack Ryan and friend Admiral Rob Jackson. This is the new warfare, Ryan realizes, in an era of global economics, high tech espionage and stealth tactics.

Operation Zorro involves disarming Japan's air defense system, landing rangers in the wilderness, destroying missile silo sites, killing off the zaibatsu who follow Zapata, and using CIA and KGB operators to confuse and disrupt the treacherous government and business leaders of that country. Killing is involved, of course, but it will not be the total conventional warfare that pits one soldier against another or that annihilates entire populations through nuclear holocaust.

Through a continual jockeying among several individual segments of Operation Zorro, Clancy is able to bring the reader to the climaxes and denouements, only to deliver the additional punch of a shock kamikaze attack on the Capitol as all government officials are attending Jack Ryan's swearing in as Vice-President. In a matter of moments, Ryan is catapulted to the Presidency, a position he does not want but will assume nevertheless, as a part of his debt of honor.



Prologue - Chapter 5

Prologue - Chapter 5 Summary

Raizo Yamata has just completed a purchase of a large tract of land in Saipan, property especially important to him, for it includes a cliff from which his parents and siblings jumped in 1944, in order to avoid the occupation of barbaric Americans. Yamata has become a revered leader of the Japanese zaibatsu, a group of phenomenally wealthy businessmen and industrialists, but is not content. He has a debt of honor to his family and country, which necessitates bringing America to its knees and establishing the Japanese empire that was denied his country years ago. To accomplish all of this, Zamata has an elaborate plan involving several steps, and he has the patience to move slowly and deliberately, waiting until circumstances are absolutely correct. The first steps have involved secret alliances with India and China, both of whom desire more space and natural resources, and convincing fellow zaibatsu members that a successful assault on America will bring Japan to its destined greatness. As well, he has purchased old missile launchers from the Russians, ostensibly to be used for communication satellites, and these are currently being refurbished in one of his factories, ultimately to be armed with nuclear warheads.

There is some tension between Japan and the United States, primarily related to economic issues. Trade between the two countries has clearly favored the Japanese, and American industrialists are grumbling about an unfair trade bias, as Japanese auto parts and cars freely come into the U.S., while Japanese import restrictions hamper their sales and profits. Mere tension is not enough for Zamata, however, because the two governments remain friendly. He wants ruination of the American economy, and has his own plan. He purchases controlling shares of the Columbus Investment Group from its founder, George Winston, who has made his fortune and is ready to sell his interest to an investor who will maintain the firm's integrity and commitment to the well-being of its investors. Zamata is a skillful actor, and Winston leaves Wall Street believing that the firm is in good hands.

Jack Ryan is an ex-CIA agent, turned investment banker, who now enjoys a more leisurely life with his nationally-known eye surgeon wife and two children. President Durling, however, needs a new National Security Adviser and Jack's former government experience makes him a good choice. A bit reluctantly, Jack agrees and is quickly brought up-to-date on international situations by the President, Secretary of State Brett Hanson, and Mary Pat and Ed Foley, co-directors of the CIA. The Middle East is somewhat calm, with non-aggression pacts, but Africa remains a hotbed of coups and revolutions. Other issues include increased activity of the Indian Navy, possibly threatening Sri Lankan independence, a shaky government in Japan which could fall to the far less friendly opposition leader Goto (thoroughly under the control of Zamata and the zaibatsu), and the lack of enough intelligence to monitor activities in these areas of concern. The one bright spot on the international horizon is that both Russia and the



United States are dismantling their ICBM's, to usher in a new era of diplomacy as opposed to threat of force, and it is hoped that other countries will follow suit.

Not one to spend time idle, Ryan immediately begins work. in coordination with the Foleys. on the various issues. John Clark and Dingo Chavez, two CIA operatives, are dispatched to the most unstable democracy in Africa, where they implement a "sting" operation, incapacitating rebel leader Corp and his henchmen with a new light-ray weapon. Corp is turned over to the current government for trial and execution. Ryan's initial success is hailed at home. In Japan, American CIA operative Chet Nomuri is employed by a large corporation, with falsified Japanese citizenship papers. He is activated to gather information on the zaibatsu, Zamata, and their relationship with Goto. As Jack re-familiarizes himself with the myriad of issues and the world balance of power, he is struck by the rather significant down-sizing of American military forces, probably the result of technological advances and a long period of relative peace.

A few other disturbing events are introduced which seem to have little relevance to the major issues, but, as is often the case, apparently minor incidents can prove to be catalysts in a movement toward crisis. Vice-President Ed Kealty has difficulty keeping his hands off his office staff. Now, he has been accused of rape. FBI Director Bill Murray is investigating and tells Ryan that Kealty could face impeachment and/or criminal charges—not a pleasant prospect for Durling's administration in an election year. In the course of their discussion, Murray confirms rumors that American girls are being lured to Japan with grand promises, only to end up as Caucasian concubines of rich Japanese men. Currently, the FBI is attempting to locate one girl, Kimberly Norton, whose father is a friend of a fellow agent. Ryan offers to assist, using CIA agents who are currently watching Goto, a man who seems to share Kealty's problem and who currently appears to have a blonde American woman under his control.

In Japan, another relatively insignificant incident occurs. A dipping solution to ensure rust-resistant fuel tanks is calibrated incorrectly and no one catches it. The defective tanks are put onto cars shipped to the United States, and additional tanks are shipped to a plant in Kentucky, which is assembling the newest hot Japanese car, the Cresta. In the course of their travel, the salt sea air rusts the tanks, and no one notices.

Prologue - Chapter 5 Analysis

The stage has been set, and the major players are present. The parade of events and characters are numerous, moreover, and one is left to wonder just how all of these can be related to a central plot. A few things are apparent, however. In an era of international peace and prosperity, there are hints that all is not well, and the effective use of foreshadowing entices the reader onward. What, for example, is the significance of Yamata's purchase of land on Saipan, a purchase that results in Japanese ownership of just over fifty per cent of the island? The fact that he is also building nuclear warheads, at a time when the rest of the world is disarming, should alert the reader that all is not well.



Raizo Zamata is a dichotomy. On the one hand, he is a successful, contemporary industrialist, using his power to influence both politics and his wealthy peers, just as Western industrialists do. On the other hand, he appears to be steeped in the traditional aspects of Japanese culture—honoring his wronged family members by seeking revenge upon those who inflicted the wrongs, believing in the cultural superiority of the Japanese, and embracing a willingness to risk all that he has for his family's honor and his country's power. There are very few "gray" areas in Zamata's philosophy and beliefs.

Jack Ryan possesses few "gray" areas as well. To him, honor and integrity can never be compromised, and this is especially true in the pursuit of evil adversaries who would threaten human rights and freedoms. His commitment to these beliefs led him to a career with the CIA, and now to service as the National Security Adviser. He can be a powerful and formidable enemy, creative, cunning, and devious when necessary, and will persist until goals are met. Ryan is also somewhat conflicted in his contemporary world. On one hand, he believes in the inherent value of diplomacy, nuclear disarmament, and the use of influence as opposed to power; on the other hand, he is concerned that the United States has allowed a reduction of its military readiness, to the point that it would be unable to launch a full-scale non-nuclear attack, much less defend against an attack by another, should these become necessary. World peace is a tenuous and fragile situation, and one should always be prepared should it be threatened.

It is obvious that Zamata and Ryan will tangle—their goals are incompatible. It appears, as well, that traditional alliances and friendships among nations may shift, as political and economic leaders vie for positions of influence and power in this post-nuclear age. In the complex array of events, incidents and characters, moreover, the beginnings of certain themes emerge—the dangers inherent in a global economy, the delicate balance between diplomacy and force, revenge, and the true meaning of honor.

The conflict, man versus man, has been introduced; however, the full nature of the conflict has not yet been revealed, for it reaches into vast sub-plots, twists, and complexities that progress in sequential and increasingly alarming events, decisions, and responses. The reader would do well, at this point, to focus on a generalized awareness rather than a frustrating attempt to remember details.



Chapters 6 - 10

Chapters 6 - 10 Summary

Chet Nomuri has received his new instructions. At this point, he is to continue frequenting the bath and tea houses used by the zaibatsu, and "bird-dog" Goto in particular. As well, he matches a photograph of the missing Kimberly Norton to Goto's latest "model," following her home to obtain her address. Clark and Chavez arrive, under cover as Russian journalists, and all three will await further instructions from Ryan and the Foleys.

New Crestas are coming off the line in Kentucky and are quickly gobbled up by enthusiastic consumers. In Tennessee, a family, traveling through serious highway fog in its new Cresta, slams into a semi, and the car explodes into flame. Just behind the family is another Cresta driven by a teenager. It slams into the first Cresta and is reduced to charred remains also. In all, five people are dead, and the NTSB immediately begins an investigation. Following a physical inspection and laboratory tests, it is determined that the gas tanks were made of improperly treated steel that had corroded. The furor in Washington, following the NTSB report, is led by Representative Al Trent, who has long pressed for gas tank production by factories in his home state. He immediately composes a bill that will allow the President, by executive order, to implement inspection of goods being imported. In effect, this Trade Reform Act will simply equalize the inspection requirements of both countries, but the clear loser is Japan.

The zaibatsu are in a panic, understanding the danger of this new law. Japan needs to purchase raw materials, make goods, and sell its goods, the majority of which currently go to the United States. Anything that slows this process means less money to purchase vital raw materials. Western European countries might follow suit, and the entire Japanese economy could be seriously impacted. They must not allow America to destroy its wealth, but Zamata has a plan, beginning with the demise of their current government. He gets his chance in the ensuing days, as the Japanese stock market begins to react to the news, and the Diet renders a no-confidence vote, forcing Koga to resign and catapulting Goto to the position of Prime Minister.

Other events in Washington are consuming the time and thought of President Durling and Jack Ryan. Russia is dismantling the last of its missiles and there will eventually be a trip to Moscow in celebration; Bill Murray and the FBI Director are ready to move on Vice-President Kealty; Admiral Mike Dubro, Commander of U.S. Naval forces in the Indian Ocean, is voicing concerns about the Indian Navy and its exercises that look suspiciously like preparation for an invasion of Sri Lanka. In an attempt to get something "off his plate," Durling tells Murray to hold off on the Kealty arrest until other issues are resolved.



Within the Japanese embassy in Washington, operative Seiji Nagumo receives instructions from Zamata to use his friendship with Chris Cook, a Deputy Assistant in the State Department, to obtain whatever information he can regarding any trade agreements the U.S. reaches with other countries, as well as the date of the final dismantling of ICBM's in America and Russia. For his efforts, Cook will be paid handsomely. Cook knows that this could be construed as treason, but he needs a new house and a college fund for his children, and surely this type of information is not a danger to national security.

Chapters 6 - 10 Analysis

Yamata is clearly demonstrating the depth and breadth of his power, and events are clearly occurring in his favor. As devastating as the gas tank incident is, it creates the environment in which he can seal support of the zaibatsu for his ultimate plan to bury the United States, by military force if necessary. As well, it becomes apparent that Goto is a weak, unethical individual who will do as directed by Zamata. Control of Goto translates into control of the military too, and this will be essential for the implementation of his plan.

Japanese-American relations have obviously deteriorated, as shown by the events in these chapters, and the foreshadowing becomes thoroughly transparent, pointing clearly to increased tension and eventual conflict between these two nations. As well, the first hints of Indian goals are given, and they are dangerously similar to those being expressed by Zamata. The earlier meeting between Zamata and Admiral Chandraskatta suddenly has new ramifications. Perhaps there is an alliance brewing, among three nuclear powers—China, India, and Japan—in a scheme to achieve world domination.

This section provides at least a cursory examination of certain critical aspects of human nature. Acting upon what he believes is the destiny of his country and his debt of honor to his family, Zamata is Machiavellian in his approach to goal attainment. Whatever is necessary will be done, no matter what devastation may result. Political motives in an election year seem to contribute to Al Trent's virulent verbal attacks on Japan and his insistence upon the Trade Reform Act, using a tragic event to benefit his home state and, ultimately, his re-election bid. Self-serving greed motivates Chris Cook to sell information to the Japanese through friend Seiji Nagumo, rationalizing that treason is really a relative thing, with degrees of severity. Goto is a prime example of a weak politician who has risen to a position clearly too big for his capabilities and who is thus easily controlled by others, almost oblivious to the potential dangers seen by the ethical and far more perceptive statesman Koga.



Chapters 11-16

Chapters 11-16 Summary

Even amidst the rising political tensions, the Japanese-American war game exercises, which occur on a regular basis, will continue as planned. The exercises are conducted so that both allies can evaluate the effectiveness of their navies, as they "play" at war in the Pacific. Two American aircraft carriers are readying their forces to launch an "attack" on the Japanese air defense forces, supported at sea by their own destroyers and submarines. Japan is particularly interested in testing its newly developed radar technology which can more accurately detect all incoming and outgoing flights, both military and commercial.

Yamata travels to the United States to meet with Chuck Searls, a computer engineer, who has developed and marketed a program used by the Depository Trust Corporation, to track all investments and trades of the U.S. markets. Yamata purchased Chuck's business a few years ago and is now paying him to insert a "destruction device" into the program. Searls has done so, receiving cash and new identity papers to begin a new life abroad. From New York, Yamata moves on to India to meet with political and military leaders there.

The financial picture in Japan is continuing to decline and, in America, investors are unsure about their next moves. If the Trade Reform Act is only to be used as "shock value" for a few months, it does not make sense to invest heavily in the American auto and auto supply industries, which are now attempting to gear up for a resurgence. Since the U.S. dollar is gaining a better relative position to the Japanese yen, however, it makes sense to purchase U.S. Treasury notes, so no one is alarmed when Asian banks begin purchasing large blocks of Treasuries.

Yamata, back in Japan, has convinced Goto that he must give up his American mistress, because the relationship could be devastating to his position as Prime Minister. Offering to take care of the matter, Yamata has her killed, just as Clark and Chavez receive the order to get her out, and her death is termed a drug overdose by Japanese police. Upon hearing the news, Ryan and Durling are furious but see a possible means by which to "blackmail" Goto into a more pro-American position.

As the President and Jack Ryan prepare to leave for Moscow to celebrate the destruction of the final ICBM's, nuclear warheads are being placed into the missiles at the Japanese factory, in preparation for their transport to the silo sites. Yamata has also received word of Vice-President Kealty's legal problems and sees a potential opportunity to bring down the Durling administration, as it has intervened to postpone prosecution. He contacts a former U.S. Congressman, now a lobbyist for Japanese industry, requesting that he leak the story to the press.



Chapters 11-16 Analysis

This section literally bombards the reader with a plethora of new information and events, and it may be difficult still to comprehend the interrelationships among the incidents, information, and "players." It is clear, however, that Yamata has several "irons in the fire," in the hope that any one or combination of them will result in the destruction of America's predominant position in the world. One understands now that Yamata is a brilliant strategist, able to discern weak spots and to devise intricate plans to attack America on several fronts—politically, economically, and militarily. He is bargaining on the impact of "surprise," moreover, as he maneuvers each segment into place.

Jack Ryan is a brilliant strategist as well, when he has information upon which to act. At the moment, however, the sum total of his information is that Goto is anti-American, that the murder of an American has been covered up, and that the Japanese zaibatsu is angry over the Trade Reform Act. He also understands that the U.S. military has been reduced to approximately one-third of its former capacity, and, while commanders are complaining, he sees no immediate threat. The situation in the Indian Ocean is clearly on the back burner, as he believes it is simply a matter of a developing nation boasting about its accomplishments. Even though only recently "retired" from the investment business, Jack is not unduly concerned about the apparent fluctuations of the stock market or the moves of Asian banks. Without critical pieces of information, therefore, he is unable to synthesize the clues to see what is on the horizon. Instead, he is looking forward to meeting up with his Russian nemesis from a former time and enjoying the upcoming Moscow celebration with his wife Kathy.

The nature of politics is also quite evident in this section. Former Congressmen are now on the payroll of Japanese industrialists, for the purpose of pushing or preventing legislation, in order to benefit another country. Given the global nature of the economy, however, this is not seen as dishonorable or unethical. Even Durling and Ryan engage in political maneuvering. While they express anger regarding the murder of Kimberly Norton, they see the sexual relationship between her and Goto as an eventual tool to pressure Goto into political positions more favorable to the United States.



Chapters 17-23

Chapters 17-23 Summary

Russia is in a celebratory mood, and Jack is in the midst of it all. He meets with his old adversary, Sergey Golovko, who informs Jack of the following: he knows that the CIA has two operatives in Japan posing as Russian journalists, and he has inactive agents in Japan who can now be activated to work with Jack in gathering information. As well, Russia is currently paying a Japanese firm to explore the mineral resources in Siberia, but recently discovered documents indicate that the Japanese are not revealing the true extent and nature of the mineral resources. Golovko offers continued protective cover for Jack's agents in exchange for their assistance in the Siberian matter. Against this backdrop, the Presidents of the U.S. and Russia give joint signals for the last silo in each country to be blown up. The event is televised to joyous populations in both nations, and the celebration continues into the morning hours.

Almost on signal, Asian banks begin the sale of U.S. Treasuries in huge blocks. These are quickly bought up by European traders. As sales continue, the value of the dollar begins to drop against the currencies of other countries. The "professionals" at the big investment houses are clearly unsettled, unable to provide an explanation for the sell-off, but turn to their computer programs which recommend purchases and sales based upon trends. Yamata, who has the largest holding of Columbus Group, orders all U.S. Treasury notes sold for German currency. Once that is accomplished, other managers decide to sell all Citibank stock, because the computer tells them that it will be most affected by a falling dollar. This action precipitates a tailspin, with sell orders coming in almost more rapidly than they can be handled. The computers recommend a sell off of all bank stocks, and it is implemented. Columbus Group buys gold and thus begins another trend to place all money from the sale of U.S. Treasuries and bank stocks into precious metals. Despite the inherent health of banks and blue chips, their stocks are plummeting.

The flurry of trading does not go unnoticed by the Depository Trust Company, the major record-keeper of all trades on Wall Street. At the end of each day, it collates them all, so that the big boys have a record of all trades for audit purposes. Each day's business is held by the computer program developed by Chuck Searls, now seriously damaged by the "Easter Egg" demolition. Preparing for a long evening of reconciling all trades, employees at DTC are shocked to discover that every trade for the day has been completely wiped from computer records. Once the financial problems of the day are relayed to President Durling, the decision is made to leave Moscow immediately.

In the Pacific, Japanese military commanders have received orders from their Prime Minister to turn the "war games" into true strikes. Two carriers are subsequently hit and disabled, and two American subs are destroyed. Immediately, the Japanese commanders profess "accident," but U.S. commanders are not buying the explanation. The two carriers will have to limp back to Pearl Harbor for months of dry dock repairs,



and over one hundred men are now dead from the submarine attacks. Ron Jones, civilian contractor for the Navy, has plotted the locations of all ships at the time of the hits and confirms that the actions could only have been deliberate.

Concurrent with the attacks on U.S. Naval vessels, JAL airliners are arriving in Saipan with brigades of Japanese troops. Quietly and quickly, the airport is seized, as well as the Governor's home. Other troops are landing on Guam with the same objectives. In addition to the troops in Saipan, two large car carriers arrive, bringing missile launchers to the other end of the island. Former National Guard Master Chief Oreza, who has retired in Saipan, is clearly concerned. Discovering that the telephones are not working, Chavez uses the cell phone of his fellow American house guest, Pete Burroughs, to contact the Coast Guard in America, and is eventually able to relate the events to Rear Admiral Rob Jackson. Jackson then attempts to call all U.S. bases in the Pacific and finds no communication network available past Midway. Guam, Saipan, the remaining Mariana Islands and Okinawa are all blacked out. The official explanation? Storms. Weather reports clearly show, however, that there have been no storms in the area. General Arima of the Japanese army arrives on Saipan and immediately takes over for the governor, who has been arrested. Chavez and Burroughs will now be used to get critical information to Jackson.

Back home from Moscow, Durling is receiving word of the attacks and invasions, as well as a request by the Japanese ambassador for an urgent meeting. The President realizes that they are facing the "most complex crisis in his country's history," (p. 377).

Chapters 17-23 Analysis

Yamata has launched his three strikes. Strike One was to manipulate the disclosure of the Kealty scandal and the subsequent White House decision to "obstruct" justice. Strike Two was the attack on Wall Street, accompanied by the destruction of the computer records of an entire day's trading. Strike Three has been the military action in the Pacific, including the invasion of the Marianas. Clearly, he is feeling quite successful, for there are no means by which America can muster the military force for an all-out war, and the panic on Wall Street will last for some time to come. If the Kealty mess does not bring down the current administration, it clearly does not matter. The damage has been done, and America is crippled. The rest of his plan can now be implemented, though the reader is not apprised of the full objective just yet. Clues that both India and China are now on board, however, have been revealed, and events in the Indian Ocean and within the Chinese government itself support this conclusion.

Durling and Ryan are reeling with the news of the strikes, though they have not yet pieced together the entire picture, connecting the issues of Wall Street, the Kealty mess and the military attack as the work of one small group of men. Jack is resourceful, however, and, while bemoaning the lack of enough on-the-ground intelligence in Asia, vows to get the information needed to fight back by whatever means the best minds in intelligence, politics, economics and military leadership can devise. America has been hit and hit hard, but, as in its history, it will rally to become victorious. He will need some

time to develop the various strategies necessary, but he believes intelligence and tenacity will prevail. It is now time to utilize the Russian offers of intelligence assistance and to call upon Clark, Chavez, and Nomuri for more serious tasks.



Chapters 24-29

Chapters 24-29 Summary

Once Clark and Chavez learn of the military attack on U.S. forces, they tell Nomuri to back off from all of his contacts and return to normal Japanese citizenry. Nomuri does provide, however, the name of the individual sent by Yamata to kill the Norton girl—Kaneda. Clark and Chavez know that there will be further instructions and operations but, for now, will lay low and just be journalists. Ryan plans to use them, certainly, but first must devise a method of secure communication. This is accomplished through his old friend Golovko and the Russian cultural attache in Japan, Boris Scherenko.

As the U.S. Pacific Fleet limps home to Pearl Harbor, Seiji Nagumo is meeting with Chris Cook, suggesting that the two of them can resolve the issue and stop a war, by influencing their superiors. Nagumo makes his argument for the Japanese occupation of the Marianas, indicating that Japan will probably give Guam back in return for Saipan. He blames the action on the new trade act and insists that Japan simply wants to be on equal footing with America. Seiji's boss, the Japanese ambassador, meets with President Durling, Jack Ryan, and State Department officials, ensuring that there will be no further action against America so long as the Marianas are ceded to his country. The bombshell is then dropped—he informs Durling that Japan has nuclear weapons, to guarantee its defense, but certainly does not wish to use them. Determined to find and destroy the missiles, Jack pours over the film sitting at the CIA and discovers that Japan probably has twenty launchers with seven missiles each. Clark and Chavez will be given the task of learning the locations of the silos housing these missiles, while Jack puts together a team to develop military strategies in this era of "new" warfare.

Events in Saipan are making resident Americans nervous, as acting Governor General Arima announces that they will receive free passage back to the States if they wish. Yamata has arrived to set up a new government and is promising to hold elections, so that residents may practice their right of self-determination in the decision to be a part of America or Japan. Encouraged by the zaibatsu and Goto, Japanese citizens are flooding the island to establish residency and thus voting rights. JAL pilot Torajiro Sato is particularly pleased by this. He has a brother who commands a Japanese destroyer, and a Navy pilot son. Oreza and Burroughs, meanwhile, are logging all arrivals and movements of Japanese troops and equipment, forwarding the information to Washington via cell phone. Even though the military presence is pervasive, the soldiers appear to be friendly, laid back, and respectful. Via satellite, however, Jack is looking at a steady stream of troops, military vehicles and equipment, and this definitely looks like war to him. Equally disturbing is the Defense Department assessment of U.S. capability. With two carriers in repair for months, and a down-sized military, a forced entry assault is not feasible.

President Durling is a weary man, with four concurrent crises. He must set some priorities, and it appears that Japan and Wall Street will share top billing. Though Mike



Dubro in the Indian Ocean is pressing for some direction, he will have to wait. The U.S. Ambassador to India will be directed to meet with Indian Prime Minister to make a forceful statement about U.S. opposition to any aggressive act against Sri Lanka. A meeting with Ed Kealty results in the decision that Kealty will resign quietly, and Durling will work out a "deal" with the Justice Department on the matter.

Still grumbling a bit about the lack of enough intelligence on the ground in Japan and the reduced military position in which America finds itself, Ryan realizes that the key to any action is an understanding of Japan's goals. Surely, the Marianas are not so important as to warrant the aggressive acts of war. Clearly, there is something "big" not revealed yet. Anticipating that negotiations with the Japanese ambassador will soon commence and perhaps shed some light on the unknown, Ryan calls a meeting with state department and intelligence officials. Chris Cook impresses Ryan with his analysis of the situation and potential negotiating points, so much so in fact, that Ryan appoints him to second chair for the proceedings.

Chet Nomuri is not comfortable sitting out the intelligence "game," and has returned to the bath house in the hopes of gleaning additional information. He is in the company of a zaibatsu member who, in the course of a discussion of the need for Japanese economic independence, mentions the "northern resource area." Nomuri, Clark and Chavez have no idea what this might mean but pass the information to Washington. More important, the Russians have set up a meeting with Isamu Kimura, a "friendly" ministry official, who is shocked to learn of the nuclear weapons and agrees to assist in discovering their locations. Struggling with his "treason," Kimura visits former Prime Minister Koga, who assures him that Goto and Yamata are certainly not patriots and need to be de-throned.

George Winston is returning to Wall Street. He has lost a bundle but, worse, Columbus Group was hit hard, and his investors have suffered. He believes that his expertise may be a help in the larger picture. Met at the airport by a former colleague, Winston is told that Yamata left for Japan on Friday and no one is able to reach him. A hastily called board meeting places Winston back at the helm, and the first order of business is for every employee to return to Friday and trace every trade, step by step. The Fed Chairman has stepped in as well, informing banks that whatever they need in money will be loaned so that public confidence will be buttressed. In addition, the market will not open on Monday, the official explanation being a computer program crash. These two actions will hold off a panic, at least temporarily.

The United States cannot control other countries, however, and the European markets open on schedule. Immediately, there is an attempt to sell U.S. Treasuries, but only a few buyers come forward, bidding very low. Asian banks are selling Treasuries as well, in favor of Japanese T-bills. Confidence in the dollar is plummeting, as Winston discovers that Yamata has screwed them all. He used the Columbus Group to set up a panic, by selling all of its U.S. Treasuries, then its banks, and then purchasing metals. These large moves sounded alarms to all big traders who followed suit. Winston is stumped. Why would Yamata jeopardize the financial stability of the entire world?



Obviously, he needs to discuss this with someone else who understands the market as he does, and he contacts Jack Ryan.

Chapters 24-29 Analysis

Jack Ryan emerges as the clear "major player" in the attack on the current crises faced by the United States. A man of moral courage and strict ethical principles, he struggles with the development of strategies that may indeed result in injury and death of others, both Japanese and American. More and more, he sees the Japanese aggression as the work of a few, not the populace in general or the legislative Diet. His understanding of the history of conflict leads him to the conclusion that a nation begins a war out of greed. It wants something that another nation has. The first step in defeating an aggressor, therefore, is to deny it what it wants. During World War II, Japan wanted an empire, just like Great Britain possessed. He realizes that the goal and the methodology are the same—cripple the United States and thus force it to acquiesce.

While the goal and the methodology may be the same, it is obvious that warfare has changed. This "new" warfare involves strategic and small military targets, along with an assault on America's economy. The response will have to be along the same lines, and Ryan will have to devise devious strategies in order to fight Yamata on his own terms. This task will require a great deal of discussion and creativity, and the reader clearly wonders what possibly can be done to reverse the tide of events.

The concept of treason, one of many themes, is again introduced and further explored. To Chris Cook, it is a question of degree and thus relative to the severity of the act. To Yamata as well, treason is relative and certainly allowable to force the demise of a government which does not share his vision for Japan. Once in power, however, treason is any act which subverts his existing political organization. For Jack Ryan and Isamu Kimura, subverting officials who have violated the democratic principles upon which a country's government is founded is not treason but patriotism. Treason, then, is difficult to define in strict constitutional or legal terms, but, if a country is founded and organized along democratic principles, any act which attempts to destroy that framework can be considered treason. Yamata and Goto, then, in the eyes of Ryan, are traitors.



Chapters 30-34

Chapters 30-34 Summary

Mike Dubro is angry. He has played "cat and mouse" games with Admiral Chandraskatta in the Indian Ocean long enough and has no instructions from Washington. The Indian Navy now knows where he is, he fears getting boxed in and, if he has to engage them, he has only two-thirds the force he once had. Chandraskatta is pleased with the current situation. He has pushed the Americans away from Sri Lanka, and surely Dubro will soon be called to the Pacific to deal with the Japanese crisis. At that point, he will be able to transport troops to Sri Lanka and achieve the takeover.

Washington is aware of Mike's situation but continues to tell him to sit tight until the higher priorities are resolved. The most pressing issue at the moment is a plan to deal with the impending panic on Wall Street. The European markets are not faring well, Japanese bargain hunters are jumping in to scoop up terribly de-valued shares of anything valuable, and the yen seems to be the only strong currency. Winston explains how Yamata was able to instigate the Wall Street mess, and Ryan's worst fears are confirmed—the military attacks and the financial crisis were not coincidences. A handful of businessmen, lead by Zamata, began a war and crippled Wall Street. In the course of the discussion with Winston, Jack has an epiphany. Recalling a frequent statement from his eye surgeon wife, "If you don't write it down, it never happened," he proposes a plan. With no record of the Friday afternoon trades, the trades never really occurred. What if they pretend that Friday afternoon never happened at all? Suppose they open the stock market exactly the way it was on Friday noon before all of the trading began? Having the hindsight, and with the cooperation of the big trading houses and European allies, it is quite possible that the crisis could be reversed..

Winston is given the task of contacting all major European banks with an explanation of what occurred and a request for their cooperation. It is believed that they will cooperate because their markets are tumbling and large chunks of corporations are now being purchased by Japanese investors. His reputation and power of persuasion result in the necessary agreements. All of the major trading houses and the heads of the three stock exchanges are then gathered in New York, to be apprised of the potential solution. With a few kinks ironed out, everyone is in agreement. Immediately, the European banks begin a sale of yen for dollars and other currencies. With the yen falling, Japanese investors do what tradition has always dictated. They sell their holdings for yen, bringing the currency home and out of the hands of speculators.

The U.S. markets open at noon exactly one week following the crisis. The first move of most large traders is to buy U.S. Treasuries, having been promised an extra .5% for doing so. Columbus Group then steps in to buy a huge block of Citibank, followed by Merrill Lynch and the others. Within the hour, the markets begin to tick up. With the yen assaulted and the Wall Street panic averted, the zaibatsu can only sit and watch. Ryan



and Durling, however, have other matters at hand—foiling the zaibatsu's plans for an empire, finding the nukes, and recovering the Marianas.

Ryan has received the sketchy information about the "northern resource area." During World War II, Japan's "northern resource area" was Eastern Siberia, the same area currently under exploration for minerals by Japanese industrialists through a contract with Russia. The final pieces of the puzzle are now in place. Zamata does not really want war with the U.S., but rather to prevent its intervention; most probably, the Chinese are involved as well; India has obviously been promised something to keep Dubro in the Indian Ocean; and the ultimate goal is to build an empire with the resources necessary to become independent of foreign markets for raw materials. Ryan and Golovko need to apprise their respective presidents and determine what type of bilateral action can be taken. Durling, for his part, directs the following:

1. Negotiations with the Japanese ambassador will continue, but Assistant Secretary Adler is not to budge from the position of complete return of the Marianas;
2. The Secretary of Defense is to devise a plan and military operation for taking back the Marianas and complete a full assessment of military power available. No one is optimistic;
3. Russia and the U.S. will use all intelligence available to find the nukes and develop a plan to disarm them. Again, no one is optimistic.

The negotiations sessions do not go well. Adler insists upon full return of the Marianas and presents the documentation to prove Yamata's assault on Wall Street. During session breaks, Nagumo and Cook discuss possible compromises, but Cook is only able to offer an easing of the new trade law restrictions. Nagumo insists that this is not enough and reminds Cook that he (Nagumo) has diplomatic immunity while Chris does not. In a flood of comprehension, Chris Cook realizes that he is "toast" if his information selling should become known.

The Defense Department and the Pentagon are working in tandem on their tasks. Surprisingly, they "find" five more submarines, at rest but not deactivated, which could be ready to roll within a week. These subs can be used to monitor the movement of Japanese ships, but will be armed for military action if necessary. Air Force and Naval bases in Alaska and at Midway can provide some air power, and they have discovered a quick fix that will allow one of the disabled carriers to be at least ocean-ready rather quickly.

The KGB has instructed all of its operatives within the Japanese government to do whatever necessary to determine the location of the missile sites. On the American end, satellite photographs are carefully examined for any clues. Ron Jones is assisting, believing that the nukes had to be moved by rail, and is thus looking for any rail lines that appear not to connect towns or cities, primarily in remote valley locations.



Chapters 30-34 Analysis

Inaction has been the most frustrating aspect of Ryan's job until now. U.S. response to Japanese moves has been reactive and unsuccessful. Now, armed with the complete picture, understanding the "how," the "why," and the "what," it is time to become proactive and show Zamata that America is more than a geographical entity with wealth and resources. America is a society with ideals and common goals, able to unify itself in times of crisis, muster support of allies around the world, and work as one unit to defeat any threat. While the press and public are well aware of the Wall Street crisis, the treachery of the Japanese has not been revealed. As well, the citizenry is not aware of the military crisis in the Pacific and the occupations of Guam and Saipan. It is only a matter of time until this all "breaks," however, and the proper handling of the media will be critical.

Chris Cook is paying the price for his treasonous acts. Unable to give Nagumo what he wants, he has been abandoned by this supposed friend, who blithely claims that he will use diplomatic immunity to protect himself. Chris, on the other hand, will be held accountable for his actions, should the truth be known. He has given Nagumo important information, but there is no debt of honor among those who are basically unethical and he is in a precarious position.

With the Wall Street crisis resolved, it will now be everyone's task to develop a plan for the military "counterattack." Any plan will be complex indeed, given the high tech radar systems of Japan's air defense force and the fact that missile silos in need of destruction are hidden within the sovereign territory of another country. Initial Pentagon assessments indicate that there are resources that can be activated but not enough to launch an all-out attack on Japan. The big question is this: if driven to the wall, will Japan really use its missiles?



Chapters 35-39

Chapters 35-39 Summary

Ryan must now turn his attention to the military and intelligence operations which will defeat Japan at its own game. Soon, the public will have to be informed, as the press is beginning to ask questions, and citizens are unable to contact relatives in Guam and Saipan. The decisions will involve how much of the situation and response plan will be revealed to the press and to Congress. There has been one piece of good news, however—the missile sites have been located.

Operation Zorro becomes the name of the overall plan, the initial operations for which involve the following:

1. Five "Ohio Type" submarines are being activated for the purpose of monitoring movements of Japanese ships and submarines. These subs are the quietest in the Navy and have the latest devices for detecting movement and prevention of their own detection. As well, they will be armed with the "smartest" torpedo missiles available, computerized to track their targets with greatest accuracy.
2. The carrier Stennis is receiving its quick repairs. In order to maintain the secrecy of this fact, however, two actions have been taken. First, Japanese consulates in major cities are closed by the FBI, and the inhabitants have been flown to Pearl Harbor on the first leg of their transport back home. They are deliberately driven past the two disabled carriers so that first-hand sight of the dry-docking will be reported to Japanese officials at home. Second, Durling and Ryan meet with all major newspaper and television news correspondents. Through persuasion and some threats, they are convinced to continue to report on the two carriers in dry dock, using film and pictures of both, even after the Stennis has been launched back into service.
3. One hundred military personnel and three Comanche helicopters are being transported to an air base in Russia, their mission as not yet revealed
4. Rear Admiral Jackson will use other American islands in the Pacific for flight operations.
5. Top flight Rangers are being readied for a special mission, again the details of which remain unclear.
6. Holed up in a hostel with a view of a remote air strip, Clark and Chavez successfully take out two Japanese air defense planes, through use of the new light-ray weapon, disabling the pilots as they attempt to land.

Back in Washington, negotiations with the Japanese ambassador are continuing as scheduled. In an attempt to "save" himself, Cook is providing additional information to Nagumo, specifically that Americans have been in contact with former Prime Minister



Koga to determine his willingness to re-assume the reigns, should Goto fall. Nagumo quickly relays the information to Yamata, who immediately makes arrangements for his henchmen to kidnap Koga. Koga is delivered to Yamata's apartment on the top floor of a modern building, pictures of which Clark and Chavez already have. News of Koga's disappearance is relayed to Clark and Chavez as they return to Tokyo, and plans are put in place to determine where he is for a potential rescue. The Russian cultural attache in Tokyo, Boris Scherenko, will assist in the effort to find Koga by contacting his "moles" within the Japanese Ministry.

Chapters 35-39 Analysis

Operation Zorro clearly involves multiple factors, any one of which could go awry and clearly damage the element of surprise which Ryan hopes to maintain. This is a complex, ambitious mix of operations and participants, and much of it will rely on everyone completing their parts on a specific time line.

Clearly, the weakest link in Zorro is the press. The public has only been given cursory information about the conflict with Japan, and now reporters are being asked not only to hold additional information they may have but, as well, to deliberately report false information. To any informed reader, the ability of government to accomplish this certainly seems unrealistic and harms the overall intent of the author to posit that this entire scenario could indeed occur. Contemporary American news professionals operate on a strong premise of the public's right to know, and, as well, more than one would certainly jump at the chance to get any "scoop" first. There simply is not as much "honor" among this professional group as there might be among others.

The decision to keep Congress uninformed about the "black" operational components is realistic, because, one suspects, this happens all of the time. "Black" espionage operations refer to those that, if committed in America, would be clear violations of the law, most often, murder. Clearly, Clark and Chavez have committed premeditated murder in the deaths of the two Japanese airline crews, and one wonders how many more are planned.



Chapters 40-46

Chapters 40-46 Summary

Ryan informs Durling of Koga's disappearance. Russian agents within the Japanese government have informed Scherenko that the reason for the kidnapping is that Koga has evidently been involved in discussions with Americans. Clark and Chavez are still under cover as Russians, and it now appears that there is a leak somewhere within the U.S. government. By a process of elimination and investigation, it is determined that Chris Cook, friend of Seiji Nagumo, is the only candidate. The FBI is called.

Operation Zorro begins in full force, with each part of the plan operating simultaneously, as follows:

1. Rangers, provided with Spanish identities and passports, parachute into a remote location in Japan, while Russia runs air force exercises to divert Japanese radar attention. The Rangers will assist three Comanche helicopters, soon to arrive.
2. The "Ohio" subs have arrived off the coast of Japan, have gone deep, and are tracking movements of Japanese ships and subs.
3. Fighter planes are coming from Alaska to deliberately get picked up by Japanese radar, as a diversion for the three helicopters which need to fly in without detection, hooking up with the Rangers. That accomplished, they draw the Japanese planes further away from shore, where they are bombed out of the sky. Other American bombers are taking out remaining Japanese planes, both in the air and sitting on airstrips.
4. With the Japanese air defense system knocked out, the helicopters are free to fly into Tokyo, bombing the homes of the most prominent members of the zaibatsu. They do not hit Yamata's apartment, however, because Clark and Chavez are on their way in to rescue Koga. The operation is successful, but Yamata, whom they hoped to eliminate, has left for Saipan to run for governor.
5. Mike Dubro, angry and in waiting in the Indian Ocean, is given orders to move within sight of the Indian Navy. Though confused, he does as instructed. At the same time, twelve bombers are sent to Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, where they await instructions.
6. A three-plane bomber group from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska knock out eight of the ten missile sites. The final act is to blow up a dam, an event which immediately unleashes the full force of a river over the sites, destroying any remaining nuclear hardware.

Americans on the ground in Japan are leaving quickly. Clark and Chavez, still posing as Russian journalists, leave for Saipan, ostensibly to cover the coming elections. There,



they meet up with Oreza and Burroughs and celebrate the victory. The Rangers have buried all of their equipment and have hiked out to a nearby town, and will leave the country under cover as Spanish tourists. The three helicopters fly into the Pacific, where one of the "Ohio" subs surfaces long enough to re-fuel them for their travel to the waiting carrier, Stennis.

On Saipan, Yamata has received the terrible news about the murders of his friends and the destruction of planes and missile sites, but is not yet ready to admit defeat, though General Arima is now in communication with Admiral Jackson regarding an honorable surrender. Yamata orders Japanese carriers off the coast of the Marianas back to defend mainland Japan. JAL pilot Torajiro Sato, now transporting angry Japanese citizens home from Saipan, sees his brother's ship in the ocean below, just at the moment that it is blown up by an American sub. His devastation is not complete, however, because upon his next return to Saipan, he is taken to a military facility to view and identify his son's body. Meanwhile, planes leave the approaching Stennis to bomb key military targets in the Marianas, leaving civilian populations untouched.

Probably not having complete information about the action in the Pacific, Admiral Chandraskatta is shocked to see U.S. planes coming in from the north—these are not planes from Mike Dubro's carriers. The planes come in low over Chandraskatta's destroyers, and two subsequent sonic booms break equipment and shatter glass all over the decks. The message sent to Chandraskatta is clear—next time, it will be for real. At the same time, the U.S. ambassador to India informs the Prime Minister that the U.S. Navy will protect Sri Lanka, with the blessing of the UN Security Council. Her rapid response is that India has no designs on Sri Lanka and, with that response, any alliance with Japan is over.

Chapters 40-46 Analysis

This section is chock full of military and aircraft terms, and the reader is cautioned not to get "bogged down" in a language that appears almost foreign at times. The key aspects of the military and intelligence operations are clearly understandable without them. In fact, author Clancy, a retired Naval officer himself, would do well to remember that most lay people reading his book find these details to be a tedious distraction from the meat of the storyline and themes he presents. Nevertheless, the strategies are brilliant and coordinated in a manner that only a person with vast military experience and a thoroughly analytical and creative mind could fashion.

The discussion among Durling, Ryan, Admiral Jackson and the Secretaries of Defense and State, regarding the plans for defeat of Japan, point to an interesting commentary on the nature of war. War involves, by its very definition, murder. Whether it is soldier against soldier, or bomb against bomb, people are killed by other people. In the newer concept of war, posed by Jackson, the goal is not to kill a bunch of nineteen-year-old kids who have been given a uniform and a gun and told to shoot an unknown "enemy," but, rather, a deliberate attempt to eliminate the "bastards" who sent them into the "killing fields."



Yamata's plans are crumbling around him, and he is powerless to stem the tide. With all of the bad news—destruction of the air defense system and the missile sites, along with the rescue of Koga and the killing of the most prominent zaibatsu—Japan will be in political, economic and military ruins. Yet, Zamata sees himself as a man with a deep sense of honor, not able to admit defeat and unwilling to allow capitulation to the Americans. One is left to wonder whether these are the actions of a Japanese steeped too heavily in classical tradition or of an obsessed madman.

Chris Cook has reaped his karma and learned that, especially in time of conflict, even "non-critical" information can have devastating impact, as in the instance of the kidnapping of Koga. In this instance, the definition of treason is according to strict Constitutional guidelines and has none of the gray areas in the other discussions of treason vs. patriotism in the work. The ultimate punishment for treason is execution, but the reader is left to wonder what the actual penalty will be.

The ease with which the U.S. neutralizes India is certainly interesting. With nuclear weapons of her own and an apparent interest in a future of imperialism, the Prime Minister "caved" rather quickly. It remains to be seen how China will respond to the demise of Japan and the clear ability of the U.S. and Russia to devise innovative strategies to defeat an enemy. Both of these countries are only emerging as economic forces, however, and siding with a loser will not be beneficial.



Chapter 47

Chapter 47 Summary

All but over, the American involvement in the "war" has been a matter of days, with a loss of three U.S. fighter planes and 2 pilots. Receiving word that all objectives have been achieved, Ryan reminds Durling that they now must offer the Japanese an honorable way out. Word is sent to the U.S. Ambassador Whiting to meet with Koga and ensure him that relationships will be normalized as quickly as possible, even though Koga is not yet the official Prime Minister.

In Tokyo, Koga enters Goto's office, forcing him to resign in the face of a vote of no-confidence. Yamata, having received word of the downfall of his puppet administration and the capitulation of India, contacts his one remaining ally, Zhang Han San, asking him for sanctuary in China. He is gruffly rebuffed. At this point, General Arima, who has been persuaded to surrender Saipan, arrives and places Yamata under arrest. True to his classical traditionalist loyalty, Yamata asks to have a minute alone, for the purpose of committing suicide. Arima denies him this dignity, perhaps the most devastating of all defeats for Yamata. He is handcuffed and will face treason charges upon his return to Tokyo.

Back in Washington, Ed Kealty has delivered his resignation to the Secretary of State, and has plans to make a public announcement of apology to the nation and to Barbara Linders. For some time, Durling has been considering a replacement and has determined that Jack Ryan is the most valuable person right now. Jack, with consent of his wife, agrees to take the position through the end of Durling's current term only.

Clark and Chavez, happy to be returning home, fly from Saipan to Narita and board a JAL flight to Vancouver, where they will catch a connecting flight to the U.S. Captain Sato is the pilot for the Narita to Vancouver leg of their journey. Once in Vancouver, Sato has a day-long layover and spends it reflecting upon his life, particularly his regret at not having remained in the military to die a hero like his brother and son. Grabbing a U.S. newspaper in the lobby of his hotel, he reads of the important event to take place in Washington that evening. Perhaps he can still die a hero. Filing a false flight plan, he stabs his co-pilot and takes off for Washington. Senators and Congressmen, along with Durling, Jack and family, are all congregated in the chamber of the House of Representatives for the swearing in. Just as the oath of office is taken, Sato crashes into the Capitol Building, while secret service personnel drag Durling and the Ryan family into the tunnel for safety. Durling does not make it. In an instant, Jack is sworn in as President, taking over a country that has weathered four crises only to be faced with one far more destructive in human lives lost. Shaken but resolved, Ryan addresses the American public with a brief message, assuring everyone that America is not just a piece of ground or government buildings. America is the freedoms, ideals and tenacity with which she was born.



Chapter 47 Analysis

The literary definition of a tragedy is a fictional tale which ends badly—usually by death and destruction, along with personal devastation for the survivors. In the tragic ending, however, most authors and playwrights leave a glimmer of hope for the reader or audience. The attack on the Capitol, along with the death of countless legislators and the President, is the tragic ending that follows a victorious and valiant defense of America in the face of almost insurmountable attacks on its very fabric. The hope, of course, is that Jack Ryan will be a forceful, non-nonsense, ethical and straightforward replacement for Durling, who will oversee healing and set America back on its course of world leadership.

Yamata's story is seen as more tragic than America's. To him, classical definitions of honor, tradition, and greatness are so internalized that he will do anything to achieve them. Ambition, however, is his fatal flaw, for it catapults him into reckless and risky action that jeopardizes his beloved country and fellow citizens, as he strives to realize his debt of honor and, more importantly, become the most revered individual in Japan. Failing in every endeavor, Yamata's last bit of honor and dignity is denied him, as he is carted off for trial rather than to a grave.

Sato has realized that he abandoned honor and dignity when he gave up his military career for that of a commercial pilot, transporting people to and from meaningless and endless days of mediocrity. The deaths of his brother and son, in addition to causing great despair, rouse him to recapture the classical Japanese traditions of military greatness and honor, including sacrificing one's life for his country. Indeed, he believes that, in this final act of suicidal destruction, he has regained the honor he abandoned years ago and is able to join his relatives within the ranks of honorable heroes.

The ending, as shocking and surprising as it is, was almost unnecessary given the multiple themes being presented throughout the work. Perhaps the author is attempting to point out that random acts which, by definition, are never anticipated, can alter the course of history. Random acts certainly occur throughout the novel, such as the production of defective gas tanks, and these acts launch consequences which can be far-reaching. The universality of this concept can be projected into contemporary history, moreover, when one considers the chain of events that have followed the 9/11 catastrophe, each event serving as a cause for the next.



Characters

Jack Ryan

Former CIA operative, Jack Ryan, left government service some years ago, apparently following an incident involving dangerous circumstances for his family. He entered the investment field and, given his intelligence and ability to grasp the complex, has made quite a substantial amount of money. He is a bit bored but content with his family, an eye surgeon wife and two beautiful daughters. Jack is tapped for a position in Roger Durling's administration as National Security Adviser, a position he has agreed to assume through the end of Durling's current term, several months from now. Jack is comfortable within the government departments and this position is logical given his past CIA record. When the crises hit shortly after his assumption of the new position, Jack is bombarded with tasks that seem almost insurmountable. He is innately intelligent however, and has a creative mind which serves him well in the development of unique and unprecedented solutions to economic, political and military problems. Jack is also a man who clearly cannot say "no" when his country calls and, for this reason, he accepts the Vice-Presidency, never thinking that he could be catapulted into the Presidency through a single act of treachery. Jack Ryan is a man who sees few "gray" areas when it comes to patriotism, ethics, and democratic principles, and he is willing to accept that murder, intrigue, and deception are sometimes necessary to protect his country and to allow him to fulfill his and his country's debts of honor.

Raizo Zamata

Orphaned as a child, when his family leaped from a cliff in Saipan to avoid occupation by invading American forces, Zamata has grown up hating the United States and what it did to his family and his country. Believing that Japan deserves a premier place in the world and that only lack of raw materials and nuclear power stand in her way, Zamata has mobilized the zaibatsu to achieving these goals. Zamata's plans are intricate and complex and include attacks on the political, economic and military structures of America, as well as control of his own country's government through the placement of a "puppet" in the position of Prime Minister. Zamata is Machiavellian in his approach to goal achievement and, from a philosophical standpoint, can justify any action whatsoever to achieve status for himself and his country. As his character develops through the novel, moreover, the egocentric and socio-pathological nature of his personality becomes evident. Underlying his debt of honor to his family and country is the self-satisfaction of personal wealth, power and glory, as he reflects upon the potential attainment of the position of Prime Minister of one of the most powerful countries in the world. Zamata is clearly a genius, yet, as is sometimes the case with this group, has allowed personal tragedy and obsessions to control how that genius is applied. Unfortunately, his personal ambition is ultimately unrealistic and his actions too flawed to withstand a well-planned and unified attack.



John Clark

John Clark is a CIA operative who has probably been involved in a number of undercover assignments and tasks that will forever remain secret. The reader's introduction to him is as he is winding up a covert operation in Africa, capturing a deposed military dictator who had slaughtered many in his country. John is re-assigned to Japan, primarily to implement a plan to find an American woman who may have fallen victim to a sadistic Japanese politician. His cover is as a Russian journalist, along with his "photographer," fellow operative Ding Chavez. During his stay in Japan, the orders change, due to Japanese military action against the United States. John becomes an important asset for the United States, funneling important political and military information back to his superiors through secure Russian channels.

Dingo Chavez

Dingo is John Clark's partner in covert operations for the CIA. He was with Clark during the African escapade and has also joined him in Japan. Dingo is considerably younger than Clark and in love with Clark's daughter, a college student. Dingo is especially adept with a new weapon, a light ray type of device that renders an adversary stunned and helpless. This weapon is easily hidden in Dingo's photographic equipment. He is presented as a less intense individual than partner Clark but is certainly committed to his tasks and his country. Like Clark, however, he is truly proficient in languages, learning both Japanese and Russian in a short period of time.

Goto

Goto is the leader of the opposition party, that is, the political party that does not have a majority of members in the Japanese Diet. He is not highly intelligent and is completely controlled by Yamata and other zaibatsu members. Goto has many vices, including drink and sex, and has imported an American girl, Kimberly Norton, who has become little more than a concubine. Due to Yamata's maneuverings, Prime Minister Koga is forced to resign, and Goto is elevated to that spot. It appears that Goto has one strength—he is able to give speeches and incite the populace to anger with America.

Roger Durling

Durling is President of the United States and, while clearly a strong individual, is given almost a minor role in the text. He is obviously close with Ryan and in charge of all decisions of state but other "players" are far more involved in the daily operations of crisis resolution. Durling is nearing the end of his term and, as any politician, truly wants his legacy to be a good one. He has surrounded himself with excellent advisers and staff, clearly a sign of superior management.



Ed Kealty

Vice-President Kealty becomes the subject of investigation when a former female aide accuses him of rape. It is obvious that Kealty is a womanizer, but he insists that all of the women with whom he has been involved were willing participants. Eventually, in order to get one problem off of Durling's plate, Ed agrees to resign and a deal is made with the Justice Department.

George Winston

George is the founder of the Columbus Group, a major investment firm on Wall Street. Having made his fortune at a relatively young age, he decides to retire and sells his interest in the firm to Yamata. Bored with retirement and apprised of the Wall Street crisis, he returns to take over the firm and eventually discovers the treachery of Yamata. Together, Winston and Ryan devise the plan to resolve the financial crisis and panic, stabilizing both the stock market and the dollar.

Chet Nomuri

Chet is an American citizen working for the CIA in Tokyo, using the cover of a Japanese citizen and management employee of a business there. His initial assignment was simply to gather information relative to business and industry in Japan, but, once the attack on America has occurred, he is given much greater responsibility in working with Clark and Chavez. Nomuri is able to infiltrate the zaibatsu somewhat by frequenting bath and tea houses and engaging them in conversation.

Chris Cook

Chris is an ambitious deputy assistant with the State Department. He is "recruited" by Seiji Nagumo, an intelligence agent for the zaibatsu under cover at the Japanese embassy, to "sell" information, with promises of both immediate cash and a lobbying position for Japanese zaibatsu once he retires. Chris has big plans for a new house and superior college educations for his children and rationalizes that his treasonous acts are relatively minor. In the end, he is abandoned by Seiji when he can no longer deliver and is arrested.

Seiji Nagumo

A shrewd intelligence gatherer, Seiji wins the confidence of Chris Cook, using him not only to gather classified information but also to pressure American negotiators to make concessions to the Japanese. Eventually unable to achieve what he wants through Chris, Seiji abandons him to deal with the consequences of his traitorous acts.



Chuck Searls

A computer guru, Searls has devised a program by which every trade on Wall Street is recorded on a daily basis and collated for each major investment house. For a huge amount of cash and a new identity, Searls embeds a destruct virus into his program. When activated, all trades for an entire day are erased, creating havoc and panic in the investment world.

Al Trent

Al is a Congressman from Massachusetts who works hard for his constituents. He is pushing for a factory in his home state to be contracted to provide the gas tanks for the new and popular Japanese Cresta. Once the faulty Japanese-made fuel tanks cause the deaths of five Americans, Trent writes and proposes a new trade reform bill which provides for tighter inspection of all Japanese goods sold in the United States. With the successful passage of the bill, the Japanese automobile industry is thrown into disarray, giving Yamata the necessary ammunition to convince the zaibatsu to take action against the United States.

Ron Jones

Ron is a civilian contractor with the U.S. Navy. A master of radar, he is able to plot the exact locations of Japanese submarines and becomes a critical asset in U.S. military action against Japan

Admiral Chandraskatta

Head of Indian naval forces in the Indian Ocean, Chandraskatta keeps the U.S. Naval carriers under Mike Dubro busy while Japan cripples the two carriers in the Pacific. Chandraskatta's ultimate goal is to transport troops for an invasion and occupation of Sri Lanka.

Mike Dubro

Mike is commander of two U.S. Naval carriers in the Indian Ocean. He is occupied in a cat and mouse game with Chandraskatta, spending his time and energy avoiding detection by the Indian Navy and becoming frustrated with lack of direction from Washington. Eventually, U.S. planes demonstrate their power in the Indian Ocean, and Chandraskatta is given orders from his Prime Minister to come home.



Pete Burroughs

An American on vacation in Saipan, Burroughs becomes involved with Oreza in keeping watch of Japanese troop activity and reporting, via his cell phone, to Washington.

Segey Golovko

Once Ryan's nemesis, Golovko remains head of the Russian KGB, but with current friendly relations between their two countries, Golovko becomes an invaluable ally in the fight against the Japanese

Sandy Richter

U.S. helicopter pilot who gets into Japan, aided by Rangers who have been dropped into a remote area, and who, along with two other pilots, is responsible for the operation that takes out Japanese air defense planes

Robert Jackson

Jackson is a Rear Admiral for the U.S. Navy and close friend of Jack Ryan. Together with Ryan, a plan is developed to hit strategic Japanese targets and to effect a temporary and quick repair to a crippled carrier and get it back into the Pacific without Japanese knowledge.



Objects/Places

Saipan

Island in the Mariana Chain, occupied by Japan during World War II and fictitiously again in the novel

Columbus Group

Investment firm founded by George Winston, the controlling interest of which is purchased by Yamata

Japanese Diet

The legislative body of the democratic government in Japan

Indian Ocean

Site of military maneuverings between U.S. and Indian Naval forces

Sri Lanka

Small independent nation India plans to invade and occupy

Comanche

Name for specific type of helicopter, considered to be the best

Ohio Class Submarines

U.S. Naval submarines, named after the state of Ohio, considered to be the quietest subs made

U.S.S. Enterprise

U.S. Naval carrier disabled by a Japanese strike



U.S.S. John Stennis

U.S. Naval carrier disabled by Japanese strike

Elmendorf

U.S. air base in Alaska

Northern Resource Area

Area of Eastern Siberia which Japan and China intend to invade, occupy and share

JAL

Name of largest commercial airliner in Japan

Bath Houses

gathering places for Japanese businessmen to unwind after work

Zaibatsu

Japanese term referring to a small group of wealthy industrialists and bankers which control politics in their country

Gaijin

Derogatory traditionalist Japanese term roughly translated as "barbarian"

Themes

Honor

The dictionary definition of honor is "adherence to principles considered right; integrity." A debt of honor refers to what is owed to a person or entity in order to maintain one's integrity or to sustain the principles of that person or entity. In this work, debts of honor are clearly in conflict. To Yamata, the debt of honor is owed his family and his country, and it involves somehow avenging the suicide death of immediate family members and the humiliating defeat and occupation of his beloved country, a nation in which honor and principles, especially those of family and country, are centuries old and woven into the fabric of even modern society. To pay his debt of honor, however, Yamata is willing to engage in wholly dishonorable acts, including murder, treachery, and destruction of the stability of another nation.

Jack Ryan's debt of honor appears to be primarily to his country, a nation founded on principles to which he is wholly committed. To pay his debt of honor, Ryan is also clearly willing to condone murder and, in some instances, order it. In this respect, both men share commonality. As one attempts to justify the strong feeling that Yamata is wrong and Ryan is right, it is necessary to analyze additional behaviors of each man. First, Yamata sees the destruction of other societies as the only means by which he can pay his debt. Second, there are certainly some self-serving, personal goals involved in his quest—primarily political ones—that, if attained, will make him the most important person in his envisioned empire. Clearly, there is an egocentric element in Yamata's personality that drives him just as much his "debt." For Ryan, however, honor does not involve "first strike" acts of aggression on the part of the United States. While he regrets the reduction in military readiness, he is committed to diplomacy and negotiation in resolving conflict among nations. Ryan seems to see killing as a necessary evil when one is attacked by another, or, in the case of his country, when acts of aggression require military responses. Further, Ryan's character is developed as one who has no personal ambition but who serves his country when asked, because his life has been blessed by its principles. To further refine the concept of honor, it appears that one must go beyond people and country, particularly in an era when globalization has created such interdependency among nations. Debts of honor must be seen, perhaps, in terms of what is owed all mankind, transcending the nationalistic principles which have guided political leaders for centuries.

Defining Treason

Throughout this work, the concept of treason is discussed. From a strictly Constitutional standpoint, treason constitutes any action which betrays the government of one's country and/or the aiding and abetting one's country's enemies. The African General Corp, leading a group of revolutionaries, was thus captured and turned over to the legitimate government of his country for trial as a traitor. Chris Cook is a traitor, because



he divulged clearly classified information to an agent of another country, with whom America was engaged in conflict. Chuck Searls could be considered a traitor as well, for he sabotaged a computer system which could have thrown the entire American economy into an irreversible tailspin. Further, he was paid by a foreign national to do it. On the other hand, we applaud the treasonous activities of those who would work to overthrow governments in countries which are enemies of America, sometimes calling them patriots. Kimura, for example, holding a high ministry position, works with his country's enemies to bring about the end of the current administration. To the existing government's opposition, however, he is a patriot, disregarding the law for a higher good. The reader also discovers that Kimura has been acting in the interests of Russia for a far longer period. To the author, then, it appears that perhaps treason is relative, not axiomatic, and must be defined within the context of the current political situation in a country or the world. When a government is corrupt, when human rights principles are undermined, and when the existing powers are taking their country toward destruction, treason can evolve into patriotism.

Globalization

The "shrinking" of the world certainly has its benefits. People of a wide varieties of cultures are able to communicate instantaneously; satellites can take pictures of any spot on the globe and transmit those pictures to any other spot in the world. Corporations are able to conduct business with corporations and governments the world over and do so quickly and efficiently. Technological, scientific and medical advances can be shared easily. Products can have global markets and improve people's lives, if they can afford them. With these benefits, as Clancy points out, also come difficulties. First, economies are intricately tied to one another. Since international investment houses and banks trade each other's currencies, the relative value of currencies can be fragile indeed. A single "blip" can result in a currency's immediate appreciation or depreciation and bring havoc to a country. Foreign corporate and real estate investments also can result in the "purchase" of services to pressure and influence laws of a country. Thus, retired American legislators go on to far more lucrative positions as lobbyists for the Japanese zaibatsu, in order to generate support for laws favorable to Japanese businesses. Probably the single most dangerous threat of globalization, however, is that apparent random events can create international crises. The importation of defective gas tanks, for example, resulted in deaths which launched legislation that served as the catalyst needed by Zamata to seal the support of his fellow zaibatsu and initiate his plans.



Style

Point of View

The author's perspective is a combination of third person omniscient and first person throughout, and this is critical to the impact of the plot. If only events and characters marched through the rising action, the reader would be unable to understand the reasons for the myriad of complex events and incidents. Indeed, by allowing the reader to know the innermost thoughts of each character, as he or she plays a part in one or more of the subplots, Clancy guarantees an understanding of how and why the actions occur, giving far more credibility to the unfolding of events and the potential of them occurring outside the realm of fiction. As each major character unfolds and evolves, moreover, moving into the first person becomes essential so that one receives a comprehensive portrayal of thoughts, emotions, and thinking processes. One is able to gain significant insight into the personality strengths and flaws which cause individuals to act as they do, not simply within the confines of this fiction but in the real world as well. It is this use of both perspectives, ultimately, that undergirds not only the universality of the major themes but the analysis of personality types and their motivations.

Setting

Juggling multiple settings while keeping the integrity of the novel's plot is truly one of the successes of this author. In almost every one of the forty-seven chapters, the reader is moved from Washington, D.C., where President Durling, National Security Adviser, Jack Ryan, and multiple government and political officials gather to report, analyze, evaluate and direct; to Japan, where covert U.S. and Russian agents are pitted against Yamata and his zaibatsu; to India, where Admiral Mike Dubro plays cat and mouse with Indian Navy Commander Chandraskatta; and to Wall Street, where investors and corporate traders play out their drama. Amidst these major settings, the reader is also taken to Saipan, part of the Mariana Islands invaded and occupied by Japanese forces, the middle of the Pacific, where military games and then actual battles occur, to Moscow, where two presidents simultaneously blow up their last nuclear missile silos, and to remote Russian military bases, where U.S. troops and helicopters are secretly hidden from the enemy. In terms of time frame, the plot is initially seen as politically futuristic. America and Russia are dismantling the last of their ICBM's, even though other nations still maintain them. As well, the "light-ray" weapon introduced early in the work, appears a bit like something out of science fiction. The political, social and economic situations, however, are decidedly contemporary, pointing out that real-world versions of these events are clearly possible.



Language and Meaning

Clancy is difficult for many readers, and the most often heard complaint is that his works are so filled with military terminology that one becomes frustrated while attempting to "sift" through all of it to glean the more salient parts of the plot. In some areas, in fact, the military terminology is so heavily utilized during air and water strikes, that it may be a bit difficult to follow who is doing what to whom. As well, without at least a cursory understanding of radar and sonar technology, it is often unclear what and how enemy planes and submarines are being detected or how they are avoiding detection. As well, the lengthy and often detailed explanations of investment maneuverings and relative currency fluctuations can detract from the overall significance of what is truly occurring to throw the U.S. economy into a tailspin. While the vocabulary will not require continual referral to a dictionary, the financial and technological manipulations can be difficult to fully comprehend. Aside from the military and financial details, however, the plot unfolds easily into a series of sub-plots, each one a separate and yet interrelated story of its own. Key terms, such as honor, treason and patriotism, are used in a variety of circumstances throughout the work and defined differently within the perspective of a variety of characters. Honor encompasses ethics and principles, loyalty to country, revenge, treachery and sabotage. Patriotism and treason, strictly defined as opposites, mesh together into a series of "grays." What is treason to one thus become patriotism to another. Honor to one encompasses self-serving goals; to another, self-sacrificing goals. The use of these terms in such a variety of ways, however, allows the reader important insights into human nature.

Structure

Four crises, occurring simultaneously, provide structural challenges for even the most gifted author. Yet, in *Debt of Honor*, author Clancy is quite successful. With only a few exceptions, each chapter, though often short in length, manages to move each crisis forward, taking the reader from America to Asia and back again, as each crisis becomes a sub-plot, woven into the larger picture, with its own climax and denouement. The main characters—Yamata and Ryan—provide the common element that provides continuity to the structure. Yamata has his hand in each of the crises, as the instigator of three and the reactor to the fourth. Ryan, as the National Security Adviser, provides factual reports and advice to the President and, as such gives instructions to U.S. agents and military commanders in the President's name. The completely sequential nature in the development of each sub-plot, placing that development into the same time frame with the others, ensures that the reader is never confused by being moved back and forth in time while s/he is attempting to retain the important details of complex manipulations and military and intelligence operations. The work is divided roughly into thirds. The first of these sections prepares the reader with solid background information and insights into the characters and events, and presents each crisis in detail. The second section involves a disclosure of the military, intelligence, and financial strategies, still leaving several surprises for the reader. The final section involves the implementation of the plans and the successful defeat of Yamata at his own game. The shock ending appears

to be almost an after thought, but perhaps it is important for Clancy to make a final statement—random acts are with us always, and in this certainty there is always uncertainty.



Quotes

The businessman clapped his hands once and bowed his head, both to call the attention of the lingering spirits to his presence and to show proper obeisance to their influence over his destiny. It was fitting, he thought, that his purchase of this parcel of land now meant that 50.016% of the real estate on Saipan was again in Japanese hands, more than fifty years since his family's death at American hands. (p. 14)

"Money" was mainly an electronic expression, a matter of sending a message: You, First National Bank of Podunk, now have an additional three million dollars which you may lend to Joe's hardware, or Jeff Brown's Gas-and-Go, or for new homeowners to borrow as mortgage loans to pay back for the next twenty years. Few of these people were paid in cash—with credit cards there was less for a robber to steal, an employee to embezzle, or most inconveniently of all, a clerk to count, recount, and walk to the local branch of the bank. As a result, what appeared by the magic of the computer E-mail or teleprinter message was lent out by written draft, to be repaid later by yet another theoretical expression, usually a check written on a small slip of special paper, often decorated with the picture of a flying eagle or a fishing boat on some lake that didn't exist, because the banks competed for customers and people liked such things. (pp. 58-59)

The more basic problem he understood better than the leader of his parliamentary opposition. Japan was not a democracy in any real sense. Rather like America in the late Nineteenth Century, the government was in fact, if not in law, a kind of official shield for the nation's business. The country was really run by a relative handful of businessmen—the number was under thirty, or even under twenty, depending on how you reckoned it—and despite the fact that those executives and their corporations appeared to be cut-throat competitors, in reality they were all associates, allied in every possible way, co-directorships, banking partnerships, all manner of inter-corporate cooperation agreements. Rare was the parliamentarian who would not listen with the greatest care to a representative of one of the zaibatsu. Rarer still was the Diet member who was graced with a personal audience with one of these men, and in every such case, the elected government official came away exhilarated at his good fortune, for those men were quite effective at providing what every politician needed: funds. Consequently, their word was law. (p. 120)

All he'd really wanted was for Japan to be a democracy in the true sense of the word, not a place run by a single party beholden in turn to a small number of powerful men. Even thirty years earlier the signs of corruption had been clear to anyone with open eyes, but the voters, the ordinary people, conditioned to two thousand years or more of acceptance, had just gone along with it because the roots of real democracy hadn't taken here any more than the roots of a rice plant in the pliable alluvium of a paddy. That was the grandest of all lies, so grand that it was believed by everyone within his country as well as without. The culture of his country hadn't really changed. Oh, yes, there were the cosmetic changes. Women could vote now, but like women in every other country, they voted their pocketbooks, just as their men did, and they, like their



men, were part of a culture that demanded obeisance of everyone in one way or another. What came down from on high was to be accepted, and because of that his countrymen were easily manipulated. (p. 176)

Goto's voice grew louder. For the first time his fist slammed down on the podium, and the crowd responded with a roar. His diction became more rapid. The crowd was moving inward, and Clark watched the speaker's eyes notice it, welcome it. He wasn't smiling now, but his eyes swept the sea of faces, left and right, fixing occasionally in a single place, probably catching an individual, reading him for reactions, then passing to another to see if he was having the same effect on everyone. He had to be satisfied by what he saw. There was confidence in the voice now. He had them, had them all. By adjusting his speaking pace he could see their breathing change, see their eyes go wide. Clark lowered the camera to scan the crowd and saw the collective movement, the responses to the speaker's words. (p. 228)

"Actually, very simple," Yamata replied. "The government funded the fabrication and testing of the 'boosters' as part of our space program. The plutonium came from the Monju reactor complex. Designing and building the warheads was child's play. If some Arabs can do a crude warhead in a cave in Lebanon, how hard can it be for our technicians?" In fact, everything but the warhead-fabrication process had been government funded in one way or another, and Yamata was sure that the informal consortium that had done the latter would be compensated as well. Had they not done it all for their country? "We will immediately commence training for the Self-Defense Force personnel to take over from our own people—once you assign them to us for that purpose, Goto-san." (pp. 250-251)

What else is going to happen? The volatility of the market had not ended yet, and something like this was sure to exert the kind of downward pressure that never really made any economic sense but was so real that everyone knew it would happen, and because of that planned for it, and because of that made it even more real in what computer engineers called a feedback loop. The market would drop again today. It had trended down for eleven of the past fourteen days, and though the Dow was replete with bargains by any technical measure, the little guys would make their nervous sell order, and the mutual funds, driven by calls from more little guys, would do the same, adding institutional momentum to a totally artificial situation. The entire system was called a true democracy, but if it was, then a herd of nervous cattle was a democracy, too. (pp. 268-69)

Dr. Ron Jones stood up and looked around. It was the same as before, almost. The people were the same, doing the same work, displaying the same competence, but something was missing. The thing that wasn't the same was...what? The large room had a huge chart of the Pacific Ocean on its back wall. Once that chart had been marked with red silhouettes, the class shapes of Soviet submarines, boomers, and fast-attacks, often with black silhouettes in attendance, to show that Pacific SOSUS was tracking "enemy" subs, quarterbacking American fast-attacks onto them, vectoring P-3C Orion ASW birds in to follow them, and occasionally to pounce on and harry them, to let them know who owned the oceans of the world. Now the marks on the wall chart were



of whales, some of them with names, just as with the Russian subs, but the names were things like "Moby and Mabel," to denote a particular pod with a well-known alpha-pair to track by name. There wasn't an enemy now, and the urgency had gone. (pp. 344-45)

Japan demanded much of its citizens—or more properly, its culture did. The boss was always right. A good employee was one who did as he was told. To advance you had to kiss a lot of ass, sing the company song, exercise like somebody in goddamned boot camp every morning, showing up an hour early to show how sincere you were. The amazing part was that anything creative happened here at all. Probably the best of them fought their way to the top despite all this, or perhaps were smart enough to disguise their inner feelings until they got to a position of real authority, but by the time they got there they must have accumulated enough inner rage to make Hitler look like a pansy. Along the way they bled those feelings off with drinking binges and sexual orgies of the sort he'd heard about in this very hot tub...Those things were all symptoms of a society that cultivated psychological repression, whose warm and gentle facade of good manners was like a dam holding back all manner of repressed rage and frustration. That dam occasionally leaked, mostly in an orderly, controlled way, but the strain on the dam was unchanging, and one result of that strain was a way of looking at others, especially gaijin, in a manner that insulted Nomuri's American-cultivated egalitarian outlook. (pp. 371-72)

Cook just didn't get it. Though he was part of the State Department's Japan specialists, he'd not yet been called in for a full briefing and knew only what he'd caught on his car radio, which was thin enough. It was beyond Chris's imagination, Nagumo saw, to consider that his country could be attacked. After all, the Soviets were gone, weren't they? It was gratifying to Seiji Nagumo. Though appalled at the risks that his country was running and ignorant of the reasons for them, he was a patriot. He loved his country as much as any man. He was also part of its culture. He had orders and instructions. Within the confines of his own mind he could rage at them, but he'd decided, simply, that he was a soldier of his country, and that was that. And Cook was the real gaijin, not himself. He kept repeating it to himself. (p. 388)

The hard part always seemed to come after the decisions were made, Ryan knew. It wasn't making them that wore on the soul so much as having to live with them. Had he done the right things? There was no measure except hindsight, and that always came too late. Worse, hindsight was always negative because you rarely looked back to reconsider things that had gone right. At a certain level, things stopped being clear-cut. You weighed options, and you weighed the factors, but very often you knew that no matter which way you jumped, somebody would be hurt. In those cases the idea was to hurt the least number of people or things, but even then real people were hurt who would otherwise not be hurt at all, and you were choosing, really, whose lives would be injured—or lost—like a disinterested god-figure from mythology. It was worse still if you knew some of the players, because they had faces your mind could see and voices it could hear. The ability to make such decisions was called moral courage by those who didn't have to do it, and stress by those who did. (p. 412)



War was always about economics, one of the few things that Marx had gotten right. It was just greed, really, as he'd told the President, an armed robbery writ large. At the nation-state level, the terms were couched in terms such as manifest Destiny of Lebensraum or other political slogans to grab the attention and ardor of the masses, but that's what it came down to: They have it. We want it. Let's get it. (p. 453)



Topics for Discussion

In what ways does Yamata typify traditional Japanese culture? Modern business culture? Support your answer with specific examples from the work.

A phrase from the work states, "There is no divine right of businessmen. Anyone can come in and fill a fill or a need and knock another industry out. Business is a cycle and no one can expect a smooth ride forever." Do you agree? Cite examples from recent times to support this thesis.

Roger Durling is a character not developed as completely as Yamata or Ryan. Given what you do know about him, write a character sketch, giving specific examples from the book to support your analysis.

The Trade Reform Act provided for much stricter inspections of Japanese products coming into the United States. Do you believe that such a law is important? Cite some current situations which might support the view that all imports should be thoroughly inspected.

One of Clancy's themes encompasses the concepts of treason and patriotism. When, in your opinion, does treason become patriotic? Cite specific historical examples.

Yamata wants revenge. Cite a time in your life when you sought revenge. Was it successful? If so, did it result in personal satisfaction?

Sri Lanka is a small country. Given that India needs space and raw materials, what is to be gained by targeting this country for invasion?

Compare and contrast the "debts of honor" of Yamata and of Durling.

Ryan uses the term "new warfare," to refer to political, economic, covert and military actions which differ from the types of actions in wars fought by previous generations. Give contemporary examples of actions which support Ryan's position.