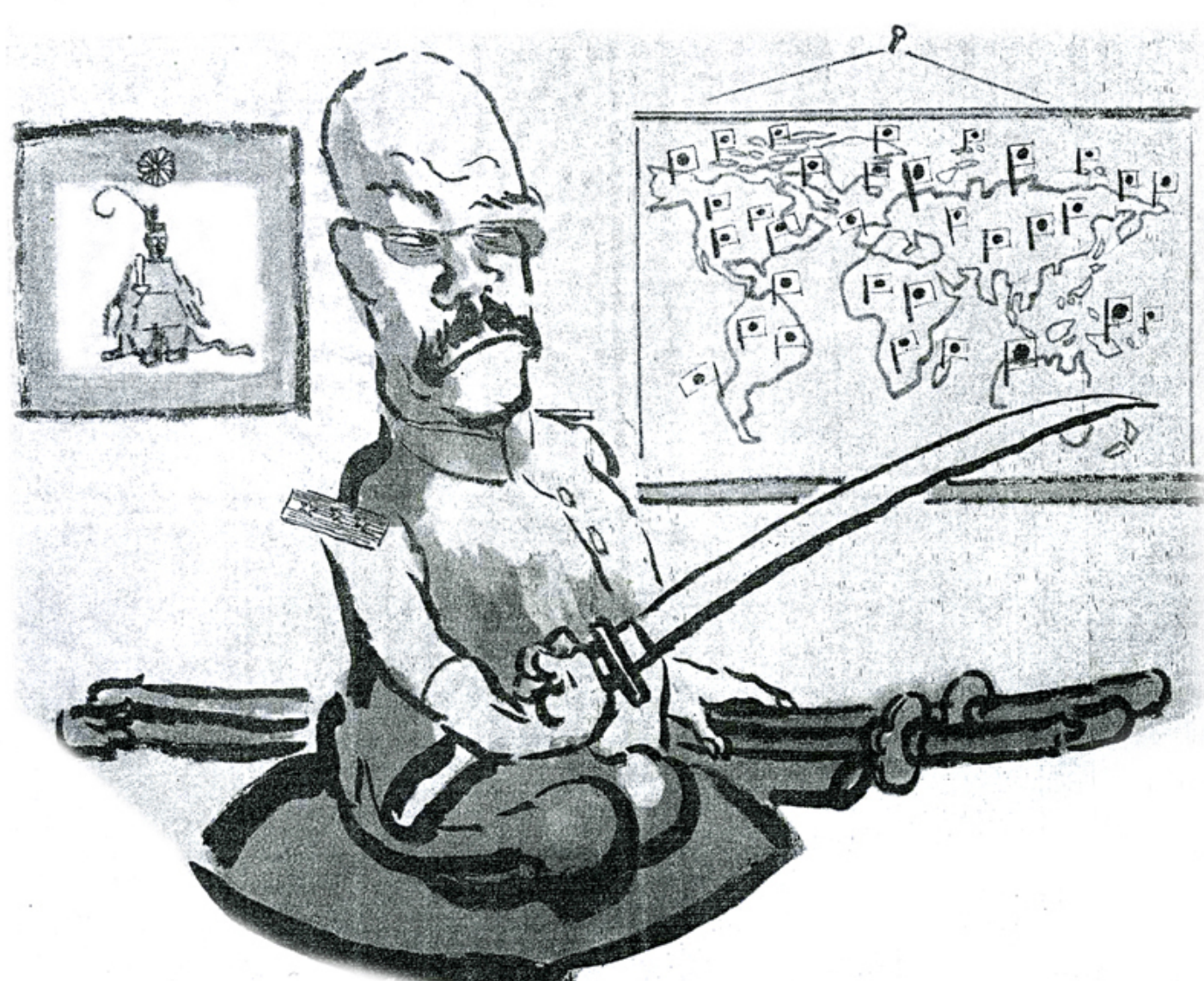


# A Refugee Japanese Artist Depicts the Deeds and Dreams of Tojo



Yashima believes that when the military power of Japan is crushed, the workers and farmers of the country will eagerly learn new ways of life from the Democracies. The underground movement still exists in Japan. After Pearl Harbor, it leaked out that there was a general strike in protest against the war, centered in the industrial city of Kobe. Here twenty-five leaders were arrested, and "disappeared". A wave of suicides also followed. The War-Lords are as brutal to their own people as they are treacherous to the enemy.

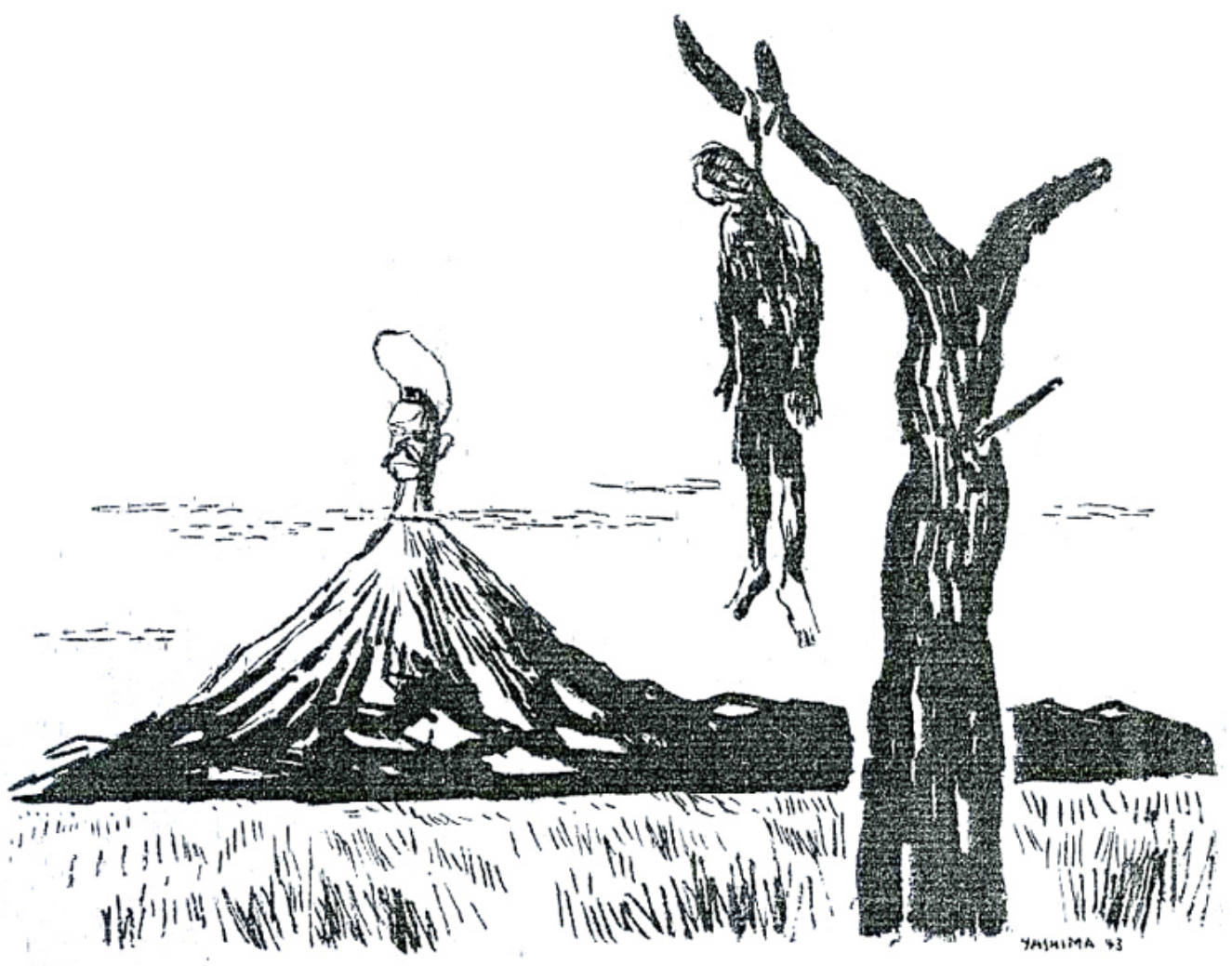
Cartoons show Tojo, in various aspects. He crows like the cock at dawn, to send his slave-workers to the factories; He presides over a suicide, from the heights of Fujiyama; He dreams of a world decorated with an all over pattern of *Rising Suns*.

No country is big enough for art and fascism, so when an artist is born and grows up in a Fascist country, sooner or later he has to die or get out . . . that is the story of thousands of exiled artists today, and it is the story of Taro Yashima, refugee from Japan.

The son of a country doctor in Japan, Yashima was appointed to the Imperial Art Academy where he studied both oriental and western art. Expelled for not conforming to military training, he was forced to take up illustrating for cheap magazines, and so became acquainted with the working population of Tokyo.

He soon found himself fighting with words and pictures, in the underground movement which sought to improve workers' living conditions and to oppose the military clique then coming into power.



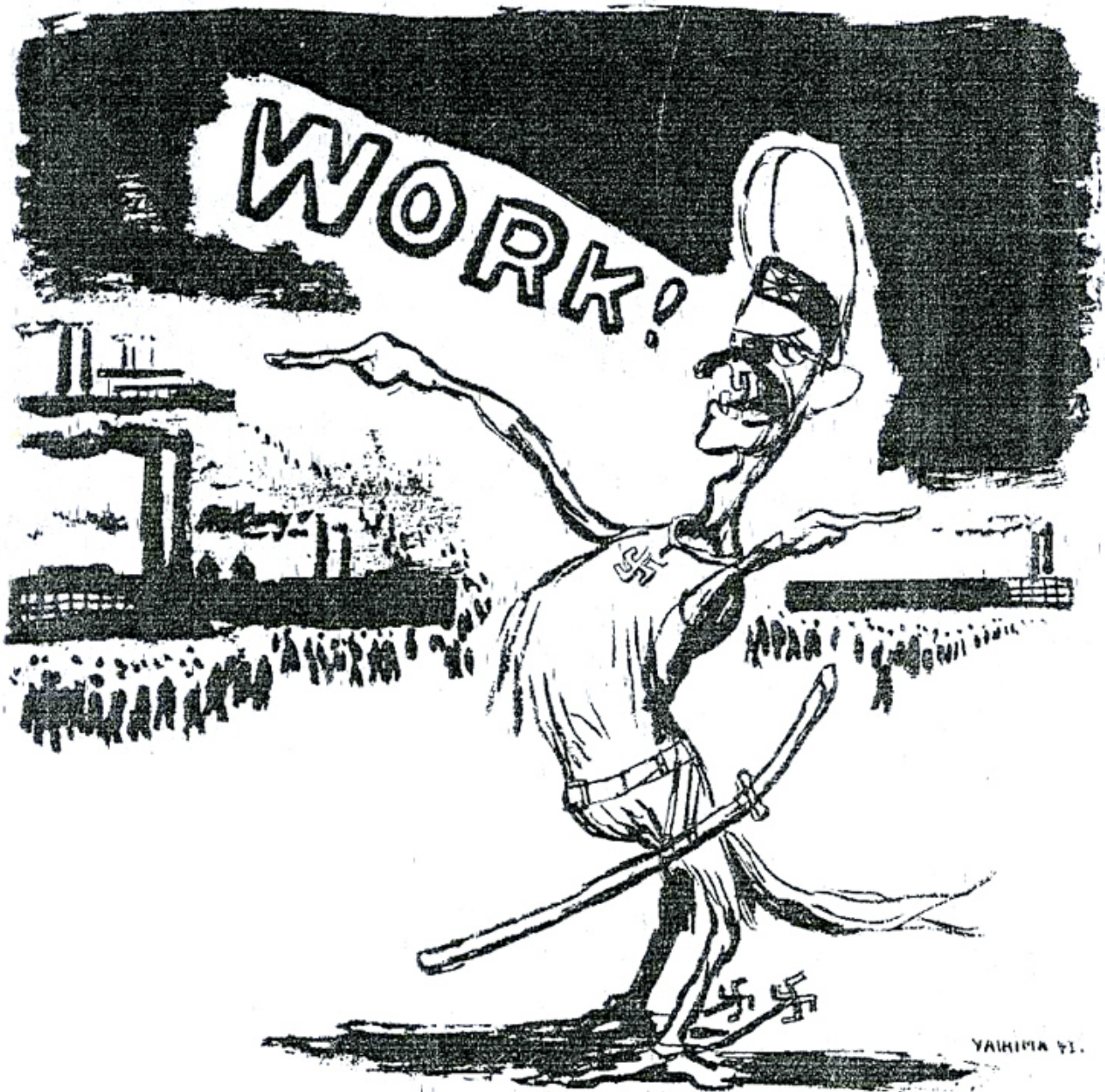


Ten times between 1933 and 1939, Yashima was thrown into jail, "questioned" and tortured, together with his wife, who is also an artist, and had worked among the farmers around Tokyo. At one time, there were over 8 thousand political prisoners in jail with them.

The *Tokkoku*, or Japanese Secret Police, once released Yashima for military training which was conducted with a sadism second only to that of their own methods. He was especially hated for being a "soft boy" by his jujutsu and kenjutsu teachers.

Finally Yashima escaped to this country, with his wife and son. He has made a book of pictures and text, the story of his fight against Japanese tyranny. It is called *The New Sun*, and was published this winter, by Henry Holt and Co. This book won him instant recognition both as a writer and illustrator of incisive style.

Besides starting on a second book, and doing special work for the O. W. I., Yashima draws cartoons for *The Pacific Citizen*, a paper published for loyal Japanese-Americans. The cartoons shown here were done for this paper.



**DIRECTION**

February - March, 1944: p. 18