

All Japan smeared by whaling stand

The conflict between those who want to exploit whales and those who want to protect them cannot be resolved amicably since the two sides have no common ground upon which to forge a compromise. Prowhaling interests may be able to continue their industry but they will never silence the antiwhaling movement. Moreover, the more successful the prowhalers are in expanding the scale of their operations or achieving official recognition of their right to hunt cetaceans, the louder the cries of the antiwhalers become.

Unfortunately but understandably, much of the antiwhalers' anger is directed at Japan and the Japanese people. Because Japan is the world's principal market for whale products and the Japanese government plays an active role in supporting the whaling industry, the nation as a whole pays a continuing price in international credibility and good will for the activities of a minority of special interests.

Whenever a Japanese whaling fleet sails to the Antarctic, a herd of dolphin or porpoises are slaughtered off the Japanese coast or a whaling lobby spokesman attempts to justify whaling in the name of Japanese tradition or culture, millions of people around the world experience feelings of horror, disgust or profound disappointment toward Japan and the Japanese.

This may be unfair and irrational, but the reality is that the entire nation is inevitably blamed for the actions of those who claim to represent it.

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