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Group Hears Agnes Smedley Warn of Chinese Awakening

Agnes Smedley, author of the recently published "Battle Hymn of China," told a Round Table luncheon gathering at the Town Hall Club in New York this week that "Pearl Harbor awakened us to our sense of complacency and of racial superiority."

But the awakening was not yet complete, she added, noting references in the American press to the "natives" of Far Eastern countries, and recurring arguments for the return of the "white man's way" in the Orient.

Dealing in unglved terms with American foreign policies, the writer asserted that "we are almost political illiterates" in the affairs of Asia. And she assailed the U. S. Asiatic policy as being dictated in general by business and imperial interests.

Pearl Harbor also, Miss Smedley said, disillusioned the Chinese about the United States, for it

taught the Chinese that the United States was not impregnable. However, there were still Chinese elements, she added, who believed in democracy.

The writer ranged widely in her address, which was under the heading of "China Fights Back." She related her experiences when attached to the Chinese Army, told of the work of the Chinese cooperatives, voiced superlative praise for the National Health Administration, and the Chinese Red Cross, and expressed the opinion that "the well educated youth of China is the best educated youth in the world."

She concluded by telling of the fears felt by the Chinese as a result of western business and "imperialist" policies, and warned bluntly:

"The men who think these thoughts have guns in their hands, and I do not think they are going to lay them down until they have reached their goal."