

**Pact of Neutrality between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
and Japan  
Moscow, USSR  
April 13, 1941**

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, guided by a desire to strengthen peaceful and friendly relations between the two countries, have decided to conclude a pact on neutrality, for which purpose they have appointed as their Representatives:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics -

Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov,  
Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars  
and People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan -

Yosuke Matsuoka,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jusanmin,  
Cavalier of the Order of the Sacred  
Treasure of the First Class, and

Yoshitsugu Tatekawa,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,  
Lieutenant General, Jusanmin, Cavalier of the  
Order of the Rising Sun of the First Class and  
the Order of the Golden Kite of the Fourth Class,

who, after an exchange of their credentials, which were found in due and proper form, have  
agreed on the following:

**ARTICLE ONE**

Both Contracting Parties undertake to maintain peaceful and friendly relations between them and mutually respect the territorial integrity and inviolability of the other Contracting Party.

**ARTICLE TWO**

Should one of the Contracting Parties become the object of hostilities on the part of one or several third powers, the other Contracting Party will observe neutrality throughout the duration of the conflict.

### **ARTICLE THREE**

The present Pact comes into force from the day of its ratification by both Contracting Parties and remains valid for five years. In case neither of the Contracting Parties denounces the Pact one year before the expiration of the term, it will be considered automatically prolonged for the next five years.

### **ARTICLE FOUR**

The present Pact is subject to ratification as soon as possible. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Tokyo, also as soon as possible.

In confirmation whereof the above-named Representatives have signed the present Pact in two copies, drawn up in the Russian and Japanese languages, and affixed thereto their seals.

Done in Moscow on April 13, 1941, which corresponds to the 13th day of the fourth month of the 16th year of Showa.

V. MOLOTOV  
YOSUKE MATSUOKA  
YOSHITSUGU TATEKAWA

*“Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan.” Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library: The Avalon Project. March 2, 2012.*

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/s1.asp>