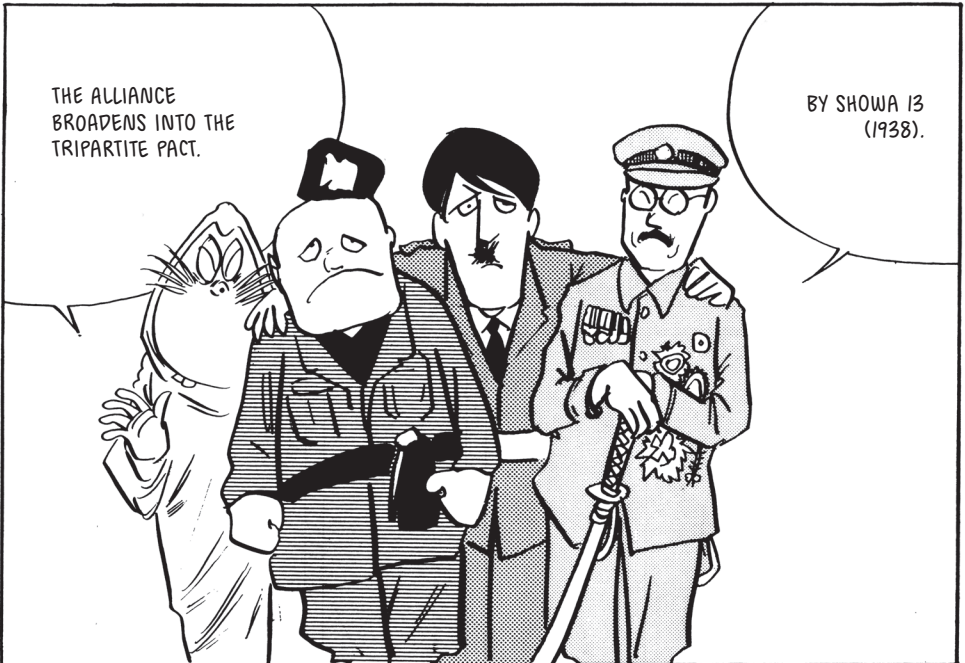


SHOWA 12 (1937): ITALY
FORMALLY JOINS THE
ANTI-COMINTERN
PACT.



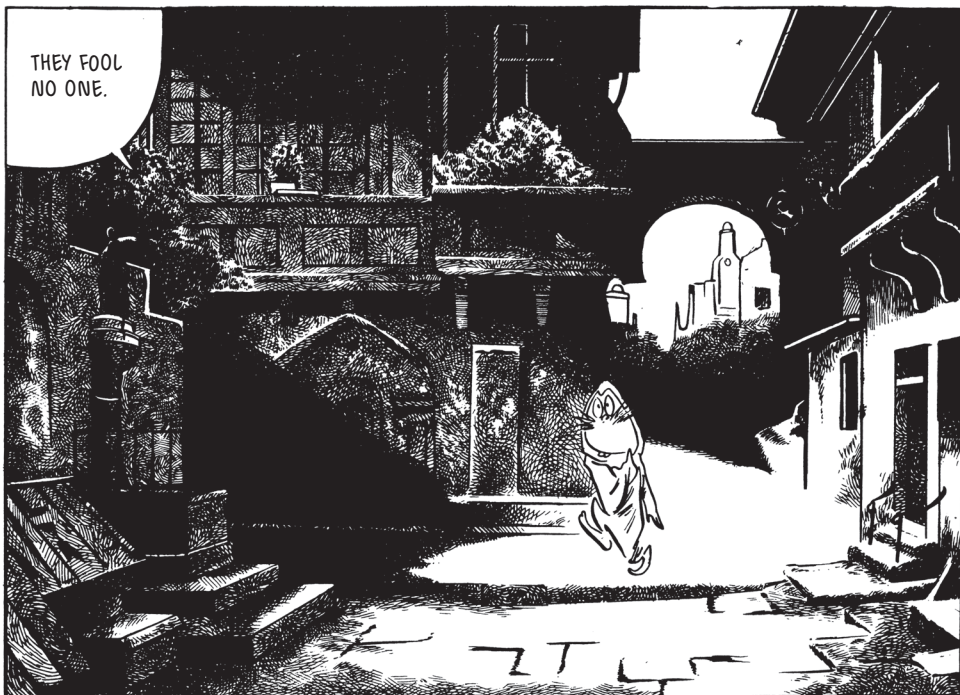
THE ALLIANCE
BROADENS INTO THE
TRIPARTITE PACT.

BY SHOWA 13
(1938).

THE SIGNATORIES ATTEMPT TO ALLAY
FEARS THAT THEY ARE FORGING AN
ANTI-SOVIET FASCISM BLOCK.



THEY FOOL
NO ONE.





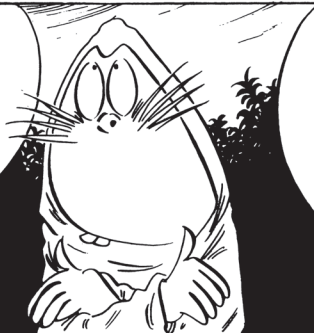
IN THE FAR EAST,
FASCISM FINDS A
READY PARTNER IN
JAPAN.

RIBBENTROP PROPOSES
A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE
AGAINST THE SOVIETS.
IN NOVEMBER, SHOWA
11 (1936), THEY SIGN
THE ANTI-COMINTERN
PACT.*



OCTOBER, SHOWA 10 (1935): NAZI
FOREIGN MINISTER JOACHIM VON
RIBBENTROP APPROACHES
JAPANESE MILITARY ATTACHÉ
COLONEL OSHIMA HIROSHI IN
BERLIN.

BUT A SECRET CLAUSE OUTLINES
A MILITARY ALLIANCE AGAINST
THE SOVIET UNION.



OSTENSIBLY, THE PACT
ONLY CONCERNS THE SPREAD OF
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

* SEE NOTE ON PAGE 524.

THE ETHIOPIAN WAR BEGINS THE GERMAN-ITALIAN ALLIANCE. NEXT, THEY SET SITES ON THE REPUBLIC OF SPAIN.



MUSSOLINI COMMANDS THE NATIONAL FASCIST PARTY AND MAINTAINS A DICTATORIAL REGIME UNTIL 1943. IN 1935, HE WAGES WAR WITH ETHIOPIA AND ANNEXES THE COUNTRY BY THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

FASCISM SWEEPS OVER EUROPE LIKE A TYPHOON.

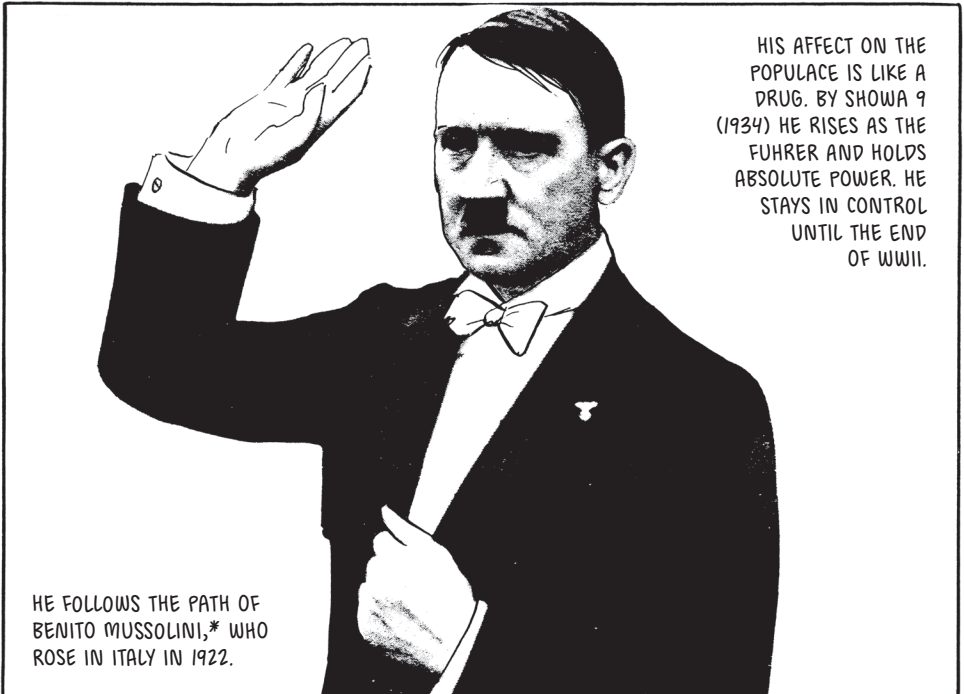


IN SPAIN, GENERAL FRANCISCO FRANCO* LEADS A REVOLT. WITH THE SUPPORT OF GERMAN AND ITALY, FRANCO CRUSHES THE POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT.

* SEE NOTE ON PAGE 524.



AFTER WWI, GERMANY IS EXHAUSTED AND IN RUIN. HITLER* APPEARS LIKE A SAVIOR. GERMANS REMEMBER WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE PROUD.



HIS AFFECT ON THE POPULACE IS LIKE A DRUG. BY SHOWA 9 (1934) HE RISES AS THE FUHRER AND HOLDS ABSOLUTE POWER. HE STAYS IN CONTROL UNTIL THE END OF WWII.

HE FOLLOWS THE PATH OF BENITO MUSSOLINI,* WHO ROSE IN ITALY IN 1922.

* SEE NOTE ON PAGE 524.

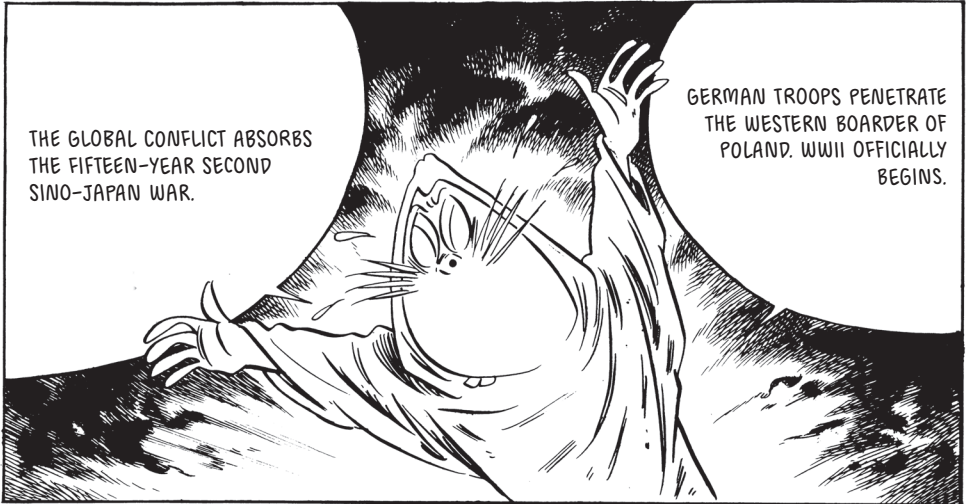
GERMAN WARSHIPS BOMBARD
A POLISH MILITARY FACILITY,
FOLLOWED INSTANTLY BY A
SWARM OF MODERNIZED LAND
AND AIR TROOPS.

SEPTEMBER 1,
SHOWA 15 (1940):
DANZIG PORT,
POLAND.



THE GLOBAL CONFLICT ABSORBS
THE FIFTEEN-YEAR SECOND
SINO-JAPAN WAR.

GERMAN TROOPS PENETRATE
THE WESTERN BORDER OF
POLAND. WWII OFFICIALLY
BEGINS.



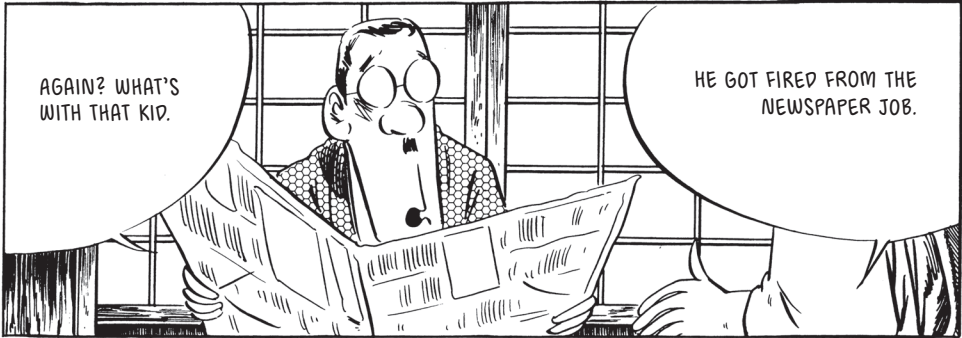




WHAT'S UP WITH SHIGERU?

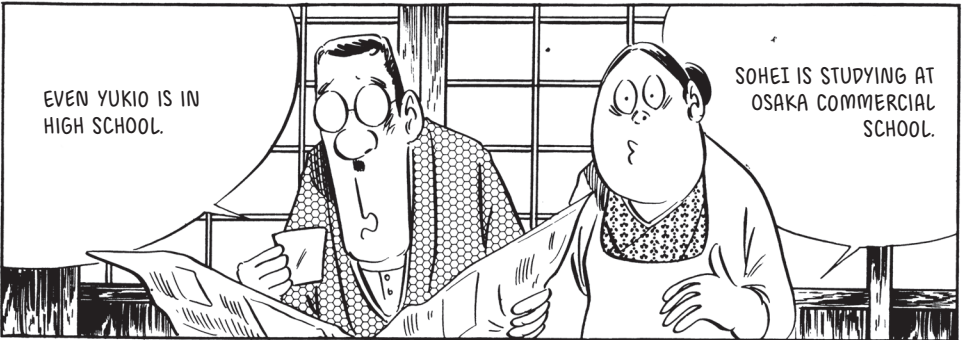
THINGS ARE FINALLY GOING THE WAY THEY SHOULD BE.

UMMMM...THAT'S GOOD.



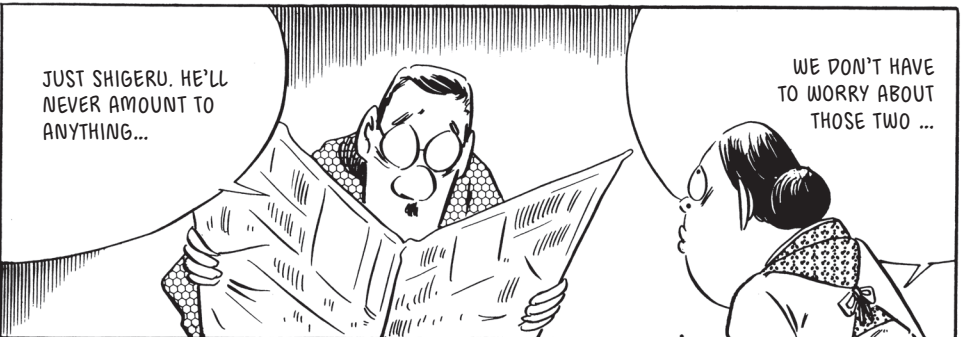
AGAIN? WHAT'S WITH THAT KID.

HE GOT FIRED FROM THE NEWSPAPER JOB.



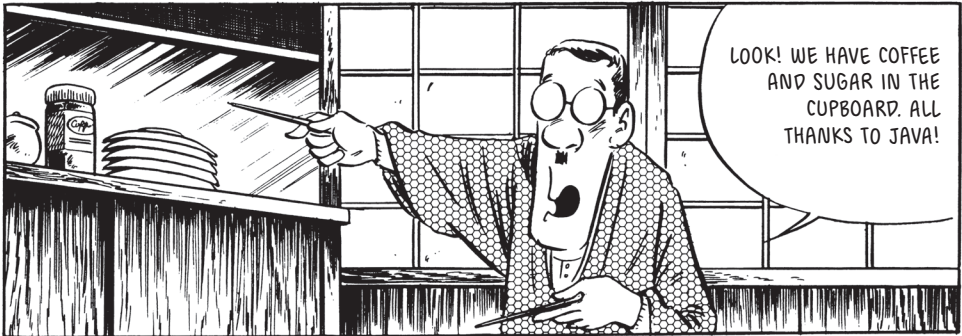
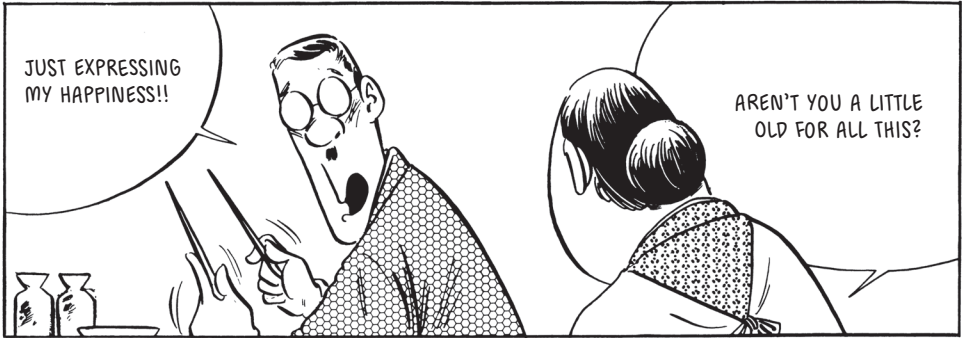
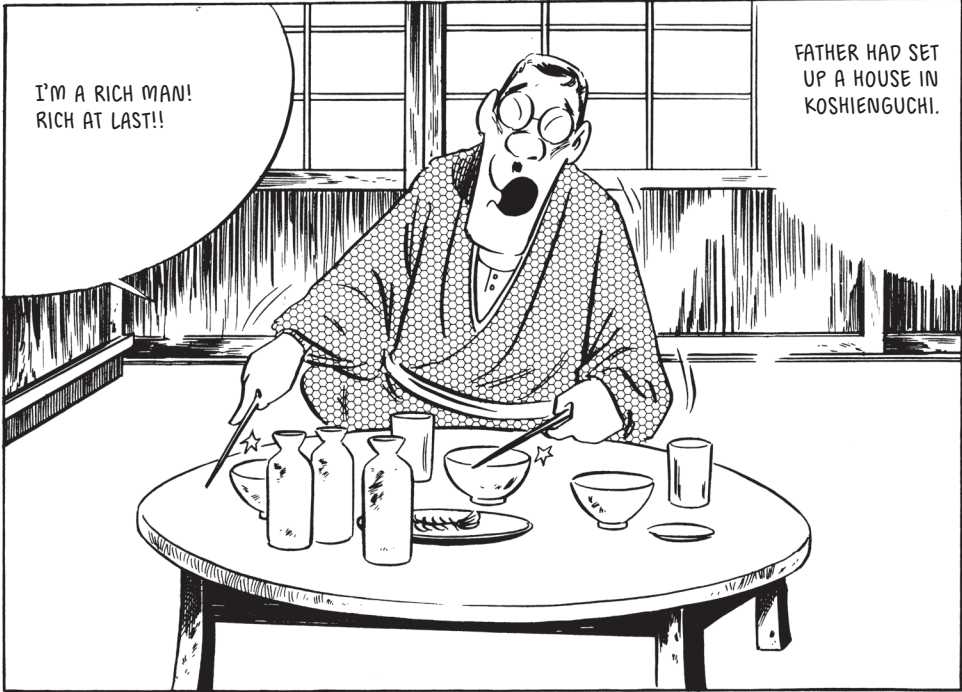
EVEN YUKIO IS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

SOHEI IS STUDYING AT OSAKA COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.



JUST SHIGERU. HE'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING...

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE TWO ...





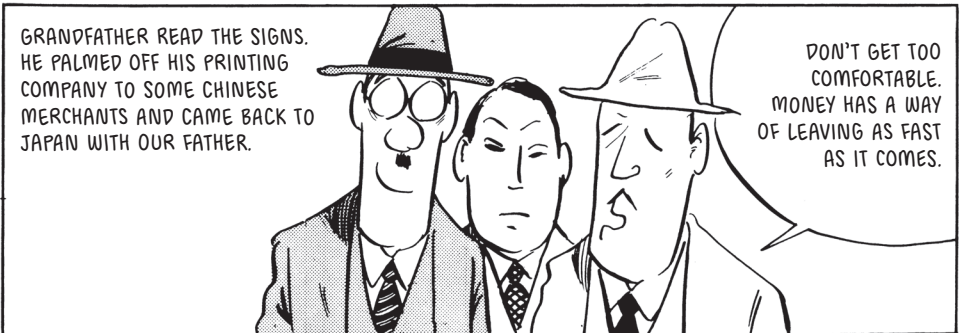
ALL OF THE JAPANESE IN THE SOUTH ISLANDS WANT LIFE INSURANCE.

WITH THE CLOUDS OF WAR GATHERING OVERHEAD...



I'M RAKING IT IN! I'M UP TO 5,000 YEN!

SO? HOW'S IT GOING?



GRANDFATHER READ THE SIGNS. HE PALMED OFF HIS PRINTING COMPANY TO SOME CHINESE MERCHANTS AND CAME BACK TO JAPAN WITH OUR FATHER.

DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE. MONEY HAS A WAY OF LEAVING AS FAST AS IT COMES.