Twitter Thread by Nick Kapur

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A thread of images from a Japanese illustrated history of America from 1861.

Here is George Washington (with bow and arrow) pictured alongside the Goddess of America. 1/



Here is Christopher Columbus (seated at center) reporting his discovery of America to Queen Isabella of Spain.

So far, kinda normal, but wait for it.... 2/



Now it's the American Revolution. Here is George Washington defending his wife "Carol" from a British official named "Asura" (same characters as the Buddhist deity). 3/



And here is Washington's "second-in-command" John Adams battling an enormous snake. 4/



Here is Washington and his wife "Carol" meeting an extremely youthful Benjamin Franklin, who has an impressive squat. 5/



Here's the incredibly jacked Benjamin Franklin firing a cannon that he holds in his bare hands, while John Adams directs him where to fire. 6/



And here is George Washington straight-up punching a tiger. 7/



Best buds John Adams and Ben Franklin must have had a falling out, because John Adams fires an arrow at Ben and then rides away like a cowardly little bitch. Of course Ben Franklin is a total badass, so he just stands there and lets the arrow fly by without even flinching. 8/



During a calmer moment, John Adams is just chillin' in the countryside, having a quiet picnic with his elderly mother... 9/

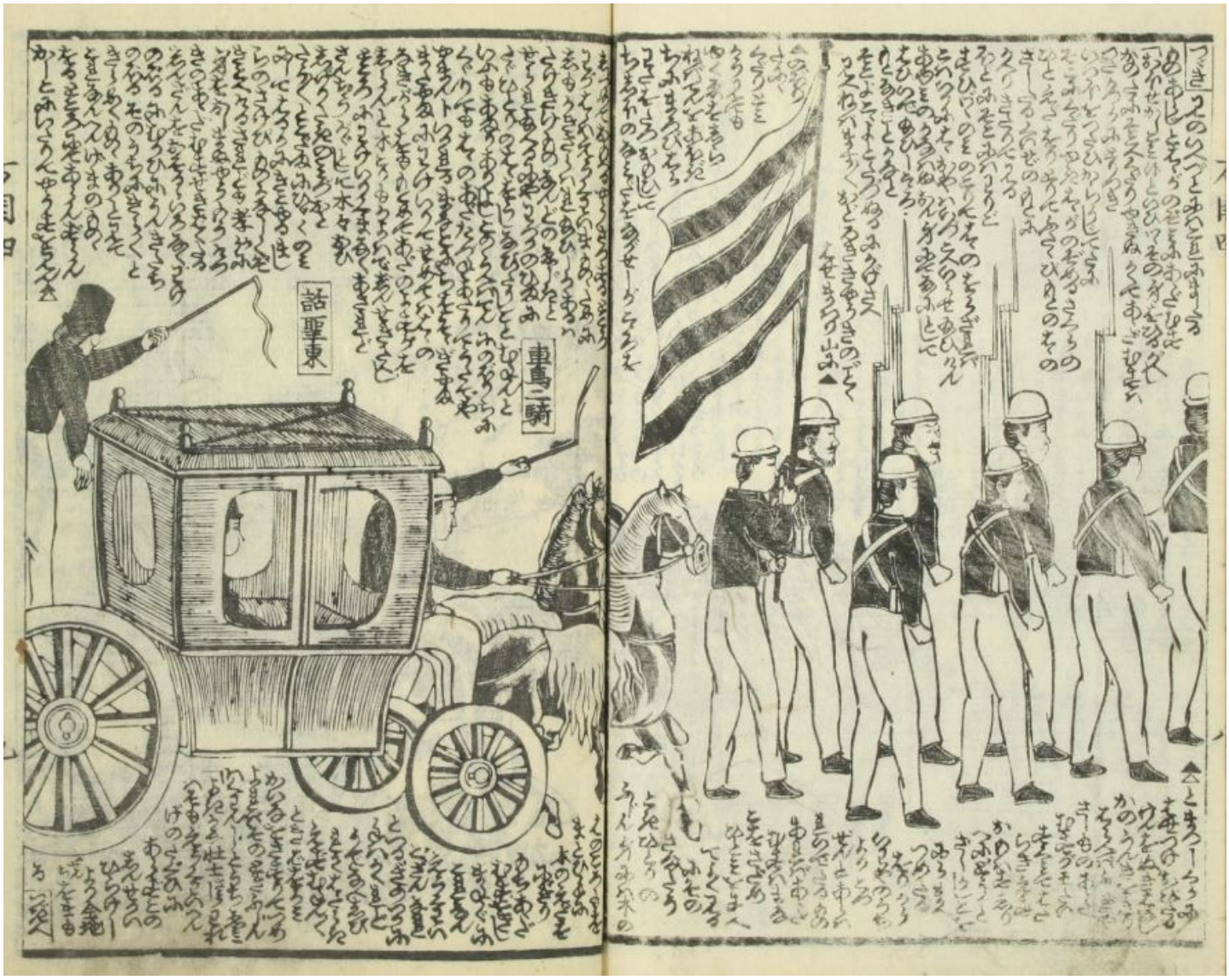


But then! While John Adams is too obsessed with the food and drink, a huge snake comes along and *eats* his mom!

Maybe the snake was a child of that other snake John Adams killed, or maybe it was sent by Ben Franklin as part of their feud? 10/



Here is Washington leading his army from behind in a carriage. The American flag has no stars, only stripes, and the author seems very impressed that the carriage has not one but TWO horses. 11/



Meanwhile, John Adams wants to get revenge on the snake that ate his Mom, so he goes to ask a magical mountain fairy for help! 12/



The mountain fairy does Adams a solid, and summons a gigantic eagle! 13/

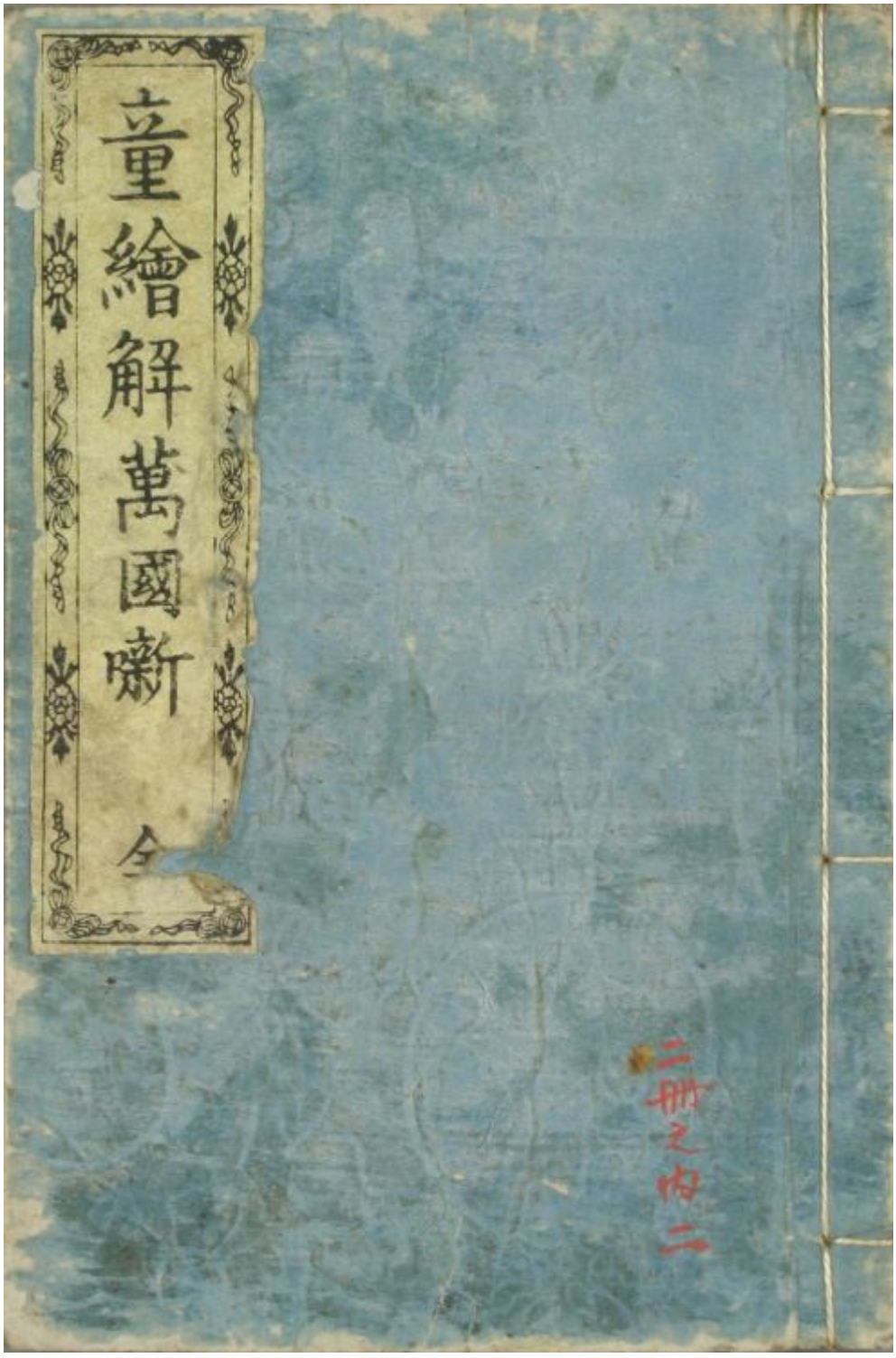


Together, John Adams and the eagle kill the enormous snake that ate his Mom. The power of teamwork!!! 14/



This 1861 book was by author Kanagaki Robun (■■■■■) and artist Utagawa Yoshitora (■■■■).

The title is "Osanaetoki Bankokubanashi" (■■■■■■) and it was based on 2 other second-hand sources, "Kaikoku Zushi" (■■■■) and "Amerika Itt■shi" (■■■■■■■). 15/



These images, and the entire rest of the book, are available online courtesy of the Waseda University Library... 16/

https://t.co/OF1gSsavko