
1. From the Editors

Japan's attempt to conquer Asia and the Pacific was defeated in 1945. On September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered to the United States on board US battleship Missouri. On September 13, Japan surrendered to the Chinese government. The ending of the War, however, does not mean that the War has belonged to the past since then. In fact, the War, with its consequences and memories, has continued to shape the world in significant ways. Indeed, sixty years later, the impact of this war is still acute, as manifested in recent developments in Sino-Japan relationship as well as global affairs.

For this reason, we put together a special symposium commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the end of China's Resistance War Against Japan (*Kangri Zhanzheng*). The five articles here represent some of the many angles the ongoing examination and re-examination of this unusual historical incident can take. In the first article, Ms. LITTLEFIELD discusses the early stage of Japan's advancement in Northeast Asia. The atrocities of Japanese army united Koreans and Chinese in their effort to fight back. Japanese strategies of using Koreans to "spread" Japanese rule into China's Manchuria, hence, could not be successful.

Within a few months after the Marco Polo Bridge incident (the *Lugouqiao* Incident) of July 1937, Japan was able to conquer Shanghai, and soon after, Nanjing, until then China's capital city. That was the start of Japan's occupation of Northern and Eastern China following China's loss of Manchuria. How did occupation work in those eight years (1937-1945)? Mr. MACDONALD examines how the Japanese authority managed the conquered Shanghai. The trunk of Japanese activities comprised of ruthless oppression of the society and appropriation of economic resources, despite the rhetoric of a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere." Mr. MACDONALD characterizes such actions as short-sighted.

While many Japanese people may feel Japan's invasion of Asian countries is irrelevant to today's realities, people in countries that suffered Japanese brutalities and control feel exactly the opposite. For Chinese, Koreans, and other peoples, the failure of Japan in recognizing its wartime crimes is clearly *the* obstacle that prevents an eventual reconciliation with Japan. Xiaoyu PU discusses how Chinese and Japanese should come to terms with history, do justice to history, and move toward reconciliation. PU focuses on the Nanjing Massacre, also known as the Rape of Nanking, which was the most brutal and inhumane act Japanese troops committed during their invasion of China.

Without coming to terms with history, Japan will face great difficulties as it aspires to become a "normal" nation in global affairs. History is clearly defining today's international politics in Northeast Asia. LITTLEFIELD, in her second paper in this symposium, discusses Japan's attempt to revise its peace constitution and become a more active player in world politics. The Japanese military, known more commonly as Self-Defense Force (SDF) is the focus of this examination.

Indeed, Northeast Asia is at a critical juncture now, with China's rising influence and the US-Japan military alliance being reconfigured. Ms. CULVER, in the last paper of the symposium, discusses the China-Japan-US triangle. Written in a more light-hearted way, her paper lays out the critical issues the three powers need to solve in order for peace to last in this region. Her paper also presents perspectives commonly found in Japanese and American societies, but to which many Chinese readers are not often exposed.

Hence, in this symposium we present several aspects of the Resistance War Against Japan, Japan's wartime behaviors, how the history of war is affecting us today, and the major issues we should face in the coming years. There are people who worry that a war is inevitable between China and Japan. This symposium, we hope, is an appropriate way to commemorate the War in the past and help the involved region move toward a peaceful future.

The second section of this issue presents a piece by our long time contributor, Dr. Zhengxu WANG. Under what conditions democratization takes place should be a central focus for anyone who concerns about China's political future. WANG discusses one aspect of the scholarly literature regarding democratization: the role of populist protest. He uses South Korea as an example to show that populist protests will be instrumental in bringing in democracy when the general conditions are right.

As this issue goes to press, the People's Republic of China celebrates its 56th anniversary, while the color-turning leaves usher in the fall. We wish you a wonderful season, no matter where you are.

The Editors