

War Memories, Justice and Reconciliation: The Case of China and Japan

Course description: The Nanjing Atrocity like Dachau or the Bataan Death March has become emblematic of the central ethical question of the post-war era: how to account for and atone for large-scale acts of violence and inhumanity. In the case of Nanjing, symbol of Japanese military brutality during the war with China, differing memories, differing perceptions continue to be the source of bitter disputes between China and Japan, damaging a relationship which holds the key to Asia's future. With Nanjing as the historical pivot point, this course provides an overview of issues and choices in Chinese-Japanese relations from the mid-19th century to the thirties, asking why the path to war was the alternative taken. Second, it examines what happened at Nanjing, how Nanjing has played out as a moral and political issue between China and Japan over the last seventy years, and what the prospects are at present of achieving a breakthrough in the long process of reconciliation.

Introduction

Session 1: Discussion of course objectives, requirements, syllabus

Objectives: a) to develop basic cultural literacy about key issues in Chinese-Japanese bilateral relations, past, present, and future; b) to explore the meaning and uses of history in current discourse: history as event, experience and myth; and c) to examine Japan's wartime atrocities and the process of reconciliation from the perspectives of justice, ethics, and pragmatic politics.

Requirements: active class participation, three short (5-6 pages) papers, one research essay (15 pages).

Session 2: Patterns of reconciliation in today's world/defining the 'history problem' between China and Japan

Caroline Rose, *Sino-Japanese Relations: Facing the Past, Looking to the Future?* (2005), 1-33

Daqing Yang, "Mirror for the Future or History Card?" in *Sino-Japanese Relations in the 21st Century* (2002), Marie Soderberg, ed., 10-31

Perry Link, Foreword, in *Nanking 1937: Memory and Healing* (2002), ix-xx

History as Event: Narratives of Conflict and Cooperation

Session 3: Late 19th Century China and Japan in the Global Context

Film: NOVA "The Genius That Was China: The Threat from Japan"

Diana Lary, *China's Republic* (2007), 1-44

W. Scott Morton, *Japan, Its History and Culture*, 147-167

Session 4: Early 20th Century Japan in Chinese Eyes: The Attractive Power of a Western-derived Asian Development Model

Eleanor Westney, *Imitation and Innovation: The Transfer of Western Organizational Patterns to Meiji Japan*, 1-32

Paula Harrell, *Chinese Students, Japanese Teachers, 1895-1905* (1992), 183-208

Yan Lu, *Re-Understanding Japan: Chinese Perspectives, 1895-1945* (2004)

(Chapter on Guo Moruo)

Harrell, "Guiding Hand: Hattori Unokichi in Beijing," in *Crossing the Yellow Sea: Sino-Japanese Cultural Contacts, 1600-1950*, Joshua Fogel, ed. (2007), 183-192

Session 5: Japanese Expansionism/Chinese Revolution and Civil War

Ian Nish, "Some Thoughts on Japanese Expansion," in *Imperialism and After: Continuities and Discontinuities*, ed Wolfgang Mommsen, 85-89

Lary, *China's Republic*, 45-113

John Dower, "The Other Japanese Occupation," *The Nation* (July 7, 2003)

Yamamuro Shinichi, *Manchuria under Japanese Domination*, Joshua Fogel, translator (2006), 1-8

Session 6: Japanese Aggression in China: Nanjing as the Archetype of Atrocity

Ian Buruma, *The Wages of Guilt*, 112-135

Diana Lary, *China's Republic*, 112-150

History as Experience: Witnesses, Perpetrators, Victims in Nanjing 1937-1938

Session 7: Western Residents in Nanjing

The Good Man of Nanking: The Diaries of John Rabe (1998), 51-88, 209-216

Letters of Dr. Robert Wilson in *Documents on the Rape of Nanking* (1999)

Timothy Brook, ed., 207-227

Miner S. Bates, Testimony at the Tokyo Trial, *Eyewitnesses to Massacre: American Missionaries Bear Witness to Japanese Atrocities in Nanjing*, Zhang Kaiyuan, ed., 60-81

Session 8: Japanese in Nanjing

Haruko and Theodore Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History*, 29-40

Amano Saburō, "Letters from a Reserve Officer Conscripted to Nanking," in *The Nanking Atrocity, 1937-38: Complicating the Picture* (2007), Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, ed., 181-195

Haruko Cook, "Lives of Living Soldiers: Ishikawa Tasuzō and Japan's War in Asia," in *War, Occupation and Creativity*, Marlene Mayo, ed.

Takashi Yoshida, "Japan: Mobilizing the Nation, Sanitizing Aggression," *The Making of the 'Rape of Nanking'* (2006), 11-26

Session 9: Chinese victims: film/photo evidence

Film: "In the Name of the Emperor"

Bob Wakabayashi, "The Messiness of Historical Reality," in *The Nanking Atrocity*, 3-28, 58-59, 68-69

Timothy Brook, "Chinese Collaboration in Nanking," in *The Nanking Atrocity*, 196-226

History as Myth: Changing Contexts, Changing Perceptions

Session 10: The Tokyo Trial: Justice and Truth?

Buruma, *The Wages of Guilt*, 159-176

John Dower, "Victor's Justice, Loser's Justice," *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (1999), 443-484, 504-508

Justice Radhabinod Pal's dissenting opinion in *Documents on the Rape of Nanking*, Timothy Brook, ed., 269-297

Rose, *Sino-Japanese Relations*, 34-49

Session 11: China's New Nationalism and the Emergence of Victim Politics

Buruma, "The Nanjing Massacre as a Historical Symbol," in *Nanjing 1937: Memory and Healing*, 3-9

Parks Coble, "China's 'New Remembering' of the Anti-Japanese War of Resistance, 1937-1945," *The China Quarterly*, 394-410

Caroline Rose, *Interpreting History in Sino-Japanese Relations: A Case Study in Political Decision-making*, (2002), 50-59

Yoshida, "Japan: From 'Victim Consciousness' to 'Victimizer Consciousness' and 'China: Nationalizing Memory of the Nanjing Massacre,'" *The Making of the 'Rape of Nanking'*, 81-113

Session 12: The Textbook Controversy: Who Should Write a Nation's History Texts?

Buruma, *Wages of Guilt*, 189-201

Rose, *Sino-Japanese Relations*, 51-67

Rose, *Interpreting History*, 22-41

Yoshida, "China: The Nanjing Massacre and Patriotic Education," *The Making of the 'Rape of Nanking'*, 154-164

Haruko and Theodore Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History*, 441-447

Session 13: Managing the History Problem: the Primacy of Pragmatism

Rose, *Sino-Japanese Relations*, 69-98

Rose, "Re-assessing the Sino-Japanese Axis in the New Strategic Triangle," in *Contemporary China: The Dynamics of Change at the Start of the New Millennium* (2003), 242-259

Session 14: Overcoming the History Problem: Paths to Reconciliation?

Rose, *Sino-Japanese Relations*, 99-127

Yang Daqing, "Toward a Common Historical Understanding: The Nanking Massacre as a Challenge of Transnational History," in *Nanking 1937*, 236-260

Zhu Jianrong, "The Real Reasons for the Anti-Japanese Outburst," *Japan Echo* (August 2005), 14-17

Joshua Fogel, "The Nanking Atrocity and Chinese Historical Memory," in *The Nanking Atrocity, 1937-38*, 267-284

Session 15: Reflections: Ethics, Politics, and the Writing of History

Japan-China Joint History Research Project: statements by co-chairmen, Bu Ping (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) and Kitaoka Shinichi (Tokyo University)