
WWII Joint Commemoration

Chinese Anti-Japanese War & Western Allies Victory Over Fascism: A Combined Ceremony

American-Chinese Federation of Industry and Commerce - 3 September, 2015



Nanjing Massacre
(Nanjing Massacre Museum)
Amy Keus



National World War II Memorial,
(Washington, D.C.) Jamie Burciaga

Introduction

The American-Chinese Federation of Industry and Commerce, is considering organizing support for commemorative activities to celebrate the great contribution of the Chinese people during World War II and the defeat of fascism. The commemorative activities would honor the numerous, often bold, acts of humanity expressed inter-culturally amid the atrocities of World War II. A ceremonial observance that combines the notable events and heroic action by people of differing cultures in World War II can promote better understanding between the Chinese, American and other global cultures. We invite your thoughts of interest in this endeavor.

Background

September 2015 marks an important historical moment for many countries throughout the world in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of World War II. The victory of The Chinese people in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression is also very much a part of this World War II commemoration.

The Chinese Anti-Japanese War, however, is little recognized and scarcely included in World War II commemorative ceremonies in the United States. Annual commemoration of the Chinese Anti-Japanese War by the Mainland China committee and the Taiwanese and Hong Kong committees, has for decades, fully reflected the heroic actions of the Chinese against Japanese fascism, but such ceremonies have occurred separately in United States. This lack of combined commemoration of World War II events impedes cultural understanding and hinders mutual appreciation and regard between American mainstream society and Chinese descendants.

The Sino-Japanese War of Resistance was critical to the U. S. and Western Allies' victory over Japan, yet the Chinese Anti-Japanese War is largely unknown in the United States. British author, Rana Mittner, gives an enlightening and vivid portrayal of China's involvement in World War II in *Forgotten Ally: China's World War II 1937 -1945*. Chinese American writer, Chunru Zhang, detailed the tragic events of the Japanese Imperial Army's occupation of Nanjing in 1937, in her book, *Nanking Massacre*. This event was a milestone for the Anti-Japanese War, and Zhang is recognized for bringing this dark episode of history to light.

While details of the Jewish Holocaust in Europe are widely known, the events surrounding the Nanjing Massacre in China are neither understood, nor even recognized as part of World War II. This lack of understanding has resulted in much misrepresentation of historical events of the Sino-Japanese War and even denial of facts. A uniting of nations in celebration of the victory against fascism in World War II would invigorate a deepening of understanding across the globe. Such would be the benefit if the Chinese Anti-Japanese War, and other important facts of World War II, were known to more people.

China emerged from World War II as one of the world's four superpowers. Chinese involvement in the Second World War continues to affect contemporary geopolitics. An increased understanding of the importance of China's role in World War II and China's impact on world history would strengthen Chinese-American business communications as well as world trade relations. Combining the celebrations of World War II victory among cultures serves to unite the interests of nations, strengthen compassion, and foster resolve of current issues including Diaoyu Island, the South China Sea, even RyuKyu and other conflicts.

The Proposed Plan

An organizational group would be created with a two-fold purpose:

1. To promote the combined commemoration of the Chinese Anti-Japanese War together with American ceremonial observances and those of other nations in celebrating victory over fascism in World War II. This joint commemoration would introduce global awareness of the Chinese Anti-Japanese War and its critical import in World War II.
2. To establish a memorial foundation to engage further research into events involving the Chinese theater in World War II. The foundation would obtain access to archives in the United States and Europe. Empowering unrestricted research into China's involvement in World War II would advance undistorted information and enable Americans to relate to the Chinese Anti-Japanese War as they do Pearl Harbor.

Organizing a public exhibition that could travel to major cities around the world would achieve the goal of creating awareness among Americans and people of other cultures regarding the history of China during the war years. Holding the exhibition on the 70th anniversary of World War II will magnify the impact.

Plan Implementation

1) The Commemorative Exhibition Activities may include the following exhibits /activities:

- Combine notable events in World War II that reflect humanity and good will including: Schindler's rescue of the Jews, the Rabe rescue of Chinese (Rabe Memorial) in Nanjing Massacre, the Ho rescue of Jews shown in the Shanghai Jewish Memorial, and the Korean Comfort Women Institute. Additionally we would combine the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, and other historical artifacts and research as a whole exhibition.
- Host a concert, featuring an American Symphony Orchestra, performing music relevant to World War II, including Chinese Anti-Japanese War music. The performance will comprise the opening of the Commemoration Exhibition.
- Invite author, Rana Mittner, to speak on Chinese World War II history.

Location

The United Nations Hall emerged as a direct result of World War II. The significant connection of this hall to World War II prompted this building as our choice to launch the World War II Commemorative Exhibition. The Exhibition would then travel to other major cities including: Washington, D.C., Houston, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Date

September 3rd 2015 is our proposed date to launch the Commemorative Exhibition. This date will honor of the anniversary date that Western Allies and Japan signed the agreement.

Organization

Our organization would initiate the strategic planning process and then transfer organizational responsibilities to another institution. At present, we propose selecting one university from each from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macaw, Taiwan, also in Japan, Korea, and Israel as well as local organizations.

Funding

We anticipate revenue funding for the Commemorative Exhibition activities and the memorial foundation from non-governmental groups from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macaw, Taiwan and the United States.

2) The Memorial Foundation

A memorial foundation would be established to collect and study resources relative to the Chinese Theater in the United States. Using the name of Chunru Zhang is recommended to heighten the impact.

Photo Credits:

"Nanjing massacre low relief1" by Amy Keus from Constanta, Romania - Nanjing Massacre Museum. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons - [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nanjing_massacre_low_relief1.jpg#mediaviewer/](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nanjing_massacre_low_relief1.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Nanjing_massacre_low_relief1.jpg)

File:Nanjing_massacre_low_relief1.jpg

World War II Memorial -Pacific, Jamie Burciaga