WORLD: INDIA TURNS TO MANUFACTURING P.18 | NATION: CHINA'S GREAT REFORMER P.28

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TRIUMPHANT SALUTE

China commemorates Victory Day of the War Against Japanese Aggression





An Africa-oriented English monthly covering China and Africa published by BEUING REVIEW, ChinAfrica is the leading publication in China featuring news, views and analysis for an African audience.

EDITOR'S DESK

02 Somber Celebrations

THIS WEEK COVER STORY WORLD

22 The Myth of the 'Land-Grab'

China's presence in Africa misrepresented

24 Mending Ties

Easing Sino-Vietnamese diplomatic stand-off

25 Right to Life

Incident in U.S. shows pervasive inequality

NATION

30 Partners in Development

Fueling Tibet's advancement through donations

BUSINESS

36 Stuck in First Gear?

Domestic auto industry struggles to gain foothold

Cover Photo: A veteran and martyrs' cemetery caretaker pays respects to Chinese soldiers killed in the War Against Japanese Aggression in Guzhen County, Anhui Province (CFP)

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Between War and Peace

Decades later, reflecting on bloodshed

NATION

P.28 | Remembering a Reformer

Deng Xiaoping's legacy lives on

BUSINESS

P.34 | Capacity for Greatness

Integration focus of new private investment firm

38 Letting Go of GDP

Measuring growth through alternative

40 Market Watch

CULTURE

44 From Russia, With Love

Cultures intertwine in Harbin

FORUM

46 Deng Xiaoping: Economist,

Diplomat, Reformer

Late Chinese leader revered

ESSAY

48 Breaking the Surveillance Stalemate

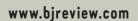
U.S. and Chinese militaries on edge

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WORLD

P.18 A Global Factory Relay?

The rise of "made in India"





















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Somber Celebrations

September 3 is a date of vital importance to Chinese people. On this day, 69 years ago, Chinese forces celebrated a hardfought victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-45) following many years of suffering and territorial invasions.

Just this February, the National People's Congress. China's top legislature, designated September 3 the Victory Day of this war. which was part of World War II (WWII). As activities are held across the country to mark this year's Victory Day, they are not intended to perpetuate animosity, but to promote peace. The celebrations are a way to share the lessons of history and discourage warfare that might further inflict miseries on the Chinese nation.

WWII was the most massive, wide-scale war in human history. Over 2 billion people in 61 countries and territories across Europe, Asia. Africa and Oceania were involved and more than 70 million were killed or injured. The cloud of war did not end until Germany and Japan signed documents of unconditional surrender on May 8 and September 2, 1945, respectively.

At present, however, Japanese right-wing politicians are seeking to deny the country's dark past and amend its post-WWII pacifist constitution, moves that have shocked observers the world over. Under such circumstances. China's commemoration of the victory of the war serves to remind right-wing Japanese politicians and the international forces backing them that China has not relaxed its guard against Japanese militarism.

During WWII, Chinese soldiers and civilians bravely resisted Japanese invaders, containing Japanese forces in China and thus reducing Japan's ability to make further military advances. China as a nation paid the highest cost in the war and destroyed the largest number of lapanese troops. During the eight-year period from 1937-45, China fought against two thirds of all lapanese land forces and killed 1.5 million lapanese soldiers, accounting for 70 percent of all Japanese casualties.

Former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin all gave high praise to Chinese people, with a nod to their enormous contributions to victory in the world's anti-Fascist war.

China commemorates the September 3 victory also to encourage today's generations to strive for greater national strength. During the eight-year war, China suffered devastating losses. According to incomplete statistics, Chinese soldiers and civilians suffered casualties of at least 35 million. The Nanjing Massacre following the Japanese conquest of the city on December 13, 1937 alone killed over 300,000.

Moreover, celebrating this somber yet victorious anniversary shows China's positive attitude toward keeping history alive. At one time, only the September 18 Incident of 1931, which was staged by the Japanese Army and led to the invasion of northeast China and later to a series of atrocities in China, and the July 7 Incident of 1937, which marked the beginning of China's all-out war against Japanese aggression, were widely remembered. For those of us living in a peaceful era, every September 3, all should reflect on the futility and miseries of war and cherish hardwon peace.

WRITETOUS



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Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

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CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

Chinese soldiers march during the opening ceremony of the Peace Mission 2014 multinational anti-terror drill in Zhurihe, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on August 24.

Some 7,000 troops from five of the six member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan—participated in the six-day exercise.

http://www.bjreview.com SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 BEIJING REVIEW 3



Move for Cranes

Red-crowned cranes in Zhalong National Nature Reserve in Heilongjiang Province are fed on August 17.

More than 5,000 people are to be relocated from the nature reserve to protect a colony of these cranes, a species with a population of only 2,000.

The red-crowned crane is an important symbol in Chinese mythology, representing longevity and immortality. Zhalong, covering 210,000 hectares, is China's largest artificial breeding center for the cranes and home to about 20 percent of the world population.

Against Corruption

China's top prosecuting body on August 26 announced new measures to stem judicial corruption in granting parole or commutation of prison terms.

Under the regulation released by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, prosecutors will launch "full-scale investigation and verification" over a criminal's qualifications if their sentence is reduced by a significant margin or they are placed on long-term parole.

Prosecutors will particularly target those found guilty of corruption and mafia-style or terrorist crimes, among other serious criminal offences. People who have committed serious economic crimes such as fraud, or other crimes with "severe social impacts" are also subject to the examination.

Prosecutors will also focus on suspicious sentence commutations. They will check carefully if a prisoner only serves a short prison term before getting a commutation, or if they are given frequent commutations or parole.

New Desktop Version

China's homegrown operating system (OS) is expected to release a desktop version in October, according to a senior IT scientist on August 24.

Ni Guangnan of the Chinese Academy of Engineering said that the OS will be first seen on desktop devices and later expanded to smartphones and other mobile devices.

Ni heads an OS development alliance established in March. There are still problems in the program, including a lack of research funds and too many developers pulling in different directions.

"China has more than a dozen mobile OS developers with no independent intellectual property rights because their research is based on Android," said Ni, adding future development should be led by the government.

LOOK THIS WAY

Visitors take pictures of an alpaca at a pet exhibition held in Shanghai on August 23



He said the end of Windows XP and the government ban on the procurement of Windows 8 have opened the door to domestic OS developers.

Permits Trading

China's State Council has published a guideline to promote the purchase and trading of emissions permits in regions piloting the scheme.

The pilot regions must establish mechanisms for the purchase and trading of emissions rights by 2017 to lay a foundation for the scheme to be rolled out nationwide, said a statement posted on the government's website on August 25.

The pilots began in 2007 in 11 regions including Tianjin, Hebei and Inner Mongolia.

The regions can apply the permits to the pollutants that affect them the most, and revenues from authorizing emissions rights should be turned in to local governments to fight pollution.

Trading of emissions rights must be done in a voluntary, fair and environment-oriented way and trading prices will be decided by the buyer and the seller, the statement said.

Emissions rights, or permits, represent the right to emit a specific volume of the specified pollutant. Firms that need to discharge more must buy permits from those which need fewer permits. In effect, the buyer is paying for polluting more than permitted, while the seller is being rewarded for fewer emissions.

Unsafe Imported Food

Chinese authorities found 424 batches of substandard food imports in July, the country's top quality supervisor announced on August 27.

Poor quality, excessive additives and microbial contamination were the main problems discovered in these imports, which came from 35 countries and regions, according to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ).

The rejected food products fell under 19 categories, with most classified as biscuits and candies, beverages and seasonings, said AQSIQ spokeswoman Li Jing.

Besides food, the AQSIQ also found four shipments of substandard cosmetic products imported from three countries and regions.

All substandard products were either sent back or destroyed, Li said.

Specific Support

China's Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Finance will join forces to develop specific areas of the nation's cultural industru.

China should strengthen efforts in financial support, establishing projects and attracting a broader audience of overseas visitors to help promote key historic and cultural spots in China, a guideline issued by both ministries said on August 26.

Qi Shuyu, a scholar with the Chinese Academy of Governance, said the country has 4,295 cultural relics under protection, 47 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and 1,219 national heritage sites.

Research Progress

Chinese scientists have made progress in brain-computer interface research after a successful experiment on an epilepsy patient.

After implanting an electrode connected to a robotic hand into the brain of a 28-year-old woman, the hand performed the three actions of the "rock-paper-scissors" game immediately.

This shows China's progress in creating a brain-machine interface, bringing new hope to patients who suffer from limb motor dysfunction, said

"In development, we should not destroy historic relics and memories. We should pay extra attention to protecting their original features and natural ecology."

Sun Ruofeng, an official with the Ministry of Culture



Bidding Farewell

Volunteers for the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games pose for a photo together on August 25.

The Games closed on August 28. More than 3,700 athletes from 204 countries and regions took part in the Games.

Nanjing 2014 was just the second summer Youth Olympic Games, following the inaugural event in Singapore in 2010.

Zhang Jianmin, head of the Neurology Department at the Second Hospital Affiliated to Zhejiang University.

The Chinese team began their research in 2006 and in 2012 achieved actions such as grasping and pinching with a robotic limb in an experiment on a monkey.

Researchers will work to improve the accuracy of the action of robotic limbs, said Zhanq.

Joint Green Efforts

Beijing and neighboring Hebei Province will jointly plant 100,000 *mu* (66.7 square km) of forest in 2015, in a step to guarantee the capital city's water security and improve local eco-systems, authorities said on August 25.

According to the program, the forests will cover areas along Beijing's Miyun Reservoir, the city's major source of drinking water, and the upper reaches of Guanting Reservoir on the Beijing-Hebei border.

The project, initiated in 2009, will also cover eight counties under Hebei's cities of Zhangjiakou and Chengde, Beijing's main barrier against sandstorms from northwest China and an important water source, said Yuan Shibao, an official with the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscape and Forestry.

The joint project is expected to produce 500,000 *mu* of forests by the end of 2014, with further plans to reach 1 million *mu*.

Stage for an Ancient Art

An art festival of Shaanxi Opera kicks off in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on August 25. Eleven Shaanxi Opera troupes from five provinces took part in the festival.



THIS WEEK ECONOMY

Foreign Hospitals

Private hospitals solely owned by foreign investors will be allowed to open in seven cities and provinces, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announced on August 27.

Wholly foreign-owned hospitals will be permitted in the cities of Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Jiangsu, Fujian, Guangdong and Hainan provinces. Foreign investors will be either able to set up a new hospital independently or take part via mergers and acquisitions.

However, the MOFCOM specified that only investors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan may set up hospitals featuring traditional Chinese medicine.

Administrative approval procedures will be handled by provincial-level authorities.

The Chinese Government has stressed reform in its healthcare sector following public demand for more and better healthcare services. A State Council statement in May pledged price reforms in public hospitals and that more private hospitals would be established.

There were about 5,400 private hospitals on China's mainland in 2008, with that number rising to 10,877 by the end of October 2013, according to official figures. Public hospitals, which provide 90 percent of China's medical services, totaled 13,440 by the end of October.

Shoring Up Farming

China's central bank has set aside another 20 billion yuan (\$3.24 billion) for a scheme designed to funnel credit into agriculture, it announced on August 27.

The money has been allocated to a re-lending program, under which the central bank extends loans to commercial banks on the condition that they in turn lend to businesses in required sectors.

The move follows a State Council



CONNECTING MOUNTAINOUS AREAS

Laborers pave a road along an expressway passing Enshi, central China's Hubei Province, on August 24 meeting in July that saw pledges to boost agriculture by increasing the scale of re-lending and also re-discount programs, which allow the central bank to pump funds into commercial banks by purchasing their bills.

On August 8, the central bank added 12 billion yuan (\$1.95 billion) to the re-discount quota.

Authorities hope the policies will help support growth in agriculture while stemming credit flow to undesired sectors.

Private Telecom Firms

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) on August 25 licensed six more private enterprises to pilot the resale of certain mobile services, in its latest move to open the largely monopolized sector.

The six are the third such batch of companies to be given the licenses, which allow them to partner and compete with China's "backbone" telecom operators through the resale of mobile services.

The companies can repackage the services they buy from the basic telecom operators before selling them to clients using their own brands, including voice, SMS, MMS and data services, according to a statement on the MIIT's website.

Before the sales take place, the companies may need to engage in some preparatory work including the establishment of better charging and customer service systems.

The MIIT said it would closely monitor the progress of the pilot program and is ready to offer assistance to companies that face problems in providing the services.

The MIIT granted such licenses to 11 private firms last December and another eight in January.

The developments come after a set of MIIT guidelines last June opened up the telecom sector to private capital, offering participation in eight major areas, including the resale of mobile communication.

Anti-Dumping Waived

MOFCOM said on August 25 it would stop imposing anti-dumping mea-



Bound for Africa

A streetcar sails into the platform at an off-line ceremony in the passenger car manufacturing center of CNR Changchun Railway Vehicles Co. Ltd. on August 26. The batch of streetcars will be exported to Ethiopia. For the first time, Chinese-produced streetcars will make their way to the horn of Africa.



Brave New World

Guests voice their opinions on the changes and opportunities brought about by the 4G era at the 2014 China Internet Conference opened at the Beijing International Convention Center on August 26.

With the theme of "Create Infinite Chances," the conference focused on topics including Internet security, Big Data and technology-enabled lifestyles.

sures on catechol imported from the European Union starting on August 26.

The ministry said it has not received an expiry review request from Chinese industries to extend the antidumping measures, which expire on August 25, and it would not start an expiry review itself.

Catechol is a chemical used in the production of medicines and paints.

In 2009, MOFCOM extended anti-dumping measures on catechol imports from the EU for another five years following a review investigation of five-year anti-dumping duties ranging from 20 percent to 79 percent imposed in 2003.

New Nuclear Plant

A nuclear power plant in east China's Shandong Province is expected to go into operation in 2016, the local power company said on August 26.

The conventional islands of the project's first stage, located in Haiyang of Yantai, are currently being installed and expected to be put into use in two

FIELDS OF GOLD

A farmer weathers corn in a threshing field in a village in Liaocheng, east China's Shandong Province



years, according to Yantai State Grid Corp. A conventional island contains equipment which changes steam heat into electricity.

The Haiyang Nuclear Station, with a total investment of 80 billion yuan (\$13 billion), will eventually have six reactor units.

The first stage includes two AP1000 reactor units with power capacity of 1.25 million kilowatts each. The plan for the second stage includes another two units of the same capacity.

Enterprising Firms

A spurt of growth in new Chinese enterprises is the direct result of recent probusiness measures, an official said on August 26.

Zhang Mao, Minister of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, said over 5.5 million new market entities, including private businesses and farming cooperatives, were registered from March to July.

Among them, about 1.6 million were enterprises, up 64.5 percent from

the same period in 2013, Zhang told a press conference. Nearly 95 percent of them are private companies.

"More than 10,000 enterprises were set up each day in the past five months," he said.

Changes to business registration came into effect on March 1, lifting restrictions on minimum registered capital, payment deadlines, down payment ratio and cash ratio of registered capital. Theoretically, a business can be started with just 1 yuan (\$0.16).

"The reform has helped entrepreneurs and increased the momentum of economic development," Zhang said.

Along with a lower market threshold, new disclosure rules for corporate information will take effect on October 1 to prevent unqualified companies from flooding the market. Companies will be obliged to release annual public reports on their finances and activities under the supervision of local industrial and commercial authorities.

"Easy access accompanied by strict regulation will help create a fair market for competition," said Zhang.

Cross-Border Yuan

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd. (ICBC) announced that total cross-border yuan transactions handled by the bank amounted to 1.7 trillion yuan (\$276 billion) in the first half of 2014, jumping more than 70 percent from a year earlier.

ICBC, China's largest lender by market value, said on August 25 it had completed cross-border renminbi settlements worth nearly 6.7 trillion yuan since 2009, when China started trials for cross-border trade settlements using yuan in Hong Kong, Macao, and ASEAN countries as well as a few other select locations.

Institutions at home and abroad have opened 512 accounts with ICBC on cross-border yuan clearing, and the bank is now providing cross-border yuan clearing in 75 countries and regions.

ICBC said it has been expanding cross-border yuan businesses in the last few years, both on the Chinese mainland and in overseas markets.

THIS WEEK WORLD





PALESTINE

Palestinians celebrate what they called a victory over Israel in Gaza following a ceasefire, in the West Bank city of Ramallah on August 26, the day the ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinians went into effect



BELARUS

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (center) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in the Belarussian capital Minsk on August 26







YEMEN

Yemeni men wearing traditional garb perform as part of the Sana'a Summer Festival in Sana'a on August 24 in an effort to revive the country's fledgling tourism industry





THE UNITED STATES

Guests attend the annual Diner en Blanc at Nelson A. Rockefeller Park in New York City's Battery Park on August 25. The Diner en Blanc is the world's only viral culinary event, where diners are spontaneously told its location









INDIA

An Indian model showcases a creation by Australian designers during the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festival 2014 in Mumbai on August 22



JAPAN

The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces attend a live-fire drill at the foothills of Mount Fuji in Gotemba city in Shizuoka Prefecture on August 24

http://www.bjreview.com SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 **BEIJING REVIEW** 9

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

TAIWAN STRAITS ATTEMPT SUCCESSFUL

Zhang Jian, heading a 14-member team ranging in age from 16 to 50, succeeded in swimming across the Taiwan Straits on August 22 after a four-day journey. Seven of the swimmers were from China's mainland, while the rest were from Taiwan.



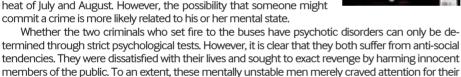
Entering the water at noon on August 18 in Taiwan's Hsinchu, the team reached shore about 100 hours later in Pingtan, Fujian Province. The shortest distance between the two spots is 130 km; however, due to strong winds, storms, navigation issues, undercurrents and jellyfish stings, the swimmers covered nearly 400 km. This was the first time in known history that human beings successfully swam the entire straits.

Zhang Jian, 50, is a teacher with Beijing Sports University. He began swimming when he was 8 years old. Previously, he successfully completed crossings of famous water passages such as the Qiongzhou Straits, the Bohai Straits and the English Channel.

Mental Illness, a Cause for Criminality China Newsweek August 18

Two recent bus arsons—one in Hangzhou on July 5 and the other in Guangzhou on July 15—have stirred up the public's fear of such disturbing incidents.

Criminology studies carried out in many countries have shown that different seasons may give rise to different types of crimes. Violent crimes and sexual assaults, for example, are more likely to surge in the heat of July and August. However, the possibility that someone might commit a crime is more likely related to his or her mental state.



misdeeds as a way to validate their existence.

To prevent episodes like those on the city buses in the future, special mental and medical attention must be provided to those in disadvantaged groups, those who have received unfair treatment in society, and those with nowhere to go for help.



Global Economic Governance World Affairs September 1

"Global economic governance" is a new concept put forth in recent years. In 1944, the Bretton Woods Conference established a postwar international economic order and gave birth to three global economic stabilizers: the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the World Bank, which combined took charge of global finance, trade and development. At present, the three organizations are still playing important roles in the international economy. However, to address new problems that could not be properly solved under the old order, the concept of global economic governance has come into being.

After the worldwide financial crisis of 2008, there emerged questions over the effectiveness of the postwar international economic order. Because it was dominated by a small group of industrialized countries, it merely reflected the interests and needs of the developed world, making the majority of international players question its validity. The financial crisis forced developed countries to further realize that without the participation of emerging economies, it's hard to maintain

"I would like to announce that the Palestinian leadership has accepted Egypt's call for a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire and we will work on meeting the demands and needs of our people in Gaza."

Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian President, announcing on August 26 that a ceasefire agreement had been reached in Cairo between Israel and Palestine, putting an end to the seven-week conflict in the Gaza Strip "This company brings in the most advanced technology. The Tula Regional Government promises to buy these cars."

Vladimir Gruzdev, Tula Governor, speaking on August 24 about the construction of a \$520-million auto plant for Chinese private automaker Great Wall Motors in Russia's Tula Region



the stability of the global economic order. The Group of 20 Summit was inaugurated in November 2008, providing a platform for developed, developing and emerging countries to join hands to resolve thorny global economic and financial problems.

However, even today, the concept of global economic governance is in its early stages and developed countries continue to dominate international economic decision-making. Much remains to be done to make the vision a reality.

Tightening Supervision for Parole

Guangzhou Daily August 27

The Supreme People's Procuratorate announced on August 26 that 711 criminals who served their terms outside prison on the pretenses of parole or who were released ahead of time were imprisoned again, of whom 76 used to hold high official positions. While people applaud the procuratorate's move, many can't help but question how these criminals were able to "break" out of prison or how the judicial body hopes to prevent such violations in the future.

Sentence reductions, the option of parole and allowance for serving sentences outside of prison temporarily have increasingly been used by wealthy and politically powerful prisoners to stay out of brick-and-mortar prisons. These people bribe officials in order to secure releases ahead of their terms. Often, they are given freedom after spending just a short mount of time in prison. Such practices have harmed judicial justice and equality and gone against the law of the land, while fostering judicial corruption.

The Central Government has paid close attention to this problem and is working to address it. However, to fully realize judicial justice, it needs to establish a tighter supervision system so that laws can be enforced to the letter.

Officials involved in illegal sentence reductions should be held responsible and punished accordingly. Doctors faking medical certificates for prisoners to apply for compassionate release should be disciplined, while those who are justified in serving terms outside of prison should be held under strict control. Additionally, authorities should be under public scrutiny so as to fully root out judicial corruption.

JUNIOR TENNIS CHAMPION TAKES NEW TITLE

Xu Shilin defeated her Belarusian competitor and became the women's singles tennis champion on August 24 at the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games.



Xu, born in 1998, began playing tennis at the age of 3 under the direction of her father, a tennis coach who at that time ran a tennis club in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province. She received systematic training in a U.S. tennis school from 2006-12. During these six years, Xu won 60 championships in numerous competitions. After winning the Youth Games match, Xu moved up to the No. 4 best in the world amongst teenage tennis players, making her the highest ranking youth player in China.

Xu's short-term plan is to win the championship of the Grand Slam youth groups, and has said her ultimate goal is to become one of the top 10 professional tennis players in the world.

"Armed forces from neighboring countries have entered the interior of China to conduct the drill this time. Without a high level of strategic mutual trust, this kind of drill could never be held."

Meng Xiangqing, a professor with the National Defense University of the People's Liberation Army, commenting on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Peace Mission 2014 exercise on August 26 "When I was on the track, there was a lot of applause, so I felt really excited. I didn't feel any pressure. I just wanted to do my best. I never thought I would be standing on the podium today."

Liang Xiaojing, a 17-year-old Chinese sprinter, speaking after winning the women's 100-meter race on August 23 at the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games

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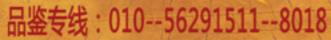








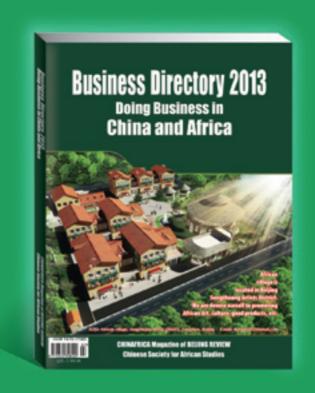
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COVER STORY

BETWEEN WAR AND

With lessons of history in mind, efforts should be focused on defending peace in As



PEACE

ia and around the world By Yin Pumin



ixty-nine years ago, on August 15, 1945, Japan unconditionally surrendered to the Allies, marking the end of China's War Against Japanese Aggression and World War II (WWII).

With the war ended and peace resumed in Asia, billions of people had the chance to breathe a sigh of relief, recover and rebuild their lives. This included about 70 million lapanese.

In memory of the hardship suffered and struggle waged by the Chinese people in this war, the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress in February this year designated September 3 as the Victory Day of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and December 13 as the National Memorial Day to commemorate over 300,000 Chinese killed by Japanese aggressors during the 1937 Nanjing Massacre.

The war years

The 69th anniversary presents one with the opportunity to remember a proud yet harrowing period of China's modern history. The War Against Japanese Aggression was a resounding victory for the Chinese but one that came at a terrible cost.

Early in 1931, the Japanese aggressors began plotting to conquer China's northeast provinces. On September 18 that year, Japanese officers incited the Mukden Incident, leading to the total occupation of Manchuria (northeast China) in five months.

The Japanese made further plans to conquer the north of China, where they planned to build up a continental base for their country's further territorial encroachment on the Asian continent

Faced with a dire situation, the Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed a United Front between political parties, groups and armies against Japan.

Then came the Xi'an Incident in December 1936. Under the efforts of the CPC, Chiang

Kai-Shek (1887-1975), then Chairman of the National Military Council of the Chinese Government, agreed to head the United Front. From thereon out, the Chinese people rallied around the Kuomintang (KMT) and the CPC to fight their common enemy.

The Japanese Army then bombarded Wanping, a county near Beijing on July 7, 1937, and started a full-scale war of aggression.

"From then on, the whole of China was engaged in an anti-invasion war, opening the first major anti-fascist battlefield in the world's East," said Peng Xunhou, a professor with the Academy of Military Science of the People's Liberation Army.

On August 13, 1937, the Japanese opened a second front in Shanghai, targeting China's economic capacity for war. Chiang deployed some of his best troops, which succeeded in stalling the enemy's advancement for three months.

Japanese tactics ultimately prevailed, causing a rapid disintegration of Chinese defenses. The enemy then swiftly advanced to the gates of the then-Chinese capital, Nanjing.

Chiang moved his capital to Chongqing, where the geographical surroundings made it all but impossible for the enemy to penetrate. This dashed Japanese hopes for a speedy resolution to the conflict.

Although the Japanese quickly captured all key Chinese ports and industrial centers, the combined KMT and CPC forces continued to resist them.

In the conflict, the Japanese forces committed many massacres and atrocities, most infamously in Nanjing in December 1937, when Japanese troops slaughtered an estimated 300,000 civilians. Warfare of this nature led, by the war's end, to an estimated 10 million to 20 million Chinese civilian deaths.

By 1940, the war had descended into a stalemate. The Japanese seemed unable to force victory, nor the Chinese to evict the Japanese troops.

"The Chinese battlefield made a great contribution to the whole anti-fascist war around ▶ ▶

http://www.bjreview.com SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 **BEIJING REVIEW** 15







(Left) **CHEERING THE VICTORY:** Soldiers of the Eighth Route Army led by the Communist Party of China celebrate their victory over the Japanese army in Laiyuan, Hebei Province, during the Hundred Regiment Campaign in 1940 (Top) **UP IN ARMS:** Japanese soldiers surrender their weapons to the Chinese army during the war

END OF THE WAR: On September 9, 1945, He Yingqin (left), representative of the Chinese Government and the Southeast Asia Ally Forces, accepts the Japanese army's instrument of surrender in Nanjing, then China's capital

the world. Without the tenacious resistance by the Chinese people, the strategic situation would have been far more favorable for the German-Italian-Japanese fascist bloc when WWII broke out full-scale in 1939," Peng said.

Until the Pearl Harbor Incident in 1941, the Chinese fought the Japanese armies practically alone. "During this time, a poor and underdeveloped country held down some 800,000 troops from one of the most highly militarized and technologically advanced societies in the world," said Rana Mitter, a professor of the history and politics of modern China at the University of Oxford in Britain.

In July 1938 and again from May to August in 1939, the Japanese army division in northeast China assaulted the Soviet army. In both attacks, the Japanese failed, largely because a large portion of its forces was engaged in fighting in other parts of China.

On August 20, 1940, the troops under CPC leadership launched the well-known Hundred Regiment Campaign, during which the CPC forces fought a total of 1,824 large- and small-scale battles, inflicted 20,645 casualties upon the Japanese troops, destroyed major railways and highways, rooted up 2,993 strongholds of

the enemy and puppet troops, and recovered 40-50 counties.

China as battlefield

The outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941 saw the Allied powers establishing a China-Burma-India theater of war, beginning January 5, 1942.

Along with Joseph Stilwell (1883-1946) as the chief of staff of the Chinese army, a group of American volunteer pilots in China, the Flying Tigers, were incorporated into the United States' 14th Air Force on July 4, 1942, with Claire Chennault (1893-1958) as commander.

During the early phases of the Pacific War, the Allied performance was poor in contrast with the Chinese resistance. Hence, former U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt (1882-1945) was determined to make China one of the Big Four.

He said, "Had China not been fighting, or had China been defeated, how many Japanese troops do you think would then be deployed to other regions to fight? They would have captured Australia and India all at once, and then pushed to the Middle East."

After the Pacific War broke out, the Chinese battlefield continued to engage most of the Japanese army, greatly boosting the strength of the United States, Britain and other countries in their war against Japan.

China inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese, costing them 1.5 million troops, up to 70 percent of the total Japanese troops killed during WWII.

However, the Chinese people also paid dearly for this victory. Total casualties were estimated at 35 million. The direct property loss suffered by the Chinese was valued at \$100 billion and the indirect property loss at \$500 billion.

On November 1, 1943, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union accepted China as one of the cosigners of the Moscow Declaration. On December 1, 1943, China, Britain and the United States jointly issued the Cairo Declaration. The Potsdam Proclamation was also jointly issued by Chinese, American and British governments on July 26, 1945, sounding the death knell for fascist warmongers worldwide.

On August 15, 1945, the war ended with the Japanese declaring unconditional surrender. The Chinese people had achieved their first antiimperialist victory since the Opium War in 1840-42. On September 2, 1945, the Instrument

of Surrender was signed on board the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

After eight years of epic fighting, the Chinese people witnessed the fall of the Japanese fascist regime and embraced a new epoch in which Asia took steps toward peace.

Sino-Japanese relations

The international order forged after WWII contributed to the general peace in Asia for almost seven decades, a period during which Japan has risen to be one of the most important global economies.

China had decades of friendly relations with Japan after the two countries established formal diplomatic ties in 1972. However, since 2012, those ties have become strained as the Japanese Government and right-wing politicians have continued to repeatedly cross the line with China on historical issues.

The relations between the two countries started to further deteriorate after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office in late 2012, and they flared up when Abe visited a notorious war shrine on December 26, 2013.

The latest confrontation between China and Japan came on August 15 as Japanese Cabinet ministers paid their respects again at the Yasukuni Shrine.

Abe sent a ritual offering to the shrine, which honors 14 Class-A Japanese war criminals, and this, in addition to the visits made by ministers and lawmakers, has further ratcheted

up tensions between Japan and China.

According to Zhou Yongsheng, a professor of Japanese studies at China Foreign Affairs University, huge ambitions for military expansion and even preparations for wartime operations have been placed on Japanese Prime Minister Abe's agenda, and this radical policy campaign looks set to continue.

In April, Japan eased arms export rules, approving its first weapons exports in July. Japan's *Mainichi Shimbun* newspaper said the Defense Ministry is also looking at new ways to incorporate civilians into the military in special circumstances.

"It's a dangerous signal that also appeared before the war," said Li Wei, Director of the Institute of Japanese Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. "Japan's aggression had its roots in the society of militant Japan. When deciding to invade China, wage the Pacific War, and attack Southeast Asia, Japanese rulers said they were 'fighting for survival' and many Japanese believed such nonsense."

"The similar hysteria in Japanese society today must be rooted out in order to win the trust of China and other Asian countries, and that requires the Japanese leadership to adopt an accurate view of history," Li added.

When addressing the 77th anniversary of the Lugou Bridge Incident on July 7, which marks the beginning of the full-scale war, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, "History is history and facts are facts. Nobody can change either."

"Anyone who intends to deny, distort or beautify the history of aggression will never be tolerated by Chinese people or people of other countries," said Xi, referring to widespread concerns that Japan is trying to misrepresent the history of the war.

"Xi's speech again clarifies China's tough stance against Japan's moves," said Ling Xingguang, Director of the Tokyo-based Sino-Japanese Relationship Institute.

"It's a pity that a small minority of people still ignore iron-clad history and the fact that tens of millions of innocent people lost their lives," Xi said in his speech.

When China and Japan normalized bilateral relations in 1972, it was listed in their joint declaration that Japan should view history without bias and not deny its historical aggression against China. That commitment was considered a cornerstone for bilateral political ties and a prerequisite for improving relations.

"Where Sino-Japanese ties will head in the future will be decided by which kind of political attitude, be it the win-win or the zero-sum mentality, that Japan's Abe government takes toward China," said Liu Jiangyong, Deputy Director of the Institute of International Studies at Tsinghua University.

"It is too early to say if Japan will revive its pre-war militarism, but the disclosed strategy of the Abe Cabinet regarding China as a military rival should remind the latter of the urgent need for maintaining peace both domestically and in East Asia." Liu said.

Some Japanese media outlets have started to call for serious improvements to diplomatic relations with China and South Korea through policy shifts, said Ling of the Tokyo-based Sino-Japanese Relationship Institute.

"The latest boost in cooperation between China and South Korea marked by Xi's visit to Seoul made a considerable impact on Japan. Xi's unprecedented presence at the commemoration on July 7 also exerts pressure on Abe. We hope these influences will strengthen the friendly voices," he said.

Ma Junwei, a scholar at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said he believed Sino-Japanese relations will continue to grow in the long run with periodic ups and downs, and he gave the recent foreign ministers' meeting on August 9 as an example of an upturn.

Ψ) Main Phases of China's War Against Japanese Aggression

First Phase: July 1937-October 1938

During this period, China adopted the strategy of "trading space for time." The Chinese army sought to delay the Japanese advance to northern and eastern cities, to allow the home front to retreat to Chongqing. As a result of Chinese troops' "scorched earth" strategies, the consecutive Japanese advancements and conquests began to stall in late 1938.

Second Phase: October 1938-April 1944

The main Chinese objective was to prolong the war. Therefore, the Chinese army adopted the concept of "magnetic warfare" to attract advancing Japanese troops to definite points where they were subjected to attacks.

The CPC and other local guerilla forces continued to distract the enemy and make their deployment over China difficult. As a result, the Japanese effectively controlled only the cities and railroads. By 1940, the war had reached a stalemate.

Third Phase: April 1944-August 1945

Japan conducted its final offensive in China. Although large areas were captured in this massive operation, the Japanese army was stretched to the limit, allowing China to take back cities lost in the conflict.

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