

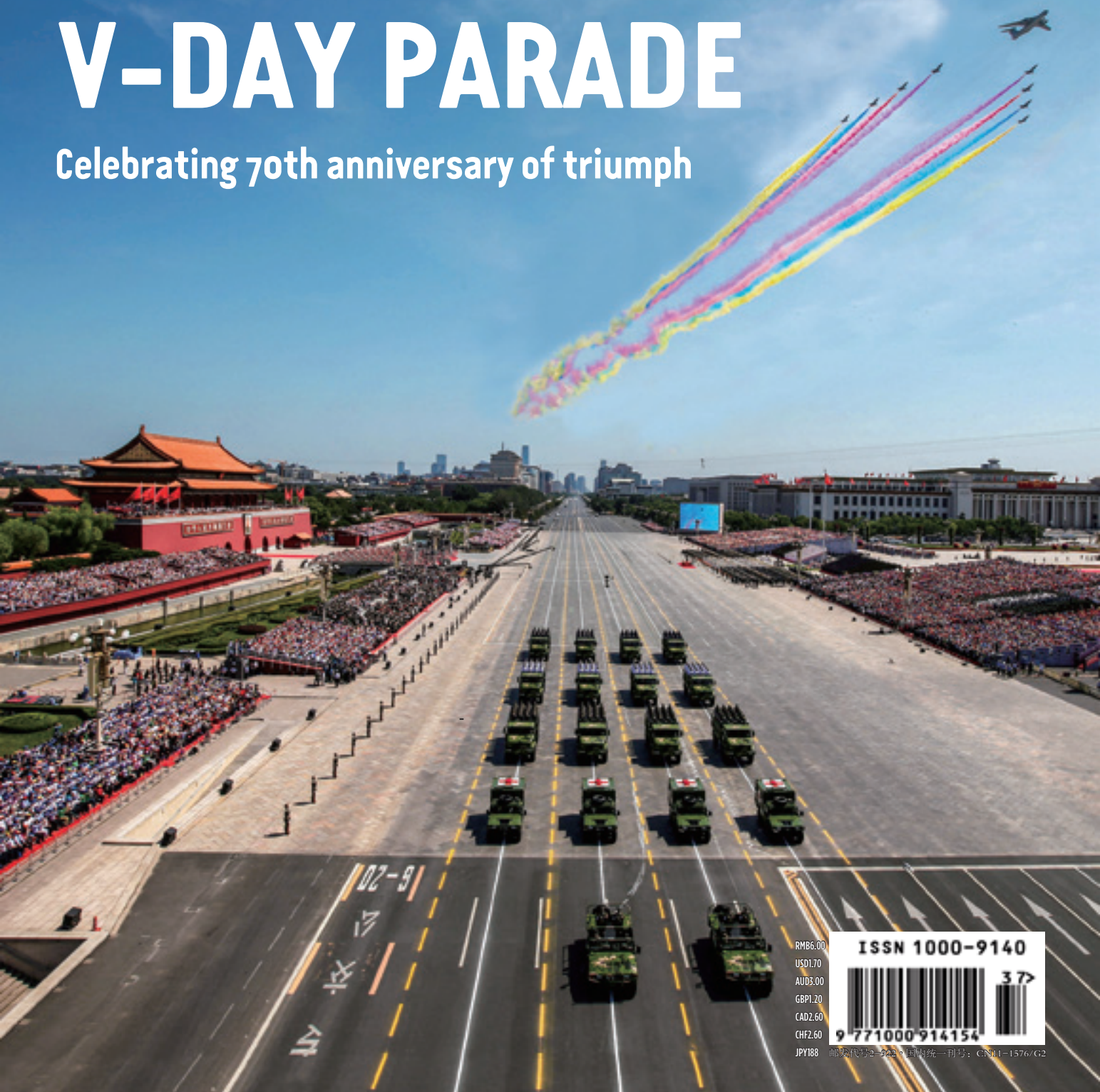
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V-DAY PARADE

Celebrating 70th anniversary of triumph



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Cover Photo: Beijing holds a military parade on September 3 in commemoration of China's victory over Japan in World War II (XINHUA)

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EDITOR'S DESK

Remembering History for A Peaceful Future

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. A series of activities such as exhibitions and seminars were held for commemorative purposes, culminating in a military parade in Beijing on September 3, the Victory Memorial Day.

Representatives from foreign countries and international organizations attended the parade, which evidenced the world's recognition of China's status as the major Oriental battlefield in World War II (WWII). This parade, the first large-scale military parade held in China on a day other than the country's National Day, was intended to illustrate China's commitment to carrying forward the national spirit of patriotism, unity and progress and jointly creating a more peaceful future with the rest of the world.

While the Communist Party of China constituted the mainstay of resistance efforts, the victory was won with the participation of the troops led by the Chinese Kuomintang, as well as cooperation and help from overseas Chinese, friends from around the world, and countries like the Soviet Union and the United States. Inviting representatives from other countries to this commemorative event demonstrates the Chinese Government and people's respect and gratitude.

China will forever remember all those

who contributed to the fight against Japanese invasion. Like China, many countries have held activities to commemorate the anniversary, demonstrating a common aspiration for world peace.

The Shinzo Abe-led administration of Japan criticized UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's decision to attend commemorative activities in China prior to the events. Doing so, the right-wing government in Japan could be said to have needlessly denigrated what was first and foremost a celebration of peace.

One should not attempt to avoid historical issues, however awkward. The war of aggression imposed by the Japanese militarists on its Asian neighbors brought huge disaster to people in those countries. To deliberately forget or even falsify and beautify this section of history is not what a peace-cherishing government is supposed to do. As an heir to the past administrations, the current Japanese administration has to take an honest look at its invasive past. Only on this precondition would it be possible for Japan to sincerely improve its relationship with its neighbors.

The military parade was neither a show of force nor did it target particular countries. Seventy years on from the end of WWII, what we should remember is not historical grievances, but lessons drawn from the most destructive period of human history, in a bid to avoid the repetition of past horrors. ■

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Flag bearers march in front of the Monument to the People's Heroes on the Tiananmen Square in Beijing on September 3 during the commemoration to mark the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War

COVER STORY

MARCHING FORWARD TO PEACE

China holds a military parade to commemorate its victory won 70 years ago **By Yin Pumin**

With a total of 12,000 troops and over 500 pieces of equipment marching through the Tiananmen Square and nearly 200 military aircraft roaring across the sky, China concluded its massive military parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing on September 3.

It was the perfect opportunity to show the world how far the country has come since a costly victory won seven decades ago, in addition to how far the country is willing to go to preserve its hard-won peace and prosperity.

In his speech at the commemoration, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the parade is a tribute to history and a call for peace honoring the Chinese who perished

and those who contributed to victory in the deadly war against Japanese aggression.

"The experience of war makes people value peace all the more. The aim of our commemoration is to bear history in mind, to honor all those who laid down their lives, to cherish peace and to open up the future," said Xi, also Chairman of the Central Military Commission and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

International gathering

The participation of countries from Oriental, European and Pacific battlefields during World War II (WWII) made the military parade in China a major international occasion.

Along with Xi, 23 heads of state, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye, watched



Shi Baodong, a 90-year-old veteran, attends the military parade on September 3. Shi, who was awarded a medal for his wartime contributions by President Xi Jinping the day before, watched the 50-minute phalanx parade while standing and saluting

the parade. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder were also present.

Attendees also included government representatives and heads of international organizations, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

In addition, more than 100 foreign VIPs or relatives of wartime heroes attended the event, including relatives of Canadian doctor Norman Bethune, who achieved fame in China owing to his service as a battlefield surgeon in the CPC-led Eighth Route Army, Japanese veterans who served in same army, and veterans of the Flying Tigers, the nickname given to the American Volunteer Group, the air corps that fought alongside the Chinese during WWII.

"The invitation of WWII veterans from other countries is a way for China to extend its solemn gratitude and tribute," said Peng



Guangqian, Deputy Secretary General of the Council for National Security Policy Studies, a research institution based in Beijing.

Meanwhile, nearly 1,000 troops from 17 countries also participated in the parade. It was the first time that foreign troops had been invited to participate in such an event.

Foreign formations were from Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Serbia, Tajikistan and Russia.

Delegations from six other countries, namely Afghanistan, Cambodia, Fiji, Laos, Vanuatu and Venezuela, also marched in the parade.

The troops joining the parade came from Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania and Latin America, covering all the main battlefields of the war.

All of the participant countries suf-

fered greatly in the conflict. Among them, Egypt, Russia and some members of the Commonwealth of Independent States carried on bitter struggles against the Axis troops and suffered tremendous casualties and losses.

Experts and politicians believe that the presence of international representatives indicates universal acknowledgment of China's long-ignored contribution to the Asian battlefield during WWII, as well as China's rising global status.

Ban said ahead of his Beijing trip that the international community recognizes China's contribution and sacrifices in WWII, and that it is very important now for the world to learn from past lessons and look forward to the future in order to build a better world.

A number of WWII Allied countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States and France, sent their government

and diplomatic representatives to the event.

Qiao Liang, a professor with the National Defense University of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), said the participation of foreign armies will remind people that WWII victory was won through the efforts and sacrifice of many countries.

"The Chinese people will always remember what the people of other countries did for the victory of the war of resistance," Xi said in his speech.

According to Xi, the best way to honor the heroes who gave their lives to uphold freedom, justice and peace and to mourn the loss of innocent lives brutally taken during the war is to make sure that this historical tragedy will never repeat itself.

"Seven decades ago, peace-loving countries across the world joined forces in the fight against fascism and achieved victory. Today, it ►►

Helicopters form the number 70 over the Tiananmen Square during the September 3 military parade



also needs the joint efforts of all people to safeguard justice and peace,” Qiao said.

Qu Rui, Deputy Chief of the Operations Department of the General Staff Headquarters of the PLA, said that victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was not only a victory for the Chinese people, but also for people around the world.

“The participation of foreign formations,

representative teams and military delegations manifests the international nature of the war. We firmly believe that the commemoration activities will cement trust between the PLA and foreign troops participating in the parade,” he said.

Zhao Qizheng, former Minister of the State Council Information Office, said that cooperation between China and other countries in WWII has long been remembered.

“With new cooperation in process, we, the global family, can create a brighter future together,” he said.

In a written interview with Xinhua News Agency, Schröder said China made a very important contribution to the victory in WWII, one little known to Europeans.

“When people in Europe talk about WWII, the main focus is usually on their own continent. Few people there know specifics about how WWII also raged in Asia and how fascism also brought terrible suffering to the Asian people,” Schröder said.

China was the first country in the world to fight against fascist forces when Japanese troops began their invasion of northeast China on September 18, 1931.

Japan initiated full-scale aggression in China in 1937. By the end of WWII in 1945, more than 35 million Chinese soldiers and civilians had been killed or wounded.

Japan signed its formal WWII surrender on September 2, 1945, and China celebrated its victory the following day.

“The victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression is the first complete victory won by China in its resistance against foreign aggression in modern times,” Xi said in his speech.

“This great triumph opened up bright prospects for the great renewal of the Chinese nation and set our ancient country on a new journey after gaining rebirth,” Xi said.

“I think commemorative events have their place,” said Odd Arne Westad, ST Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at Harvard University.

“If the end of WWII teaches us anything, it is that we have to avoid war in the future. In total wars, there are no winners, only losers,” he said.

The military issue

During the military parade, China displayed a host of new armaments ranging from intercontinental ballistic missiles to medium-long range bomber aircraft.

Twenty-seven phalanxes with Chinese-made main battle armaments including the DF-5B, an intercontinental strategic missile

Members of the American Volunteer Group during WWII and friends pose for a group photo with a statue of the group's commander Claire Chennault

designed to carry nuclear warheads, and the DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile described by some media as the "carrier killer," paraded through the Tiananmen Square as nearly 200 aircraft including the H-6K medium-long range bombers and carrier-based J-15 fighter jets flew overhead.

Eighty-four percent of the 500 pieces of equipment of over 40 types on show were being displayed in public for the first time.

"The new domestically produced weaponry shown in the parade demonstrates the military's modernization and innovation in China," said Ge Lide, an expert on military equipment with the National Defense University of the PLA.

China has held more than a dozen military parades on the National Day to mark the country's founding on October 1, 1949. It has typically unveiled its most advanced weapon systems during the parades.

Ge said China's military parades have provided great opportunities to showcase development in weaponry and boost military morale.

The armaments displayed during China's first parade in 1949 were all from other countries and had previously been used, including a Japanese tank captured by the Chinese army in 1945.

Yin Zhuo, Director of the Information Technology Commission of the PLA Navy, said the weapons indicate that the Chinese military is moving from a phase of mechanization toward information technology.

Many experts believe that the most emphatic point the parade made is that China is committed to building a strong army as its defensive military policy in nature has remained unchanged.

Most of the Chinese aircraft displayed in the parade were multiple-role models that focus on air control.

The military parade in 1949 saw only 17 aircraft. Last year, Xi urged accelerating development of military equipment systems to help build a strong army.

In 1937, when Japan began its full-scale invasion of China, the number of aircraft that the then weak Chinese air force possessed constituted only one seventh that of its formidable Japanese counterpart. Most of the



Chinese warplanes were outdated or had been imported from the West.

Qiao with the National Defense University of the PLA said that China learned a tough lesson during WWII: Without a strong army, a country is prone to predation; Without the capacity to stem war, historical tragedies are doomed to happen again.

"I'm happy China today has so many

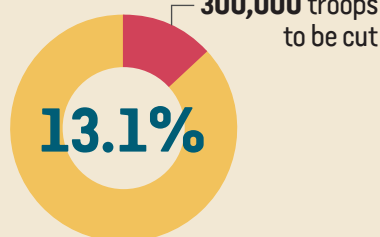
advantageous weapons. The situation makes our citizens feel safer," said Yang Suming, an officer with the Beijing General Fire Team who took part in the military parade.

"China's armaments are proportional to its level of economic development and its security requirements. Its military strategy will remain active defense," said Chen Zhou, Director of the National Defense Policy Research Center of the Academy of Military Sciences of the PLA.

In his speech, Xi said China will remain committed to peaceful development. "We Chinese love peace. No matter how much stronger it may become, China will never seek hegemony or expansion. It will never inflict its past suffering on any other nation," Xi said.

Xi also pledged that China will cut the number of its troops by 300,000 and seek to cultivate the sense of "a community of shared future," a phrase intended to express how countries might benefit from attempting to help one another in the process of pursuing their own individual development. ■

Size of PLA Troop Reduction Announced



Current troop size: 2.285 mln

(Compiled by Beijing Review)

Copied by Eric Daly
Comments to yinpumin@bjreview.com



President Xi Jinping reviews troops participating in the military parade

COVER STORY

PARADE SNAPSHOTS

The Victory Day parade in Beijing on September 3 featured an abundance of unforgettable moments, ranging from veterans saluting from their decorated buses to 11 foreign armed forces' phalanxes marching in uniform and aircraft flying in V formations against the backdrop of an azure sky. Here, *Beijing Review* captures some of these moments in a selection of photographs.





ZHENG LIANG

Veterans aboard their decorated bus



ZHENG LIANG



XINHUA

Members of the guard of honor of the three services of the People's Liberation Army participate in the military parade

A military medical workers' phalanx



XINHUA



ZHOU YOUNG

Representatives from various countries attend the parade



A nuclear missile formation

WANG CHUANSHU



Lieutenant Generals Bai Jianjun, Tian Zhong, Chen Dong, Wu Guohua and Pan Changjie (left to right) salute while leading equipment phalanxes

ZHANG HUA



An unmanned aerial vehicle in the parade



A carrier-based fighter jet flies over the Tiananmen Square

XINHUA
ZHAO QIYU



A helicopter displays the Chinese national flag



XINHUA



WANG CHUANSHUN

The Marine Corps' amphibious assault vehicles



Russia



Tajikistan



Mongolia



Kyrgyzstan



Belarus



Pakistan



Egypt



Kazakhstan



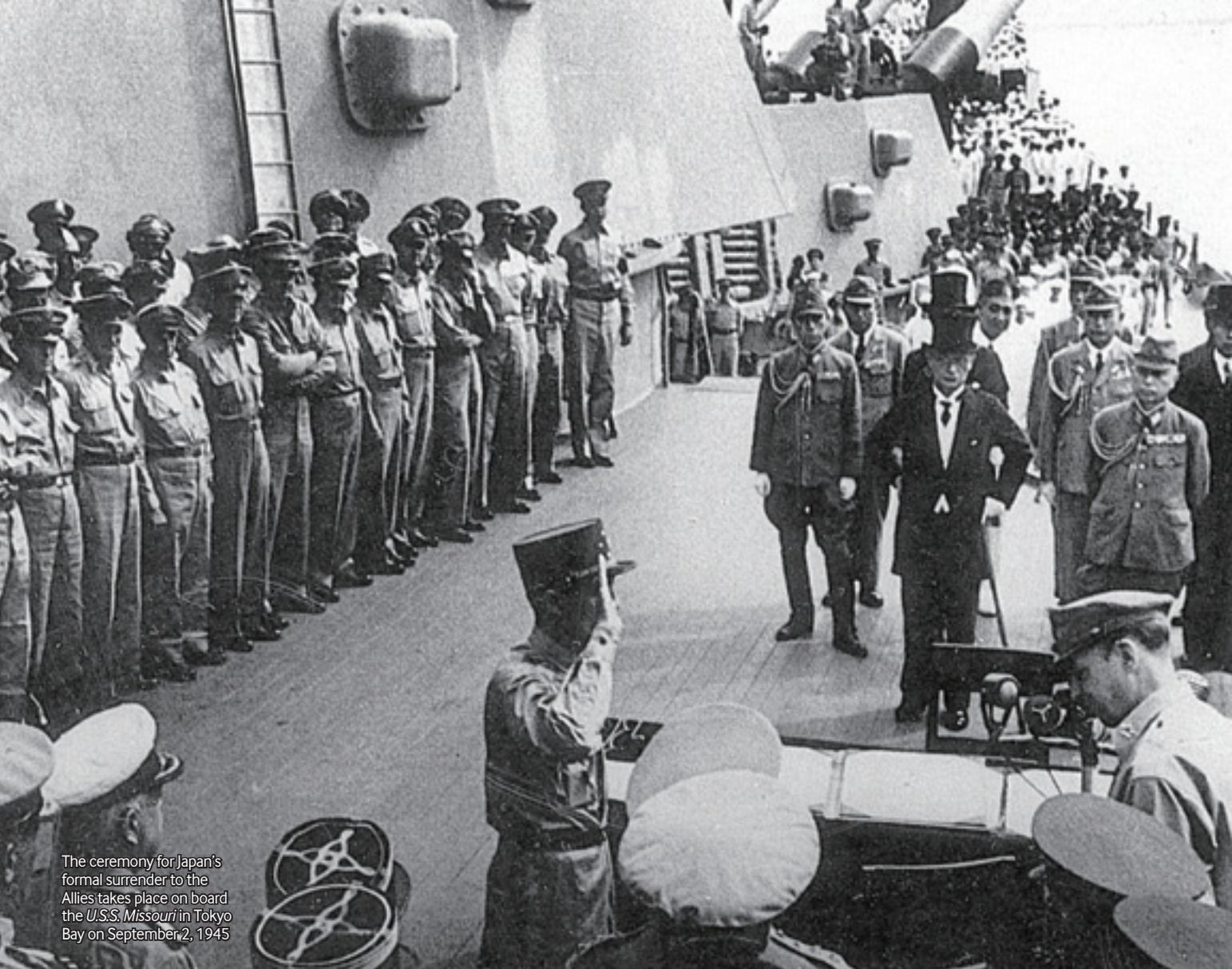
Mexico



Cuba



Serbia



The ceremony for Japan's formal surrender to the Allies takes place on board the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945

COVER STORY

DEVOTED ALLY

While fighting Japanese aggression, China's contribution to WWII helped raise its status in the eyes of the world By Yin Pumin

On September 3, 1945, people around the nation of China poured onto the streets to celebrate, and with good reason. The day before, Japan had signed its formal surrender to the Allies, including China, on board the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, finally bringing to an end what had been a harrowing non-stop war.

According to experts, foreign and domestic, the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression played an important role in World War II (WWII). Though the war of resistance lasted eight years, it had its roots in events taking place six years prior. In his book *Forgotten Ally: China's World War II, 1937-1945*, Rana Mitter, a professor of history at Oxford University, said that the marathon struggle that China waged was not just for its own dignity and survival, but for the good of all the Allies.

On July 14 this year, China released the official record of its loss of life and property in the war, another move designed to stress the country's important contribution toward preserving peace. According to the data, China suffered



Numbers

Over the **14 years** of Japan's invasion and occupation, China suffered more than **35 million** military and non-military casualties; military casualties reached **3.8 million**, accounting for **one third** of the total casualties of all the countries involved in WWII; more than **\$100 billion** in direct property losses were incurred, with indirect economic losses of **\$500 billion**.

Up to 1938, China and Japan together put more than **4 million** soldiers into action in a war zone of approximately **1.6 million square km**. More than **400 million** people were involved directly or indirectly in the war.

(Source: State Council Information Office)

over 35 million casualties during the war, with military casualties reaching more than 3.8 million.

Great contributions

"With these sacrifices, the country held back most of Japan's troops while coordinating with the Allies' operations in the West," said Wang Jianliang, Director of the Institute of Modern History at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The data show that the Japanese army deployed 1.86 million troops in China, accounting for more than 50 percent of the total of 3.58 million Japanese combatants sent overseas. Chinese

forces killed, wounded and captured more than 1.5 million Japanese soldiers from 1931-45, accounting for 70 percent of casualties suffered by Japanese forces.

Hu Dekun, a historian with Wuhan University in central China's Hubei Province, said that by drawing a large number of Japanese military resources to their land, the Chinese resistance thwarted Japan's wartime strategy. According to him, as Japan had to gradually commit more troops to China, 32 of the 34 divisions of the Japanese army—comprising 94 percent of its entire forces—as well as some navy forces had found their way to the China battlefield by 1938.

As the war continued, the regular army and militia led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) grew to surpass 3.1 million people and became the main force to finally turn the tables in 1945. "In particular the guerrilla bases led by the CPC behind the frontlines disrupted the Japanese army's operations," Hu said. According to him, by mobilizing the public behind enemy lines, the CPC-led army and civilian groups killed a total of 1.7 million Japanese and puppet re-

gime troops during the war.

Wang agreed that China's perseverance greatly impeded the progress of the Japanese aggressors, forcing them to give up their northward invasion targeting the Soviet Union and retarding their southward invasion which aimed for U.S. and British bases in Southeast Asia. Because of this, the Soviet Union did not have to fight enemies on both eastern and western fronts, and the Allied powers like the United States and Britain also gained more time to execute their strategies.

Weighed down by China's resistance, Japan had to say no to Germany's request for reinforcement in the Battle of Stalingrad with the Soviet Union in 1942, freeing the Soviet Union from the worry of being outflanked. According to Wang, China helped stall and resist some 80 percent of the total Japanese army forces. He claimed that even after the Pacific War broke out in December 1941, China remained the main Far East battlefield in WWII.

In 1942, the Japanese navy mapped out a scheme to invade Australia so as to prevent the United States from using the country as a base to launch counterattacks, but with its forces preoccupied in China, the Japanese army rejected the plan. According to Hu, Japanese troops in China still far outnumbered those in the Pacific battlefield by the end of the Pacific War.

As part of the Allies' plan, Chinese troops also did battle in Myanmar, then known as Burma, between 1943 and 1945 and liberated the country's north as well as the border area of southwest China's Yunnan Province after suffering severe casualties. The road linking Yunnan and Burma secured by Chinese troops would later greatly facilitate the Allies' counterattacks in Burma.

China also provided airfields from which Allied air forces could launch raids on Japanese targets. Some U.S. bombers running low on fuel also landed in China, like those involved in

James Doolittle's famous 1942 raid on Tokyo.

According to Hu, China's wartime diplomacy also played a vital role in WWII. "By bringing together the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain, China was able to emerge victorious from the war," Hu said.

The role that China played in WWII made it one of the "four major powers," together with the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain, granting China a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

A major battlefield

Early in 1931, the Japanese, eager to grasp control of China's vast natural resources and taking note of the country's defensive weaknesses, plotted to conquer its northeast provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning. On September 18 that year, a group of Japanese officers incited the September 18 Incident, which led to Japan's total occupation of the area—known to the West as Manchuria—within five months.

Encouraged by the conquest of northeast China, the Japanese there built up a continental base for its further territorial encroachment on the Asian continent.

In January 1933, the Japanese Kwantung Army occupied Shanhaiguan Pass, the gateway to north China, and initiated a campaign in then Jehol Province, which was soon incorporated into Manchukuo, a puppet regime established by Japan in China's northeast provinces.

In the same year, Japanese troops also moved into Hebei Province, launching two attacks there. In May that year, the Japanese army signed the Tanggu Truce with the Chinese authorities, thus gaining it a foothold in the northern Chinese province.

Facing the national crisis, the CPC proposed a united front between political parties, civil organizations and armies in 1935. In December 1936, Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975), then Chairman of the National Military Council of

China's Role in the World Anti-Fascist War

"China's great war of resistance is not only China's own business; it is also a war of the East and the world at large. Our enemy is the world's enemy, and China's war of resistance is of worldwide significance."

—Mao Zedong

"Chinese battlefields restrain the brutal Japanese invading army so that it dare not covet India, invade Australia or cross the Aleutians in the north in an attempt to cut off contacts among the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom."

—Chiang Kai-shek

"Only when the Japanese invaders' hands and feet are tied up can we avoid fighting on two fronts simultaneously when the German invaders attack us."

—Joseph Stalin

"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."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

"If the Japanese attack the West Indian Ocean, all our positions in the Middle East will be lost. Only China can help us to prevent that from happening."

—Winston Churchill

the Nationalist Government of the Republic of China (1912-49), recognized the united front and from thereon in, the Chinese people rallied around the Kuomintang (KMT) and the CPC.

Six months later, Japanese officers manufactured an incident at the Lugou Bridge, better known as the Marco Polo Bridge, near Beijing on July 7, 1937. The Japanese army bombarded nearby Wanping County, close to Beijing, inciting full-scale war in China.

On August 13, the Japanese opened a second front in Shanghai, the financial center of the nation, aiming to cripple China's economy. Chiang committed some of his best German-trained troops there, who succeeded in stalling the enemy's advance for a period of three months.

Citing Japanese battle logs describing the bloody Songhu Battle in Shanghai, Hu said Chinese soldiers and civilians put up a "very

tough" resistance, enduring a siege during which Japan suffered more than 40,000 casualties. The Japanese tactic of outflanking the defender ultimately worked, however, causing a rapid disintegration of Chinese defenses. The road to Nanjing was left wide open, and the enemy swiftly advanced to the gates of the Chinese capital.

Chiang then moved his capital to Chongqing in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River in southwest China. The southwest became a new base of resistance, dashing Japanese hopes for a swift occupation of the whole of China.

In October 1938, Japanese army units landed in south China and occupied Guangzhou in Guangdong Province. Other Japanese troops in central China attacked and seized the city of Wuhan along the Yangtze River. The fall of Wuhan marked the end of the first phase of the war, which lasted 16 months. During this period, the Chinese ceded space in return for time, enticing the enemy deep into their country's hinterland. Although the Japanese quickly captured all key Chinese ports and industrial centers, including capital Nanjing and Shanghai, the KMT and CPC forces continued to resist.

During the brutal conflict, the Japanese forces committed many massacres and atrocities. The most infamous came after the fall of Nanjing in December 1937, when Japanese troops slaughtered an estimated 300,000 civilians and raped 80,000 women. Moreover, many thousands of Chinese were killed in the indiscriminate bombing of cities by the Japanese air force.

Savage reprisals were also carried out against Chinese farmers, in retaliation for attacks by partisans waging a guerrilla war against the invader by ambushing supply columns and attacking isolated units. By the war's end, this had led to an estimated 10-20 million Chinese civilian deaths.

By the end of 1938, the war had descended into stalemate. The Japanese seemed unable to force victory, nor the Chinese to evict the invaders from occupied territory.

Around this period, Mao Zedong (1893-1976) wrote his famous *On Protracted War*,

systematically analyzing the war situation and pointing out potential routes to triumph. In the article, Mao favored small assaults on Japanese supply lines over large-scale confrontations.

Accordingly, the CPC-led forces created a coherent theory of guerrilla warfare. The foundation of this strategy was the creation of base areas within enemy-occupied territory, where guerrillas could return for rest and replenishment and where recruits and material support could be assembled.

The CPC-led troops' surprise attacks and constant harassment of supply convoys and road and rail links put the Japanese army on the defensive for much of 1938. By August of that year, guerrillas had occupied nine of the 22 districts in the east of Hebei.

While the KMT troops were holding a large consignment of Japanese troops in central China at bay, the CPC troops launched the Hundred Regiments Campaign in August 1940, during which Chinese troops fought a total of 1,824 battles large and small, inflicted some 20,645 casualties on Japanese forces, destroyed major railways and many highways, uprooted some 2,993 Japanese and puppet regime strongholds, and recovered between 40 and 50 counties from Japanese occupation.

Final victory

The outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941 changed the course of the Chinese struggle. The Allied powers established a China-Burma-India theater, with Chiang acting as supreme commander of the China Theater, consisting of China proper, as well as Viet Nam, Thailand and Burma, effective from January 5, 1942.

Foreigners also played their part. Joseph Stilwell (1883-1946), a former language officer in Beijing, now Beijing, was appointed the chief of staff of the Chinese army. A group of American volunteer pilots, the Flying Tigers, who had been operating in Kunming in Yunnan since August 1941, were incorporated into the U.S. 14th Air Force on July 4, 1942, with Claire Chennault (1893-1958) acting as commander.

During the early phases of the Pacific War, the Allied performance was poor in con-

trast with the long-fought Chinese resistance, which had garnered the latter respect in the West, convincing the U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt to enlist China's aid.

At that time, the Chinese battlefield continued to occupy most of the Japanese army, greatly helping other Allied powers in their war against Japan, while providing strategic re-enforcement to efforts being made elsewhere around the world.

On November 1, 1943, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union accepted China as one of the cosigners of the Moscow Declaration, in which the four nations pledged to prosecute the war unceasingly until victory was theirs.

On December 1, 1943, China, Britain and the United States jointly issued the Cairo Declaration, which formulated the general principles of resistance against Japanese imperialism.

The Potsdam Proclamation was jointly issued by China, the United States and Britain on July 26, 1945, and won support worldwide. It sounded the death knell for the Axis powers, while at the same time representing an official denunciation of Japan's actions.

On August 15, 1945, the war ended with



Peng Dehuai, Deputy Commander in Chief of the CPC-led Eighth Route Army, commands an operation during the Hundred Regiments Campaign in 1940



Soldiers of the China Expeditionary Force fire upon Japanese forces during a battle in Myitkyina, Burma

the Japanese declaring an unconditional surrender. The Chinese people had finally achieved their first anti-imperialist victory, a century after the Opium War which lasted from 1840-42, helping to overcome the humiliations they had experienced in the past. Moreover, they had won the respect of the international community. ■

Copiedited by Eric Daly
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COVER STORY

INSCRIBING CHINA'S CONTRIBUTION IN STONE

War anniversary allows us to pay tribute to WWII's unacknowledged hero

By Kerry Brown



The author is an op-ed contributor to *Beijing Review* and executive director of the China Studies Center at the University of Sydney

September marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II (WWII) in Asia. A few months after hostilities ceased in Europe, the war against Japan ended with its surrender after the dropping of two atomic bombs, one on Nagasaki and the other on Hiroshima. A war that had started in the Asian theater earlier than its European equivalent ended a little later. It had been one of the most destructive conflicts humanity had ever seen in terms of casualties and the numbers affected. Conservative estimates place Chinese fatalities alone at 20 million, with as many as 50 million made homeless.

It is often forgotten, but China was one

of the key battlefronts in the struggle against fascism in WWII. While the conflict in Europe has been exhaustively documented and memorialized, that in Asia is far less recognized and understood, in the English-speaking world at least. This is a pity. China in particular made huge sacrifices, and its people suffered profoundly.

Only in recent years through the work of historians like Rana Mitter in Oxford has this story been better understood amongst English-speaking audiences and readerships. As his work shows, had Chinese armies not fought so valiantly, and made such colossal efforts, then the Japanese imperial forces may well have been freed up to offer support to their allies in Germany.

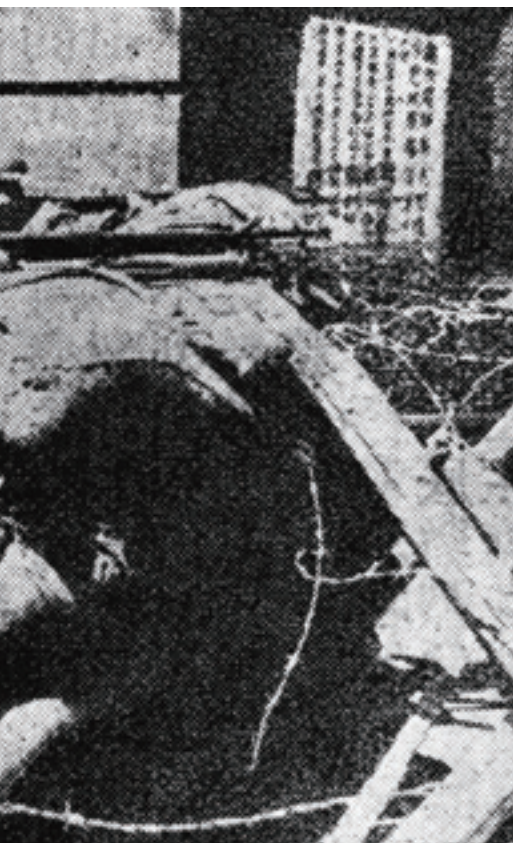
The consequences of this would have been disastrous. The simple fact is that Japan never resolved its tactical position during its attempts to conquer China, and was unable to deeply penetrate into the country's vast rural areas. It remained from the beginning to the end of the larger war tied down and absorbed in the war in China. Its attempts to broaden the theater of WWII to the rest of the Pacific region and

America were doomed largely because of this preoccupation.

WWII, for China at least, showed a largely agrarian and undeveloped economy pitted against a modernized, industrial one. Since the Meiji Restoration in the 1860s, Japan had imported Western technology, and undertaken a modernization process that meant that by the 1930s, it had accrued formidable military resources. This sense of simply being technologically stronger and more advanced, married to a huge sense of nationalistic arrogance and ambition, was the toxic mix that encouraged it to first engulf Northeast Asia, and then, over the coming years, the rest of the region after 1937 in what was a cataclysmic battle.

China, politically and economically divided and weakened during this period, took the full brunt of the onslaught. The first phase of the war after 1937 consisted of provocations and viciously powerful military strikes from the northeast of China by Japanese forces, which effectively annexed a third of the country and made the rest a war zone. Japan used the labor and economic resources of the country





Chinese soldiers fight against Japanese invaders during the Songhu Battle in Shanghai on August 13, 1937

to fuel its own ambitions elsewhere in Asia. Its response to initial Chinese fightbacks was brutal and ruthless, pursuing tactics of total annihilation that saw whole communities and physical stretches of China decimated.

Ill motives

With the massacre of more than 300,000 civilians and disarmed combatants in Nanjing, the then capital of China, in 1937, Japanese armies committed one of the most egregious and inhumane acts of war in modern times. Eyewitness accounts by foreigners based in the city at the time tell of widespread butchering of men, women and children, rape and inconceivable suffering on the part of the population left to the mercy of the Japanese forces arriving in Nanjing.

To this day, the continuing existence of some in Japan who refuse to accept the extent of the devastation visited on Nanjing provokes profound resentment and anger. This is understandable. To deny the extent of the suffering that happened in Nanjing in late 1937 only heaps more injury on an already gargantuan injustice. It is an offense to the memory of those who died over this period in the city, to their relatives and to those who remember them.

In Shanghai, Japanese forces created a battlefield within an urban, densely populated region. Photos from the time show children badly burnt and abandoned by parents who had themselves been wounded or murdered. Another shows the searing image of Chinese prisoners being herded into pits in the ground

while Japanese soldiers stand by, watching them being buried alive.

In his magisterial biography of Adolf Hitler, the British historian Ian Kershaw talks of the ways in which Nazi Germany saw a collapse of civilization in what had once been a civilized, cultivated country, and the perversion of its values through the hateful, inflammatory ideology of the Nazis. Violence in deed and speech became almost the default measure of the Hitler era in Germany, with a worship of brute force and a heedlessness with respect to the value of human life. Imperial Japan was directed by the same lack of humanity. For leaders of the regime in Tokyo, the ambition was to create a vast "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," a scheme that possesses eerie likeness to the Nazi concept of *Lebensraum* (living space). At its heart, this simply masked the self-interest of a regime that was focused only on domination and subscribing to ideas of racial superiority that fueled their cruel treatment of neighboring populations.

The years up to 1945 saw one of the great struggles to fight back against the pernicious Japanese imperial worldview, and the brutal methods it was using to enforce same. Millions of Chinese paid the ultimate price in this struggle. Many were killed in war, but a frightening number died after maltreatment as prisoners or enslavement by the imperial forces. Take the tragic issue of "comfort women" (a Japanese euphemism for about 200,000 sex slaves it forcibly recruited in WWII), one that lingers 70 years after the war and remains as much a cause of contention and anguish as it was decades before. That so many women were taken and used so cruelly, and under such harsh conditions to boot, almost beggars belief. And yet it was part of the reality of the war in Asia in the 1940s.

Lessons from the past

After the invasion, China itself underwent further turmoil through a civil war that the former has interrupted. After 1949, the long process of reconstruction commenced. China today is almost unrecognizable from the country that had seen so much of its transport infrastructure destroyed from 1937 onward.

The dreams of a modernized China that had started to emerge toward the end of the Qing Dynasty before 1911 have now been partially realized. Cities like Shanghai and Beijing that were battlegrounds before 1945 are now dominated by modern skyscrapers, and a globally important emerging middle class that count amongst the most aspirational and prosperous in the Asian region.

Now, it might seem that WWII is a distant memory to modern Chinese. Only for a few does it still figure in their living memories. The sites of some of the most traumatic wartime events, such as Nanjing, have been wholly reconstructed. Japanese companies and tourists visit China, and the two countries invest in each other and have huge, multifaceted links.

But WWII still looms large in the nation's collective memory and remains an event remembered and discussed amongst the Chinese public, rendered in the popular imagination as a time of great hurt and loss. For most, it needs to be remembered to ensure that the senseless loss of life and physical destruction of the war period never happens again. More profoundly perhaps even than in Europe, the Chinese saw their country under an attack so virulent and remorseless that many wondered if it ever would be able to recover. Had they ultimately prevailed, the imperial Japanese armies would have brought in the same terrifyingly inhumane policies that they had partially implemented before their defeat in China and elsewhere.

For this reason, the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII in Asia is as much a cause for celebration throughout the rest of the world as it is within the Asian region. It marked the defeat of one of the most negative and savage war machines the world has ever seen, not just for the Chinese, but for the whole of the human race. The Chinese stood beside the allied forces in the titanic struggle against Fascism, and paid a price as high—perhaps higher—than any others. That contribution to the prosperity and stability of the modern world should never be forgotten, and the heroism and sacrifice of the Chinese people should be celebrated—and acknowledged—loudly and proudly. ■

Copiedited by Eric Daly
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COVER STORY

A CHANGE OF HEART

How a turn toward peace changed one Japanese veteran's life By Miao Xiaoyang



Kiyoshi Kobayashi (1918-94)



Yokichi Kobayashi

Among those who fought Japanese invaders during the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression were not only Chinese but also international combatants, including the Anti-War Alliance of Japanese People in China. Kiyoshi Kobayashi, a captured Japanese soldier who joined the Eighth Route Army led by the Communist Party of China (CPC), was a member of this alliance.

On September 2-3, Yokichi Kobayashi, the eldest son of late Kiyoshi Kobayashi, was invited to Beijing to attend the activities commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of the war of resistance and the World Anti-Fascist War as secretary general of the Japanese veterans' delegation. In a recent exclusive interview, Yokichi Kobayashi shared his father's story with *Beijing Review*.

Kiyoshi Kobayashi was born in April 1918. In 1939, he was sent to the Chinese battleground. In a battle in east China's Shandong Province the following year, Kiyoshi Kobayashi was injured and captured by the Eighth Route Army.

"In the battle, my father was hit by a stone

in the head and fainted. When he woke up, he found himself lying on a stretcher of the Eighth Route Army. An officer who spoke Japanese told him that they treated captives well. At first, my father doubted that. But later, many simple things helped my father change his mind. For instance, the Eighth Route Army soldiers dressed my father's wounds carefully and changed his clothes regularly. They also returned all his belongings to him," said Yokichi Kobayashi.

"Inspired by the CPC and the Eighth Route Army, my father converted. As time went on, he gained a clear understanding of the aggressive nature of the war that Japan launched against China. He determined to fight for peace," Yokichi Kobayashi said.

In autumn 1941, Kiyoshi Kobayashi submitted an application to join the Eighth Route Army. In 1942, with the help of the army, Kiyoshi Kobayashi and some other converted Japanese soldiers established the Jiaodong branch of the Japanese anti-war alliance.

As Kiyoshi Kobayashi was familiar with the state of mind of Japanese soldiers in the war,

his major work was persuading Japanese soldiers through a loudspeaker to give up war. "In many battles, the efforts of my father led to the surrender of soldiers," Yokichi Kobayashi said, adding that his father was recognized widely for these efforts.

In 1944, Kiyoshi Kobayashi published an article titled *My Introspection* in a local newspaper to expose the crimes of Japanese aggressors. "My father's self-reflection greatly encouraged the Chinese to fight under harsh conditions. His bravery also gained himself a great reputation in the counter-Japanese base in Shandong," Yokichi Kobayashi said.

After the war, Kiyoshi Kobayashi chose to live in China and didn't go back to Japan.

"My father always said he loved Japan, as Japan is his motherland where he grew up, and his relatives and friends live in Japan," Yokichi Kobayashi said. "My father was born Japanese but died Chinese."

Kiyoshi Kobayashi died in the northern port city of Tianjin in 1994. Yokichi Kobayashi buried half of his remains in the city and brought the other half back to Japan.

"My father left us a rich spiritual legacy," Yokichi Kobayashi said. "It has been 70 years since the end of the war, and the world has changed remarkably. As a descendent of a Japanese Eighth Route Army soldier, I have an obligation to inherit my father's mission to tell the next generations that the China-Japan friendship is hard won and we must cherish it and ensure that it will last forever." ■

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COVER STORY

GOOD FOR THE SOUL

A publisher offers former combatants the opportunity to confess and unburden themselves By Miao Xiaoyang



Over the past 10 years or so, a press in Japan has annually published an anti-war book titled *August 15*, which records testimonies from Japanese soldiers who participated in Japan's war of aggression against China. Japan declared its unconditional surrender in WWII on August 15, 1945.

Sparing no efforts in salvaging confessions from Japanese soldiers quickly dying of advanced age, the publishing house has only one purpose—documenting the atrocities perpetrated Japanese militarists for future generations, so as to push forward a long-lasting Sino-Japanese friendship.

Shortly before China's September 3 Victory Day celebrations this year, the Duan Press published its 2014 edition of *August 15*, its 21st publication of anti-war book.

Founded in 1996, the Duan Press is dedicated to publishing Japanese-language books on China. To date, it has published over 290 titles on China's society, economy and culture

as well as Sino-Japanese exchanges.

"The first anti-war book we published is *The Jap Soldiers I Know*, written by Chinese writer Fang Jun and published in 2000," said Duan Yuezhong, founder and Editor in Chief of the press. "After its publication, the book raised awareness in Japan and received wide coverage by plenty of Japanese media outlets. That's when we realized we should keep on publishing such works."

In 2003, the Duan Press published *Here Come the Jap Soldiers Again*—a Japanese soldier's attempt to atone for wartime atrocities he committed in east China's Shandong Province. The author Yasuyoshi Shioya joined the Japanese army in 1942 and battled against the Eighth Route Army, an army under the command of the Communist Party of China. After the war, he was detained in Siberia and later sent back to Tokyo.

"I've never forgotten my evil deeds in the war," he wrote in the book. In 1985, Shioya, together with his 90 peers, visited China to try to make amends for these misdeeds. Over the following five years, they visited the Chinese battlefields in which they had fought and donated supplies to nearby schools.

Another book that Duan said was worth mentioning is *The Search for Surviving Evidence of the Japanese Occupation of the Puppet State of Manchukuo*, published in 2007. The author Shigeru Aoki is a Japanese civil servant who visited China five times between 2000 and 2005 in search of evidence of Japanese aggression in northeast China, where the puppet state was located. In the book, he recounts his field trips with pictures and words providing solid evidence of heinous crimes committed by Japanese forces during their invasion of China during World War II (WWII).

"Japanese people have the courage to speak up and record the atrocities in detail. As a publisher, we feel a strong responsibility to pass on the historical facts to future generations. By letting more people know the crimes committed by Japanese invaders in China, more will come to realize how precious peace is," Duan said.

The Duan Press started to publish the *August 15* series in 2004, based on a namesake Japanese-language monthly magazine compiled by a group of former soldiers. The anti-war group, founded in 1961, has published more than 500 issues of the magazine over the past five decades.

"Their testimonies are very precious and were spoken from the bottom of their hearts. However, since they are growing old, it is becoming more and more difficult to collect their testimonies," Duan said.

"Many Japanese soldiers want to make a thorough confession before they pass away," Duan said. "In Japan, scholars and authors are carrying out anti-war research out of conscience, without any funding support. I hope more people will join the effort."

When commenting on the parade marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, Duan said the grand ceremony connected the past and the future, China and the world, as well as peace and development.

"It doesn't matter whether you are abroad or in China, present at the parade or in front of your TV set. These days, everyone can be a media outlet," Duan, who was not present at the parade, told *Beijing Review*. "We can tell the world in different languages and forms—let's join hands to remember history and maintain peace." ■

Copiedited by Kylee McIntyre
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

HOTEL INFORMATION



Flavors of Singapore at Grand Hyatt Beijing

September 14-27, Lunch and Dinner

With its rich multicultural heritage, Singapore serves up a true melting pot of various culinary highlights. Grand Café presents the authentic Singapore cuisine, carefully crafted by Master Chef Martin Aw Yong, Executive Chef of Grand Hyatt Beijing, who is originally from Singapore and will bring the flavors of his home to Beijing.

Treat your taste buds with a reflection of Singapore's cultural diversity. Recommended highlights include Chef Aw Yong's mother's recipe of chili crab served with traditional fried mini buns, his personal recipe for black peppered prawns and Laksa noodles with shrimps, poached corn-fed chicken, fried bean curd, fishcake and boiled eggs.

Grand Café

Grand Café offers all-day dining, with a la carte menus and indulgent buffets featuring an international array of culinary delights. The interactive dining experience showcases genuine Japanese, Italian and Beijing home-style cooking. The east private dining room is available for functions up to 30 people.

Located at Level 2

For reservations, please call 86-10-6510 9024.





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- Radegast Hotel Beijing Hongshan
- Z-Park Plaza

Capital Crimes Cut

China's newest amendments to the Criminal Law have reduced the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty to 46 after trimming nine capital crimes.

The nine crimes are: smuggling weapons, ammunition, nuclear materials or counterfeit currency; counterfeiting currency; raising funds by means of fraud; arranging for or forcing another person to engage in prostitution; obstructing a police officer or a person on duty from performing his duties; and fabricating rumors to mislead others during wartime.

After removing the capital punishment for these crimes, those convicted will face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The move to limit the use of the death penalty comes in the wake of judicial reform pushed forward by the Communist Party of China in recent years to gradually reduce the number

of crimes subject to the penalty.

It is the second time China has reduced the number of crimes punishable by death since the Criminal Law took effect in 1979.

In 2011, the NPC Standing Committee dropped the death penalty for 13 economic-related non-violent crimes including smuggling cultural relics, gold and silver; carrying out fraud related to financial bills; forging or selling forged exclusive value-added tax invoices; teaching criminal methods; and robbing ancient cultural ruins.

The amended Criminal Law, adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, will take effect on November 1.

Ecological Footprint

The average ecological footprint per capita in China is expected to peak at 2.9 global hectares in 2029 amid fast-paced urbanization, according to a report released on August 28.



RED HARVEST

Women of the Zhuang ethnic group dry peppers in Mahai Village in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on August 29. The day marked the start of the area's annual red pepper festival, as the crop is the chief agricultural product of Mahai and nearby villages



Back to School

A teacher leads students to an elementary school to start a new semester in Binhai New Area in Tianjin on August 31.

Two blasts ripped through a warehouse in the area on August 12, killing more than 150. More than 300 primary and secondary schools in the area began the new semester on August 31 after the local government hired workers to repair, clean and disinfect the areas surrounding the schools.

The report, released by the Beijing branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), noted that the ecological footprint could reach its peak three years early if the country adopts a green development path, which could potentially lower it to 2.7 global hectares per capita.

An ecological footprint measures the amount of resources humans use and the waste they generate. It is used to gauge whether they are outpacing what their local ecological system can provide.

A global hectare is a standardized hectare of land able to produce resources and absorb waste at world average levels.

China is experiencing the fastest rate of urbanization in the world, with 54.77 percent of its 1.3 billion people living in urban areas in 2014, according to the report.

Consumption by urban residents accounted for more than 80 percent of the national total last year, compared to 40 percent in 1980, it said. The per capita ecological footprint of urban residents is 1.4 to 2.5 times higher than that of rural residents.

The WWF's Living Planet Report 2014 said that the ecological footprint was continuing its upward climb and that humanity's demand on the planet is more than 50 percent larger than what nature can renew.

Business Activity

China's manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) came in at 49.7 in August, down from 50 for the previous month, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) on September 1.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while that below 50 represents contraction.

It was the third time in this year that the index fell into contraction territory, and the August reading was the lowest since August 2012.

The production sub-index posted 51.7 in August, still expanding, but lower from 52.4 for July. The sub-index for new orders came at 49.7, down from 49.9 for July, indicating significant



Fast Link

A high-speed train arrives at the Dandong Railway Station in northeast China's Liaoning Province on September 1. The 208-km-long high-speed railway linking Shenyang and Dandong, both in Liaoning, commenced operations on that day.

challenges in demand.

Statistics from the NBS and CFLP also showed that the non-manufacturing PMI fell to 53.4 in August from 53.9 for July.

Non-manufacturing PMI tracks business activities of services and construction sectors.

Local Govt Debt

China's top legislature on August 29 imposed a ceiling of 16 trillion yuan (\$2.51 trillion) for local government debt in 2015.

The decision was adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

The ceiling has two parts: 15.4 trillion yuan (\$2.42 trillion) of debt owed by local governments by the end of 2014, and 600 billion yuan (\$90 billion) as the maximum additional debt allowed for 2015.

The 2014 debt balance surged over 40 percent from the end of the first half of 2013, and it was valued at 1.2 times the final accounting of the 2014 public

SILKY SHOW

A model at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Silk Road Fashion Festival in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on August 29



budget, according to statistics.

According to the Budget Law that took effect earlier this year and a regulation of the State Council, the country's cabinet, China should cap the local government debt balance, and the scale of local government debt should be submitted by the State Council to the NPC for approval.

Fewer Restrictions

China has lowered the threshold for foreign capital to invest in the country's property market, according to a statement released on August 27 by the Ministry of Commerce.

Under the new rule, foreigners and branches of overseas institutions in China are allowed to buy houses for dwelling or personal use.

The Chinese Government has also lowered the requirement of registered capital for foreign-funded real estate enterprises.

After the adjustment, registered capital shall be no less than 40 percent of total investments between \$10 million

and \$30 million; if the total investment is valued at more than \$30 million, the ratio shall be over one third.

The previous ratio was at least 50 percent for investment valued at more than \$10 million.

Full payment of registered capital is no longer a precondition for applying for domestic and overseas loans.

Mecca Pilgrimage

Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, which has the largest Hui population in China, began sending Muslims on the annual Mecca pilgrimage on August 31.

The Mecca pilgrimage, also known as the Hajj, is a Muslim tradition that specifies all able-bodied Muslims who can afford to travel to Saudi Arabia must visit Mecca at least once in their lives.

A charter flight with 297 Muslims was the first group of 2,833 pilgrims from Ningxia to go on the government-organized trips to the Saudi Arabian city this year.

A total of 14,500 Chinese Muslims will have taken 47 charter flights on Mecca pilgrimages by the end of 2015, according to the Islamic Association of China.

China has more than 20 million Muslims, who mainly live in Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan provinces and the Xinjiang Uygur and Ningxia Hui autonomous regions.

Gas Platform Export

A Chinese company said on August 30 that it will export a domestically developed gas compression jack-up platform to Mexico in early September.

With a daily gas compression capacity of 200 million cubic feet, the Agosto 12 gas rig will go to the Cantarrel Field in the Gulf of Mexico, where it will be operated by a consortium of Mexican enterprises, said developer Yantai CIMC Raffles Offshore.

The platform's performance has improved, keeping the field's pressure stable and cutting toxic gas emission. It is scheduled to start operation before the end of this year.



JAPAN

Some 120,000 people rally in protest near Japan's parliament building in Tokyo on August 30, demanding that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe rescind controversial security bills



EGYPT

At a press conference held in Cairo on August 30, the Egyptian Supreme Election Committee announces that the long-awaited parliamentary polls will commence on October 18



SWITZERLAND

Taichi fans stage a demonstration at the Federation Square of Bern on August 29 to celebrate the 65 anniversary of the country's establishment of diplomatic ties with China



BELGIUM

People visit the world's largest flower carpet, covering an area of 900 square meters and involving the use of 300,000 Begonia flowers, on the Seneffe Castle estate, on August 29



HUNGARY

The M1 highway experiences a 30-km-long traffic jam owing to its neighbor Austria's efforts to tighten security controls in order to crack down on illegal migration



CANADA

A rider showcases his equestrian skills during events marking Horse Day in Vancouver on August 29



↓ CONDUCTOR OF A HISTORIC CONCERT

Conductor **Yu Long** led the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra in a musical celebration to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II (WWII) at the UN headquarters in New York City on August 28. The concert featured symphonies ranging from newly composed *Shanghai 1937* to Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

"It is a concert in which the music we play is about memories and about new beginnings," Yu said. "WWII was of course a great tragedy, as well as a victory over evil, which must be remembered, while the birth of the UN from out of the wreckage of that war was a new beginning for the world."

The 51-year-old maestro was born in Shanghai. He studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music before going on to further his studies in Berlin in 1988-92. After returning from Germany, he founded the annual Beijing Music Festival in 1998 and the China Philharmonic Orchestra two years later. He currently serves as the orchestra's artistic director.



Amnesty Deal Shows Idea of Governance

People's Daily
August 30

China's top legislature has adopted a prisoner amnesty deal, which will see four categories of prisoners who are not deemed a threat to society and who were sentenced before January 1, 2015, granted official pardons, in a move marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War on September 3.

The decision is based on the amnesty system stipulated in the Constitution, which is also in accord with the governance philosophy of combining law and mercy and has great political and legal significance.

Prisoners eligible for the pardon include those who fought in the war of resistance against Japanese aggression and the civil war against the Kuomintang; those who fought in wars to safeguard national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity after 1949 (single-time offenders who did not commit embezzlement, terrorism or organized crime); those over 75 or with physical disabilities; and those who committed juvenile crimes with terms of less than three years or who have less than a year of their prison term left to serve (not including those deemed guilty of murder, rape, terrorism or narcotics offenses).

The amnesty is usually utilized to exempt prisoners from punishment or extenuate a crime. It is a humanitarian practice common internationally.

This deal is the eighth amnesty since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949. It shows the government and country's confidence in its system of governance and gives China an open, democratic, civilized and legal image. It also presents that China's criminal policy of combining punishment with leniency that would help promote the rule of law.

Cultural Bonds Count

World Affairs
September 1

Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Central Asia has been one of the principal areas of global geopolitical focus. While the governments of the five countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have become over time more independent and mature, their political and cultural traditions are interweaved with a number of external influences. As a result, the geopolitical situation in Central Asia is characterized by both diversity and uncertainty.

As a bridge connecting China to West Asia, South Asia and Europe, Central Asia is of strategic significance to China. The Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative will provide great opportunities for both sides to achieve common prosperity and stability. Central Asian countries possess advantages in energy resources, while China can offer investment, technologies and markets for their development. In addition to economic matters, security is another area in which cooperation can be bolstered. Terrorism is a common threat facing all these countries.

To boost cooperation and communication, the people of China and Central Asian countries need to understand and respect

"With my painting, I think one sees the scenes. One sees the pain, all the feelings of fear, hate and anguish."

French painter **Christian Poirot**, commenting on his new painting on the Nanjing Massacre committed by Japanese invaders during their war of aggression against China

"China is going to maintain a 7-percent growth rate for the next 10 years. While that means a 25-percent reduction from the growth we had in recent years, we should keep in mind that the 7-percent growth is among the highest rates in the world."

Justin Yifu Lin, former World Bank Senior Vice President and chief economist, in an interview published by Argentina's *La Nacion* daily on August 29



each other in terms of religions and customs. Unfortunately, cultural exchanges have lagged behind. Movies and TV shows from Russia and Western countries are popular in Central Asian countries, while Chinese media and culture have little influence. China should redouble its efforts to promote mutual understanding culturally.

How Can Responsible Parties Be Called to Account in Tianjin Probe?

Beijing Times
August 28

China's top procuratorate has accused 11 officials and port executives of neglect of duty and abuse of power in the management of storage and transportation of dangerous chemicals in the Tianjin Port, where explosions killed more than 160 people and devastated the port area on August 12.

Those officials will be held criminally accountable for their role in the accident.

The culpability of all involved, administra-

tive and criminal alike, should be identified using a strict and clear system. But what is more important is to determine how to avoid such a tragedy from happening again. The explosions in the Tianjin Port have exposed a string of problems such as illegal storage of hazardous materials and flawed safety evaluation procedures.

There is a serious lesson to be learned in this calamity. Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered production safety enhancements by improving emergency mechanisms, strengthening supervision and law enforcement, and adopting effective risk-prevention measures. The investigation of the Tianjin blasts is expected to raise the safety awareness of enterprises and supervisory bodies in order to remove any risks in production.



HIGH-ACHIEVING SCIENTIST

Shi Yigong, a molecular biologist with Tsinghua University in Beijing, has recently reported a breakthrough that could potentially qualify him for a Nobel Prize.

Shi and his team uncovered the structure of a substance called spliceosome, which is crucial in gene expression and is related to 35 percent of genetic disorders in humans. The results of the team's analysis were published in the academic journal *Science* in August.

"The structure of the spliceosome represents a much greater challenge than the structure of the ribosome, for which three individuals in the past were awarded the Nobel Prize," Phillip Sharp, a 1993 Nobel Prize winner for physiology or medicine, commented.

Shi, 48, received his bachelor's degree from Tsinghua in 1989 and Ph.D. in biophysics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1995. He joined Princeton University in 1998 and was promoted to full professor in 2003. Shi returned to Tsinghua in 2008 to head its School of Life Sciences.



"I made *Tibet: The Truth* because I have been annoyed by the constant negative reporting about Tibet in the Western media."

Chris D. Nebe, director of the 60-minute documentary debuted in the United States in 2013, expressing his frustration about biased Western media reports on the autonomous region in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

"The students were very understanding and interesting. I get calls from different parts of west Kenya like Kericho, Muhoroni and Siaya from people who want to learn Chinese and improve their lives."

Zhang Wenqiang, a Chinese teacher at the Kibos Secondary School in the west Kenyan county of Kisumu, speaking about his students before finishing his five-year tenure in the country in August

Editor's Note: October 1 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The following three pieces cover the region's security situation, the multilingual environment the region's government is striving to accommodate, protect and help thrive, and new business opportunities being brought about by the Internet.

Open and Connected

Xinjiang embraces the outside world to develop itself **By Liu Xinlian**

A high-speed train passes through Urumqi



For many people who have planned to travel to Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, safety problems represent one of their major concerns prior to embarking on their journey. Their worry stems from the terrorist attacks that have occasionally occurred in the northwestern region.

"I hope it will no longer be a concern for people in the future," said Li Xuejun, Director of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee. "We are all working devoutly to achieve this goal."

Security concerns

A terrorist attack in a market in Urumqi, capital city of Xinjiang, on May 22 last year left at

least 31 dead and 94 injured. Another attack in Kashgar Prefecture's Shche County on July 28 last year claimed 37 lives and injured 13 people.

After the attack last May, the number of tourists to Xinjiang dropped sharply. In the first half of 2014, the number of tourists visiting the region fell for the first time in two decades.

In August, Xinjiang simplified its passport application procedure and shortened the application time for local residents. The passport application process became tougher after a terrorist-inspired riot in Urumqi on July 5, 2009, which killed 194 people and injured more than 1,000 others. Xinjiang residents had to fill in more paperwork and wait longer than people in other parts of

China. For someone living in Beijing, it took one week to receive a passport; in Xinjiang, it took more than three months.

"I understand the former policy was necessary for the safety of Xinjiang, given that some people crossed the borders illegally," said Wang Se, a local resident.

On July 9, Thailand repatriated 109 illegal immigrants from China who had been on their way to Turkey, Syria or Iraq to participate in the so-called "holy war" ongoing in the region, according to the Chinese Ministry of Public Security.

"Xinjiang's new policy shows its growing confidence in maintaining its security. The innocent should not pay the price for those illegal immigrants," said Shan Renping, a commentator with the Beijing-based *Global Times*.

It remains difficult for Xinjiang to achieve a balance between security and convenience. Xinjiang has the strictest security checks in China. They are conducted at the entrances to public places, including department stores, supermarkets, hotels and even parks.

Bringing closer

Safety concerns have not hindered Xinjiang's development. Like most other provinces and regions in China, it has tried to develop its economy through opening up and being connected both domestically and with foreign countries.

In 2014, Xinjiang launched its first high-speed rail link from Urumqi to Hami, Xinjiang's easternmost prefecture, cutting the traveling time from six to three hours. A high-speed rail link from Beijing to Urumqi is due to open by 2017, reducing the travel time from 48 to 19 hours, maybe even fewer.

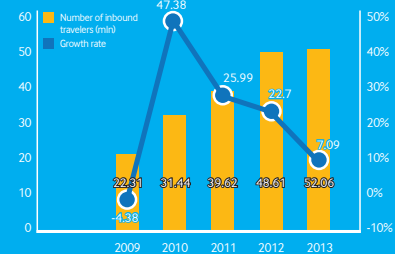
"The travel time of 19 hours is based on an average speed of 200 km/h, but the rail

Lanzhou-Xinjiang High-Speed Railway

Length: 1,776 km
Speed: 200 km/h
Designed speed: 250 km/h
Reduced travel time: from 18 hours to about 9 hours

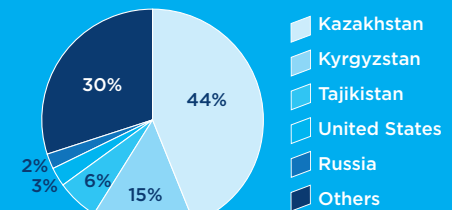


Xinjiang's Inbound Travelers and Growth



(Source: Xinjiang Tourism Administration)

Xinjiang's Overseas Trade Partners



(Source: Urumqi Customs)

link is designed for speeds of up to 350 km/h. The possibility of a shorter travel time exists," said Zhang Weimin, General Manager of the Urumqi High-Speed Railway Hub Construction Co.

Urumqi used to be the terminal of a major railway route in China. Looking at the city in a wider context, it is a central point connecting China, central Asia and Europe. In March 2014, Xinjiang launched a freight train service to Kazakhstan, Georgia, Iran, Turkey and Chelyabinsk in Russia. China also proposed a high-speed rail link between Beijing and Moscow during Premier Li Keqiang's official visit to Russia in October 2014.

The China-Russia high-speed rail corridor would constitute a key project in the Silk Road Economic Belt China plans to create. The idea

was introduced in 2013, and it aims to deepen the connection between China and Central Asian countries.

Emotional links

Xinjiang has also realized the importance of openness and connection in ways other than in physical terms.

Eliminating estrangement and improving understanding among people from different ethnic groups in Xinjiang are crucial to the future of the region and China, said Zhang Chunxian, Party chief of Xinjiang.

Since March 2014, a plan has been initiated whereby 200,000 officials from local government departments, state-owned enterprises and academic institutions will be sent to work in villages.

The first batch of more than 70,000 officials assigned to over 10,000 work groups have already finished one year of working and living in villages, farms and communities.

Yang Hang from the information office of the Xinjiang regional government was one such official. During his stay in Hotan, where Uygur people make up 90 percent of the population, he and his colleagues visited the villagers frequently and helped them solve their difficulties, including water shortages, poor housing and inadequate funding.

"This program has made our link with villagers closer," said Yang. ■

(Reporting from Xinjiang)

Copiedited by Calvin Palmer
 Comments to liuxinlian@bjreview.com



Adil Memettur (left, standing) checks online sales volume on December 12, 2014, at his office in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province

Embracing E-Commerce

Xinjiang pins hope on cyber business to boost its economy By Liu Xinlian

Xu Xinghua, a red dates dealer from Aksu Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, has already sold 2,000 tons of red dates on his Taobao.com and JD.com stores and much to his surprise, has made more than 3 million yuan

(\$469,800). "The power of the Internet is beyond imagination," said Xu. This booming business has increased almost fivefold in less than three years.

Many have followed Xu's footsteps and reaped the benefits in the western region. Data

released by e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., show that from June 2014 to June 2015, 2.6 million online stores based in Xinjiang had been opened on Alibaba's Taobao.com and Tmall.com, generating a sales volume of 1.3 billion yuan (\$203 million), a year-on-year increase of 43.34 percent and 65.7 percent respectively. The most popular products are fruits and nuts, including red dates, raisins, walnuts, as well as gems such as Hotan jade. "The quality of Xinjiang's fruits and nuts is beyond compare owing to its specific climate," said Xu.

Bearing in mind that farmers account for 56 percent of Xinjiang's population, compared with the national

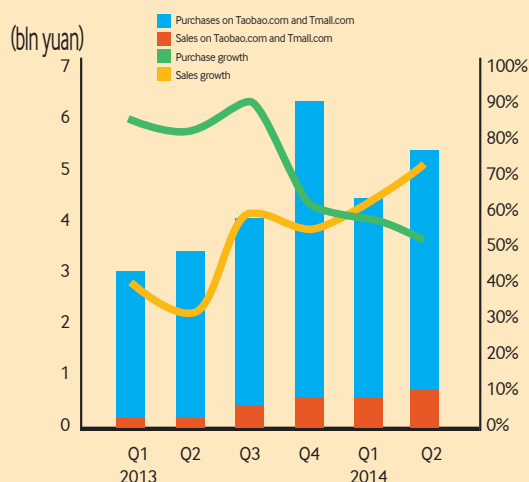
average of 47 percent, e-commerce is of paramount importance to the region, especially for farmers, explained Dong Xinguang, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional People's Congress.

Logistics difficulties

Last year, Xu moved his distribution center to Changchun, capital city of northeast China's Jilin Province, to make up for poor logistical support in his home region. The distance from Aksu to Beijing is over 3,900 km and deliveries take about seven days while it takes at most three days from Changchun, 600 km away. "Competition is fierce on the Internet for red dates. The extra shipping costs are enough to kill business," he added. Poor delivery performance has also been responsible for customer defection.

What's more, transportation capacity has become extremely inadequate since September because fruits and nuts are ripe at the same time and ready to be shipped out, thus creating a glut. "It has become especially difficult to charter freight trains or planes and my orders have been postponed again and again," said Xu. On one occasion, he recalled that his dates traveled nearly one month before they were finally delivered to

Xinjiang's Online Trade



(Source: AliResearch)

Huang Changhui teaches villagers of Yuli County how to open an online shop



COURTESY OF HUANG CHANGHUI

his customer on the southern island province of Hainan, 5,700 km away from Aksu. "This is unbearable," said Xu.

The busy season for fruit processing has also increased labor costs: For Xu, it was the last straw and he was forced to leave. From September onward, short handedness became prominent in rural Xinjiang because almost all fruits and nuts are ripe and in need of workers for processing.

In Aksu, temporary workers usually earn a daily wage of 150 yuan (\$23.5), compared to 100 yuan (\$15.67) in Changchun.

Supporting measures

The Central Government has encouraged east and central provinces to support Xinjiang, with each province being assigned a city or a region in Xinjiang.

Aksu is twinned with Hangzhou, where Alibaba is headquartered. According to the Aksu government, Hangzhou has already allocated 2 billion yuan in aid (\$313 million) since the end of 2013. In addition to building public facilities, sending qualified workers and engaging charity work, Hangzhou has also brought in Alibaba. In the last three years, more than 600 local business people have received free training in e-commerce provided by the Hangzhou Municipal Government. Xu was one of them and the experience was an epiphany of sorts as he realized the potential for development. In addition to free training, Alibaba also provided business people with free service including webpage design and administration.

Aksu is not the only prefecture that has become enthused over e-commerce. Yuli County of Bayingolin Mongol Autonomous Prefecture has been even bolder and more aggressive. In order to encourage more people to do business online, the authorities have granted an exclusive 3-yuan (\$0.5) subsidy for each package delivered. "This will bring our logistic costs per km down to 7 yuan (\$1.1)," said Huang Changhui, a

local e-commerce shop owner.

In the next few years, more distribution centers will be built to alleviate logistical stress, said Dong.

Alibaba has decided to set up its own distribution center in Xinjiang, said Jack Ma, President of Alibaba. Although Xu's distribution center is located in Changchun, he still hopes that one day he will be able to move back.

"Aksu is renowned all over China for its dates and apples, but my shipping address is in Changchun, which makes me untrustworthy, although my dates originate from Aksu," said Xu.

Business for all

In Xinjiang, the Uygur community accounts for more than half of the population, but few are involved in e-commerce. "Bilingual workers are still hard to find, especially in small cities, like Yuli," said Huang, a Han ethnic whose company has hired 20 Uygur workers.

Some Uygurs are blazing a new trail. Aytursun Matsu has been working for Huang's company for half a year. She used to work in big cities, but she was hired owing to her excellent Mandarin writing and speaking skills. Although she now earns only 2,500 yuan (\$390) per month, much lower than her previous salary, she has decided to stay. "Working here gives

me a chance to learn about Internet business. After I got enough experience, I will start my own business on the Internet," said Aytursun.

Adil Memettur, a Uygur from Kashgar, produces *matang*, a typical sesame sweet. He launched his business on Taobao.com with his two Han partners in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, after graduating last year. On May 3 and 4 alone, they received over 6,000 online orders with daily sales exceeding 100,000 yuan (\$16,010). He hopes that this sweet, once an important supply of energy for travelers on the ancient Silk Road, will be available in most supermarkets and become a snack of choice for customers. ■

(Reporting from Xinjiang)

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Comments to liuxinlian@bjreview.com

The Land of Babel

Bilingual education in Xinjiang benefits the region and its people By Liu Xinlian

Having spent two months in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 23-year-old mother Helidan decided to take the free Mandarin class running in her community. Since no one could help babysit her 1-year-old boy, she asked the teacher's permission to take the child with her to class.

"Speaking Mandarin may help me find a better job," she said.

In a region of more than 13 major ethnic groups and six major languages of Mandarin, Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Xibe and Kirgiz, bilingual or even multilingual competence has

become more and more important for all residents in Xinjiang.

According to China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, more than two languages should be used when performing public duties and ethnic minorities have the right to use their own language in voting and litigation. Both Mandarin and Uygur languages are the region's official lingua francas and all signs are written bilingually. In the sub-regions devoted to one particular ethnic group, including the Altay Kazak Autonomous Prefecture and the Bortala Mongol Autonomous Prefecture, Mandarin and the ethnic language of the people in question

are held to be the official languages. For example, Kazak is employed in Altay and Mongolian in Bortala.

Even so, having a good command of Mandarin is considered important for minority ethnic residents in Xinjiang. It is not only essential with respect to their communication with people from other provinces and regions in the country, but also to inter-communication between different ethnic groups in the area.

Bilingual education helps members of minority ethnic groups accrue more knowledge, enhance their professional skills and get to know more about social change, said Adiljan Ablet, a professor at the College of Politics and Public Administration of Xinjiang University.

However, according to a white paper released by the State Council Information Office in 2009, 70 percent of its minority ethnic population could not speak fluent Mandarin or write accurately in Chinese characters. Although Xinjiang has promoted bilingual education for years, its residents' bilingual ability also remains below par.

"Some minority ethnic farmers don't recognize Chinese characters, they mistook fertilizer for pesticide and had no harvest," said Adiljan.

According to Huang Xing, Deputy Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, generally speaking, ethnic minorities in foreign countries demonstrate greater competence in their respective national languages than Xinjiang's ethnic minorities. To give but one example, the 2011 UK Census found that of the total 3.1 million residents of Wales, 73 percent reported having no Welsh language skills whatsoever and use English exclusively. All (adult) Māori in New Zealand are also proficient in the English language.

Grasping Mandarin is a passport to the outside world, providing one access to a rich set of



Local women attend a free Mandarin class offered by Pingdingshan Community in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with their children

resources existing in the form of Chinese, said Fang Xiaohua, a professor at Xinjiang Normal University.

Bilingual schools

According to a report released by Xinjiang Regional Department of Education last year, more than 48 percent of local primary students in the region received bilingual education, doubling the 2010 level.

The development of bilingual education differs greatly across different parts of Xinjiang. In southern rural areas and northern pastoral areas, where ethnic minorities make up the major part of the population, bilingual education has a much lower penetration rate than in big cities such as Urumqi and the capital cities of prefectures.

In south Xinjiang, where 90 percent of the population is Uyghurs, it is particularly difficult to promote bilingual education owing to the lack of an authentic and immersive language environment. In most villages, the Uyghur language is used by all residents and there is no need to use other languages. Bilingual education there is available in 38.5 percent of local primary schools. The figure is nearly 10 percentage points below Xinjiang's average level.

Fang attributes the situation to a lack of qualified teaching staff. Most teachers are native Uyghur speakers and it is a challenge for them to use Mandarin accurately, he said.

In response, other provinces have offered help. Since 2000, Zhejiang Province in east China has sent more than 500 teachers to Aksu Prefecture in south Xinjiang and trained nearly 3,000 Uyghur teachers, accounting for more than 60 percent of their

entire teaching staff under the age of 35.

To furnish its students with a better language environment, Xinjiang has also sent its students to other provinces. Currently, there are more than 42,000 Xinjiang students studying in 126 schools in 45 cities across the country. More than 77 percent of these students are from families of farmers or herdsmen.

Last year, 14-year-old Nurmuhan Liyas from Urumqi began her study at Beijing No.10 High School. The Kazak girl recently won first prize in a speech contest in the school, which has galvanized her in the dream of becoming a civil servant after graduation.

"Studying in Beijing has given me the chance to improve my language proficiency," said Nurmuhan.

The authorities will push forward bilingual education in order to ensure that all minority ethnic residents possess a basic grasp of the Chinese language, said Zhang Chunxian, Secretary of the Xinjiang Regional Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Achieving balance

Although more efforts are required to support language education, for Fang, it is just a matter of time before Mandarin gains a foothold in Xinjiang. The other side of the equation is that residents from the Han ethnic group in Xinjiang, who are mainly Mandarin speakers, should in turn be required to learn minority languages.

Students from Xinjiang at a class in Yangzhen No.1 Middle School in Shunyi District, Beijing. The school currently accommodates 800 students from eight ethnic groups from Xinjiang



Li Wenhao, a Han police officer in Altay, has been preoccupied with a Kazak language test in recent days. Although she is not required to pass the exam, an improved proficiency of the language will surely prove helpful in her future career.

For civil servants in Xinjiang, bilingual ability usually gives them more weight when competing for promotion. Some local governments claim that bilingual ability is a must for new employees.

According to Muhter Eysan, Deputy Director of the Xinjiang Regional Ethnic Affairs Commission, 70 percent of books released in Xinjiang are published in ethnic languages.

In Xinjiang, mutual learning is not just a matter of efficiency and income, but also concerns ethnic unity.

"Xinjiang's Han ethnic civil servants and teachers should learn languages of minority ethnic groups, so as to become better accustomed with the cultural backgrounds and social customs of these groups and better serve minority ethnic population," said Ge Jianxiang, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top advisory body. ■

(Reporting from Xinjiang)

Copiedited by Eric Daly
Comments to liuxinlian@bjreview.com

KurilPolitik

Japan and Russia's respective stances on the disputed islands look to be immovable as the landmasses themselves **By Huo Jiangang**

On August 22, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev paid a visit to one of the disputed Kuril Islands in the Far East, reigniting a decades-long territorial dispute which up until recently had remained dormant.

The dispute over the Kuril Islands, referring to four major islands, Kunashir, Iturup, Habomai and Shikotan, which are called the Northern Territories in Japan, constitutes a sore point in Russia-Japan relations. Since Medvedev announced his plan to visit the islands in July, Japan has expressed its concerns to the Russian Embassy in Tokyo.

As early as November 2010, the then Russian President Medvedev visited Kunashir Island of the Southern Kurils. He became the first leader from Russia or the former Soviet Union to set foot upon any of the disputed islands. Two months after being appointed as prime minister by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Medvedev paid a second visit to the Kuril Islands in July 2012.

This is the third time that Medvedev has visited the Kuril Islands. During his tour this time, Medvedev took part in a national youth education forum on the Iturup Island and visited a number of construction sites that are part of Russia's Kuril development program mapped out until 2025, Russia's *Sputnik* reported.

No budging

The Kuril Islands dispute is a historical byproduct of World War II (WWII). In early 1945, the Big Three—U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin—met at the Yalta Conference to discuss war strategy and issues that would affect the postwar world.

Roosevelt desired that the Soviet military provide support against Japan in the Far East

following the defeat of Germany in Europe. In return for the Soviets agreeing to fight against Japan, Stalin demanded that Sakhalin Island and the Southern Kurils, both of which were annexed by Japan through a war with Russia in 1904-05, be handed to the USSR.

Since the end of WWII, the Kuril Islands have been administered by the Soviet Union and latterly by Russia. For Russia, its sovereignty of the islands is one of the fruit reaped from the postwar order. However, Japan is no less reluctant to abandon its claim of the sovereignty over the islands.

In the Treaty of San Francisco in 1951, Japan renounced its claim on the Kuril Islands, including Kunashir and Iturup. But the Soviet Union did not sign the treaty owing to complications induced by the Cold War. Later, Japan changed its mind and renewed its claim of sovereignty of the four islands.

In 1956, the Soviet Union and Japan made headway of some description by signing a joint statement but the two sides failed to reach consensus on the territorial dispute. The Soviet Union suggested returning the two smallest of the four islands, Habomai and Shikotan, to Japan. But Japan refused the idea and insisted upon the return of all four islands.

As the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, Japan-Russia relations began to thaw somewhat. In 2001, in a joint statement with Russian President Putin, then Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori reiterated that Habomai and Shikotan should be returned to Japan after the two countries had reached a permanent peace treaty in the future.

Today, the two sides have not yet reached agreement on the dispute. A major reason for this is that Japanese domestic nationalists have clung to the stance that the

four islands should be returned en masse although they are probably aware that this is unlikely to happen. Former cabinets in Japan have proposed a number of compromises, but they couldn't be placed on a negotiation agenda owing to domestic pressure.

For Russia, it would be ideal if Japan could lie down on the issue and concede the Eurasian giant's sovereignty over the landmass. Obviously, it is unlikely that Japan would go for such a solution. The key to the issue lies in the strategic importance of the location for both sides. The largest compromise that Russia could be expected to make is to give up Habomai and Shikotan, which cover only 7 percent of the islands' total land area.

Carrot over stick

Medvedev's visit to the disputed islands is not only designed to consolidate Russia's claim of sovereignty but also represents a signal to encourage Japan to adopt a more pragmatic approach toward the issue.

There is little Japan can do to counter Russia's actions in this instance. Should Japan overreact and loudly protest Medvedev's tour of the island, the possibility of seeking a diplomatic solution will be lessened. If the Japanese Government takes no action, however, it will be interpreted as weak, stoking domestic dissent. This is why Japan has usually resorted to merely decrying Russian officials' visiting the disputed islands.

This time around, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe voiced grievances in parliament and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida thereafter canceled his plan to visit Russia at the end of August.

Even if it possessed other alternatives, it is questionable whether or not Japan would opt



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (left) pays a working visit to the disputed Iturup Island on August 22

for them, despite the cocksureness of its governmental stance. Abe said that he hoped to make a breakthrough on the disputed islands when he reassumed the office of prime minister in 2012. Foreign affairs-wise, though Abe has pursued progress in relations with Russia and North Korea, he has not demonstrated any intention to make even the slightest concession in the matter of the territorial disputes. His objective is to make Russia blink first, or so it would seem on the surface.

In addressing—albeit indirectly—the issue, Abe has favored carrot over stick, attempting to win Russia over through offering an array of economic goodies, including incentives to encourage Japanese companies to invest in Russia's wild territories in the Far East.

In the eyes of Japanese politicians, China and Russia are two entities which have ingrained problems with one another, thus China is often used by Japan as an excuse to seek common interests with Russia. That may pose another reason for Japan's diffidence concerning adopting a hard-line policy toward

Russia on the dispute.

Limited maneuverability

Unlike Medvedev, Putin has not yet visited the disputed islands, which must give Abe some hope in pursuing a breakthrough on the issue. To nudge Putin toward more negotiation with Japan, Abe has adopted a stance softer than some of his international ilk toward Putin on some international occasions. For example, as Western leaders boycotted the Winter Olympics in Sochi last year, Abe pointedly attended the games.

But Japan's foreign policy is not an island onto itself; other nations have to be brought into consideration. Japan-Russia relations have undergone subtle changes since the Ukraine crisis. As the situation escalated to a proxy war between pro-West government and pro-Russia rebels, the United States took a hard line on Russian affairs. Under these circumstances, it was hard for Japan to remain neutral. Finally, at the urging of the United States, Japan joined in

imposing sanctions on Russia.

Nevertheless, Japan has by no means followed the United States' lead slavishly. In May, at the invitation of Japan, the chairman of Russia's State Duma, Sergey Naryshkin, traveled to Japan for cultural exchange purposes. Japan has also examined the possibility of hosting a visit by Putin to Japan by the end of the year in an attempt to achieve some progress through talks.

But Russia is not so easily swayed. Medvedev's visit aside, the Russian Government has sent a clear signal to Japan this August by issuing a development program with an overall budget of more than 60 billion rubles (\$940 million) allocated for the Kuril Islands. If things go to plan, this program will undoubtedly serve to galvanize Russia's control over the area.

In any case, some observers believe that the foundation of mutual trust between Japan and Russia is far too weak.

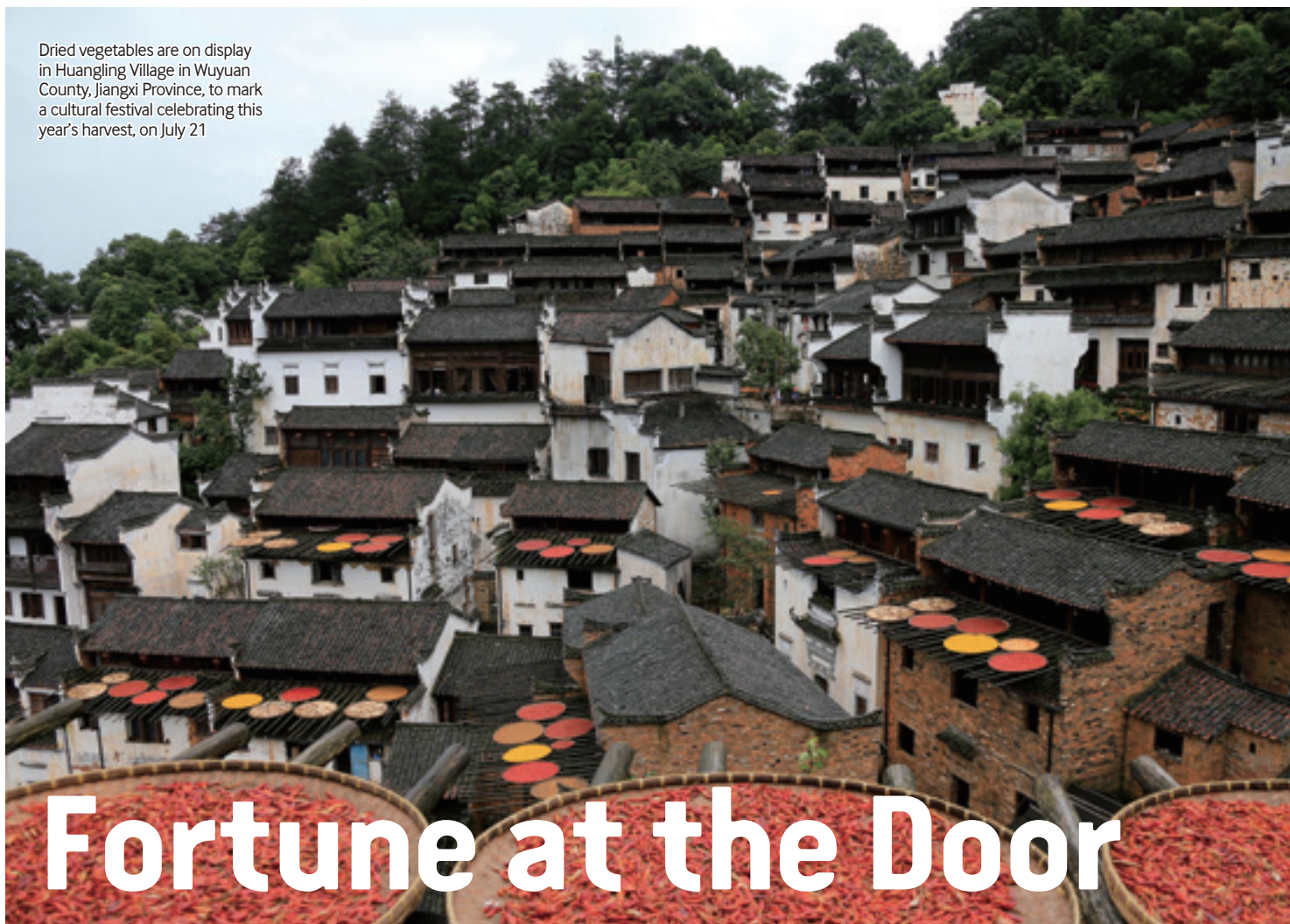
With regard to history, Japan and Russia possess differing views. In a statement by Abe on August 14 to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, Abe remarked, "The Japan-Russia War (1904-05) gave encouragement to many people under colonial rule from Asia to Africa."

In Abe's speech, a war between two imperialist countries was represented as an Asian nation's resistance against European colonists. Given such a characterization, it is difficult to imagine Moscow and Tokyo seeing eye to eye on historical issues.

In the aftermath of Medvedev's visit to the disputed islands, it is even possible that Russia might up the pressure on Japan to seek further compromises from Tokyo in future talks. And therein may lie the Russian prime minister's true motives for visiting the Kuril Islands. ■

The author is a researcher of Japanese studies with China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations
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Dried vegetables are on display in Huangling Village in Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province, to mark a cultural festival celebrating this year's harvest, on July 21



Fortune at the Door

Rural areas are encouraged to rise out of poverty by developing tourism

By Wang Hairong

Located on the side of Lushan Mountain, Zhonghaoyu Village in Zibo City, east China's Shandong Province, is a place with a view, to say the least. In recent years, villagers have been tapping the area's tourist resources to make their life more prosperous.

Tourists come to spot various attractions, to view flowers in spring and to pick fruits—peaches, dates and persimmons—in summer and autumn. A stream meandering beside boulders adds vitality to mountain life and tourists can drift its currents in rafts. Urban dwellers often take their children there to experience farming.

More than a decade ago, local villagers, subsisting mainly on growing corn and sorghum,

were poor. In 2003, determined to develop tourism, the village offered five selected households funds to operate inns for tourists in their courtyards.

In 2011, Zhao Shengjian, a returned university graduate, set up Youyougu Tourism Development Co. in the village. He invited villagers to join the company as shareholders, and promised to reward them with dividends according to the money and manpower they had invested.

About a dozen farmers' inns joined Youyougu's franchise network. The company standardized their prices, services and their amenities through renovation.

Youyougu also launched campaigns to

market Zhonghaoyu as a tourist destination in nearby cities, and designed a number of novel travel programs such as outdoor survival training and summer camps for children.

According to news portal Dzw.com, Youyougu now operates 90 farmhouse inns, including 25 offering starred services. Zhonghaoyu, with 364 residents in 113 households, currently has per-capita annual income of 28,000 yuan (\$4,390), representing a 14-fold growth over 10 years. The village receives more than 70,000 tourists in a year on average and its annual direct income from tourism exceeds 9 million yuan (\$1.41 million).

Now, Zhonghaoyu's farmers no longer have to go to cities to work as migrant laborers, for



they can earn decent money at home. The village and Youyougu have also provided local residents with some social security benefits. A nursing home in the village accommodates villagers over 70 years old.

Zhonghaoyu's success has inspired several nearby villages to get involved in tourism.

Making progress

At a national conference held on August 18, Zhonghaoyu was honored for its efforts in addressing poverty through developing tourism.

Wang Degang, Dean of the Tourism Department of Shandong University's School of Management, said that Zhonghaoyu represents the development direction of rural tourism through its incorporation of farmers into a village-run tourism company that benefits them.

At the meeting, Li Jinzao, head of the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), said that the tourism sector has become a major means of rural poverty alleviation. He revealed that since 2011, tourism had helped move more than 10 million rural people, or more than 10 percent of the country's total poverty-stricken population, out of poverty.

According to Li, an impoverished village can boost the livelihood of 70 percent of its residents through developing tourism. "At least half of the 128,000 poor villages across China have the necessary conditions in this regard," he noted. "Tourism can engage a large number of laborers, has low production costs and can yield quick results in poverty reduction."

Most rural areas have green mountains, clean water and air, specialty products and folk cultures, all of which are cherished by urban dwellers, said Li Jianguo, a senior consultant to the Jiangxi Provincial Rural Tourism Research Center.

More importantly, the rural tourism boom has been fueled by increasing household income and car ownership in cities, as well as improvement in rural infrastructure, he added.

Anhui Province in east China is abundant

in both agricultural and tourist resources. According to local tourism authorities, 70 percent of the province's tourist resources are located in rural areas. Recently, Anhui has launched a slew of large-scale construction projects to build and renovate rural roads leading to scenic spots.

As of the end of 2014, there had been 1.7 million plus farmhouse inns and more than 30,000 leisure farms in China, said Li Jianguo. These farms generate more than 120 billion yuan (\$18.84 billion) in revenue every year, benefiting 30 million farmers.

It is predicted that from 2015 to 2020, an additional 12 million people living under the poverty line, or 17 percent of the country's total poverty-stricken population, will become economically affluent through employment in tourism-related jobs, according to statistics jointly released by the CNTA and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development at a press conference on July 10.

Removing bottlenecks

Li Jianguo admitted that rural tourism in China is still in the primary stage, offering tourists the experience of living in farmhouse inns and harvesting agricultural products.

He blamed the slow development of rural tourism to problems such as poor management, a lack of product diversification and over-reliance on government support.

"Greater efforts are needed to help farmers establish tourism cooperatives, create new tourism programs and better engage tourists," Li Jianguo said. "Farmers should be encouraged to establish their respective identities in developing local tourism, in addition to protecting the rural environment and cultural resources, improving tourism infrastructure and, in particular, preserving rural hospitality and local flavor."

Rural tourism is usually associated with agricultural production. For instance, Rentian Town in Shanghang County, southeast China's Fujian Province, is famous for its grape production, so the village has developed tourism in this area. Liu Shaohao, a local resident, manages a winery. He said that since tourism became a pillar industry in the region, he no longer has to worry

about shipping and selling grapes, because tourists will flock to his winery, pick them from vines and buy them in the field.

In recent years, local villagers have also grown cauliflower, starfruit and grapefruit, which attract tourists to visit outside of the grape-harvesting season.

"In 2014, the entire town received more than 150,000 visitors, who generated tourism income surpassing 75 million yuan (\$11.78 million). Both the number of visitors and tourism income achieved an annual growth of more than 20 percent," said Lin Huowen, a local official.

To encourage poverty alleviation through developing rural tourism, at the meeting on August 18, the CNTA and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development announced eight measures, including stepping up tourism planning, providing funds to improve rural infrastructure and delivering training.

The Tourism Development Fund under the CNTA will allocate a total of 100 million yuan (\$15.71 million) to subsidize villages piloting rural tourism for building public bathrooms, which translates into 200,000 yuan (\$31,400) for every such village.

The government will also provide every impoverished household that is engaged in tourism with a guarantee-free and mortgage-free loan between 30,000-50,000 yuan (\$4,839-8,065) at the benchmark interest rate and with a maturity period of three years maximum. The interest discount will be covered by the government's poverty alleviation fund.

Companies developing tourist resources in poverty-stricken areas will be eligible for low-interest loans.

The government will also deliver training to people who can lead villagers in poverty-stricken areas to develop tourism. Approximately 2,000 such persons will be trained every year. Meanwhile, every young person from a poverty-stricken household in pilot villages can get a maximum of 3,000 yuan (\$471) one-off subsidy to study in tourism vocational schools. ■

Iron Giant Goes Green

Aside from making profits, state-owned heavy industry leader takes a fancy to upgrading people's living environments
By Deng Yaqing

Around Liangxiang university town in the southwestern suburb of Beijing flows a waterway called Ciwei River, where abundant green vegetation and ongoing real estate projects thrive alongside the vibrant fish leaping out from the water's surface. Yet, a mere decade ago, the river was a drainage ditch, where there were only swathes of cropland and no traces of human residence. As local residents say, one could smell its stink within a radius of 5 km.

It was not until 2002 when sewage discharged by local people was diverted from Ciwei River to a nearby sewage disposal plant that the nearby environment began to show signs of recovery. The contractor of the sewage treatment project is China Enfi Engineering Corp., a subsidiary of Metallurgical Corp. of China Ltd. (MCC), the largest metallurgical construction contractor and service provider for metallurgical enterprises in the world and ranked among the *Fortune* Global 500.

"At first, a total of 40 million yuan (\$6.28 million) was invested to pump out the sludge, remold the riverway and establish the sewage disposal plant. The price of the nearby land has skyrocketed," said Xu Qiming, Vice General Manager of China Enfi Engineering Corp.

Now that it handles more than 90 per-

cent of construction contracts tendered by iron and steel companies in China and enjoys a 60-percent stake in the same market worldwide, MCC has maintained a leading position in core technology and innovation and an edge in industrial chain integration in the iron and steel sector. "In the face of resource shortage, environmental pollution and ecological degradation, MCC has strived to take the lead in recycling and environmental protection by pursuing innovation," said Zhao Zhishun, chief economist of MCC, recognizing that aside from contributing to economic development, state-owned enterprises also need to shoulder social responsibilities.

By establishing energy conservation and environmental protection companies, MCC has mastered a series of advanced technologies in terms of sewage treatment, fume and dust disposal, desulfuration and solid waste disposal, and grown into a green pioneer in the iron and steel industry and a major partner which can provide companies in the trade with all-round environmental protection technologies throughout the production process, said Zhao.

Wastewater treatment

As early as 2002, MCC had begun to set its sights on sewage treatment through subsid-

iaries such as China Enfi Engineering Corp., Huatian Engineering and Technology Corp., and MCC High-Tech Engineering Co. Ltd. So far, it has set up 20 sewage treatment projects with total capacity exceeding 2 million tons per day. In 2014, these projects contributed roughly 500 million yuan (\$78.5 million) to the company's total revenue, according to MCC.

Of these projects, the plant in Liangxiang represents the first step taken by MCC in wastewater treatment. Now, it can treat 40,000 tons of municipal wastewater and supply 5,000 tons of recycled water per day. This September, its sewage treatment capacity and recycled water supply capacity are expanded to treat and supply 80,000 tons and 35,000 tons per day, respectively. Now, it's responsible for the treatment of the wastewater in Liangxiang and part of its neighboring town, covering an area of 39.6 square km populated by over 300,000 people.

"The plant sticks to the highest standards of municipal sewage treatment in China, which are stricter than that in Europe and the United States, and the treated wastewater can be used in aquaculture and swimming pools," said Lu Dongyu, an engineer from China Enfi Engineering Corp.

Moreover, it's also a pilot project which integrates photovoltaic (PV) power generation with

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Wastewater is processed by microbes in China Enfi Engineering Corp.'s Liangxiang sewage treatment plant in Fangshan District, Beijing



The 300-ton revolving furnace makes steel in a factory of Magang (Group) Holding Co. Ltd. in Maanshan, east China's Anhui Province

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sewage treatment. The solar panels and film PV modules mounted above the treating ponds can generate 2,000 kilowatt-hours of power per day on average, supplying 20 percent of its total electricity consumption.

"All the solar panels and film PV modules are produced by our Luoyang-based polycrystalline silicon factory in Henan Province," said Lu, noting that it was MCC that first broke up Western countries' technological monopoly in the PV industry.

In fact, MCC is also trying to diversify its operation model for sewage treatment projects from solely functioning under the "build-operate-transfer" model to more options such as "transfer-operate-transfer" and equity merger and acquisition. Meanwhile, efforts have been made in extending its industrial chain, coordinating water supply and joint development, said Lu.

Green iron

As a metallurgical giant, MCC is also committed to recycling and green production in iron and steel factories.

Along the Yangtze River in Anhui Province, there are a cluster of factories owned by Magang (Group) Holding Co. Ltd., a large iron and steel enterprise set up by MCC in 1958. Its

control of pollution and sewage discharging is of paramount importance to the protection of the Yangtze River ecosystem.

In 2015, Magang Group will spend 1.7 billion yuan (\$266.9 million) in the maintenance and operation of energy conservation facilities and 300 million yuan (\$47.1 million) in desulfurization, denitrification and the reduction of fume and dust emission. Expenditure in energy conservation and environmental protection makes up roughly 5 percent of the annual revenue, said Yan Hua, Vice General Manager of Magang Group.

What's worth mentioning is its fourth steel rolling central factory, a major project of Magang Group in structural adjustment during the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-10) period. Assisted by two other MCC subsidiaries—China MCC 17 Group Co. Ltd. and Huatian Engineering and Technology Corp., Magang Group has adopted a number of emission reduction and secondary resources utilization technologies, such as the desulfurization of sintering flue gas, the dezincification of iron-bearing dust, the application of iron slag, the system integration of sintering production and the comprehensive application of waste heat and excess pressure.

By treating the pollutants discharged during iron and steel manufacturing, Magang Group

has reached the goal of low energy consumption, low sulfur and low carbon as well as high efficiency of energy conversion and consumption and efficient and recycled use of water and iron resources, said Yan.

Since 2006, its comprehensive energy consumption per ton of steel production has declined to 718 kg of standard coal, the circulation rate of industrial water has risen from 70 percent to 96 percent, and the comprehensive utilization rate of solid waste has been lifted to 98 percent. From 2011 to 2014, Magang Group saved 1.05 million tons of standard coal, accomplishing 105.6 percent of its energy conservation goal during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) period.

"As a large state-owned enterprise, MCC is willing to lead a new development trend in China by protecting the environment and upgrading technologies and management methods," said Yu Shigong, President of China MCC 17 Group Co. Ltd.

"While striving to become the most excellent and competent metallurgical construction service provider, MCC should also act like the national leader in the 'green' field," said Yu. ■

Copied by Kylee McIntyre
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HOTEL INFORMATION



September Promotional Calendar

The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street's four sophisticated dining and entertainment destinations continue to take Beijing dining to new heights and attract a high-flying social scene. Whether for meetings or meals, intimate rendezvous or celebratory social gatherings, be sure to take advantage of the great dining promotions this September at the city's hottest venues.

Cépe Restaurant

Upgraded Power Lunch at Cépe Continues

Our delicious varieties of three-course business lunches are sure to wow you. Begin with a choice of either enjoying our antipasti buffet or soup followed by a choice of pasta, meat or fish as your main course. Complete the meal with a selection of irresistible desserts from the dessert trolley.

Monday to Friday, 358 yuan per person

Lobster Feast at Cépe

Lobster is one of the most popular ingredients from the deep sea. It has a sweet-savory taste and a tender texture and offers a variety of health benefits. This September, giant lobsters from Boston will be the main attraction at an Italian-style extravaganza at Cépe.

Enjoy a five-course mouthwatering menu prepared by Chef Ryan and his team, which features Lobster Salad, Baby Lobster Carpaccio, Lobster Tea & Herbs, Egg & Caviar Lobster, Homemade Lobster Tortelloni, Chard Baby Corn, Truffle Cream Sauce, the signature Grilled Boston Lobster, and finish with the fresh dessert of Passion Fruit Curd with Mango Cream.

Five-course menu at 1,188 yuan per person

A la carte cuisine is also available, priced from 138 yuan to 368 yuan per dish. Dinner only.

For more information on Cépe or to book a reservation, please contact us at 86-10-66296996.

Qi Restaurant

Marvelous Mushroom at Qi

September is the perfect season to enjoy rare mushrooms from various regions across China and abroad. Inspired by the unique aromas and flavors of a variety of mushrooms, Chef Li has created a series of seasonal dishes to stir your taste buds and senses.

Chef Li's recommendations: Fresh Bamboo Pith with Truffle and Asparagus and Wok-Fried Black Tiger Paw Fungus with Beef and Celery

A la carte, prices start from 128 yuan to 238 yuan per dish

For more information on Qi or to make a reservation, please contact us at 86-10-66296999

Greenfish Restaurant

American BBQ Season

Early autumn is a great season to enjoy tasty American-style BBQ. Three all-time favorites, BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Smoked Beef Brisket and Pulled Pork, will be offered to indulge meat lovers. Furthermore, an excellent homemade BBQ sauce prepared by Chef Ryan and his team will surely enhance the flavors and elevate your overall experience.

Price: 238 yuan per person (minimum order for two persons)

Tel: 86-10-66296990

Seafood Extravaganza at Greenfish

Relax! It's the weekend! Take your family, friends and business partners along to enjoy a memorable seafood buffet every Friday and Saturday night.

Select two from six choices as below which are highly recommended: South African Lobster, Surfer Clam, Scallop, Baby Abalone, King Razor Clam, Alaska King Crab, Lan Hua Clam and Jumbo

prawns. In addition, starting with imported Boston lobsters, Snow Crab, Flowery Crab, Sea Snail, Jade Snail, Scallop and mussels, move on to an exquisite selection of salads, vegetables, cheeses, and ham which exemplify both domestic flavors and international delights. Both the live station and hot dishes feature seasonal seafood from shrimps to conches, clams, squids and even snapper fillet. To crown the end of a delightful meal, don't miss our desserts made by award-winning Sweet Master—Charles Zhao who was named Gold Champion at the Asian Pastries Cup.

Price: 558 yuan per person, including coffee, tea, soft drink or juice, add 188 yuan to enjoy free flow of red and white house wine and beer.

Dinner on every Friday and Saturday

For more information on Greenfish or to make a reservation, please contact us at 86-10-66296990

Crystal Bar and Lobby Lounge

Vic's Cocktail

Our fresh and passionate bartender Vic has come up with a selection of classic yet creative cocktails for summer time indulgence. Come and enjoy the New Fashioned inspired by the Old Fashioned, which combines bourbon with classic Grand Mariner, Tia Maria, and lovely cherry brandy. Or try the Bartender's Martini with Bombay Sapphire, Grand Mariner infused with Taylor's Port, Dubonnet and Vermouth Blanco.

Price: 98 yuan per glass

For more information on Crystal Bar & Lobby Lounge or to make a reservation, please contact us at 86-10-66016666-6231

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Never Forget

Writers and publishers pass down the national spirit that led to victory in the war of resistance By Ji Jing

Zhang Shujian, a retired public servant and currently President of the Women Photographers' Association of Cangzhou, north China's Hebei Province, has spent over three years taking photos of 120 women over the age of 85 and compiling them in a photo essay book.

In the book, the women recount the atrocities committed by Japanese forces during their war of aggression against China, which was launched in 1931 and ended in 1945 with Japan's unconditional surrender.

The book is part of a two-volume series titled *The Red Memory* published by the Hebei Fine Arts Publishing House in July, with the other volume devoted to the stories of counter-Japanese soldiers who are still alive. The series was among hundreds of books on the war promoted at the 22nd Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) on August 26-30. Over 2,000 publishing houses from 82 countries participated in the event.

This year's BIBF featured a book exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. More than 800 titles were on display including photo collections, historical literature and literary works. Audio books and e-books exploring that part of history were also showcased at the exhibition.

Untold suffering

Zhang was commissioned by the local government in 2011 to look for and visit women

in rural areas of Cangzhou born before 1930 who had assisted the armed forces of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The CPC-led Eighth Route Army founded counter-Japanese base areas in Hebei during the war of resistance.

One fact struck Zhang when she paid visits to the "old mothers," a respectful term locals use to address senior women: Very few of them had photos of themselves. As a photographer, she decided to shoot their photos.

"The old mothers felt very pleased to have photos of their own. They would show them to friends and relatives—whoever paid a visit," Zhang told *Beijing Review*.

During her visits to these women, the photographer would ask them about the war. They would tell her how they suffered Japanese aggression and what they did to support resistance efforts.

For instance, 93-year-old Ge Funu, one of the protagonists of Zhang's book, said she once helped several women captured by Japanese soldiers from a neighboring village escape. In addition, she composed songs that encouraged local people to unite together to fight invaders. Ge and her peers also made clothes and shoes for Chinese soldiers and took care of the wounded combatants.

After the three northeastern provinces of China fell into the hands of the Japanese within a few months following the September 18 Incident in 1931, Hebei became the main target of Japanese aggression. Japanese forces began to invade the province in 1933. It is estimated that there were over 5.48 million casualties in

the province during the war, accounting for one fifth of its population in 1937.

When she learned that the Hebei Fine Arts Publishing House wanted to turn her photos into a book, Zhang decided to reshoot the photos with her colleagues in the photographers' association. In order to capture the perfect moment, she had to visit some veterans over three times.

"I was deeply touched when I first read the draft of the book," said Tian Zhong, Executive Deputy Editor in Chief of the Hebei Fine Arts Publishing House. "There is a story behind each picture, which illustrates a national spirit that should never be forgotten."

Preserving memories

Zhang Jixiang, a 70-year-old writer from Zuoquan County, north China's Shanxi Province, is also engaged in passing on this spirit to younger generations.

His *Irrefutable Evidence*, published by the Beijing-based New World Press, includes photos from a Japanese pictorial that recorded wartime crimes committed by Japanese forces in China.

"The pictorial provides strong evidence for Japan's invasion because it comprises photos taken by the invaders themselves. In the face of these photos, who can deny the fact of aggression?" Zhang Jixiang said, referring to Japanese right-wing activists' attempts to whitewash their country's wartime crimes.

Zhang Jixiang's hometown changed from Liaoxian to Zuoquan after the county's namesake senior Eighth Route Army officer



A book on China's contributions to victory in World War II published by the Beijing-based Foreign Languages Press



WEI MAO

Books marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War at the Beijing International Book Fair

was killed in action. Zuo Quan (1905-42), Deputy Chief of Staff of the Eighth Route Army, was the highest-ranking CPC officers who lost their lives in the war.

Inspired by the patriotic spirit of his fellow countrymen, Zhang Jixiang dedicated himself to writing about his home county's counter-Japanese stories after retirement and has published five works in this genre.

His next project is to write a book about the counter-Japanese stories of the 370 or so local villages that come straight from the mouths of residents over 90 years old. He has been able to interview people ages 90 and upward of all the villages.

"Every village has stories of fighting Japanese invaders and every village suffered massacre," said Zhang Jixiang. "Zuoquan's fight exemplifies the nationwide war of resistance. As a local resident, I have the responsibility to document that part of history and leave it to future generations."

Zhang Shujian also feels that preserving

and passing down stories of the war is an urgent task.

"For my generation, our parents lived through the war, and they kept telling us about it. However, for my son's and my grandson's generation, the history of the war may become vague and obscure," said Zhang Shujian. "I hope that young people can memorize history and cherish today's peaceful life."

In the three years when Zhang Shujian was taking photos of the old mothers, 13 passed away. "The physical conditions of these women are delicate. Many people urged me to seize the opportunity; otherwise after they pass away, nobody will be able to give a personal account of the war," she said.

Notably, the books on the war published in China have drawn attention abroad. For instance, the Hangzhou-based Zhejiang People's Publishing House has signed copyright export agreements with South Korean publishers on its books about Japanese germ warfare in China during World War II (WWII)

and Chinese women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese forces.

Many more publishers are eyeing the international market. At the BIBF, the New World Press signed a contract with the China International Television Corp. on the publishing of a book based on the latter's documentary *The Oriental Battlefield*, which offers a panoramic view of China's contributions to the victory of Allied powers in WWII. The former will promote the book, which will come out in seven editions in various languages, at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany in October.

Liu Wei, Deputy Manager of the Yayuncun Books Building in Beijing, said the publishing sector is willing to contribute to the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the victory of the war of resistance. "Books can recapture wartime hardships with stark facts," he said. ■

Copiedited by Kylee McIntyre
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Athletic Extravaganza

Beijing presents an IAAF world championship to remember By Yu Lintao

Following the U.S. team's victory in the men's 4x400-meter relay on August 30, the 2015 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships drew to a close at the National Stadium, nicknamed the Bird's Nest, in Beijing.

During the nine-day tournament, athletes from around the world competed in 47 track-and-field events. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt remained center stage every time he showed up on the racing track, walking away with gold. Assisted by Bolt's three gold medals in the 100-meter, 200-meter and 4x100-meter races, Jamaica won second place in the medal tally.

Kenya, another traditional athletic power, finished for the first time atop the medal standings with seven gold, six silver and three bronze medals, while the United States came third with six gold medals, dropping out of the top two for the first time. Legendary U.S. decathlon athlete Ashton Eaton collected a total of 9,045 points, bettering his own world mark set three years ago by six points and creating the only world record of this year's championships.

Ethiopia became the biggest winner on the final day of the championships as Mare Dibaba won the women's marathon title during the day session. Later that night, Ethiopian female athletes swept the medals in the women's 5,000-meter event, with Almaz Ayana taking the title in a championship record time.

The Chinese team also made remarkable achievements in the first IAAF World Championships ever held in China. Sprinter Su Bingtian and his team members Zhang

Peimeng, Xie Zhenye and Mo Youxue clinched a historic silver for China in the men's 4x100-meter final, making a name for themselves alongside retired hurdler Liu Xiang, another track-and-field star. Su, the first Chinese to reach the men's 100-meter final at the world championships, clocking 9.99 seconds, and his teammates became instant celebrities in China, rewriting the Asian sporting history.

World record holder Liu Hong bagged China's sole gold medal with her victory in the women's 20-km race walk. Teammate Lu Xiuzhi took silver a few steps off Liu's pace.

According to statistics from the IAAF, the championships attracted about 700,000 sports fans to the Bird's Nest to watch the games.

"I'm delighted. China staged a wonderful championship, and it's been sensational," IAAF President Sebastian Coe told reporters at a press conference on the last day of the competition.

"The athletes are always a good judge. They are reporting that they have been looked after extremely well. Everybody is happy. It's a great, great championship," Coe added.

In an interview with China's Xinhua News Agency, Eike Onnen, a high jumper from Germany, said he was deeply impressed with enthusiasm in the stadium.

"Being here in Beijing feels like a comeback for me because I had less-than-good years before. Meeting old athlete friends again is super," Onnen said. ■

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Comments to yulintao@bjreview.com





1. China's Xie Zhenye, Su Bingtian, Zhang Peimeng and Mo Youxue (left to right) celebrate after winning silver in the men's 4x100-meter relay on August 29

2. Athletes take part in the women's marathon on August 30

3. Jamaica's Usain Bolt celebrates after winning the men's 100-meter final on August 23

4. Yan'er, the mascot of the 15th IAAF World Athletics Championships, is seen during the opening ceremony of the event on August 22



Museum Further Informs History

By Edith Stifter



Reporters conduct an interview at the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing on August 29

Bright blue sky, a fleet of diplomats' cars outside, flocks of journalists inside, a memorial site in the size of a small town: Right next to the Lugou Bridge—better known in the West as the Marco Polo Bridge—is the location of the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Since these are the outskirts of the Beijing metropolis, the museum and the bridge are a little off the beaten track for tourists but are definitely worth a visit.

That very bridge was the scene of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, which led to the escalation of the war of resistance, as it is called in China, to a full-scale war between China and Japan. By then Japan had already occupied northeast China, where a puppet state was installed. The incident at the Marco Polo Bridge happened on July 7, 1937—Hitler-Germany's invasion of Poland, which marks the beginning of World War II (WWII) in Europe, took place more than two years later on September 1, 1939.

Due to our Western-centric view of the world, we sometimes forget the victims of the war in Asia and their sacrifices and contributions. In the face of long years of war and war

crimes, which are beyond anything the human mind wants to perceive—among them genocide, massacres, disease and starvation—we Europeans tend to see WWII as an exclusively European story, missing the fact that the war in Asia started earlier than in Europe.

Entering the museum, the visitors immediately face larger-than-life, grimmer-than-life statues united for a war of resistance. Due to their sheer size, I usually find Chinese museums a bit intimidating; museums on wars generally scare me. The Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression combines these feelings and fills the visitor with respect.

In the war of resistance, the two parties, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, fought together in a united front. The museum therefore tells a story of a united people who defended their country against Japanese invaders.

In China, the war is perceived as the first victory after centuries of humiliation at the hands of foreign powers, and the museum wants to tell a story about what a united nation can achieve. The museum therefore also shows the contribution of civil society and women.

In addition, it gives a very vivid impression of how CPC leaders lived during the war. For example, we saw Mao Zedong in Yan'an and Zhou Enlai aging over the years.

A multimedia show, battle-field scenery to walk around, a multitude of historical materials: The museum displays wartime, ostensive and vivid. The museum's target audiences are school classes; however, it is interesting for foreign audiences, as it gives us the opportunity to question our views of history.

As this war was not only a Chinese-Japanese war but also an important scene of WWII, the museum values foreign contribution and support. One cannot imagine how WWII might have ended if the Soviet

Union had had to defend their eastern border the same as the western. As it was, it could focus on the European theater.

After all these martial impressions of war, the beauty of the Marco Polo Bridge is overwhelming. The former crucial access point to Beijing is today closed for traffic. Being on that place, the place I used to read about in my textbooks so many times, and realizing that this place is actually real is exciting. This architectural masterpiece, lined with cute stone lions, makes a picturesque historical site. And its beauty finally brings the mind some peace.

Visiting the museum inspired me to read more about WWII. We must never forget where the fascist ideology led to, with its black-and-white schemes, its vicious ideas of race, the crazy concept that one "race" is superior to another and the tremendous suffering it brought to the entire world. And we must not forget that peace may be the only path to historical justice. ■

The author is an Austrian living in Beijing
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China International Fair for Investment and Trade 2015 (abbreviated as 2015 CIFIT) will be held from September 8th to 11th of 2015 in Xiamen, China. In view of the latest trends of global investment, 2015 CIFIT, while focusing on hot-spots such as 'One Belt One Road', Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), 'Free Trade Zone', 'Internet+' 'Mass Entrepreneurship' and etc, will make every endeavor to organize a series of events in the investment sector, such as high-end industry exhibition, investment project matchmaking, authoritative forums & seminars, investment policies release and etc, to drive bilateral and multilateral economic exchanges and collaboration.



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