

## History 363: China and World War II in Asia

Time and Place: T-TH 9:30-10:20 AM; Humanities 1651

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Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5 and by appointment

### Objectives and Expectations:

This course is intended to help students understand World War II from the perspective of Asia. I hope to turn the focus away from the American and Japanese roles in the war and toward often overlooked participants such as China, Korea, and Southeast Asia. This course will reveal not only the diplomatic, political, and military situation of wartime Asia, but also perceptions and experiences of the war from those most heavily affected by it: those experiencing it on the ground. Understanding this war is critical for helping us understand Asia and America's role within it today. The foundations of the Cold War and the post-Cold War world that we live in today were forged on battlefields in mainland China, Burma, small islands in the Pacific, and in the skies over the archipelago of Japan. In order to provide the background and understand the legacies, this course covers an extended time frame, beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the arrival of the West in Asia and continues into the 1950s.

The readings for the course consist primarily of primary resource materials and are intended to help students understand and analyze the actions of historical actors. Many of these readings are gory, callous, or by our own 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes can be seen as racist. But I did not choose them to shock. Instead, the readings for this class are intended to help students understand the motivations of historical actors and illustrate the context within which the drama of the war played out. The only way to understand history is to understand and sympathize with the actions of actors even if we choose to then condemn them for the choices they make. The readings closely track the themes of the lecture and in order to help add context and illustrate the broader themes laid out in the lecture students are strongly encouraged to stay up to date with the readings. To help in this process of developing a historical sympathy, while this is a lecture course, students are encouraged to ask questions and actively engage with the material. While this is a lecture course, over the course of the quarter there will be five in class discussions/class exercises. These are intended to give students an opportunity to actively engage with the material (for more information on these see "course requirements"). Additional discussion opportunities will be scattered throughout the semester.

There are no specific pre-requisites for the course. Those unfamiliar with East Asia and its history are encouraged to do some background reading on Chinese and Japanese history. A good starting place for China is Jonathan Spence's *The Search for Modern China* and for Japan, Andrew Gordon's *A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present*

## Required Texts:

Pa Chin, *Cold Nights* (Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 1978)

Nakae Chomin, *A Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government* (New York: Weatherhill) 1984

Sheldon Harris, *Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare, 1932-1945 and the American Cover-Up* (New York: Routledge) 2002

John Hershey, *Hiroshima* (New York: A.A. Knopf) 1985

-All other course readings are available on the course page at learn@UW; Readings on learn@uw are marked with an asterisk (\*).

## Course Requirements:

1. **Midterm exam:** 30 percent. Questions will be drawn from readings and lectures from the first half of the course and will be conducted in class.
2. **Final exam:** 30 percent. Questions will be drawn from readings and lectures from the second half of course and will be conducted in class.
3. **Discussion:** 20 percent. There are three designated discussion/class exercise sessions over the course of the semester. The topic of these is listed in the weekly schedule below. Students are expected to be caught up on all of the readings prior to this point and are required to turn-in a two to three page response
4. **Source Reports:** 20 percent. At two separate points over the course of the semester students will be divided into groups of two or three (depending on the enrollment for the course) and asked to find and analyze one or a series of sources related to China and World War II in Asia. Source analyses are to be written up into a report of between 5-7 pages and each group will present their findings to the class. Grades will be assessed based on the originality of the source and the strength of the analysis. To the greatest extent possible, students should choose different types of sources from the first report to the second. More information on expectations and on how to find and analyze primary sources will be provided in the coming weeks.

## Weekly Schedule:

[Readings marked with a \* are available on Learn@UW. The pdf file name for the file is in brackets before the page number. Please note that many files include multiple readings. **Be sure to check the page numbers!**]

### Week 1

#### January 20: Introductions

\*John Dower, "Structures and Ideologies of Conquest" in MacKinnon, Lary, and Vogel, eds. *China at War: Regions of China, 1937-1945* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press) 2007, 17-21

\*Diana Lary, *The Chinese People at War: Human Suffering and Social Transformation, 1937-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2010), 1-14

## **January 22:** Contact with the West and the Rise of Nations and Nationalism in Asia

\*"The Revolutionary Movement" in Keith Schoppa, ed. *Twentieth Century China: A History in Documents* (New York: Oxford University Press) 2011, 20-26

\* "Ethnicity and Modernity in the 1911 Revolution" in Henrietta Harrison *China: Inventing the Nation* (London: Arnold) 2001, 132-149

## Week 2

### **January 27:** The "Meiji Model:" State Centralization and Government Control

\* "Saigo Takamori and the Samurai Spirit" and "Okubo Toshimichi and the Korean Question" in *Source of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 2 (New York: Columbia University Press), 147-155

- *Discourse of Three Drunkards* first half

### **January 29:** Nationalism, National Crisis and the Nationalist Party in China

\* Lu Xun, "A Madman's Diary" in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature* (New York: Columbia University Press 1995), 8-15

\*\*"Spirit of the May Fourth Movement" in Patricia Ebrey, ed. *Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook* (New York: Free Press) 1993, 360-363

\* "Politics of Power: General von Falkenhausen's Advice to Chiang Kaishek, 1936" in Cheng, Lestz, Spence, eds. *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection* (New York: Norton) 1999, 286-289

\* "Chiang Kai-shek – The People's Choice?" In Theodore White and Annalee Jacoby, *Thunder Out of China* (New York: William Sloane Associates) 1946, 118-131

## Week 3

### **February 3:** Empire and the Rise of Japanese Militarism

- “Chapter 3, The Military: Authoritarian and Irrational” in Ienaga Saburo, *The Pacific War 1931-1945* (New York: Pantheon Books) 1978
- “Japan on the Mukden Incident” in the *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 279-281
- “Japan’s Expansion: A satirical poem”, “Japan defended at the Chamber of Commerce” in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 281-286
- “East Asian Federation”, “The Spiritual Basis of Asian Revolution and Unity”, “Japan as Economic Leader of Asia”, in *Japan’s Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in World War II: Selected Documents* (New York: Oxford University Press) 1975, 3-8, 36-40, 48-54

## **February 5: DISCUSSION #1**

**Discussion Questions:** What is the linkage between National identity in Asia and the West? How do you evaluate the role of the West in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Asia? Is it positive or negative in this early period?

- “First Encounters” in Hilda Kang, ed. *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) 2001, 6-14
- “Shouts of Independence” in *Under the Black Umbrella*, 17-23
- Louise Young, “Imagined Empire: The Cultural Construction of Manchukuo” in *The Japanese Wartime Empire: 1931-1945* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press) 1996, 71-96

## **Week 4**

### **February 10: An Introduction to Finding Primary Sources: MEET IN THE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

### **February 12: Chiang Kaishek and the Formation of a United Front in China**

- “Political and Military Realities in *Twentieth Century China: A History in Documents*, 78-83
- “The Students Demonstrate, December 16, 1935”, “Xi’an 1936: the Generals’ Demands and Chiang Kai-shek’s Reply”, in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 304-313
- “On War with Japan” in Edgar Snow, *Red Star Over China* (New York: Grove Press 1968), 106-113
- Finish *Discourse*

## Week 5

### **February 17:** The Outbreak of the War: From the Marco Polo Bridge to a Stalemate in Central China

- "Japan at War" in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 314-324
- "The Rape of Nanjing, *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 324-330
- Diana Lary, "A Ravaged Place" in MacKinnon and Lary, eds. *Scars of War: the Impact of Warfare on Modern China* (Vancouver: UBC Press) 2001, 98-116
- "Battle Lines in China", "I wanted to Build a Greater East Asia", in *Japan at War: An Oral History*, 29-44, 50-55
- Begin *Factories of Death*, 1-74

### **February 19:** Resistance v. Collaboration in Occupied China

- \*"Generalissimo Jiang on National Identity" in *Chinese Civilization: a Sourcebook*, 401-404
- \*"Wang Jingwei : On Collaboration" in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 330-333
- \*"War, Nationalism and Identity" in *China: Inventing the Nation*, 207-223
- \*"Introduction" in Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II* (New York: BasicBooks) 1997, 3-16

## Week 6

### **February 24:** The Retreat to the Southwest and the Making of 'Free China'

- \*"Chungking, a Point in Time" in White and Jacoby eds *Thunder Out of China*, 3-19
- "Bombs in Yishan" in Lau and Goldblatt, eds. *Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature* (New York: Columbia University Press 2007) 633-638
- \* "Bombs Don't Discriminate" in Flath and Smith, eds. *Beyond Suffering: Recounting War in Modern China* (Vancouver: UBC Press) 2011, 59-79
- \* Li Danke, *Echoes of Chongqing: Women in Wartime China* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press) 2010, 88-93
- *Factories of Death*, 75-177

### **February 26:** Pearl Harbor and the Beginning of the War in the Pacific

- \* “Tojo on the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere”, “Tojo Greets the Greater East Asia Conference, in *Japan’s Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in World War II*, 78-81, 88-93
- \* “A Failure of Diplomacy” in *Japan at War: an Oral History*, 90-95
- \* “The Justification for War”, “The Declaration of War”, “The War Goal” in *Source of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 2, 288-298

## Week 7

### **March 3:** Source Report #1

Debate on the future of China in 1941. Three groups: the Nationalist Party, the Chinese Communist Party and the Reorganized Nationalist Government (“collaboration” government). Position papers due in class.

### **March 5:** War, Race and the Mobilization of the Japanese Empire

- \* “Chapter 3” in Richard Kim, *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood* (Berkeley: University of California Press) 1998
- \* “Patterns of a Race War” in John Dower *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books) 1996, 3-14 [don’t have]
- \* “Imperial Army Betrayed” in Fujitani, White, Yoneyama, eds. *Perilous Memories: the Asia-Pacific War(s)* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press) 2001 [don’t have]
- \* “Korean Guard” in *Japan at War*, 113-120

## Week 8

### **March 10:** Women and the War in East Asia

- \* “The Course and Conditions of the Establishment of the Military comfort Station System” in Yoshimi Yoshiaki *Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military During World War II* (New York: Columbia University Press) 2000, 42-75
- \* Ding Ling, “When I was in Xia village” *Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*

### **March 12:** Midterm: IN CLASS

## Week 9

**March 17:** Film: “Nanjing: Memory and Oblivion”  
- *Factories of Death*, 178-237

## **March 19:** The Rise and Near Fall of US-Chinese Relations

\* Jay Taylor, *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kaishek and the Struggle for Modern China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009), 194-244

\* *China White Paper*, August 1949 (Stanford: Stanford University Press 1967) 26-37  
- Begin *Cold Nights*

## Week 10

### **March 24:** The Chinese Communist Party at War

\* Mao Zedong, "Establishment of Base Areas" in *Strategic Problems in the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla War* (Beijing: Peking University Press) 1960, 26-42

\* Mao Zedong, "Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art" in *On New Democracy* (Peking: Foreign Language Press) 1967, 72-114

\* "First Formal Impression of the North Shensi Communist Base" and "Desirability of American Military Aid to the Communist Armies" in Joseph Esherick, ed. *Lost Chance in China: the World War II Dispatches of John S. Service* (New York: Random House 1974) 178-182, 322-326

- Continue with *Cold Nights*

### **March 26:** DISCUSSION #2

Why do we dwell on the violence associated with World War II? Is it necessary to focus so heavily on this violence? What purpose does it serve?

\* Herbert Dix, "Japan's Delayed Surrender: A Reinterpretation" in *Diplomatic history* 19, no. 2, 197-225 [need to get]

\* "The Burning Skies" in *Japan at War*, 343-353

- Continue *Cold Nights*

## Week 11

### **March 31:** SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

### **April 2:** SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

## Week 12

### **April 7:** The Demoralization of Free China, 1943-1944

- \* "The Honan Famine" in Theodore White and Annalee Jacoby *Thunder out of China*, 166-178
- \* "Doomed Men, The Chinese Army" in Theodore White and Annalee Jacoby *Thunder out of China*, 132-141
- Finish *Cold Nights*

**April 9:** Film: "China in War and Revolution"

- \* "Drafted to the Kobe Shipyards", "the War Effort" in *Under the Black Umbrella*, 123-138
- \* "Volunteer and "Human Torpedo" *Japan at War*, 306-319
- *Factories of Death*, 239-311

## Week 13

**April 14:** The Japanese Home Front and the Struggle Over Ending the War

- \*\*"Thank God for the Atom Bomb" in Paul Fussell, *Thank God for the Atom Bomb and Other Essays*, 1-28
- Start *Hiroshima*

**April 16:** Source Report #2

## Week 14

**April 21:** The Atomic Bomb and the Surrender of Japan

- "Mansei" in *Under the Black Umbrella*, 139-147
- "Shattered Lives" in John Dower *Embracing Defeat* 48-64
- "Reversals of Fortune" in *Japan at War*, 407-419
- Matthew Allen, "Wolves at the Back Door: Remembering the Kumejima Massacres," in *Islands of Discontent*, 39-64
- Continue reading *Hiroshima*

**April 23:** Surrender, Guilt and the American Occupation of Japan

- Finish *Hiroshima*

## Week 15

**April 28:** Ending One War and Beginning Another in East Asia



- Hideo Kobayashi, "The Postwar Economic Legacy of Japan's Wartime Empire" in *Japan's Wartime Empire*, 324-334
- *Factories of Death*, 313-361

**May 30: DISCUSSION #3**

**Discussion Question(s):** What options faced American officials in 1945 regarding the dropping of the atomic bomb?

- "Victory as Defeat" in Yeh Wen-hsin, ed. *Becoming Chinese: Passages to Modernity and Beyond* (Berkeley: University of California Press) 2000
- "Victory and Civil War" in Theodore White and Annalee Jacoby, *Thunder Out of China*, 279-297

**Week 16**

**May 5:** The Long Term Legacies of the War in East Asia

**May 7: Final Exam: In Class**

