



Only by Confronting History Can We Truly Forge the Future

At the end of May, a Japanese civilian group held a symposium in Tokyo titled "80 Years After the War: How History Textbooks Record the War," expressing concern over the vague representations of war in the new textbooks that have been gradually put into use in junior high schools across Japan this year. History textbooks are serious educational materials that play a foundational role in shaping historical perspectives and influencing Japanese society's understanding of historical issues.

The issue of Japanese history textbooks is a longstanding one, and the scope of use for textbooks with right-wing leanings is expanding. These textbooks often gloss over the Nanjing Massacre tragedy under the name of the "Nanjing Incident," advocate the claim that the death toll of the Nanjing Massacre is unconfirmed, avoid using the term "Comfort Women," and even omit any reference to the wartime sexual slavery system. They also disconnect the link between Japanese militarism's foreign aggression and World War II, with the aim of portraying Japan as a "victim." The promotion of such textbooks will accelerate the younger generation's loss of memory of Japan's history of aggression.

The content of history education must be true. History is history, and facts are facts. No amount of whitewashing can conceal the historical crimes of Japanese militarism. In recent years, far-sighted Japanese individuals have persisted in collecting historical materials related to Japan's invasion of China. They have brought archival materials—including the "detailed battle reports," "battlefield logs," wartime diaries, and photo albums of the invading Japanese army—to China. These materials have added new evidence to historical facts such as the Nanjing Massacre, the "Comfort Women" sexual slavery system, and biological warfare. The piles of white bones of the victims of the Nanjing Massacre cannot be glossed over with a few words. The various testimonial and material evidence of Japan's invasion of China will not tolerate evasive textual gimmicks. Any practice of downplaying major issues while trivializing minor ones, substituting concepts, or taking quotes out of context can only expose ulterior intentions.

Looking to the future, no party can shirk its responsibilities. The attitude we hold toward history will shape the stance we take toward the future. If the Japanese side continues to "feed" the younger generation with distorted historical perspectives over the long term, it will ultimately lead Japan down a wrong path. Peace and friendship are the shared aspirations of the Chinese and Japanese peoples, and a correct understanding of history is the prerequisite for this. As time goes by, the number of people who personally experienced and witnessed history is dwindling, but the ranks of those who uphold and pass on this memory are growing. It is through this transmission from generation to generation that the truth is preserved. No matter how Japan revises its history textbooks, it cannot alter the historical fact that Japan became a victim because it was an aggressor-perpetrator. It cannot erase the historical traces of Japan's militaristic and brutal aggression. And it cannot deny Japan's historical responsibility for its war crimes.

"Correctly approaching and deeply reflecting on the history of Japanese militarist aggression constitutes an important political foundation for building and developing Sino-Japanese relations." History itself is the best textbook, warning Japan that it must abide by its commitments on historical issues. It also reminds people that they must solidify a shared historical memory, promote the correct perspective on World War II history, and be vigilant against any remarks that glorify wars of aggression and colonial rule. Only in this way can we truly forge a bright future of peaceful development.

The English, Japanese and French language editions of the Journal of Japanese Invasion of China and Nanjing Massacre made their debut at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

From April 26 to May 5, the 34th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair was held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Centre (ADNEC) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The English, Japanese, and French language editions of the Journal of the Japanese Invasion of China and the Nanjing Massacre, hosted by the Memorial Hall, made their debut at the fair and were prominently featured at the China-themed book exhibition—organized by the Foreign Languages Press and titled "Promoting Civilizational Dialogue and Sharing Global Security."

Since 2019, the Memorial Hall has selected outstanding research findings on the Nanjing Massacre, and has successively translated and published the English, Japanese, and French language editions of the journal. These editions have been distributed in 53 countries and regions—including the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and South Africa—covering well-known overseas universities, major libraries, key research institutions, scholars, and overseas Chinese communities and individuals. This embodies the Chinese people's commitment to "remembering history and cherishing peace." In 2024, the foreign language editions won the "Special Prize for Outstanding Think Tank Research Achievements of the CTTI (Chinese Think Tank Index)."

△ At the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

△ The foreign language editions of the journal were on display at the China-themed book exhibition titled "Promoting Civilizational Dialogue and Sharing Global Security"

The Overseas Exhibition of the Nanjing Massacre has been selected into the "Bridges of Civilization Program – Excellent Overseas Exhibitions of Cultural Relics" initiated by the National Cultural Heritage Administration of the People's Republic of China

On International Museum Day 2025, the "Memory of the World and Vision for Peace—Exhibition of the Nanjing Massacre" curated by the Memorial Hall was selected into the "Bridges of Civilization Program – Excellent Overseas Exhibitions of Cultural Relics" of the National Cultural Heritage Administration of the People's Republic of China.

△ "Memory of the World and Vision for Peace—Exhibition of the Nanjing Massacre" opened in Budapest, Hungary

△ "Memory of the World and Vision for Peace—Exhibition of the Nanjing Massacre" opened in Madrid, Spain

Art troupes from nine Chinese universities, including Tsinghua University, performed "Ode to Peace"

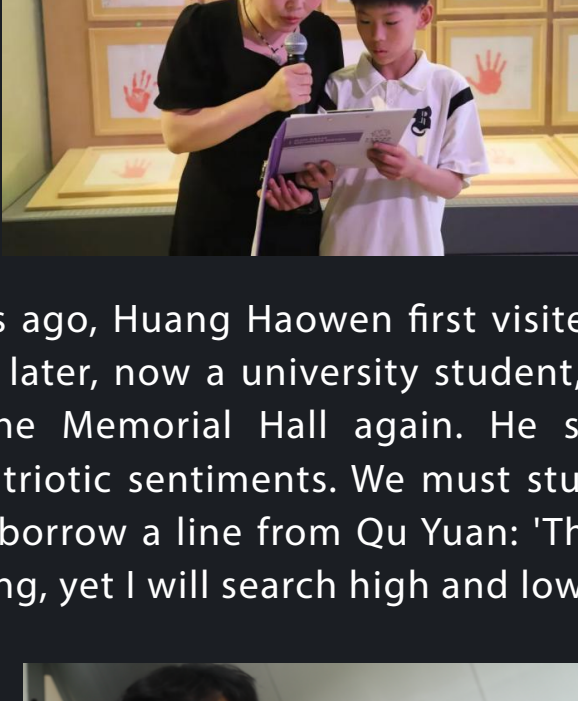
Recently, the "Ode to Peace" special concert by the Chinese Orchestra of the Tsinghua University Student Art Troupe was held at the New Tsinghua Hall. The concert brought together the Chinese Orchestra of the Tsinghua University Student Art Troupe, student Chinese orchestras from eight universities, the Tsinghua University Senior Faculty Choir, the Tsinghua Alumni Choir, and the Tsinghua Affiliated Primary School Choir. It expressed the performers' deep remembrance of fallen heroes, reverence for history, and appeal for peace through the profound and majestic language of music.

"Ode to Peace" is China's first Chinese national orchestral work that depicts the major historical theme of the Nanjing Massacre. Zhou Feng, Director of the Memorial Hall, was invited to attend the concert and, prior to the performance, had a symposium with teacher and student representatives of the Chinese Orchestra, centered on the theme of "Inheriting the Great Spirit of Remembrance and Peace, and Exploring Together a New Prospect for Peace."



A Peace Partnership Spanning Two Decades Featured in People's Daily

On May 31, China's People's Daily reported that on May 26 local time, in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, nearly 20 senior members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir were rehearsing the song "The Flower of Peace, Zijin Grass." Not long ago, members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir travelled to Nanjing, China, to participate in the Zijin Grass Choir Concert themed "Remembering History and Cherishing Peace." At the concert venue, the Japanese seniors joined hands with Chinese children and sang songs such as "The Story of Zijin Grass" in both Chinese and Japanese, expressing their deep longing for peace.

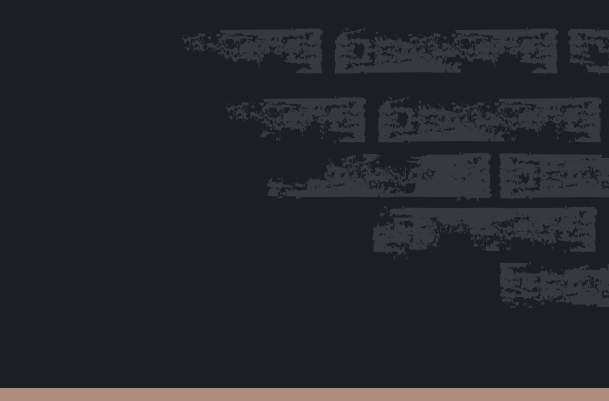


In 2001, the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir embarked on its first visit to China. Over the past two decades, the Memorial Hall has always walked hand in hand with the choir and has been deeply committed to advancing the cause of peace. In 2023, the Memorial Hall, in collaboration with the Nanjing Municipal Education Bureau and the Nanjing Municipal Women's Federation, jointly established the Nanjing Zijin Grass Children's Choir—a vivid continuation of the concept of "Remembering History and Cherishing Peace."

After Visiting the Memorial Hall on China's Dragon Boat Festival, Visitors Said...

During the traditional Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, many parents accompanied their children, while young people in groups came to visit the Memorial Hall.

A sister and brother from Beijing were looking at the "iron book" in the preface hall of the "Nanjing Massacre Exhibit." The elder sister, Wang Yuchen, pointed to the names on the "iron book" and said to her younger brother, "Behind them are families just like ours. The historical evidence is ironclad—we must never forget."



A mother and son from Bozhou, Anhui Province, recited aloud The Diaries of John Rabe in unison. The mother, Sun Huali, said, "This solemn yet heartfelt ceremony allows the child to come to terms with the true meaning of history."



Five years ago, Huang Haowen first visited the Memorial Hall. Five years later, now a university student, he brought his girlfriend to the Memorial Hall again. He said, "Each visit deepens my patriotic sentiments. We must study hard to gain knowledge. To borrow a line from Qu Yuan: 'The road ahead is long and winding, yet I will search high and low.'"

A visitor from Hebei, China, wrote in the guest book of the Memorial Hall: "This is my first time in Nanjing. Before my journey, I spent six hours on the high-speed train engrossed in Iris Chang's The Rape of Nanking. By the time I reached Chapter Four, her unpretentious yet compelling prose captivated me. I strongly urge everyone to read it. Nanjing strikes me as a resurgent city, one that radiates renewed brilliance..."

Call for Entries: 2025 Nanjing International Biennial Peace Poster

The call for entries for the 2025 Nanjing International Biennial Peace Poster is now officially open. This edition, under the theme "History Illuminates the Future," invites creators worldwide to harness the power of visual storytelling, fostering a dialogue between past and future as we collectively "Design for Peace."

Participants: Designers, professional students and teachers, artists, and design institutions from around the globe.

Registration Deadline: Before 24:00 on July 30, 2025 (Beijing Time).

Participants can scan the QR code below to access the IPBP Nanjing International Biennial Peace Poster event page for online registration. We look forward to your submissions!

