

1. The Chongqing negotiations: A reappraisal

Dr. Victor Shiu Chiang Cheng (ANU)

Abstract:

In autumn 1945, when China's war against Japan had barely ended, the race for territorial recovery after Japanese surrender between the two opposing Chinese sides—the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the ruling Nationalist/Guomindang (GMD) regime—was about to trigger a new bout of civil war in China. In a bid to avert a civil war, the top leaders of both parties met in China's wartime capital Chongqing at the end of August for the American sponsored six-week-long peace talks, commonly known as the Chongqing negotiations. The historic summit and the subsequent peace agreement, however, were unable to prevent the outbreak of a full-blown civil war in 1947. Perhaps because of the unsatisfactory result of the peace talks, there is a view in some quarters that as war remains a dominant theme, the Chongqing negotiations appear rather inconsequential.

This paper re-examines the history of the negotiations. It contends that as the negotiations progressed, both parties gradually walked away from seeking an all-or-nothing deal and endeavoured to find partial solutions to delay, if not avert, an all-out civil war. Although a number of stop-gap alternatives to end the conflict were turned down, the present study finds that these proposals post a significant question as to whether the subsequent full-scale civil war was the war of choice or the war of necessity. The final agreement did not provide for permanent solutions to the conflict but it was an admission from both parties that something better than war was out there. While the present study questions whether the critics writing decades later simply raise the bar without pondering what could have been expected from a month-long negotiation, and argues that peace negotiations are often complicated and complex. At times, the negotiators need to shape their own rules for the tactical battle at the negotiating table and have the courage to pursue the possible, rather than the preferred. The present study finds that the Chongqing negotiations led China into the most celebrated, albeit short-lived, period of negotiated peace in its otherwise blood-soaked post-war history. In this sense, the negotiations were at least of equal prominence as the landmark battles fought few years later. The beauty of peace is its fragility and this paper studies the two groups of Chinese negotiators and an American mediator who worked for peace.

2. Reconsidering Several Major Questions of the Battle of the Yellow Sea: With Reference to Two Reports of Constantin von Hanneken (1854-1925)

Professor MAK, K.S. Ricardo (Head, Department of History, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Abstract:

For historians, the past is a puzzle and new sources provide new pieces that help fill blank spaces in it. For decades, historians and experts in many different disciplines, seeking to explain China's seemingly one-sided defeat at the Yellow Sea on 17 September 1894, have looked deep into the tactics, logistics, leadership, war supplies, battle formations and preparation, etc. of the Chinese and Japanese fleets, and the actual fighting between them in those several hours. While many questions have been partly or fully resolved, others can be further investigated only with the help of new sources. Making use of two still underutilized reports (published in 1998, in German) attached to

the personal correspondences of Constantin von Hanneken, who was on board the Chinese flagship Dingyuan, this paper attempts to reexamine:

1. The credibility of Ding Ruchang's report and William Ferdinand Tyler's memoir, on which many scholars rely on
2. The question of who, Liu Bujin, the Commodore of Dingyuan or Admiral Ding Ruchang, gave the go-ahead to adopt the "line abreast" fleet formation.
3. The exact time the Cruiser Jiyuan fled the battlefield
4. Some other details about the battle

3. China's Insecurity and National Development

Professor Ka Po Ng (Faculty of Humanities, Aichi Bunkyo University, Japan)

Abstract:

This essay intends to examine how war and its perceived threat have impacted on China's national development with emphasis on the contemporary period. Although Deng Xiaoping asserted that peace had become the dominant force in international relations and succeeding leaderships publicly inherited this view, war because of its evolving concept, form of operations has continued to cause corresponding changes in China's national economic planning and social relationships.

4. The demise of Moghulistan and the power of the Chinese Khaghan in the writings of Molla Musa Sayrami

Dr. Terrance Hayes (UQ)

Abstract:

In 1903, the Uyghur historian, Molla Musa Sayrami, wrote that his Tarihi Aminiya was so named because his homeland, after experiencing the hostility and turmoil of a series of holy wars (ghazat), had entered into a period of peace and stability. As a minor functionary within Yakob Beg's Kashgar Emirate (1865-1877), Sayrami witnessed the emirate's rise and fall that preceded the establishment of the Chinese province of Xinjiang in November 1884. This paper explores the religious and cultural underpinnings that informed Sayrami's writings decades after these events. His views on the nature of political power, the Islamic state, the role of the Qing Emperor (Khaghan), and the fate of the new province and its Muslim inhabitants, provide an insight into the mind of an important Muslim intellectual at a time when his Moghulistan (Xinjiang) was on the cusp of the modern era and a greater inclusion within the non-Muslim Chinese state.

5. War and Popular Culture: The Prequel

Associate Professor James Flath (History, University of Western Ontario, Canada)

Abstract:

We know from Chang-Tai Hung's War and Popular Culture that much of the wartime propaganda of the Chinese Communist Party was adapted from Chinese popular print (nianhua). Much less is known about how the original nianhua producers understood war, and how they depicted conflict before the appearance of the CCP and its influential cultural programs. This paper will explore that question through popular prints dating to the first Sino-Japanese War, the Boxer War, and the Warlord era of the 1920s.

6. Internet War in Today's China

Ms. Yang Yang (UQ, CCCS)

Abstract:

In recent years, microblogging has triggered a wave of attention as the fastest developing Internet service in China. Digital optimists maintain that the most significant change that has occurred is its challenge to Chinese social and political environment. The participatory democracy at the grassroots level, supported by the microblogging platform, is highly praised for its overseeing of potential wrongdoings by government officials and rapid exposure of high-profile corruption scandals. There is a general perception that microblogging might replace other types of social networking sites, including Bulletin Board System (BBS) and traditional blogs, and provide a much freer and more welcoming platform for activities of political significance. However, there are a number of scholars who disagree with this assumption and argue that a great deal of media attention has been paid to cases of prominent dissidents or activities of Chinese celebrities and intellectual activists while the vast majority of ordinary people and their participatory culture has not yet been fully examined.

This report introduces Sina Weibo, the largest microblogging service provider in China, and investigates how it has gained wide recognition among users within a government-regulated commercial space that looks different from its counterpart in the West. The growth of Sina Weibo is influenced by the social and political context in which they grow up. The main point of this report is to argue that Sina Weibo as a fast growing social media tool does not necessarily bring voices of grassroots to Chinese policy makers. Evaluation of its political effect has been somewhat exaggerated. Despite the fact that Weibo has successfully drawn together people of different groups and encouraged individual opinions that are not often heard on the state-controlled media, its own monitoring tool and search engine driven by commercial interests make it difficult to get grassroots voice heard online. In addition, the increasing trend towards digital entertainment and monetization of Weibo provides further insight into motives for using Weibo. Chinese users, through the Weibo phenomenon, have shown that this popular social media platform is not a place for promoting democracy. The increased participation in media production at a grassroots level is shaping a new pattern of cultural consumption, including news entertainment and celebrity culture.

7. Defending Cantonese Weibo and geo-identity politics in Guangzhou, China

Mr. Wilfred Yang Wang (Queensland University of Technology)

Abstract:

On 25 July 2010, more than a thousand people marched on the streets of Guangzhou, the capital city of China's southern province Guangdong, to protest against the provincial government's initiative to abolish Cantonese broadcasting on television networks. Despite an official warning, the mass gathering was organised, discussed and manifested through weibo, the most popular social network service in China.

This study aims to investigate how Guangzhouers use Sina Weibo before, during and after the protest to connect with each other and mobilise public engagement. By collecting 397 Weibo posts from Guangzhou between 23 -26 July 2010, the analysis contributes to a geographic approach in Chinese media studies (Sun and Chio, 2012)

and asks the following questions: 1. How is weibo used to reinforce local Cantonese identity? 2. How does weibo assist a collective movement? 3. What is the role of weibo in connecting people at the scene of the protest (insiders) and those who are not (outsiders) during and after the protest?

The case of this pro-Cantonese protest illustrates that Internet-related social movements in China is alive and practiced, as weibo users develop a network through their common understanding and sense of belonging to the geographic place of Guangzhou. Weibo is therefore not a borderless service in China as it stages the tension between local and central. Through reinforcing the sense of 'locality' among its users, weibo has become the key platform to manifest and negotiate the process of local identification and cultural recognition.

8. "Western Images of the PRC, With Some Focus on Attitudes to China's Recent Rise"

Professor Colin Mackerras (Griffith)

Abstract:

"Although covering Western images of the PRC generally, the lecture will focus on the twenty-first century, and especially on China's rise at that time. There will be some consideration of how the West views China's economic growth, but also its strategic and military rise, and the increase of its influence in the world. The lecture will introduce some theories, both positive and negative, of China's rise. In addition, it will offer a small range of Western images of China's future. Finally, it will attempt to offer some explanation of Western images of contemporary China and, specifically, of China's rise."

9. The Guangxi Clique and the "June 1 Movement" in 1936

Dr. Su Mingxian (PhD, Griffith)

Abstract:

Before the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937, there were different policies and practices among the Guomindang (GMD) factions in response to Japanese aggression. These differences in internal and external policies and practices led to serious conflicts between those central and regional factions and Jiang Jieshi's group, combining with a power struggle in various levels. The Guangxi Clique under the leadership of Li Zongren and Bai Chongxi was one such prominent faction deeply involved in these conflicts and struggle with Jiang. The Clique, as a Western journalist in China at that time pointed out, was genuine in its anti-Japanism in the 1930s (Abend, 1943:223). Indeed, this group not only insisted on resistance, but also tried to put its anti-Japanese policy into practice throughout the country, although many of its actions and events related to it during the Nanjing era suggest that undoubtedly this group was involved in fierce power struggle with Jiang in many ways. The "June 1 Movement" (liuyi yundong) in 1936 was an example. This was, in a sense, the name given to Guangxi's mass mobilization and activities in resistance against Japan, even though this event was the outcome of an interaction of the complicated factional struggles in the GMD and other factors. However, this, to a great extent, compelled Jiang to abandon the implementation of his policy of *annei rangwai* (domestic pacification before external war) within the GMD, and to instead compromise with other factions, particularly the Clique, in order to reach unity within the Nationalists. This was, however, a temporary and superficial strategy at best as indicated

in the outcome of the movement. The outcome was a promise from Jiang, to his ex-allies and rivals like the Clique, to lead fighting against Japan once China's sacrifice reached the "final point". In the end, the movement at least achieved an apparent unity within the GMD with the common target of resistance.

10. Warlord and Rural-reconstructionist: Zouping (1931-1937) as a model

Mr. Yan Zhe YANG (UQ, HPRC)

Abstract:

A nationwide rural crisis could be spotted in the 1930s in modern history of China. During this period, Chinese rural-reconstructionists with lofty ideals had devoted themselves to a Crusade of salvation to save their homeland. Interestingly, some warlords also exerted heavy influence on the movement of rural reconstruction due to their close connection with rural-reconstructionists. This paper will highlight Zouping's case as an example, with the aim of giving a brief introduction to the interaction between warlord and rural-reconstructionists during the rural crisis.

11. Lu Zuofu and the Business Operation of the Minsheng Industrial Company in Wartime Chongqing, 1937-1945

Dr. Chi Kong Lai (UQ, School of HPRC)

Abstract:

The Minsheng Industrial Company (Minsheng shiye gongsi) founded by Lu Zuofu (1893-1952) was a leading private shipping company based in Chongqing during the Republican period. My paper explores why and how Lu Zuofu developed a unique modern entrepreneurship characterized by a very innovative, adventurous and risk-taking spirit. The paper analyzes Lu Zuofu's network behavior and investment strategies as well as the milieu in which Lu managed his businesses during the critical decade of the second Sino-Japanese War. The evidence reveals that the Minsheng Industrial Company was closely linked to the state sector of the Chinese economy and that the company's activities contributed significantly to China's wartime state building and nation building. My paper suggests that we need to develop novel approaches to the study of business enterprises that operated at a time of war.

12. Hygiene, Uniform and Identity – The everyday life of Wartime Chongqing

Xiaolu Wu (UQ, School of HPRC)

Abstract:

During the Sino-Japanese war, living materials were so scarce that a very simple lifestyle was followed in Wartime Chongqing. Winning the war was the basic goal for the people here, with all other needs secondary. Taking clothing as an example, simple clothes were the only choice for the ordinary people, while the uniform was the best choice for people of the government, students, cotton mill workers, and for workers of many large-scale enterprises. The Minsheng Company was one such example. Being thrifty was considered a necessary and effective tool during war times, while Morale was instrumental to the functioning of modern enterprises. Clothing continues to have cultural and political implications. The modern uniform symbolizes a similar career goal and a similar working background, reflecting the ideas voiced by Lu Zuofu and others. The

requirement of a uniform also reflected the idea of modernization of the New Life Movement. This movement focused on a simple and unified style of clothing to symbolize unity amongst its citizens, and to build morale. The neatness of clothing became a symbol of modernity, and hygiene was emphasized, to reflect a kind of modern life style. At the same time, wartime mobilization adopted similar regimes. What is the relationship between uniform, hygiene and identity during the war? This paper will focus on hygiene, the changes to the uniform, and identity in wartime Chongqing, to analyse the everyday life of wartime Chongqing.

13. The Japan- US relationship in 1930s and the outbreak of The Sino-Japanese War

A/Professor Yang Junwei (Gansu Agricultural University of China)

Abstract:

The international relation of East Asia in 1930s is led by the Washington System. The World Economy Crisis in 1929 destroyed the western countries and the Washington System. In order to emerge from financial crisis, Japan invaded the Northeast of China by the Mukden Incident, and then provoked the January 28th Incident in Shanghai to break the Washington System. Because of the economy crisis, the Pacifistic movement and the Isolationism, there were different opinions in the government, such that the US government then advised Non-recognition notification to the Japanese government. The Roosevelt administration carried forward the Non-recognition doctrine on the one hand, and also gave limited support to China, yet it still opposed economic sanctions and military intervention to Japan, which led to the outbreak of Sino-Japanese War.

14. Price of tactical sophistication: Fengtian Army 1919-1931

Dr. Kwong Chi Man (History Department, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Abstract:

This paper attempts to elucidate the technical and technological transformation of the Fengtian Army from its inception in 1919 to its elimination by the Japanese Army in 1931 and the consequences of such transformation. The Fengtian Army emerged from a conglomeration of the bandit forces and New Army units into a modern force that was unmatched by its counterparts in China during the warlord period (1919-1928) through comprehensive reforms and adoption of post-WWI military technologies. By the end of the 1920s, the Fengtian Army was the only military force in China that had operational tank units, a sizable air force, and an arsenal of heavy guns and chemical weapons. However, although increased tactical sophistication brought the Fengtian Army immense advantage in numerous occasions in the civil wars, many of its modern features were at odds with the political and economic contexts of China as well as Manchuria. Some weapons merely wasted precious resources. To maintain the technical superiority, the leaders of the Fengtian Clique were thus forced to adopt a dangerous fiscal policy that led to financial disruption. It was poor leadership, rather than tactical deficiency or technological backwardness that led to the rapid collapse of Chinese resistance in Manchuria during the Japanese invasion of 1931.

15. The Nationalist soldiers' everyday life during Second Sino-Japan War

Yuan Tzu-Hsien (Chris Yuan), (UQ, School of HPRC)

Abstract:

What is the common soldiers' everyday life during Second Sino-Japan War? What did they experience on the battlefield and as one of Nationalist troops? What were the soldiers' privileges and obligations? What difficulties were they faced with? What remained following the victory of the War? This paper consults the oral history books -memoirs, diaries and literature in order to represent the wartime reality based on their memories. It compares the different narrative of war according to generals and according to soldiers. Furthermore, it attempts to demonstrate a more detailed approach to the Nationalist army and to understand the role they played in the Second Sino-Japan War.

16. Families, Returned Soldiers and Living With Disability in Postwar Japan

Assoc. Prof. Morris Low, School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics (UQ, School of HPRC)

Abstract:

This paper explores how injured Japanese soldiers and their families lived with disability and disfigurement after World War II, at a time when the Allied Forces sought to demilitarise Japan and discourage any special treatment of returned servicemen. What impact did the men's injuries have on their sense of male identity, their family relationships, and the people around them? This study throws light on the Japanese experience within the context of the family and post-war Japanese history.