

**Recent Publications in the Shanghai Area on
the Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945**

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The fiftieth anniversary in 1987 of the eruption of the Sino-Japanese War, coupled with a more open academic climate prevailing at the time, has brought forth a flurry of new publications on the war. During a six-month research visit at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences from January to July 1990, sponsored by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (CSCPRC), I was able to gather and read a wide range of these publications. The good news, for students of the war era, is that Chinese scholars are now working on a broader range of topics about the war than ever before. Publishing is no longer restricted to such issues as the leading role of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the resistance, but now includes realistic evaluations of the military role of the Nationalist Army, internal politics of the Guomindang (GMD) and puppet regimes, and the diplomacy of the war era.

The bad news for those interested in the relationship between Chinese and Japanese in the war is that Shanghai-based publications deal lightly with this topic. Academic research in China still seems to be influenced by central planning, and research on Sino-Japanese relations or using Japanese materials is being done primarily in Manchuria (or, Dongbei 東北, if you wish) and Beijing. Few scholars in central China study Japanese or have access to contemporary Japanese-language materials. Academic studies of the war done in central China tend, therefore, to emphasize domestic topics, such as the economic impact of the war or the activities of puppet regimes, while providing little discussion of the role of Japanese except for a few topics such as the "Rape of Nanjing." The Japanese appear almost as a shadowy presence, much more like a natural disaster affecting China than a human phenomenon to be discussed and understood.

A 1988 publication, edited by the Historical Society of Jiangsu Province (Jiangsu sheng lishi xuehui 江蘇省歷史學會), Kang-Ri zhanzheng shishi tansuo 抗日戰爭史事探索 [An Exploration of Historical Matters on the Anti-Japanese War of Resistance], and published by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, illustrates the trend. The volume is a collection of 38 articles selected from almost 80 essays

written for one of the numerous conferences on the fiftieth anniversary of the war. Sponsoring organizations included various academic and political units, such as the Contemporary History Association of Jiangsu Province, the New Fourth Army Research Association, the Nanjing City Historical Association, and the Jiangsu Academy of Social Sciences.

The articles would thus appear to be a representative cross section of recent scholarship done in the Jiangsu-Shanghai area. Because no biographical information is given about the individual authors, it is, however, impossible at this time to ascertain unit affiliations. The articles cover a wide selection of topics and utilize such archival resources as the Number Two Archives in Nanjing. Nonetheless, only a handful of the articles make any reference to Japanese-language materials and even then it is not clear from the documentation whether Japanese originals or translations were used.

Several of the articles deal with such standard fare as the role of the CCP in leading the resistance movement against Japan, the activities of the New Fourth Army, the creation of the "new democratic" base areas behind Japanese lines, and the directions given anti-Japanese, anti-puppet sentiment by the underground elements of the CCP. Others deal with internal Guomindang politics or with GMD-CCP relations. There are, for instance, articles on the Guizhou Clique and the resolution of the Xi'an Incident, GMD-CCP cooperation and the Xi'an Incident, local GMD-CCP cooperation in southern Jiangsu, and interparty cooperation during the battle of Xinkou.

The collection devotes considerable attention to the military aspects of the war. An article by Wang Jiadian 王家典 critically analyzes the military strategy pursued by the Nationalist Government in the early war period. Other articles, using materials from the Number Two Archives, discuss the Battle of Wuhan and the fighting in eastern Henan province after the fall of Xuzhou. Four articles deal with economic aspects of the war, including the move of Chinese industry to the interior, the regulation of trade during the war, and the Nationalist Government's taxation system. Other subjects include education in the Communist base areas, the notorious fire at Changsha, and even a study of the activities of religious groups during the war. On the diplomatic front, three articles deal with Sino-American relations during the war, one with Sino-Soviet relations, and one with Sino-German relations in the early war period.

What is largely absent from this representative sampling of Chinese scholarship is substantial work on the Japanese side of the

conflict. Only a few of the selections touch upon this issue. An article by Sun Zhaiwei 孫宅巍, "Nanjing baowei zhan shuangfang bingli de yanjiu" 南京保衛戰雙方兵力的研究 [Research on the military strength of the two sides in the battle to protect Nanjing], uses both Chinese and Japanese materials to compare the military units and strengths of the combatants in that battle. Liu Shouren's 劉守仁 article, "Ribei dui Guomindang zhengfu youxiang de jige wenti" 日本對國民黨政府誘降的幾個問題 [Several matters concerning Japan's attempt to induce the Guomindang government to surrender], provides a brief summary of Tokyo's diplomatic overtures to the Jiang Jieshi 蔣介石 (Chiang Kai-shek) government during the war.

Two of the articles analyze policies of the puppet governments. One, by Wu Xueqing 吳雪晴, looks at the Nanjing regime's attempt to pacify the Chinese countryside, while another, by Li Anqing 李安慶, offers an interesting examination of Japan's attempt to establish a puppet regime in Beiping. Finally, there is the obligatory article on the "Rape of Nanjing" controversy: Duan Yueping 段月萍, "Bo Rijun Nanjing da tusha 'xugou' lun" 駁日本南京大屠殺虛構論 [Refuting the thesis that the Japanese army massacre at Nanjing was a 'fabrication'].

While the articles in Kang-Ri zhanzheng shishi tansuo reveal substantial new scholarly work being done in central China on the Sino-Japanese War, only a minority of this work involves the relationship between Chinese and Japanese. This lack of attention to Sino-Japanese interaction is evident in other recent works from the Shanghai region as well. The important and massive (839-page) chronological history of the Chinese Communist Party of Shanghai (Zhonggong Shanghai shi weidang shi ziliao zhengji weiyuanhui 中共上海市委黨史資料征集委員會, ed., Zhonggong Shanghai dang shi da shiji. 1919.5-1949.5 中共上海黨史大事記 1919.5-1949.5 [Major Events in the History of the Chinese Communist Party of Shanghai, May 1919-May 1949] Shanghai: Zhishi 知識 chubanshe, 1988) contains substantial material on the war years. Based on numerous draft histories and interviews done in the 1950s and 1960s, this study details virtually every demonstration, strike, and guerrilla action in the greater Shanghai area during the war years--all of which are attributed to the leadership of the CCP even when no evidence of such is apparent. Although virtually nothing is said directly about the Japanese role in Shanghai, if one is interested in resistance by Chinese during the war and the conditions under Japanese occupation, this is an excel-

lent source.

The same is true of Tang Zhenchang 唐振常, ed., Shanghai shi [A History of Shanghai] (Shanghai: Shanghai renmin chubanshe, 1989). This is a 1073-page study, compiled after a decade of work by several Shanghai-based scholars under the direction of Professor Tang of the Institute of History of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. It contains three substantial chapters on wartime Shanghai, and although one learns little of the Japanese establishment in the area, there is a full discussion of the life, politics, and economy of Chinese under Japanese domination.

Finally, there has been increasing activity in publishing by the Number Two Archives in Nanjing and the Shanghai Municipal Archives. The former publishes an important journal Minguo dang'an 民国档案 (Archives of the Republican Period) and has helped produce such volumes as the 708-page collection (published in 1987) of documents on the Nanjing massacre. This source, Qin-Hua Rijun Nanjing da tusha dang'an 侵華日軍南京大屠殺檔案 [Archival Materials on the Great Massacre at Nanjing by the Japanese Army that Invaded China] was discussed by Daqing Yang in his article on the Nanjing Massacre in Sino-Japanese Studies, volume III, number 1, pp. 26, 34.

Meanwhile, a new journal was inaugurated by the Shanghai Municipal Archives, Dang'an yu lishi 档案与历史 (Archives and History), and it publishes original materials from their collection as well as some research articles. Of great interest also is their publication of a huge, 1095-page compilation of documents issued by the various Japanese puppet governments in wartime Shanghai: Shanghai shi dang'an guan 上海市檔案館, ed., Ri-wei Shanghai shi zhengfu 日偽上海市政府 [The Japanese Puppet Governments of Shanghai] (Beijing: Dang'an chubanshe, 1986). These documents are organized around different topics and then within each section on a chronological basis.

Section One contains documents relating to the organization and personnel of the various puppet governments. Section Two looks at the governments' efforts to control the Chinese population; it includes documents on police activity, public security, and propaganda campaigns. Section Three provides materials on the financial policies of the puppet regimes, including tax and currency regulations, price controls, and anti-inflation campaigns. Section Four details efforts at controlling education and the student movements, control of the press and censorship, and such items as a detailed list of songs prohibited by the puppet government. Because this publication presents mostly the decrees of the puppet regimes, it does not give a

clear and realistic portrait of conditions in Shanghai during the war. Nonetheless, by examining those areas of great concern to the puppet regimes, such as the growth of crime, student unrest, and inflation, one can learn much about wartime Shanghai. The Shanghai Municipal Archives contains important materials on the Sino-Japanese War, and since they have been so reluctant to allow foreign scholars to have access to their collection, we can only hope that they will publish more of their holdings.

In sum, I was encouraged by the wide variety of new publications being done in the Shanghai area in the late 1980s, although somewhat disappointed that so little research is focusing on Sino-Japanese interactions. I was also uneasy about the more rigid intellectual climate which has prevailed in China since June 1989. Despite that, students of the Sino-Japanese War will want to remain aware of the new work being done in China. It holds promise for our understanding of the war era.