

Japanese Actions in WWII

- Multiple genocidal events
 - Committed by frontline soldiers
 - *Criticism of China at War*
- Where did this aggression come from?
 - Desperation
 - *Zaibatsu*
 - Prosperity & pro-Western gov't were linked
 - Difficulty = lacked natural resources
 - To sustain industrial output, Jap was dependant on imports
 - Plus - Rapid population grow
 - 1929-1931, exports cut in half

- Premier Hamaguchi adopts moderate fiscal & foreign policy

- Result = Hamaguchi shot by *Aikoku-sha*

- Ultrationalistic/militaristic leaders came to power
 - Ruled through a military clique

 - Goals:
 - “Beneficial mission” & “New Order in Asia”

- Japanese racism
 - Unique & superior culture

 - Lightest skinned

 - Yamato

 - Amaterasu-ōmikami

- Militarists were committed to both concepts

- Fanatics joined secret societies
 - War = diplomatic tool to protect nation globally

- Genocide in Chosen (Korea)
 - Origins in 19th century

 - Tonghak Peasant War (Sino-Jap War)
 - Jap secures sphere of influence

 - 1910 Chosen fully absorbed

 - 1920-45 overt Jap military violence uncommon
 - Structural incorporation/subordination = thorough

 - Policies assimilate Koreans into Jap
 - Goal was to extinguish separate national identity

 - Land appropriated by absentee landlords

- Total Korean population mobilization for war

- FYI: International Military Tribunal for the Far East
 - Ignored because actions were not unique

 - policies & acts associated w/ assimilation rarely considered “genocide” by “experts”

- Japanese tactics serve as model

- WWII begins in Asia
 - Japan instigates armed conflict

 - Eyes Manchuria

 - Also looks at China

 - 1930 China implements boycott

 - 1931-32 Kwantung Army invades/occupies Manchuria
 - Manchukuo

- Puyi

- League of Nations refuses recognition
- 1936 Chiang Kai-shek reestablishes boycotts
- July 7, 1937 Japan begins undeclared war
- Many coastal cities fall
- West outraged

- Rape of Nanking

- Most severe “reported” atrocity
- Dec 10, 1937, 2pm - General Matsui Iwane attacks city
- Nanking = deathtrap
- Failure of Chinese leadership

- General T'ang Sheng-chih

- Defense could have been stronger

- T'ang convinced resistance futile

- Nanking defenders now leaderless

- Japanese began shelling this mass

- Chungshan Gate

- Flotilla of junks & sampans

- Dec 13th Jap advance enters city

- Main force enters next day

- Initially order/discipline maintained

- Troops proceeded toward objectives

- Boredom soon sets in

- Irony: Allied & Axis civilians marooned

- Organized a “refugee zone”
 - Chairman of zone = John Rabe

- Widen search into “refugee zone”

- Shift from machine-guns to drunk soldiers

- First reported rapes on Dec 16th

- By 19th, Japanese out of control

- Gang rapes most common

- Chinese civilians

- Japanese troops encouraged by officers

- Unlike other events, Nanking witnessed

- Iris Chang - "The Rape of Nanking"
 - “Happy snaps”

— Death count

— Nanking is nothing compared to actions in Manchukuo