

Japan-China Relations in the 20th Century and 70 Years after WWII
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1. Modern History of Japan-China Relations in the Early 20th Century

- (1) Uneven treaty after the First Sino-Japanese War, sharing “modern” issues. Beginning of “modernity” in Japan.
- (2) Change in relations with the Twenty-One Demands in 1915. Independent action by Japan. Anti-Japan movement. May Fourth Movement.
- (3) During the 1930s, progressively more discrepancies with the international order. These inconsistencies can be seen in China and the League of Nations.
(Violations of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Nine-Power Treaty, the Pact of Paris, etc.)
- (4) Manchurian Incident, Manchukuo, resignation from League of Nations, Second Sino-Japanese War, invasion of French Indochina, attack on Pearl Harbor, occupation of Singapore, Potsdam Declaration (however, there were antiwar movements and support for ceasefires or ending the war)

[Evaluation] “The modern and contemporary history of Japanese-Sino relations includes a period of intense warfare, and memories of such history are still fresh in the minds of many people in both nations. Particularly acute are Chinese recollections of the injuries suffered during the invasion by Japan. Thus, in contrast with the history of bilateral relations prior to the modern era, achieving mutual understanding on the true nature of the conflict and perceptions of wartime responsibility among people in both countries is a very difficult matter.”
(Japan-China Joint History Research Report: Modern and Contemporary History, Shinichi Kitaoka)

[Potsdam Declaration] “(6) There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest, for we insist that a new order of peace, security and justice will be impossible until irresponsible militarism is driven from the world.”

2. Reconciliation and Issues 70 Years after WWII

■Japan-China relations from 1945–1972

- (1) Military and civilian dualism
- (2) “Two Chinas” and the Sino-Japanese Treaty
- (3) Relations between Japan and the Chinese mainland
- (4) Movements towards reconciliation

■1972 onwards

- (1) Normalization of Japan-China relations

▶Japan-China relations normalized on September 29, 1972. Joint Communique of the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

“The Japanese side is keenly conscious of the responsibility for the serious damage that Japan caused in the past to the Chinese people through war, and deeply reproaches itself.”

- (2) Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China

▶1978, Treaty of Peace and Friendship ← reforms and open door policy

“The Contracting Parties confirm that, in conformity with the foregoing principles and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, they shall in their mutual relations settle all disputes by peaceful means and shall refrain from the use or threat of force.”

(3) Japan-China relations in the 1980s: The basis of Japan’s policy on China was “cooperation”

▶Statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Kiichi Miyazawa on History Textbooks (August 26, 1982)

1. The Japanese Government and the Japanese people are deeply aware of the fact that acts by our country in the past caused tremendous suffering and damage to the peoples of Asian countries, including the Republic of Korea (ROK) and China, and have followed the path of a pacifist state with remorse and determination that such acts must never be repeated.

(4) Japan-China relations in the 1990s

▶Visit to China by Emperor of Japan (October 1992)

“In the long history of relations between our two countries, there was an unfortunate period in which my country inflicted great suffering on the people of China. I feel deep sorrow over this. When the war ended, the people of my country firmly resolved to walk a path as a peaceful state, based on deep regret that such a war should never happen again, and worked on rebuilding the country.”

▶Statement by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama approaching the 50th anniversary of the end of the war (August 31, 1994)

Two factors, the past and reconciliation

▶Diet Resolution: Resolution to Renew the Determination for Peace on the Basis of Lessons Learned from History (June 9, 1995)

▶Statement and press conference by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama "On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the war's end" (Murayama Statement) (August 15, 1995)

“During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis, and, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations. In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology. Allow me also to express my feelings of profound mourning for all victims, both at home and abroad, of that history.”

(5) Japan-China relations in the 21st century

▶2005 (60th anniversary of the end of WWII), the “Koizumi Statement”

“In the past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations. Sincerely facing these facts of history, I once again express my feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology, and also express the feelings of mourning for all victims, both at

home and abroad, in the war.”

- ▶September 3, 2005 statement by Chinese President Hu Jintao
- ▶April 12, 2007 Speech by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the Japanese Diet “For Friendship and Cooperation”

The older generation of Chinese leaders stated on many occasions that it was a handful of militarists who were responsible for that war of aggression. The Japanese people were also victims of the war, and the Chinese people should live in friendship with them... Since the normalization of diplomatic ties between China and Japan, the Japanese Government and leaders have on many occasions stated their position on the historical issue, admitted that Japan had committed aggression and expressed deep remorse and apology to the victimized countries. The Chinese Government and people appreciate the position they have taken... After the war, Japan embarked on the path of peaceful development, and became a leading economic power and influential member in the international community. As a friendly neighbor of Japan, the Chinese people support the Japanese people in their continued pursuit of peaceful development.

(6) Trends 70 years after the war

3. Proposal for the Future

Modern history education; Peace, Friendship, and Exchange Initiative; Japan Center for Asian Historical Records; dialogues and joint research on history

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