

Seminar/Workshop on Teaching WWII History in Asia-Pacific Theatre

James Madison High School, March 20, 2013

A seminar/workshop on Teaching WWII history in Asia-Pacific theater for high school teachers was held from 3:30-5:00pm on March 20th, Wednesday at James Madison High school. Seven high school teachers attended the workshop. This workshop was coordinated by Mr. Matt Hayes, the program manager, Student Programs and Professional learning, San Diego Unified school district. Mr. Hayes indicated that how to determine historic significance is important and believed that this workshop should provide insights, and see how it fit in with our students. He thanked Nancy Lo for bringing this curriculum to San Diego school district. This workshop/seminar aimed at

1. Introduction of the teaching guide : WWII in Asia-Pacific theater: a teaching guide by Stephanie Lee Rizas, Montgomery county, Maryland by Pat McElhaney, Point Loma high school
2. Teaching WWII history in Asia in SD high school by Aaron De Groot, retired San Diego high school history teacher
and
3. China Institution tour: by both Pat McElhaney, and Aaron De Groot
Followed by Questions and Answers

Nancy Lo gave a brief introduction of APHAFIC. APHAFIC strives to preserve the true history of the period of foreign invasions in China from 19th century to the end of the World War II. One of our missions is to promote, through educational programs and community actions, that war crimes shall not occur again and that world peace shall be maintained. One of the efficient ways to educate students about the WWII history in Asia is to have the materials included in the high school history and social science courses. The California history-social science content standards for Grade Ten includes world history in 10.8 and 10.9 about WWII in Europe and Asia, and the international developments in the post-WWII world. It's up to the teacher to decide the content of teaching material: whether to include WWII in Asia or not. To facilitate the teaching, we have copies of WWII in Asia-Pacific theater: a teaching guide by Stephanie Lee Rizas to each attendee. This has been used in Montgomery county in Maryland since last year. For other teaching materials, please go to the website: <http://www.alpha-canada.org/education/other-teachers-guides>.

In 2009, we sponsored a workshop for SD high school teachers on 'Teaching About Genocide' on March 19th by Professors Sam and Carol Edelman, co-directors of the State of California Center for Excellence on the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance, California State University, Chico. Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide was legislatively mandated by The Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights and tolerance Education Act of 2003 (AB 2003)).

To most people, WWII in Asia started in 1937. Yet the invasion of China started in 1931. Japan occupied Korea starting in 1910. For any war, sacrifice of soldiers is not unexpected, as Chinese saying: death of soldier is as going home: 视死如归, but thousands of civilians killed brutally were against human rights. Japanese subjected millions to sex slaves, biological and chemical warfare. We hope that students be taught about the history and be aware of the atrocities to prevent them from happening again in the future. The seminar/workshop included three topics:

1. Introduction of the teaching guide : WWII in Asia-Pacific theater: a teaching guide by Stephanie Lee Rizas, Montgomery county, Maryland by Pat McElhaney, Point Loma high school:

Mr. Pat McElhaney gave a brief description of the teaching guide, a hard copy with a DVD: War crime: what do we want to explore for 11th grade: how the US got into WWII. For POW, forced labor, that we saw in China, American students need to know that the war is more than D-day and 2 atomic bombs. US swept everything under the rug for Japan, unlike for Germany which conducted many war trials etc. This teaching guideline provides a good timeline: an overview of events leading up to war, post war, etc. For Rape of Nanking, an informative map shows Japanese expansion. Our students don't know anything about this unless we show them, and this is a simple and easy way to do it. For missionaries, acting like foreign police saved many Chinese civilians, John Robe, a Germany Nazi diplomat official in China. Using Great film 'Nanjing' facilitates the teaching. The book includes map of where POW's worked in China and Japan and many stories about American POW's. For Comfort women, there are several great films. We met researchers in China. As to the textbooks – is it right that Japanese texts don't address this? This is a great discussion point. Matt added that Sam Weinberg, author of *Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts, Charting the Future of Teaching the Past*, has something new on this. Nancy Lo indicated that a March 13, 2013 BBC article on 'What Japanese history lessons leave out?' (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21226068>). Our government as well as Japanese government did this: ours made deal with Japan to strengthen Japan against China in the cold war, and many American POW's weren't compensated.

2. Teaching WWII history in Asia in SD high school by Aaron De Groot, retired San Diego high school history teacher .

Aaron De Groot taught government and US history indicated that students learned about the European Holocaust from materials well organized and pre-planned. Students did not learn about the Asian/Chinese Holocaust, which was monstrous and it has been building up and grew. The six Japanese soldiers interviewed in the film of "*Torn memories of Nanking*", a documentary film with Director Ms. Matsuoka Tamaki (松岡 環) shown at the observance of the 75th anniversary on December 1, 2012 at the Price Center, UCSD indicated that we (Japanese soldiers) just raped those women, which to Mr. Degroot, was so divorced from

the pain of victims. Rape was a matter of course for Japanese soldiers. Mr. Degroot remembers their laughter in the film. Our students need to have a understanding of the Asian Holocaust, and cold war against red China. Iris Chang's terrific book: Rape of Nanking, the forgotten holocaust, is a good resource, easy for and popular among students. Mr. Degroot had the book available for students to check it out. The story of her life is worthy studied as she took her own life at the end of 2004. Women of the world today still, can be related to comfort women. Over 400,000 sex slaves. Chemical and biologic (anthrax) warfare was used against Chinese people that Mr. Degroot never heard that growing up to be a social scientists. Regarding the Cold war - we had drills in the 1960s, Chinese were 'commies', Japanese were our allies.

3. China Institution tour: by both Pat McElhaney, and Aaron De Groot

Mr. Aaron Degroot showed his pictures from his China trip in late June -July 2007: One of the participants was Peter Li, retired professor from Rutgers University. His book on Japanese war crime: The search for Justice, 2005, Transaction publisher, is worthy reading, We visited one 'comfort station'. One of the former comfort women was a Vietnam native living in Hainan spoke for 4 hours, with 2 translators. 'Mama Xiao' wrote a book about Nanjing massacre.

Mr. McElhaney presented his slide show of his tour to China in July, 2011. The trip was emotionally draining. He also a handout of document of the trip (<http://aphafic.org/documents/2011/Pat%20M%20China%20Study%20Tour%20July%202011%20report%20web.pdf>).

Comments:

Nancy noted that some Chinese people are victims of chemical warfare even after the WWII, please see 'The land of bitter tears' by Kana Tomoko, a documentary on the chemical germ warfare. (<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/4836/From-the-Land-of-Bitter-Tears>). Which is to educate in particular the younger generation about the suffering of victims and their families due to accidentally explored poisonous gas buried by Japanese imperial army before they left China after the end of WWII.

Jack Meng: the young generation need to know about that. They know Eisenhower going to the war in Europe, but not that president Bush and Kennedy went to the Pacific.

Pat: it's for the teachers to choose.

Roxanne Pompilio of San Diego school of creative and performing arts (SDSCPA) visited Nanking massacre museum in China and was asking the comparison to Holocaust museum in Germany. She noted during her trip that a number of Japanese families were visiting the museum and lots of Chinese don't want to talk about it.

One question was about the China trip. This two-week strip used to be conducted annually in June-July but there is no trip planned this year. Sponsoring organizations will be responsible for land travel and accommodations (double occupancy) and meals in China during the period of the study tour. International air travel to and from Shanghai, China will be the responsibility of the participants (an estimated cost of \$1,200 from the US). Resume and essay are needed to apply. Nancy will notify the workshop attendees about the application of the trip if it is planned. For information about the institution tour to China, please see http://aphafic.org/archives/Archive_2007.html and http://aphafic.org/archives/Archive_2011.html

Nancy Lo welcomes all teachers to attend The APHAFIC annual meeting on June 9th from 2-4 pm at San Diego Chinese Historical Museum featuring a talk on 'Japan's Wartime Crimes: The Struggle for World Chinese Redress' by Mr. Barry Fisher, FLEISHMAN & FISHER law firm, Los Angeles. Mr. Fisher had represented the former Japanese sexual slaves and forced laborers from China (including the indigenous Taiwanese women), Korea, the Philippines to sue Japan in US courts and went to the US Supreme Court twice for the "Comfort Women" to pursue justice.

The workshop ended up with delicious Chinese refreshments provided by APHAFIC. Nancy Lo thanks Matt Hayes for coordinating the event, Pat McElhaney and Aaron Degroot for the informative lectures, Nicon Chen of James Madison high school for providing her classroom, and two APHFIC board members Jack Meng and professor Lily Xu for assistance during the meeting.



Attendees at the seminar/workshop



Mr. Matt Hayes, Program Manager, Student Program and Professional Learning, San Diego Unified School District, gave introduction of the seminar/workshop



Mr. Pat McElhaney, Point Loma high school teacher (left) and Mr. Aaron De Groot, a retired San Diego high school teacher (right), shared their experience of teaching WWII history in Asia.s