

The 15th APHAFIC annual meeting was held in China Max restaurant, 4698 Convoy St # 101 San Diego, CA 92111 from 6:30-9:30pm, May 6, Saturday, 2017. A total of 54 people attended. The meeting started with the annual report from Nancy Lo on all activities during June 2016 to April 2017 (<http://aphafic.org>), followed by a speech on “LESSONS FROM 19TH CENTURY U.S.-CHINA RELATION APPLIED TO 21ST CENTURY” by Dr. Don M. Tow

Dr. Tow is the President of the “New Jersey Alliance for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia” (www.nj-alpha.org), and the Co-Founder and Vice President of the “10,000 Cries for Justice” (www.10000cfj.org). He has a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of California at Berkeley, and has worked for 35 years first as a physicist and then as an engineer, before retiring to focus on volunteer activities

Dr. Tow first introduced Anson Burlingame, whom most people have never heard of. Anson Burlingame was a unique diplomat in world history. He was the U.S. Ambassador to China from 1861 to 1867, and then from 1867 to 1870, he was China’s Ambassador to All the Treaty Powers, including the U.S. He persuaded the U.S. Senate and President Andrew Johnson to pass and signed into law known as the Burlingame Treaty, a U.S. foreign policy to China based on equality of nations. Unfortunately, he died in February 1870 at an early age of 49 while on a mission to Russia. Furthermore, with the assassination of President Lincoln and the stall of the whole equality movement within the U.S., the Burlingame Treaty was basically repealed in the following decade, and then replaced by the extremely discriminatory Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Shortly after the end of WWII, U.S. adopted a surround/isolate/weaken foreign policy toward China (PROC). With the background information on Anson Burlingame, Dr. Tow elaborated this foreign policy and how this foreign policy affects Japan’s attitude toward that part of history. Therefore, not only that the U.S.’s foreign policy does not apply pressure to Japan to acknowledge and apologize for her actions during WWII, it actually moves Japan in the opposite direction because Japan feels that the U.S. needs to ally with Japan to surround/isolate/weaken China. To understand why Japan is still denying history more than 70 years since the end of WWII, one must understand the U.S.’s foreign policy toward China during the past 70 years, He then discussed whether that foreign policy of the U.S. is in the long run in the best interests of the U.S. and the American people.

In the 21st century, the U.S.’s China policy must be changed from the surround/isolate/weaken policy to one based on equality of nations. That will provide a win-win for the U.S. and China, and further for world peace. That will also cause Japan to finally own up to her actions during WWII, and the world can finally close that chapter of history. Which American leaders will be bold enough and rise up to become the next Anson Burlingame? Which American leaders will stand up head and shoulders above the others? The U.S. and the American people, as well as the rest of the world, will benefit from such leadership. Using Mark Twain’s words, Don Tow asked who will become this great men, a son of America and a servant of the world?

Q & A session

Q Shiowhwa Lin: China was one of countries that suffered most. If neither ROC nor PROC participated in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, how could this treaty have any validity?"

A: Well, its US's desire not to harm Japan as much so later US can use Japan to protect its interests in the region. You may interpret differently, but this is mine.

One comment from the audience was : "The United Kingdom wanted to invite PRC, while the US preferred ROC. As a compromise, no Chinese representative was invited."

Q: Jack Meng: We all understand the importance between the relationship of China and USA. Now that we have a new president -- Donald Trump, and the issues are 1) Trade, 2) Taiwan, 3) South Sea, 4) Korea Peninsula. I'd like to hear your thought about N. Korea issue

A: Two simultaneous actions are needed to deescalate the situation.

1. North Korea should reduce its nuclear weapon and missile testing.
2. The U.S. should reduce its military buildup and presence around Korea and all over Asia, including not settling up THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile in S. Korea.



Nancy Lo gave the annual report from June 2016-May 2017



Dr. Tow described US China relationship



Dr. Tow with some of APHAFIC present and past board members: from left to right: Jack Meng, Alex Chung, Dr. Tow, Nancy Lo, Pao chin Chu and Winnie Davis