

HST 203: History of the United States Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053)

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Historical Amnesia

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Historical Amnesia

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Historical Amnesia

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 7:27 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Historical Amnesia topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Historical Amnesia

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Historical Ignorance

by Cameron Wray - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 12:47 PM

I never knew about the Rape of Nanking until a couple days ago. It's sad knowing that there are many people out there who are or were also in the dark about such an egregious event that included so many inhumane acts against the Chinese people. Denying such events from ever happening is an insult to the victims that died and to the survivors who managed to get through those horrific events. I know one such denier of the holocaust and I can't even speak to him about the subject because of how angry it makes me that somebody could legitimately deny that the holocaust happened. Knowing how it makes me feel hearing ignorance, I cannot imagine hearing it if I was a survivor or a relative to a survivor which is why I believe we

shouldn't forget these events. I'm hoping that the Rape of Nanking gets recognition as being the massacre it truly was one involving mass murder and mass rape. Hopefully with some of the Japanese soldiers coming forward and confessing to "atrocities there, including rape, torture, and infanticide" this recognition can happen and that you will be able to find historically accurate documentation in textbooks.

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War no one is innocent

by Jeff Johnson - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 11:51 PM

When at war no one is innocent and the winner writes the history. What happened in Nanking was horrific and Japan is doing itself in injustice by ignoring it but it also looks like more people are paying attention now and a few soldiers are even baring their souls. It is ridiculous for China to use this as an excuse to exclude Japan from a full vote in the UN. China also ignores plenty of its own history like Tiananmen Square. In my own experience growing up in the US I was told as a kid that we really had no choice but to drop the atomic bomb two times and no matter how many people it killed it was worth it because it ended the war and saved soldier's lives by not having to invade. Now as I get older I learn Russia was just starting to turn its forces towards Japan and its surrender was almost inevitable. "the Soviet Union was planning to enter the pacific theater, where Truman wished to limit Soviet power" (pg. 867 in our book). The book also talks about how there was discussion of hitting just military targets but it was decided that it had to "make a profound impression" (pg. 867 In our book Henry Stimson quote). Did we really vaporize hundreds of thousands of civilians to make a profound impression? Our history book still won't come out and say it but did bomb Japan to showcase our newest weapon to the Russians? It makes me wonder what the rest of the world is taught and thinks about the US having been the only country so far to have used nuclear weapons in war.

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Nanking

by Hope Walston - Monday, May 15, 2017, 3:02 PM

Until today I had never heard of Nanking. This horrid event where Japan invaded the Chinese city of Nanking, raping and killing men, women, and children. In Japan this event is not widely talked about because people don't want to remember it. Some people even deny that it happened but more importantly, it is left out of textbooks and not taught in schools. This is Japan trying to cover up what they did. Not all Japanese people want to forget about it though, Teachers, like Tamaki Matsuoka (from the web video), and others like minded, are all fighting to have The Nanking massacre put back into textbooks and be taught in schools. I think it is a dangerous thing when governments start trying to cover up history to make themselves look better. It starts with something in the past and slowly they work their way up to covering up/hiding things in the present. Countries need to except their past and learn from it not try and pretend it never happened.

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Some things should never be forgotten.

by Evan Young - Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:36 PM

The worst part of the historical Amnesia is the part where the Japanese government to one degree or another is deliberately covering up the acts committed during the war. Especially using focusing on textbooks and other forms of teaching where the truth is disregarded. While the crimes cannot be overlooked because they happened so long ago any type of prosecution is no longer available. One of the best ways to overcome their war crimes is to make sure everyone is aware of what happened. This is not the case," One textbook refers to the murders as an "incident" rather than a massacre. The books also underplay the use of sex slaves, women brought from all over Asia to service the Japanese military." (Article 2) The gravest concerns is a few generations from now these war crimes like the Nanking Massacre will be forgotten, and not in any textbook.

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2

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Educate So History Doesn't Repeat Itself

by Jaclyn Bahn - Monday, May 15, 2017, 9:13 PM

The gravest concern I see is that the information of something your country did, or one of its wrong doings, can be completely hidden from its people at the time and withheld from future generations. I see that as being bad because it displays the power of control and manipulation a country has over its people. I also believe that a country's people need to be fully educated on our history in order to better ourselves in the future and to not run into the problem of history repeating itself.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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Re: Educate So History Doesn't Repeat Itself

by Jeff Johnson - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 3:43 PM

I agree with what u have to say but remember as we learned in class history doesn't repeat itself. Maybe say educate about the atrocities in history so we can help prevent similar things from happening.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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Re: Educate So History Doesn't Repeat Itself

by Jaclyn Bahn - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10:08 PM

That's actually a really good point. Thank you for restating that because I agree it was better to state it as preventing similar things from happening.

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Historical Amnesia The Nanking Massacre

by Marco Leon-Cobian - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 2:34 PM

The Rape of Nanking occurred in December 30, 1937 and has been known as the “The forgotten Holocaust.” It all started with the Chinese army abandoning the city of Nanking, and the Japanese army coming in and invading the city without a fight. The notorious “Rape of Nanking” began as a whole some murder of Chinese prisoners of war and civilian men on pretext that they were fleeing soldiers who had discarded their uniforms. As the discipline of the Japanese troops collapsed they began killing civilians. According to the video, “The Rape of Nanking Overview”, “Over a 6-week period, Japanese slaughtered 300,000 Chinese men, women, and children. (Rape of Nanking Video 2:15)

The gravest concern regarding historical amnesia on the Rape of Nanking in my opinion, would be the distortion of textbooks in Japan and the denial from the Japanese that the massacre really ever happened. The article, “China says Japanese textbooks distort history”, mentions that “One textbook refers to the murders as an incident rather than a massacre.” (Article #2, fourth paragraph) It was shocking for me to read this part of the article because it got me thinking about the Tamaki Matsuoka Interview with some of the Japanese soldiers. One soldier says, “We were going to kill them anyway, might as well rape them first.” (Tamaki Matsuoka Interview Video, 5:14) The Japanese denying that it was not a massacre has to do with them being ashamed of what their history holds. Even today, Japanese conservatives deny that the massacre ever happened.

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Historical Amnesia is not coincidental.

by Kiet Bui - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 2:42 PM

Of the two cases of "historical amnesia" we learn about WWII (the holocaust denial and the case of the Rape of Nanking), the holocaust was clearly more destructive (possible 11 million of deaths vs 300 thousand). However, in my opinion, the oblivion of both events should not be taken lightly on any side. The fact is: Many massacres were covered, and distorted in order to preserve the reputation and/or interests of a group. In this specific case, the holocaust deniers' attempt to conceal events that actually happened in the concentration camps, and the Japanese government's removal of the Rape of Nanking from its education system are both in efforts the reduce the critics from the international community, and more importantly from the younger generations of their own countries. This practice of covering up past events were not news to me. Article #2 mentioned a very grave event at the Tiananmen Square in 1989, in which the Chinese government had the military killing its own non-violent protesting citizens. This event is so heavily censored that it's completely remove from public records, and any attempt to mention it will be silent. Try posting about it on Chinese social networks, and within minutes the post would be gone (I actually tried that, and my account got blocked later.)

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Historical Amnesia

by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 3:10 PM

My gravest concern regarding Historical Amnesia is simple. in order for people to grow and create a better world they must know where they have been and they must accept it, and learn from it. I think if people are unaware of the past, they will be more likely to repeat the horrible things of the past. I don't think it would be fair to say that japan was the only country involved in World War 2 that suffers from historical amnesia. We may get away with saying it's the most extreme case, but everyone else has it too. Like Mr. Escobar said in class Harry Truman is almost always on the top ten list of U.S.presidents, even though he was the one that made the call to drop the nukes in japan (1). I think Chinas concern for the textbooks is important and is a big issue. The people of Japan will probably be far less inclined to support some of its leaders decisions if they knew the entire truth of the past, so maybe that is a reason why they do it. Its also not fair to China to suppress that kind of information from the public. "Only a country that respects history, takes responsibility for history and wins over the trust of peoples in Asia and the world at large can take greater responsibilities in the international community (2)."

1: Class lecture

2: War Museum Resists Japan's Historical Amnesia

By David McNeill

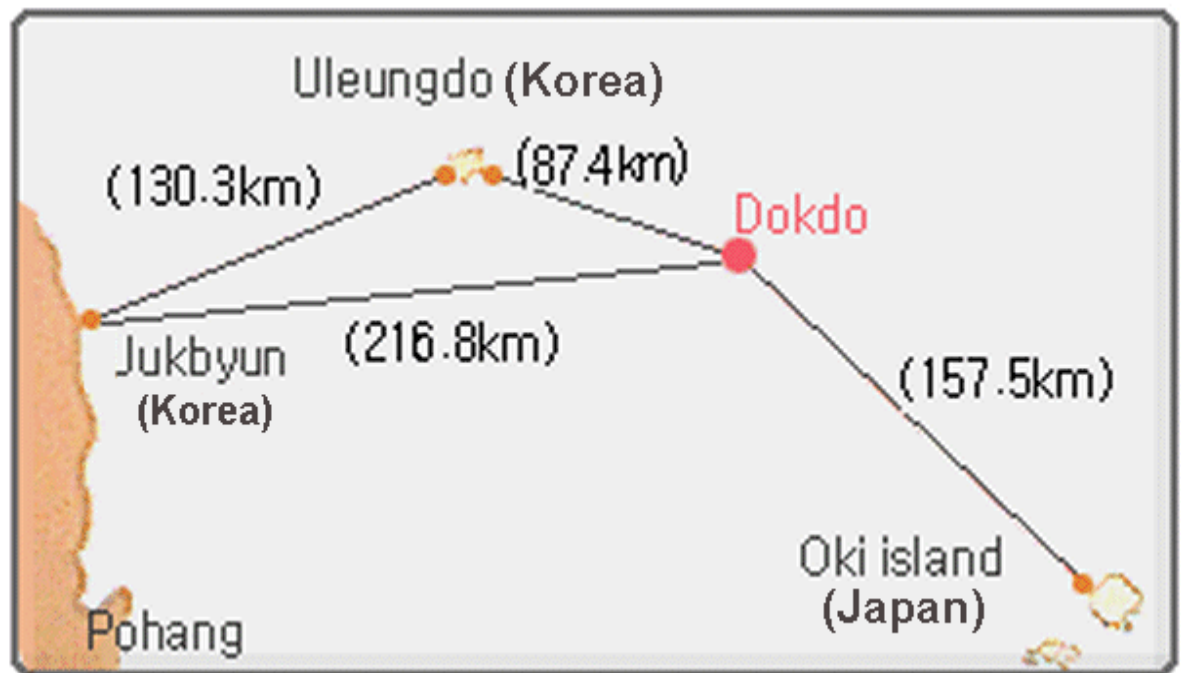
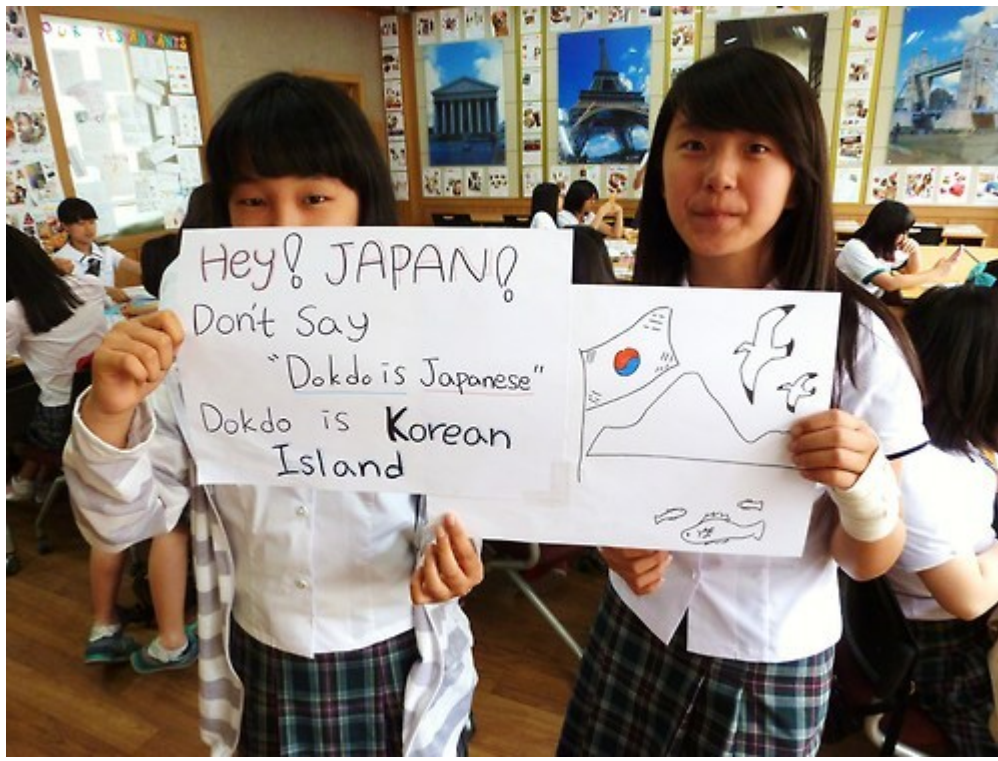
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Re: Historical Amnesia

by Young Bin Choi - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:32 PM



Going through the articles and the videos, it was very obvious how destructive and cruel the incidents were and how the Japanese textbooks aren't explained well. Although I was never familiar with the Japanese committing these incidents, they did the same to the Koreans, actually in a longer term. The more I read and watched the articles and the videos, I couldn't stop thinking about the history of Korea popping up in my head. Just like how the Chinese speak of how Japanese textbooks distort history, it's not only the Chinese history that's gone. The amnesia of the Japanese continues with the history with the Koreans as they deny most of what they did nearly from a few decade to a century ago. Would it honestly make sense that there are thousands and thousands of victims and yet there isn't a perpetrator?

One of the gravest argument that goes back and forth with Japan and Korea is regarding the ownership of the Dok Island. It was belonged to Korea since more than a century ago and the government has brought evidences in books from the Chosun dynasty claiming the possessive rights. When Korea asked for the reasoning of the Japanese government behind claiming that the island belonged to them, they just kept on repeating that it was simply closer to Japan compared to Korea. A reasoning should be more reasonable than simply just the distance, and I believe that regardless of the distance or how many people live in it, history should prove it all. I strongly support a quote from the Chinese premier saying "Only a country that respects history, takes responsibility for history and wins over the trust of peoples in Asia and the world at large can take greater responsibilities in the international community." I respect how he stated Asia instead of just pointing out China and that no matter how small or weak the country is, it should be all widely respected.

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Re: Historical Amnesia

by Tanner Bull - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:41 PM

After reviewing the different examples of Historical Amnesia, the biggest concerns that come forth is having the difficulty to find the truth. In the case of "The Raping of Nanking" a large massacre between 250,000-300,000 civilians portrays how Japan handling the history behind their own past brings concern to countries trying to hide their past crimes or anything that hurts their positive image for nationalism. I feel as though the most challenging concern regarding "Historical Amnesia" in the case of "The Raping of Nanking" will be the relationship and treatment of each other's people concerning the Japanese and Chinese. There will forever be a taint on the history between these two groups of people and will have trouble without this past event interfering with issues today.

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