



Forum 3

 Display replies in nested form

 Move this discussion to ...

[Move](#)


Historical Amnesia

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, May 8, 2015, 11:17 AM

This forum thread is for Historical Amnesia posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Historical Amnesia

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)


All countries the same?

by [Jaalen Johnson](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2015, 11:06 PM

I think this subject in history is very interesting. While watching the video about Nan King the think that most stood out to me is the fact that many people still deny that the "rape of Nan King" even occurred. They also took it out of this history books. Japan tried to forget about the wrongs they have committed just like the US has tried to do with the internment camps with all Japanese American's.

It kind of makes me wonder about the academic bias in the world. While Japan tries to forget about it we teach their faults and vice versa. Academics can be very biased and in Japan I wonder if Americans are made out to be monsters because of what we did to Japanese Americans.

Academics is were "Patriotism" starts we learn about all the people who have fallen for this country and learn why we should value and appreciate everything our country is. So we try to cover up every wrong doing so we continue to build a stronger nation.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)


Re: All countries the same?

by [Norman Stolba](#) - Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 12:41 PM

Covering up every wrong to build a stronger nation? I do agree with you but I wouldn't use the word "stronger" I'd use the world prideful or proud. Nations like us may have a hard time admitting our wrongs in public or in academic textbooks because we are simply embarrassed. What they don't realize is, honest history offers honest lessons. At least thats how I look at it. Good post though bro! Couldn't agree with you more.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)


Re: All countries the same?

by [Jaalen Johnson](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11:51 PM

I certainly agree with the fact that stronger wasn't the best word. I also like the point that you made about honest lessons. I think that is something that all nations look over is the fact that being honest with our faults can teach us to

be better when encountered with similar problems. A lot of the times when we over look our faults, it is partially because we are embarrassed but I think it also is as simple as the less we think and talk about something the easier it is to forget it. I personally think that is typically what nations want to do, forget! People tend to find that easier.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: All countries the same?

by [Delaney Crook](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 9:37 AM

I definitely agree with you that it is very interesting how nations try to cover up their wrong doings, yet the exemplify the wrong doings of other nations. This reminds me of our topic for our last forum discussion with whether or not the United States should use our strength and power to help other countries in need. The reason I am reminded of this is because it seems to come back to the idea that we want to pride ourselves on being the most powerful and the more capable country. I do believe that in school we are not necessarily taught each and every detail to its complete accuracy, because the way history is written for us. If we were to be taught the faults and flaws of our nation's past we might be able to have a greater impact in not allowing those wrong doings occur again.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: All countries the same?

by [Nicolas Gibson](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 2:00 PM

History is written by the victor, right? A nation as a whole can be severely embarrassed about a dark moment in their time, or simply wish it never happened. Another phrase for you, seeing is believing. If a nation doesn't or refuses to see something in the past, then they're attempting to not believe in it anymore, like denial. This is really sad when you look at the broad scope of history, and all the things different nations have tried hiding, and you will see just how much history was destroyed.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: All countries the same?

by [Dominic Christianson](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 6:51 PM

I think that it's interesting that Japan would just glance over the rape of Nanjing and point out America's flaws as well. But just like with people, it's easier for a country to point out each other's flaws than to admit their own. And a great question about if the Japanese today are taught that Americans are bad.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: All countries the same?

by [Tristan Ivie](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:33 PM

How much do we cover up? Do we cover up the horrible treatment of Africans, the ugly parts of American Imperialism, the treatment of socialists during war time? It is questionable to say we have covered up everything since schools are teaching it and it is open information. Patriotism can start from almost anywhere. Mine started at home.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



A clarification

by [Kai Seltman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11:08 PM

It is a myth that the Japanese education system does not go over the Nanking Massacre. As research for this online discussion, I asked several of my Japanese friends if they were taught about the Nanking Massacre in school. Every one of them said they were. Some of them know it as the 'Nanking Incident' (Nankin Jiken), while others know it as the 'Nanking Massacre' (Nankin Daigyakusatsu.) They said they were deeply shocked when they learned of this dark spot in their own country's history. Although I agree the Japanese population is not as aware of the Nanking Massacre as they should be, it is not true that they do not know of it at all.

PS. I do not claim that the video is making a false claim as it states that 'any mention of the massacre was banned in

history textbooks for four decades.' (Four decades after WWII would be 1985, and the friends I asked were not in school at the time.)

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Rape of Nanking and History

by [Mariah Turner-Macy](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:53 PM

After watching the three-minute documentary about the Rape of Nanking, I am baffled at the fact of denying one's own history. The fact that a country can deny an event that is so brutal in history is disgusting. However, like Escobar mentioned in class, America has also come into fault for the same reasons. The historical site where Japanese-Americans were imprisoned after the bombing of Pearl Harbor was demolished and there is nothing that remains to prove that there were concentration camps that the American government resorted to during this time of attack. However, people are still educated, and monuments have been created to show the faults American's did during this time of attack.

I think the gravest concerns about any "historical amnesia", is when the country (specifically doing unjust things) tries to hide the history of the mistakes and decisions made during a time in history. It seems to me that if it's a country's fault for doing something, then the history is more likely hidden than exposed for the world or their citizens to acknowledge. The blame for such acts should not be acknowledged, but anything that is patriotic and seems to flourish through the country as superior or "correct" and isn't questioned any further. It's all about "good" vs. "bad".

The fact that 20,000 women and children ranging from the ages of 7-70 were raped in their culture and then not acknowledged in their history is saddening. I cant imagine growing up in a place where there is so much denial of an event that impacted thousands of individuals.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Well that was embarrassing....

by [Nicolas Gibson](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 8:55 PM

When you look at every countries history, you are bound to find some dark stains on even the most elaborate and glorious tapestries. After all, people are occasionally stupid and make mistakes, or tend to get a little crazy with power and do evil and disgusting things to those that are undeserving of that treatment, and it's those people that run these countries. These dark moments in history tend to be a little embarrassing for most countries, especially when it causes other countries to either look down upon you or detest you. The Rape of Nanking, as mentioned in the materiel for this forum, is a prime example of how the dark actions that one nation takes on another causes a rather embarrassing moment, and it's something the people that have pride in their nation try to forget about. While Nanking is a great example of this, I'd prefer to focus on something a little closer to home.

Within a few days of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, a lot Japanese-Americans were forced out of their homes and into interment camps. It was for 'the security of the nation' that these possible spies were locked up in a special prison, because that's what they were, for the duration of the war in case that any of these people were actually spies. Of course, it was very likely that none of them were, but this was a style of racism enacted by fear, and the best way to keep that fear under control was by keeping a close eye on those that were a high threat to America's safety. While it is something that is done and cannot be changed, it was still something wrong and yet very understandable in my eyes. But the action that shows even our country has historical amnesia is that after WWII, and all of these citizens in camps were released, the camps were demolished. Gone. Never to be seen again. Why? Why would we destroy this reminder of our past? Even if it was a darker moment, our past as a nation is very important as it will guide us in all future endeavors, so why destroy this valuable piece of history? Because we were embarrassed. Embarrassed that even a country as great as America would do something as dark and evil as the Nazi's actions during the Holocaust. Yes, these two events were EXTREMELY different, they are in my opinion two sides of the same coin. They both forced people into less than humane situations, were forced to remain in these encampments, and were strictly watched and fallowed very specific guidelines. Yes, we weren't doing the same atrocities that were acted upon the polish and Jews, but it wasn't the nicest treatment either. These events couldn't be further apart, and yet and very similar. But that's what's so embarrassing about it, that these people lost their rights in the name of security. It's something we try to forget about. Very few people in school these days know about these internment camps, and most are nothing but a tiny tourist attraction with a few trees and an information board. Even the worst moments of our history are important to remember, and should never be swept under the rug to make us look a little bit better.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Own Up

by [Nils Hagberg](#) - Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 8:34 AM

More likely then not, a nation will end up wronging another nation. It is what we do after to make up for those mistakes, and to ensure such things don't happen again. Which would be assessing the proper punishment to those who deserve it, then teaching the people of the atrocities. When a nation decides to teach its' wrongs, it is a humbling move and a good way to ground a nations ego. As well it shows respect to the nation you wronged, because you are owning up to the mistakes once made. To hear and see that Japan struggles with this (the textbooks) after the Rape of Nanking is disheartening, but in the mean time I know there are many things the US has done that we try not to reflect upon, and merely cover up.

Sum of ratings: -

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Own Up

by [Dominic Christianson](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 6:57 PM

I completely agree with you. If a nation is in the wrong it is our duty to admit it and repent for it. But not to contradict my statement, no nation wants to openly admit that they were the ones who messed up and that their the ones who were in the wrong. They just want to point fingers at everyone else to take the heat off of them.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Altering The Past

by [Norman Stolba Stolba](#) - Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 12:34 PM

I believe it blinds nations from the truth. Good clear history can teach a lot about mistakes made in the past, and when history is altered or contains lies, people can't simply learn from their mistakes, and people make up their nations. If nations don't admit their wrongs to their own people, it may look cowardly, and or immature in my opinion, because people, as well as nations need to take responsibilities for their actions. I can't believe multiple nations are altering there academic history, the U.S. being one of them. When we discussed that the Japanese received a U.S. government apology letter, with twenty-thousand dollars given to them post war, that blew me away. All of the opportunities and possibilities that those Japanese Americans lost during the war vanished due to the fact that they were sent to camps throughout different parts of the United States. I am glad that we talked about this in class, because it demonstrates honest history with no beating around the bush when it comes to United States wrongs. China also not mentioning its cold history with the 1989 Tiananmen square democracy in which the article states that Chinese troops killed thousands of unarmed protestors, and the three-year famine between the years of 1958 and 1961. When you have an estimated 30 million people dying of starvation, because of communist policies, I think you should announce that in your history books. When it comes to every nation, or just history in general, it should be the truth and nothing but the truth. Lets just hope that if these false history books continue in nations throughout the world, that history does not repeat itself.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Hidden Faults and Flaws

by [Delaney Crook](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 12:06 PM

The video of the Rape of Nanking, as well as my knowledge of the Japanese internment camps in the United States has really got me thinking about why and how nation's hide their wrong doings. Obviously we are completely guilty of doing this with the internment camps, and the video proved the guilt of the Rape of Nanking. As I further contemplate the reasons behind this I think about what I have, and have not learned about the Japanese-Americans situation. While I am aware of what went on, I do not feel we completely and openly talk about the details and significance of this event and time period. While I wish that we would admit our faults and talk openly about our wrong doings, I do feel that because of our hidden details it makes me even more aware of how bad it must have really been. It is almost as if my lack of knowledge is forcing me to assume the worst. If we were educated on exactly what went on I may not be forced to assume the worst of this situation and would have a better understanding of the event.

Clearly nations do not want to admit their faults and flaws because it will cause citizens to shame their country and realize their wrong doings. While I understand this reasoning, I believe if we were educated on the flaws of our country we could attempt to ensure these flaws would not occur again. With out lack of knowledge we cannot guarantee we will not make the same mistakes that were made in the past.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Hidden Faults and Flaws

by [Dominic Christianson](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 7:09 PM

just like what you said history will always repeat itself. I agree with you that we should educate our country about what happened so that we can avoid making the same mistakes in the future. I also agree with what you said that no country wants to admit their wrong doings. I also believe that no country in history will ever be 100% honest in every thing that they do or have done. And every country will always try to cover up something from the world.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Hidden Faults and Flaws

by [Andrew Duyck](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:40 AM

I agree that both nations are at fault for not fully admitting wrong doings as to appear as a better nation to the people. I also strongly agree that it is important for people to know the historical truths of their country. Knowing fully what happened and understanding that it was a wrong is the only way a country will be able to ensure the issue was corrected, and be able to prevent it from happening in the future. If we don't know our mistakes how can we learn from them? I think a country would be better off and gain more support if they admitted to the atrocities that they have committed, explain why it happened, and how it will be prevented from happening again. A revision of policies must occur in order for reform to be possible, and we cannot revise what we do not pass on.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Victims will always remember

by [Gordon Colver](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 11:56 AM

I think it's interesting how the victims always remember and that the guilty country always tries to downplay it or shove it aside. Even though coming out and saying your wrongdoing is embarrassing and shameful it makes a difference and can help release previous tensions between the two parties. A prime example Joe brought up in class was the Japanese woman who cherished the government's apology more than any money in the world. Although it was the right thing to do it should've been done much sooner. I also find it interesting that when America wrongs a nation or a people we usually just pay them thinking that the money will make it better. Look at the Native Americans, buying the Philippines from Spain, and apologizing to Japanese Americans for taking their land and putting them in internment camps. In each case the party that was wronged ended up getting money in some way shape or form.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



German Schools on WW2

by [Gordon Colver](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 1:43 PM

I was reading a bit online and found that German schools teach their students the same as we do here in the states about WW2 and the Holocaust (at least similar) which is different than Japan ignoring Nanjing for sure. That being said one thing I found surprising to read is that some schools teach that the Germans were the first victims of the Nazi's. I wouldn't know if that's the case in all of Germany but that seems to create the same problem as ignoring it or downplaying what actually happened. In cases where German people fought against the Nazis but were killed or punished they were victims sure but to go and say Germans in general were victims seems to be just as bad as saying they didn't do the Holocaust. There is a very interesting article on PBS that I recommend reading (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/germans/germans/howdo.html>). It talks about young Germans and how they respond to teachings of the Holocaust in schools across Germany and outside of Germany.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



History police

by [Andrew Duyck](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 2:43 PM

It is interesting to me that China is so outraged at Japan's glossing over of historical wrongdoings when they are responsible for the same wrongdoings. Who is responsible for imposing historical accuracy in textbooks? The motivation to hide wrongs

of the past is clear, to be the best nation possible and withhold the highest reputation. It seems it would be up to other countries to keep each other in check and maintain historical accuracy. It makes me think about all of our own governments conspiracy and projects that never made the history books. It also cant be only governments who are responsible for historical accuracy because they will always have biases. We need a third party and hopefully more sources that decide what should make it in the history books. It is good that the people of China and Japan stood up for historical accuracy hopefully helping everyone stay in check. It is not just the governments but the people who are standing up and acting for reform.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

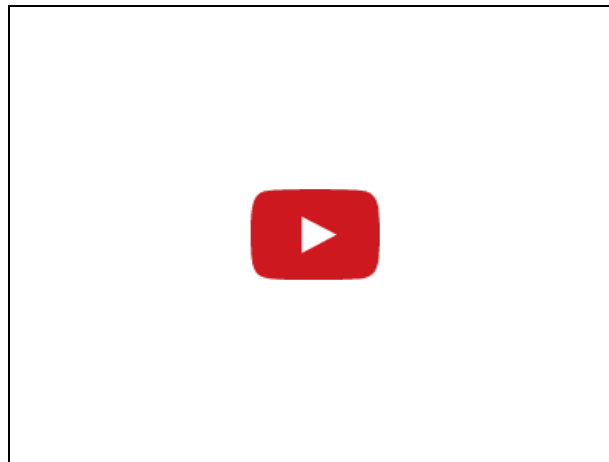
[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



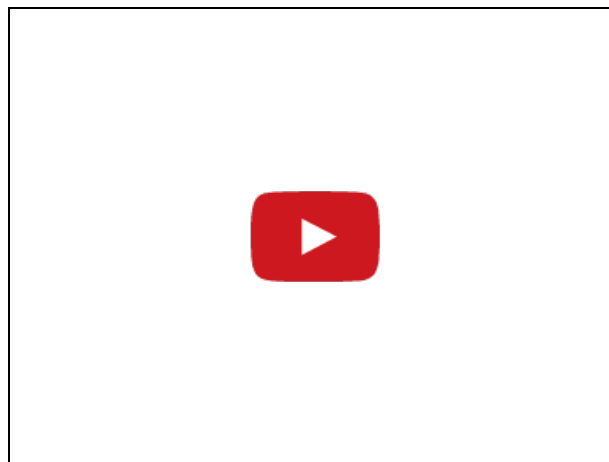
Re: Exceptions to Exceptionalism?

by [Emily Johnson](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 1:04 PM

After reading the articles and watching the video I learned a lot that I didn't know about what's happened. It's no coincidence these things aren't in our textbooks. Just like it's no coincidence that it's not in the news what's happening in countries today. There is some 'historical amnesia' happening presently in America in regards to what is going on in countries like China, Africa and Pakistan. So far, what we've learned in history is that America has evolved from it's 'good ole days' pre-world wars into a Nationalist and Exeptionalist country whose motto is to help those who can't help themselves. That is, except for those countries that we are importing from the most. Countries like China. Their one child policy has led to some serious crimes against women. (Attached below is a link to a YouTube video of what's happening now in regards to late-term abortion). While some may say, "well it isn't our business to intrude and it might start a war."- I would argue that that's pretty much all we've done in the past with countries like Vietnam and the Philippines. Which begs the question, *Why do we make exceptions to Exceptionalism?*



(China, one child policy)



(Africa, Female Genital Mutilation)



(Pakistan, game show gives away a baby)

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Teaching History

by [Tristan Ivie](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:03 PM

I am an aspiring History teacher. I will study things like the rape of Nanking, the Holocaust, and other horrific events more in depth than the common person. Something I am not looking forward too but that is necessary, The reading and watching the video on Nanking got me thinking about how I better not have any "historical amnesia" when I teach. I am an American and I love my country, but I have to accept that along with Germany, Japan, or any other country, America has dark points in history with the treatment of other country's peoples. I must give fair information. I will not be quick to demonize America but will not over look or ignore anything either.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The dire consequences of historical amnesia

by [Kai Seltman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:38 PM

I think Japan is living through the consequences of historical amnesia right at this very moment.

At the end of the last month, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addressed the joint meeting of Congress. He apologized on behalf of Japan saying "he offers with profound respect my eternal condolences to the souls of all American people that were lost during World War II." Knowing that Abe is a nationalist who denies the severity of the Nanking Massacre and is making great efforts to negate the comfort women controversy in Korea, I found it suspicious how he went out of his way to apologize to America. I felt he was emphasizing how he does not feel apologetic towards Korea and China as there is no need to be (in his opinion.) Moreover, the apology and the assertive nature of Abe's speech was to cater to an American audience. I believe he is trying to get on the good side of America in case relations with Korea and China worsen any further and another war erupts.

If Japan were to own up to the atrocities committed during the Second World War, it will not be embarking on a nation-wide attempt to revise history in Japan's favor, provoking China and Korea. Additionally, if Japan were to offer a honest narrative of their own history, they could then have the right to criticize China for the skewing of its own history. (A friend from China told me that Mao Zedong is portrayed as a hero in Chinese textbooks.)

I believe an objective and rational analysis of history is a critical ingredient in the recipe for progress.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

