



Forum 3



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

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History should not be kept a secret

by [Katherine Potter](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 2:55 PM

i didn't even know about the rape of Nanking until this year. I feel the greatest concern would be that Japan isn't taking responsibility for their past and that now the other countries, China and Korea have to live with that being in their ancestry without Japan truly having to pay for the crimes they committed if anything a way to pay would to not keep it a secret. It is a part of history and shouldn't be kept from people it needs to be out there so everyone knows What happens and the consequences and so history will not repeat itself. In my opinion China has every right to not want Japan on the board because who can trust a nation who does not take responsibility for their actions and will not own up to the history of their nation.

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Keep a lid on a stinking pot

by [Mirna Becerra](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:45 PM

The quote in the article by David McNeill, " Keep a lid on a stinking pot", I would use to describe how Japan is keeping this event from stinking up their history. I had no idea that the Nanking Massacre had happened until I read the forum materials. Historical amnesia at its finest. I get that they aren't proud of this particular event but why exclude it from textbooks? It's their history afterall. You can only hope in this case that history doesn't repeat itself. A lot of US history isn't exactly all rainbows and butterflies either. Lincing for example we learned about that and that not something we are proud of but we are well aware of it.

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admitting for the future

by [Hyejung Lee](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 9:31 PM

Japan should emulate the Germany that admit apologize of their past sins. They could not delete their past by ignoring or denying. The rape of Nanking is really hurt history for Chinese. I did not know well about that China and Japan history before I read this article. Chines people live with painful memory and trauma cause of the rape Nanking. Japan's excluding that event from their textbook is really big mistake. Everyone should learn exact history for making better future. Also, Korean

has a really painful history by Japan. For example, 'the comfort women' who are the sexual slavery for the Japanese army during the war. In these days, they live in the hell with their terrible memory. They lost their life and happiness. But Japan ignores and excludes that from textbooks like the article. I think for the peaceful future, they should publicize real facts and never go to make that again.

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Full Information

by [Kyle Quinoveva](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 11:52 PM

I feel as though Japan's decision to omit or mitigate their atrocities during the Second World War to be an interesting discussion. Simply on the ground of intellectualism I disagree with the idea of any education system omitting information for the sake of national pride. While it's true that knowing or not knowing about the Rape of Nanking likely won't have much of an effect on the average Japanese citizen (though one might argue it could for things like position on military and foreign affairs), as a matter of principle if a textbook covers that time period in any length the incident should be presented fully due to its prominence regardless of whether it is positive or not.

I also find the part about the Japanese flag, though only mentioned in passing, to be particularly interesting. The question as to whether or not to 'censor' or change symbols because of their association with past events is, while not the same issue, related to the idea of historical amnesia though, possibly, an even more complex one.

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Re: Historical Amnesia

by [Connie LaMorte](#) - Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 10:56 AM

According to Japanese accounts of the massacre and revisionist accounts of the killings have become a staple of Japanese nationalism. I have heard of similar feelings regarding the Nazi slaughter of Jews during World War II. Believe it or not, even this slaughter as well documented as it was, still has some denying its existence. According to Wikipedia "Most Holocaust denial claims imply, or openly state, that the Holocaust is a hoax arising out of a deliberate Jewish conspiracy to advance the interest of Jews at the expense of other peoples. For this reason, Holocaust denial is considered to be an anti-Semitic, conspiracy theory, is frequently criticized, and is illegal in several countries."

In some respects you have to understand why a country would want to deny such an event took place. It makes them look like monsters and demonizes them, but after all this time and the evidence that has been presented, it's pretty hard to grasp that denial. As Americans, we slaughtered the Indians, and many people say we were just "relocating" them in the name of manifest destiny, which were just some fancy words for racism.

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Re: Historical Amnesia

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 3:04 PM

I think the question that should really be asked - What are the dangers and/or benefits of historical revisionism?

I would argue that the use of revisionism in regards to historical context takes on two different characteristics.

One would be the use of revisionism to promote *factualism*. For example, many American students have been taught misconstrued information when regarding the life and varying cultures of Native Americans - but with the use of new technology, more sources of information appearing, witness testimonies, interviews, etc., America has slowly revised the original oversimplified teachings of the native American culture in attempts to portray a more accurate detailed-picture of the past. This can be a benefit to society in understanding more accurately understanding the events of the past.

The other being the use of revisionism to extend *censorship*. This can be an EXTREMELY dangerous use of revising history to the point of denying its existence. For instance, regarding the 1989 Tiananmen Square protest, thousands of unarmed students were slaughtered by the Chinese government, but most people in China do not even know that the massacre took place! If Chinese internet users try to search the date of the protest they are met with a response similar to "the search does not comply with laws, regulations and policies." This is just one of the many atrocities that took place during that time that the Chinese government is refusing to acknowledge or at the very least extremely down plays.

I would argue that the latter is the most detrimental to the progress of society when the attempts to stifle information in order

to promote the current agenda can cause major issues. When revisions begin denying the events such as the Rape of Nanking, the Holocaust, the Tiananmen Square protest, etc, the start to open up a path for lies to become fact and the ability to distort history is ever increased.

I'll end this with a quote from John Stuart Mill from his book *On Liberty* which I find to be quite appropriate for this topic.

"unmeasured vituperation, employed on the side of prevailing opinion, deters people from expressing contrary opinions, and from listening to those who express them."

Sources:

Williamson, G. I. "Historical Revisionism." HISTORICAL REVISIONISM (n.d.): n. pag. Web. 12 May 2015.

O'Neill, Brenden. "Both China and the West Have Distorted the Truth about the Tiananmen Square Protests and the Massacre That Followed." The Week UK. The Week, 2009. Web. 13 May 2015.

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Learn from the history instead of avoid it

by [Yanshu Li](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 1:02 AM

Making mistakes is forgivable, the real thing which is not forgivable is don't admit mistakes, and it is dangerous if people avoid to acknowledge what they did in the history. What did Japan done for China in the war is not as simply as bombed a bridge or imprisoned some people; what Japanese did for Chinese people is rape, torture, and infanticide.

"Awareness of Japan's role in wartime is fading." It is what Ms. Niki says. The Nanjing massacre is notorious, and everybody who lives on the earth knows it. However, the funny point is the Japanese people never admit those atrocities. The famous Yashkuni Shire which located in Tokyo is the best prove.

"Histories make men wise" it is a famous saying. In my view, it is acceptable if Japanese admit what they did in the history and learn form the history. After all Nanjing massacre happened hundred years ago, and the behavior of people who lived hundred years ago is unrelated with people who live in the 21th century.

It is really angry and sad every time when I read the history about Nanjing massacre, and I am sincerely hope the Japanese Government will admit their fault in some day, and say sorry to us. What Chinese need is not overcompensate for our loss; all we need is apology.

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Re: Historical Amnesia

by [Erik Umenhofer](#) - Friday, May 15, 2015, 11:57 PM

The rape of Nanking was one the most brutal atrocities done by humans to other humans. I guess i can understand why Japanesse museums kind of down play the massacre....heck i would to if i was involved in a crime that big! i think that it definitely deserves a memorial and acknowledgement to all those that lost their lives during the massacre, by no means should it be forgotten or down played, But sometimes i feel humanity can dwell on certain incidents in the history and lose track of what is going on around them. In 1994 up to 1 million people were killed in a mass genocide in Rawanda Africa, that's up to twice as many people as the Nanking massacre and only happened 20 years ago (as Joe would say "not ancient history"). But i believe the most historical amnesia is Mao Zedong the Chinnesse communist leader who was in power from 1945 to 1976 and killed an estimated 46-76 million of his own people (That's an evil bastard).... those numbers are more then all of the dead from world war two. Hell if anyone we should have gone to war with after WW2 it should have been china, which we kind of did in the Korean war due to them attacking us, but we did not invade china and get that Evil SOB out of power. I just hope people of today can see future atrocities in the making and stand up and stop evil before it can take root and hurt any innocent People.

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Immorality and inhumanity

by [Hyejung Lee](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:48 PM



Actually I did not know about China and Japan history before I study in this chapter and article. To understand more specifically I found the Korean version book about the rape of Nanking. It was really shocking and brutal action of Japanese. Japan should be ashamed of their past inhuman history. To satisfy their own desire, they did not hesitate in immoral action. They killed 150,000 citizens and children. Japan used grenades even, they buried people to save their ammunition. They did competition who could kill more people. But still now, they avoid apologizing and admitting. Japan also hides their brutal history about Korea. For example many Korean singers or celebrities could not enter or travel Japan because they support Korean and Japan's brutal history. They try to steal Dokdo Island from Korea. Dokdo is Korean territory but they published a textbook as if that island is a Japanese island. In my opinion, a mistake could not be removed from people's life. Sometimes that mistake could be a good navigation for the future. For a better and peaceful future we should learn history exactly.

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Bad History is Worth Knowing

by [Kendra Helgeson](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11:50 PM

Historical amnesia is kind of a weird concept to me. First of all, I don't understand how a country could try and completely block out a certain portion of their history. Every country makes decisions during war that they aren't proud of, but it should be something that you learn from. It's better to own up to something than to try and say it never happened because most of the time there's plenty of evidence to prove that it did actually happen. The rape of Nanking is a great example for this as well as the Holocaust. The Holocaust being the most well known because of how many people lost their lives during that time. There are plenty of pictures and artifacts in museums, as well as books people have written who experienced the situation first hand. I know there are plenty of incidences where America has done horrible things but for the most part we usually acknowledge it and include the history in every way we can. Some decisions can be shameful and embarrassing, but if it's a part of history I think it's something worth knowing.

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