

NAME:

BLOCK:

- **CENTRAL HISTORICAL QUESTION** -  
**JAPAN & THE RISE OF MILITARISM & IMPERIALISM:**  
**WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE INVASION OF NANKING?**

*Pictured below: Crying baby amid the ruins of Japan's invasion of Shanghai in 1937, a few months before the Japanese invasion of China's then-capital city of Nanking*



### LESSON OBJECTIVE

- 1.) **IDENTIFY** Japan's long history of militarism & nationalism
- 2.) **EXPLAIN** how Japan's long history of militarism & nationalism led to the vicious invasion & occupation of Nanking

### PART I: DO NOW / Q-NOW & DEBRIEF

**DIRECTIONS:** Write down as many questions as you can in the space provided in response to the reading prompt below. Once you are done, choose one question you believe is most stimulating and thought provoking.

In 1997, a book called, "The Rape of Nanking" was published and sold over half a million copies in a short period of time. The book told the story of the Japanese invasion of the Chinese capital city of Nanking during the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937.

Chang's book, renewed global interest in the Nanking Massacre. The book sold more than half a million copies when it was first published in the US, and according to The New York Times, received general critical acclaim from all prestigious corners of intellectual thought throughout the world.

The text, however, was not without controversy. Chang's account drew on new sources to break new ground in the study of the period, but it also included numerous errors of fact and mislabellings of photographs, which were seized on by Japanese ultra-nationalists as evidence that the Nanking Massacre was a fabrication which sought "to demonize the Japanese race, culture, history, and nation."

**JAPAN'S ROAD TO WORLD WAR II**

**PART II: MINI-LECTURE**

DIRECTIONS: As you listen to the brief mini-lecture to gain background information on today's inquiry, make note of vital concrete historical content and any big idea concepts in the space provided.

<b>CONCRETE HISTORICAL CONTENT</b>	<b>BIG IDEA CONCEPTS</b>
<p><b>1603</b> – After years of conflict with China dating as far back as 660 A.C.E., the Edo Period of Japan begins with the 250+ year rule of the Japanese military gov.t known as the Tokugawa Shogunate enacting a strict social order and isolationist policy forbidding contact with foreign nations.</p> <p><b>1867</b> – The isolationist period of Japan ends with the first western visit to Japan from Prussia, whom was on the eve of becoming a part of the new German Empire, beginning a 50 year period of intense westernization of Japan. Militaristic aspects of the Edo Period remain a staple of Japanese culture.</p> <p><b>1870</b> – Japan's Industrial Revolution begins with the <i>Meiji Restoration</i>, by building railroads, improving roads, introducing westernized education policies and enacting land reform program to prepare the country for further development. Additionally, Meiji-gov.t, made up of former-samurais, endorses Japanese <b><i>militarism</i></b> &amp; <b><i>nationalism</i></b> in order resist Western imperialism while trying to modernize.</p> <p><b>1885</b> – European relations with Japan begin to break down due to conflicting <b><i>imperialist</i></b> ambitions &amp; spheres of influence in China's rapidly declining Qing Dynasty.</p> <p><b>1895</b> – Japan's sphere of influence in China grows greatly with the final treaty that ended the <b><i>First Chinese-Japanese War</i></b> over control of Korea &amp; Taiwan, worsening relations with imperial European nations with Chinese interests.</p> <p><b>1904</b> – Japan defeats Russia in the <b><i>Russo-Japanese War</i></b>, damaging relations with Germany.</p> <p><b>1914</b> – Japan joins the Allied powers of Britain, France &amp; Russia in WWI against the Axis powers of Germany, Austria &amp; the Ottoman Empire in order to protect &amp; enhance imperialist ambitions in China</p> <p><b>1912</b> – Qing Dynasty officially declines after a 2,000 year reign, beginning an extended period of gov.t instability. Simultaneously, Japan transitions into the <i>Taisho Period</i> of quasi-democracy.</p> <p><b>1917</b> – Russia exits WWI and falls to the Communist Party takeover in the Bolshevik Revolution two years later.</p> <p><b>1919</b> – The Treaty of Versailles ends WWI, humiliating Germany with massive war reparations &amp; debt and loss of land of former German Empire to the allied powers, including Japan. Korea protests Japanese rule in March 1sr Movement. Japanese military remains in control of Korean occupation.</p> <p><b>1921</b> – The <b><i>Imperial Japanese Army &amp; Imperial Japanese Navy</i></b> rapidly expands and gains political power over Emperor, causing friction between extreme-reactionaries in support of absolute allegiance to Emperor.</p>	

**1925** - Adolf Hitler identifies Japan as potential target of Jewish dominance and considers Japan as a potential ally in years to come.

**1926** - Emperor Hirohito comes to power, under constitutional limitation of the constitution formed during the Taisho Period. Emperor's limited power leads to extreme militarism, aggression, imperialism & nationalism throughout Japan. In response to growing socialist ideologies, Japan enacts the *Peace Preservation Act*, furthering the totalitarian rule and extinguishing democratic activity of the public (*ie voting rights, expression, etc.*)

**1920 - 1928** - German ambassador-to Japan, Wilhelm Solf, improves relations between Germany & Japan with the creation of the "Japanese-German Cultural Society."

**1930** - Japan suffers economically & environmentally as a result of the Great Depression.

**1931** - Japan invades northeast region of China known as Manchuria, creating an occupied puppet-state in China known as Manchukuo, causing Japan to leave the international anti-war group, the *League of Nations* and isolating Japan from much of the world.

**1932 - 1936** - The "League of Blood Incident" involving Japanese extreme-reactionaries causes hysteria and brings on the country's period of military rule. Government endorses the ultra-nationalistic conceptual movement known as the **Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere**, emphasizing Japan's responsibility of protecting East Asian countries from America, Britain, China & the Dutch due to Japan's achievement of self-reliant industrialization.

**1936** - Japan & Germany sign the **Anti-Comintern Pact** agreeing to an alliance in any case of attack from a Communist country.

**July - 1937** - The **2nd Sino-Japanese War** begins w/ the Japanese invasion of Beijing.

**October 1937** - Japan continues its domination over China in its invasion of Shanghai.

**December 1937** - Japan invades China's capitol, Nanking and begins its vicious occupation in what becomes known as the **"Rape of Nanking."**

**December 1938** - The *Second Chinese-Japanese War* begins to reach a point of becoming a stalemate.

**1939** - The United States begins strict trade relations with Japan, causing great economic stress & pressure in Japan. Nazi Germany invades Poland, beginning war within Europe.

**July 1941** - The U.S. places a total stop to trading w/ Japan, furthering the economic stress.

**November 1941** - U.S. offers proposal to Japan to withdraw from China in exchange for a reinstatement of past trade relations. The *Imperial Japanese Military* interprets this as an unspoken U.S. declaration of war on Japan.

**December 1941** - The *Imperial Japanese Navy* surprise attacks U.S. military-base, Pearl Harbor, bringing the US into the now global conflict between the Allied & Axis Powers.

**April 1942** - The conflict b/w the Allied & Axis Powers is officially considered as World War II.

PART III: DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

DIRECTIONS: Two of the following documents, Documents A & B, are textbook excerpts. You will first be comparing the two textbook accounts to each other, estimating the source of each textbook: Japan or China, based on evidence & your response to the guided questions. You will then compare the two textbook excerpts to another secondary source and work to corroborate which textbook account you believe to be more reliable. As you move through the document, continue to consider the central historical question of this lesson: *What Happened During the Invasion of Nanking?*

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## DOCUMENT A: TEXTBOOK 1 EXCERPT

In August 1937, two Japanese soldiers, one an officer, were shot to death in Shanghai (the hub of foreign interests). After this incident, the hostilities between Japan and China escalated. Japanese military officials thought Chiang Kai-shek would surrender if they captured Nanking, the Nationalist capital; they occupied that city in December.\* But Chiang Kai-shek had moved his capital to the remote city of Chongqing. The conflict continued.

*\*At this time, many Chinese soldiers and civilians were killed or wounded by Japanese troops (the Nanjing Incident). Documentary evidence has raised doubts about the actual number of victims claimed by the incident. The debate continues even today.*

## DOCUMENT B: TEXTBOOK 2 EXCERPT

The Nanjing Massacre: In December 1937, the Japanese military captured Nanjing. The Japanese military committed bloody atrocities against the residents of Nanjing and prisoners of war, killing them in extremely cruel methods including mass execution, burning, burying alive, beheading, and biting by dogs. The Nanjing Massacre was the most horrible [event] in world [history]...

According to statistics, the estimate of the deaths caused by Japanese atrocities against unarmed Nanjing residents and Chinese soldiers amounted to more than 300,000 just during the six weeks of the occupation by the Japanese military. The Nanjing Massacre is one of the greatest acts of violence perpetrated by the Japanese aggressors on the Chinese people.

1.) Which of the following sources belong to which document:

*SOURCE: New Century: Standard History Textbook in Mandatory Education. Published by Beijing's Teachers' College Press. Beijing, China: 2001.*

Textbook \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer. Provide evidence from the textbook to support your claim.

*SOURCE: New History Textbook. Published by Fusosha, Tokyo, Japan: 2005.*

Textbook \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer. Provide evidence from the textbook to support your claim.

2) Which of these textbooks, if either, do you find more trustworthy? Why?  
(*sourcing*)

3) Where else would you look in order to figure out what happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking? (*corroboration*)

## DOCUMENT C: HISTORIAN JONATHAN SPENCE

There followed in Nanjing a period of terror and destruction that must rank among the worst in the history of modern warfare. For almost seven weeks the Japanese troops, who first entered the city on December 13, unleashed on the defeated Chinese troops and on the helpless Chinese civilian population a storm of violence and cruelty that has few parallels.

The female rape victims, many of whom died after repeated assaults, were estimated by foreign observers living in Nanjing at 20,000; the fugitive soldiers killed were estimated at 30,000; murdered civilians at 12,000. Other contemporary Chinese estimates were as much as ten times higher (300,000) and it is difficult to establish exact figures.

Certainly robbery, wanton destruction, and arson left much of the city in ruins, and piles of dead bodies were observable in countless locations.

**SOURCE:** *Excerpt from Jonathan Spence's book, The Search for Modern China, published in 1999. Spence specialized in Chinese history and taught at Yale University from 1993 to 2008.*

1.) What is the purpose of this document? Do you think it is reliable? Why or why not? (**sourcing**)

2.) List 2-3 ways that Spence's account compares or contrasts with the Japanese textbook. (*corroboration*)

1)

2)

3.) List 1-2 ways that Spence's account compares or contrasts with the Chinese textbook. (*corroboration*)

1)

2.)

### PRIMARY SOURCE ACCOUNT OF THE NANKING INVASION

\* MAKE NOTE OF ANY INFORMATION (SOURCE, CONTEXT, CORROBORATING INFO, ETC) THAT WILL HELP YOU RESPOND TO CENTRAL HISTORICAL QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENED IN THE INVASION OF NANKING?\*

CHINESE CIVILIAN ON INITIAL INVASION	JAPANESE SOLDIER ON P.O.W. TREATMENT	JAPANESE SOLDIER ON TREATMENT OF WOMEN	CHINESE CIVILIAN ON TREATMENT OF WOMEN

PART IV: HOMEWORK - CREATE-A-CLAIM

DIRECTIONS: Use information from today's lesson and the primary source below to create a claim in response to the following question: *Why was the Japanese invasion of Nanking such a vicious event?*

You must incorporate the primary source below and use the following concepts in their correct context:

MILITARISTIC

ULTRA-NATIONALISM

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DOCUMENT A: THE JAPANESE WAY (MODIFIED)

“The social evils of present-day Japan are the result of the days of the Meiji (Period) where many aspects of European & American culture, such as Enlightenment ideologies focusing on the value of the individual, have been imported into our culture...When people determinedly count themselves as masters there is nothing but contradictions and the setting of one against the other...

The virtuous way for our imperial greatness relies upon submission to the Emperor...Offering our lives for the sake of the Emperor means casting aside our little selves to live under his grace...Loyalty to the Emperor is the fundamental way to our life. Our country is established with the Emperor...

And our nation is one that holds the way of the warrior in high regard whose obligation to his master develops in him a calmness in the face of death. Man fulfills his life by the way of death...”

**SOURCE:** The Ministry of Education, 1937. The Japanese government's ministry of education distributed this pamphlet widely in its schools and homes throughout the country.

