

The 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War



SHARED MEMORIES OF THE US AND CHINA

THE PACIFIC WAR AGAINST
JAPANESE AGGRESSION



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People joined in friendship and a longing for peace were the basic building blocks of the joint Chinese and American anti-fascist war. These are also valuable spiritual assets in building today's new bilateral relationship between the two major countries. Upholding justice and peace, and pursuing democracy and progress should become the mainstream human values, continually contributing to and reaffirming the social foundations of the China-US relationship.



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Foreword

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese air force bombed the US naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and started the Pacific War. On January 1, 1942, a total of 26 countries, led by China, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, signed the Declaration of the United Nations in Washington, and declared war against Fascist Germany, Italy and Japan with all military and economic resources, establishing an international anti-Fascist alliance. China adopted active foreign diplomatic policies toward the United States while fighting against the Japanese invaders. As one of the allied nations, the United States started to aid China in the latter's resistance to Japan to protect the interests of both countries. Since then Chinese and American soldiers and civilians had fought side by side for peace in the Pacific Region. Their heroic deeds and daily lives have been preserved and passed on by means of photos and films.

Looking back on the war against the Japanese aggression jointly participated in by China and the United States 70 years ago, we are deeply touched not only by the strenuous efforts Chinese and American statesmen and commanders made, but also by the contributions made by those who fought hard and laid down their lives on the battlefields. People-to-people exchanges between the two countries never stopped during the war, and left warm memories. During the war, China and the United States faced the traumas of war with true friendship and expressed their eagerness for peace and prosperity.

The joint efforts of China and the United States for safeguarding peace and justice gave birth to a special and precious part of the China-US relationship and left shared meaningful memories to enlighten the coming generations of the two countries. These memories stress the importance of maintaining the hard-earned peace resulting from the victory over Fascism by means of strenuous efforts by all countries across the globe. They also remind us that bias in mutual understanding between different countries can yield to common interests.

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the victories of both China's anti-Japanese war and World War II. On such an important occasion, let us look back at the days full of the smoke of gunpowder and flames of war 70 years ago, and remember the people who made contributions to world peace and development and the progress of mankind. A myriad of heroes, including ordinary people, soldiers, generals and state leaders who gave their lives for the peace of mankind are still being remembered and honored. China's anti-Japanese war and World War II are seared into the memories of both the Chinese people and the peoples of the rest of the world, and they will go down in the history of the Chinese nation as well as the history of mankind's struggle for peace.

Shared memories are precious experiences and spiritual wealth for China and the United States to build a new bilateral relationship.

As treasures from the National Archives of the United States and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, many of the photos in this album provide unique documentary records of major historical events of WWII.

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The September 18th Incident¹ was the start of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and a prelude to the World Anti-Fascist War. In 1937, the Lugouqiao Incident² took place, and China became the main battlefield of the World Anti-Fascist War in the east. When battle in Europe raged, China had been left to fight the Japanese fascists for eight years on its own. By the time the Pacific War started, China had been fighting independently for ten years, and was the country that fought for the longest-time in the anti-fascist war. The Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government made an important contribution to the establishment of a united international anti-fascist front.

After the Soviet-German War and the Pacific War started, the eastern and western battlefields were integrated into one. The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and others needed China to keep up the fight to ensure their victory. China also needed the cooperation and support of other countries to defeat the Japanese aggressors. In 1942, the United Nations Declaration proposed by China, the US, the UK and the Soviet Union was the first significant international declaration in modern history to be signed by a group of leading countries including China. The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, closely connected with the Allied Forces against the Axis, as well as the US and UK's war against Japan in the Pacific, became an important component of the world anti-fascist front.











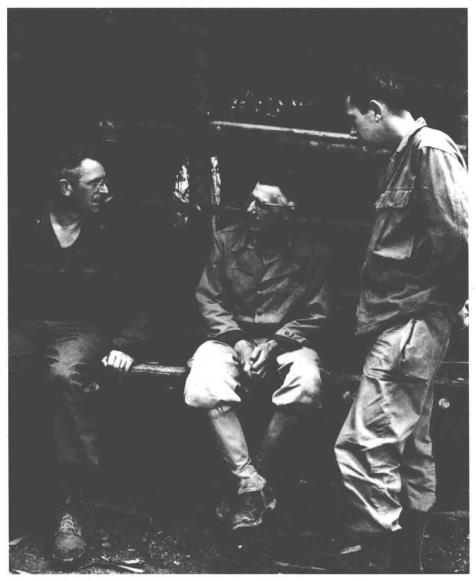
November 1943: During the Cairo Conference⁴, this group photo of Chiang Kai-shek⁵, Roosevelt⁶, Churchill⁷ and Soong Mei-ling⁸ was taken at the villa garden of American Ambassador Alexander Comstock Kirk near the Mena House⁹.

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June 1944: Claire Lee Chennault¹⁰ and others awaiting the first B-29 bomber to arrive in China.



Joseph Stilwell¹¹ and American officers.



July 15, 1944: Before boarding after he completed his visit to Myitkyina, General Stilwell asking about the condition of an injured Japanese prisoner of war.