

The First Sino-Japanese War

<http://32349852.nhd.weebly.com>

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Group Website

Process Paper

When we first delved into the task of electing our topic, we decided to work on a topic that many people in the west found unfamiliar. After much research, we finally chose The First Sino-Japanese war for a number of reasons, the first being that the topic reflects both of our Asian cultures. One of us (Tiffany) is of Chinese ancestry and the other (Takeshi) is of Japanese ancestry, and the war involved both of these countries. In addition, the topic was of extreme interest to us, and it was inconspicuous to the west.

Right from the start, we knew that we needed to have as many primary sources as possible, so we began our research at the Parks Library at Iowa State University. There, we found lots of informative books that were beneficial to our research, and we were able to check them out. One of the books we found to be of particular use was Dr. Sarah Paine's book. Her book focused entirely on the First Sino-Japanese war, and we were able to extract a great deal of information for use in our project. Her book went over and described in detail the events of the war, and we were able to really get a clear idea of how the war went. Even though we used books as one of our many research sources, we knew that internet information would also benefit our project. We looked at online resources and found lots of other information that was excluded in the books. Using the internet, we were able to exert our knowledge of the Chinese and Japanese language to search for information. This really aided our project, because we were able to translate the material and see how each country viewed the war. Finally, we wanted to see others' opinions on the war, so we organized interviews with Japanese and Chinese history experts to learn what they felt, viewed, and thought about the war. This was especially helpful because we were able to see the war through an expert's point of view.

When appointing our project type, we were considering between two options: website or exhibit. We wanted to put a lot of information into our project, and seeing how limited the exhibit was, we chose the website option. By picking the website, we were able to have a wide variety of media to support and explain our topic well, in contrast with the exhibit. In addition, we

felt the website was extremely interactive and allowed the user to freely browse through the information.

The war was a huge turning point in history, as it was the event that brought attention to Asia. The entire balance of power in Asia was reversed as Japan emerged victorious and ended China's unquestioned dominance. European countries finally came to see Asian countries as an equal and changed their laws to include the Asian countries. Korea gained its independence from China. Had this not happened, the world would be indefinitely changed.