Twitter Thread by Carl Zha



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As someone who actually grew up in China in 1980s, I can actually talked abt how commemoration of Nanjing Massacre changed inside China. I will make a thread



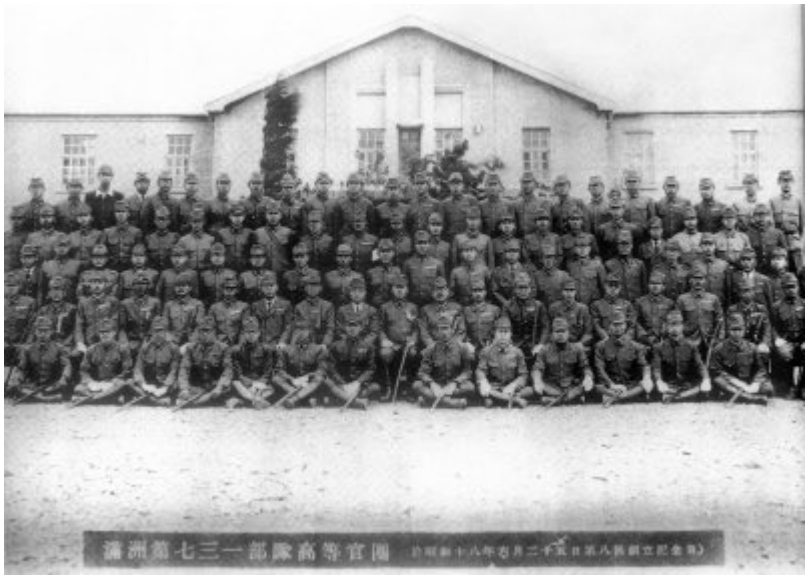
I was born in Oct 1976. 1 month after Mao died. I went to elementary school in China in 1982. my 1st to 4th grade was during honeymoon period btw Japan and China. We learn abt horrors of Hiroshima bombing and how Japan was a victim of


杭州西湖湖滨公园 1982.2

1985 was a pivotal year in Sino-Japanese relations. On the 40the year of Japanese surrender, Japanese PM Yasuhiro Nakasone visited Yasukuni shrine for the 1st time after WW2 Japanese war criminals had been enshrined there in 1978.


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Another development was discovery in 1980s of 1 the most notorious Japanese war crime: Unit 731, biological and chemical weapon research unit of Imperial Japanese Army that performed lethal live human experiments on Chinese and Allied prisoners in China



In 1986, the 1st mainland China film on KMT fighting Japan, ■■■■■abt Battle of Tai'erzhuang, 1st major Chinese victory over Japan immediately aft Nanjiang Massacre came out. I learn abt Nanjing Massacre that year, I was 10.



Another point to note is that I am the 1st Post-Cultural Revolution generation. During CR, schools were closed, Chinese people on mainland China had other more immediate things to worry about than commemorating Nanjing massacre. That's the context of its rediscovery in 1980s

The details abt Nanjing massacre are so horrific that calls into question why not MORE attention was paid this earlier. Truth is China had been in turmoil frm collapse of Qing Dynasty til I was born in 1976. Civil Wars, WW2, Civil War, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution...

In a way commemoration of the past is a luxury that China could afford when it's finally at peace. Much of Chinese commemoration of Japanese invasion and Nanjing massacre actually emphasizes the we should treasure unprecedented peace at present like this cartoon



I hope I've provide some context on how Nanjing massacre was commemoration in China evolved. As for Chinese libs who use the occasion to score "China bad" points to please Sinophobic Western audience, they will nvr have impact on China more than a gnat.



Some in the West say CCP patriotic education brainwashed youth w nationalism. But I learned WW2 frm my family: my grandma as a young mother fled to countryside during battle of Shanghai as Japanese bombing completely leveled Yuanhua town in Haining, Zhejiang...

Grandpa slapped by Japanese soldiers when he refused to salute them when pass thru checkpoints. Oldest Uncle drafted as a teen to build Japanese bunkers around Haining. I don’t need patriotic education to know what my family went thru under Japanese occupation

My maternal grandparents lived in Chongqing, China’s WW2 capital. They experienced 6 yrs of Japanese terror bombing of Chongqing frm Feb 1938 to Dec 1944.



This is why I find rather distasteful the presence of young Chinese libs on Twitter glibly cast shade on China’s Nanjing massacre commemoration in order to virtue signal to their Sinophobic Western audience that “THEY’re good Chinese”