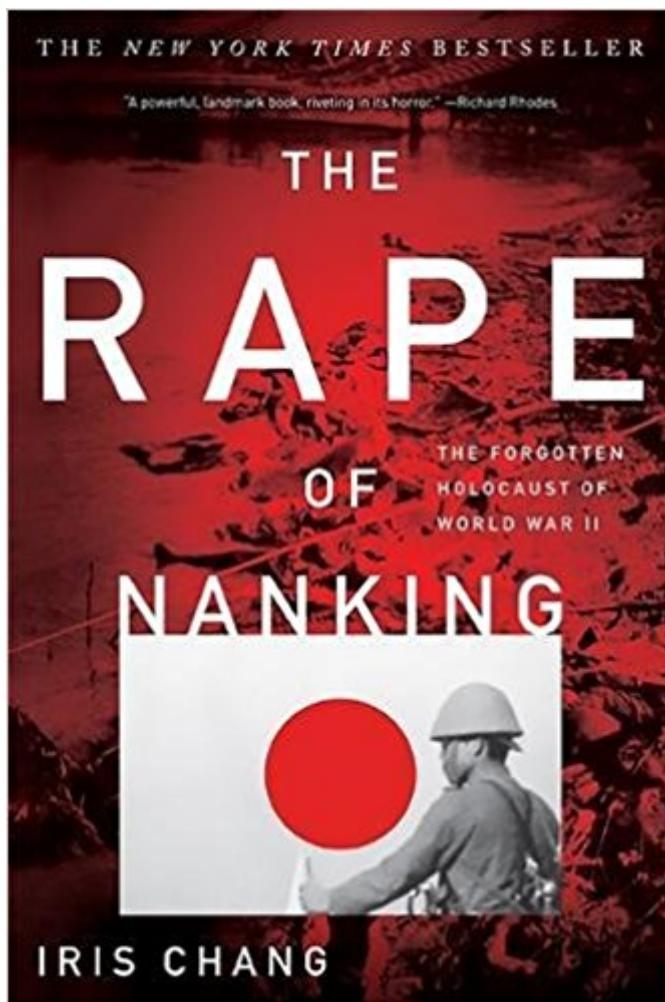


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The Rape Of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust Of World War II



Synopsis

In December 1937, the Japanese army swept into the ancient city of Nanking. Within weeks, more than 300,000 Chinese civilians and soldiers were systematically raped, tortured, and murdered—a death toll exceeding that of the atomic blasts of Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. Using extensive interviews with survivors and newly discovered documents, Iris Chang has written the definitive history of this horrifying episode.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

China has endured much hardship in its history, as Iris Chang shows in her ably researched *The Rape of Nanking*, a book that recounts the horrible events in that eastern Chinese city under Japanese occupation in the late 1930s. Nanking, she writes, served as a kind of laboratory in which Japanese soldiers were taught to slaughter unarmed, unresisting civilians, as they would later do throughout Asia. Likening their victims to insects and animals, the Japanese commanders orchestrated a campaign in which several hundred thousand--no one is sure just how many--Chinese soldiers and noncombatants alike were killed. Chang turns up an unlikely hero in German businessman John Rabe, a devoted member of the Nazi party who importuned Adolf Hitler to intervene and stop the slaughter, and who personally saved the lives of countless residents of Nanking. She also suggests that the Japanese government pay reparations and apologize for its army's horrific acts of 60 years ago. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

YA?The events in this book are horribly off-putting, which, paradoxically, is why they must be

remembered. Chang tells of the Sino-Japanese War atrocities perpetrated by the invading Japanese army in Nanking in December 1937, in which roughly 350,000 soldiers and civilians were slaughtered in an eight-week period, many of them having been raped and/or tortured first. Not only are readers given many of the gory details?with pictures?but they are also told of the heroism of some members of a small foreign contingent, particularly of a Nazi businessman who resided in China for 30 years. The story of his bravery lends the ironic touch of someone with evil credentials doing good. Once the author finishes with the atrocities, she proceeds with the equally absorbing and much easier-to-take story of what happened to the Nazi businessman when he returned to Germany and the war ended. This by itself is material for a movie. The author tells why the Japanese government not only allowed the atrocities to occur but also refused, and continues to refuse, to acknowledge that they happened. She is quite evenhanded in reminding readers that every culture has some episode like this in its history; what makes this one important is the number of people killed and tortured, the sadism, and the ongoing Japanese denial of responsibility. Mature readers will look beyond the sensational acts of cruelty to ponder the horror of man's inhumanity to man and the examples of heroism in the midst of savagery.?Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince William County, VA
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This is an important piece of history, a story that most people avoid even mentioning. There is no short way of telling this story, and it is so offensive that many people simply avoid the topic-- which is the first step toward creating the circumstances to allow something like this to happen again. Wars are not nice, they are not pretty, and sometimes we forget that the horror of war is less than the horror that led us into the conflict. In spite of clear documentation there are those who deny this ever happened, and unless we read the story, look at the photographs and documentation, and see the forensics of the event we cannot really understand how dire the circumstances were. We need to learn history so we are not doomed to relive it.

I sobbed throughout this book. It was written with such compassion and love. For those who have no knowledge of this atrocity I implore you to read this very important book about a forgotten, ugly time in history. I was heartbroken to hear of Ms. Changs death, her contribution to the Chinese people will live on for generations

Iris Chang may not be a professional historian but she wrote this book with conscience and though it

would not be possible to prove everything she said was true (or for the matter, false), the bulk of what she said was supported by other evidences. True, I admit that what led to the Nanking Massacre was more complicated than what most people think. It was a result of so many forces coming together: battle fatigue, setback of the original invasion plan, the fact that some Nationalist soldiers were mixing with the crowd of refugees. But this does not, and should not make such cruelty forgiveable. Iris Chang did the world a great favor by catapulting this into world attention. And it takes courage to do that. I also do not think that the Japanese are born evil. I have many Japanese friends and I respect them as equals. War can make men into beasts and massacres happen, though rare on this scale and largely on unarmed civilians. The problem with Japan was even now they refused to look face to face with what they (or their older generation) had done and this would continue to haunt them and lead them down a path of committing future errors and atrocities.

Before reading this book, I was well aware that a large number of Nanking's citizens were massacred after the Japanese stormed through the city. I didn't read this book wanting exact figures or proof that the Rape took place (I strongly believe that the Rape took place anyway); I wanted to understand 1) what could possibly have compelled the Japanese army to inflict such heinous acts of terror upon the citizens of Nanking and 2) why such heinous crimes are so disproportionately obscure to much of the world. I was very satisfied with the book's attempt to answer these two questions, especially the former. What I took from this book is how thin and translucent the layer between civilization and savagery is. Humans are far more susceptible to propaganda and their environment than we'd like to admit, and that many decisions made by certain people throughout the war are far more complex than we may think at first. Highly recommended!

I am so grateful for Iris Chang for this book. The unspeakable, horrible and inhuman sufferings of all the war victims should be remembered not only for the number of them slaughtered but for the excruciating and brutal way in which they died. When can human kind learn to respect each life and love peace?

There are no words to describe the evil of the Japanese and no words to describe the courage of a handful of people who tried to prevent this hell. This book goes some way.

Very good book. Eye opening. Broke my heart to hear how cruel people can be to each other. Also

interesting how easily one can be brainwashed to go against their beliefs. So sad that this took place but hopefully it will be learned from so we are not destined to repeat such a horror ever again. At least that is what I like to believe.

I've heard about the atrocities, yet, no one speaks of them. Schools & news agencies rarely mention them as if not to embarrass the Japanese. You don't want to believe this occurred but there it is, in your face and you can't deny it. Powerful and easily absorbed into your mind by the hell that happened. Ms. Chang opened up the world's eyes to finally get out a story that history tried so hard to forget. Extremely well written. The endless rape, slaughter and brutal mistreatment of human beings is a lot to take in. And to think this all happened while the world stood by and watched.

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