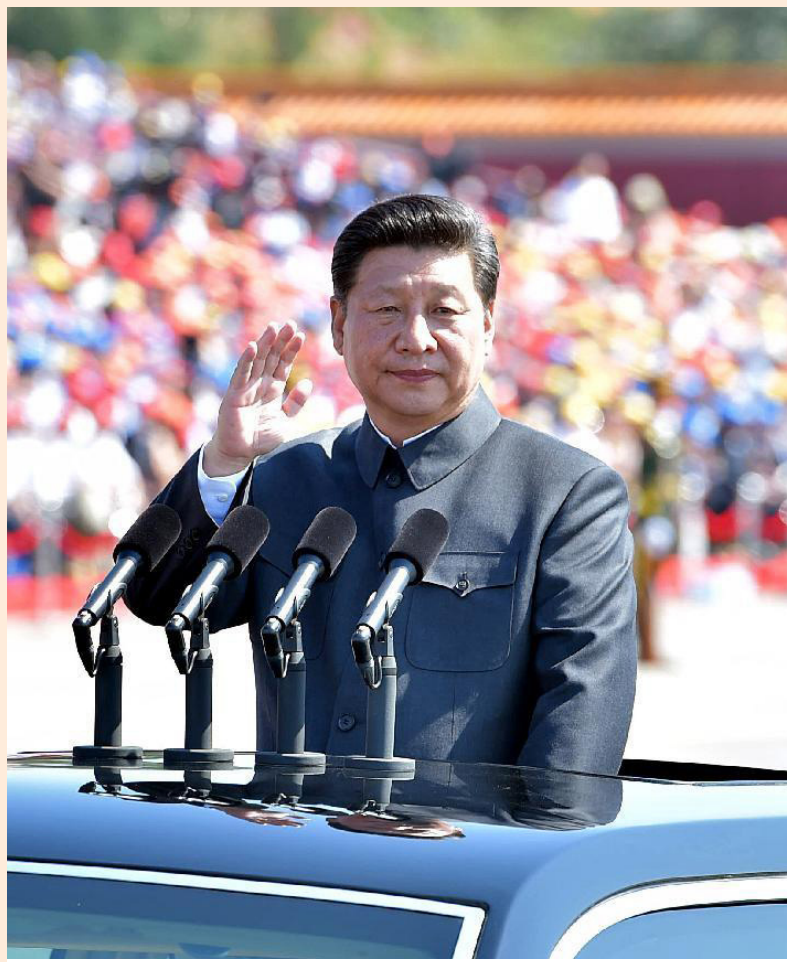


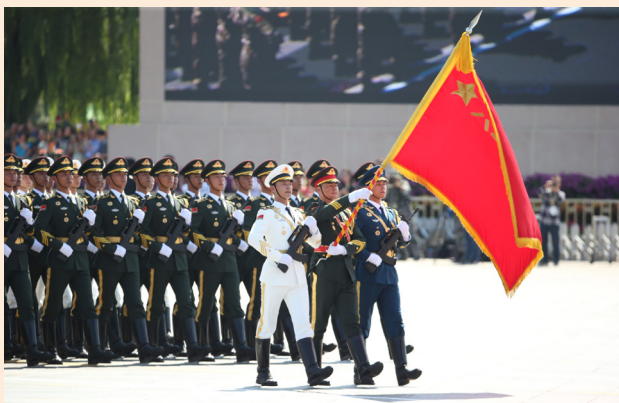
## China's V-Day Military Parade — 70th Anniversary of Victory of Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War

**Editor's note: September 3, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. On the day, China held a grand military parade in Beijing to honor promises for continued efforts in world peace. We dedicate this special issue to the commemoration of war victory.**

### V-day parade highlights nation's message of peace



President Xi Jinping reviews Chinese troops in Beijing, Sept. 3, 2015.



The guard of honor of the three services of the People's Liberation Army attends the military parade in Beijing, Sept. 3, 2015.



Full video for Beijing's V-day parade

China staged a massive military parade on Sept. 3, 2015, marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. World leaders gathered in Beijing to join the commemoration.

#### A parade for peace

On the Tian'anmen Rostrum, where late Chinese leader Mao Zedong pronounced the birth of the People's Republic of China (PRC) 66 years ago, General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, also Chinese president, dressed in a sharply cut, high-collared Mao suit, highlighted China's peaceful aspirations on Sept. 3.

The Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression "started the earliest and lasted the longest" during the World Anti-Fascist War, Xi said in his speech prior to the parade.

With huge national sacrifice, "the Chinese people held their ground in the main Eastern theater of the World Anti-Fascist War, thus making major contributions to its victory," said Xi.

"Victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression was the first complete victory won by China in its resistance against foreign aggression during modern times," said Xi.

"This great triumph opened up many bright prospects for the great renewal of the Chinese nation and set our ancient country on a new journey after gaining this rebirth," Xi said in his address.

Xi added that the commemoration of victory is to "bear history in mind, honor all those who laid down their lives, cherish peace and move forward into the future."

"China will remain committed to peaceful development. We Chinese love peace. No matter how much stronger it may become, China will never seek hegemony or expansion. It will never inflict its past suffering on any other nation," said Xi.

Xi Jinping extended heartfelt gratitude to foreign governments and friends who supported and assisted the Chinese people in resisting aggression. He also paid high tribute to all the veterans, comrades, patriots and officers in China who took part in the War of Resistance and all the

Chinese at home and abroad who contributed significantly to the victory of the War.

In his speech, Xi announced that China will cut the number of its troops by 300,000.

The cuts, to be completed by 2017, show China's sincerity and determination to pursue its path of peaceful development, as well as China's responsible attitude in promoting international arms control and disarmament.

This is China's 11th large-scale disarmament since the founding of the PRC in 1949, and it will reduce the country's number of troops to 2 million.

During the parade, the Chinese president was joined by dozens of heads of state and government as well as international organizations including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye.

The United States, Britain and France sent government representatives to attend the parade. Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair were also present.

Their coming made the landmark event one with the widest foreign presence in the world among a series of V-Day commemorations.

It's been 84 years since China was dragged into war following Japan's invasion of northeast China in 1931. In the fourteen years that followed, over 35 million soldiers and civilians were killed and injured in China, the main oriental theatre of WWII.

But the loss was not for nothing. Chinese archives revealed that over two thirds of Japan's ground forces were fought against in China during WWII. Japan signed its formal WWII surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, and China celebrated its victory the following day.

"China's contribution and sacrifice during the Second World War is very much recognized, (China is) appreciated for all such sufferings, and sympathized by the world's people," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in New York before traveling to China.

"It's important to look to the past, what kinds of lessons we have been learning, and how we can move ahead to a brighter future based on the lessons learned," he said.



Formations parade in Beijing to mark World War II victory on Sept. 3, 2015.

#### A parade to remember

The V-day celebrations were set in motion by a 70-gun salute after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang announced its official opening.

Guards of honor marched on a red carpet that stretched between two Great Wall-shaped parterres in Tian'anmen Square with huge signs that read 1945 and 2015, raising the national flag to the "March of the Volunteers" – a popular wartime tune-turned national anthem – played by a 1,000-member military band.

As he reviewed the troops in a black open-top Red Flag limousine, Xi Jinping greeted his "comrades" from the People's Liberation Army, or PLA, and the People's Armed Police who stood at attention down the length of Beijing's magnificent Chang'an Avenue.

At the height of the celebrations, helicopters carrying China's national flag as well as the PLA flag raised the curtain for the much-anticipated military parade. Another 20 choppers flew in a formation in the shape of the number "70", followed by seven training aircraft trailing colored smoke.

On the ground, WWII veterans, their chests bristling with medals, rode in convertibles amidst tides of applause.

Xi and all the other audience members stood up as they passed by.

For many of the country's remaining WWII veterans, this anniversary could be the last they see.

Ninety-five-year-old Zhang Yuanhe, in his grey military uniform specially made for the parade, was gratified at the invitation to take part in the event.

"It's a great honor," said Zhang who joined the CPC-led Red Army at the age of 15.

More notably, veterans from counter-Japanese aggression forces led by the CPC during WWII were joined in a Chinese military parade for the first time by their counterparts from the Kuomintang, or KMT, forces who fought the same enemy 70 years ago.

The highlight for many of the 40,000 audience members present at the scene and the hundreds of millions more who watched the parade on

television or via Internet was the first-ever participation of foreign troops in a Chinese military parade in Beijing.

Nearly 1,000 foreign troops from 17 countries marched at the heels of their PLA counterparts, drawing cheers and applause.

On Sept. 18, 1931, the Japanese army invaded northeastern China, marking the starting point of the Chinese people's courageous fight against fascism.

In the 14 years that followed, countries including the former Soviet Union and the United States, among others, all came to China's aid in its struggle for national freedom.

A female medical soldiers' formation was named after Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune to honor his contribution to the Chinese people's fight against Japanese aggressors.

Jay Vinyard, an allied pilot who flew supplies to Chinese forces over the "Hump Route" during WWII, said China's war commemorations were a rare chance for wartime pilots to meet again.

"China and the United States should join hands to achieve peace and stability in the world," he said.

"All eyes are on the parade in Beijing," said Anton Mikhailov, a four-time Red Square parade attendee just prior to the parade.

"Our parade in Moscow's Red Square and this parade in Beijing both represent the same things. They show that we remember our losses and our victory. They demonstrate our nations' strength and tell the world that these two allies that fought shoulder to shoulder will join hands for a better future," he said.

The parade also stressed a signal to the world to remember history and cherish peace.

[Click here for full coverage of the V-day parade:](#)



[Beijing's WWII military parade](#)



## Voices of world leaders

The quotes are listed in alphabetical order of the given names of each world leader.



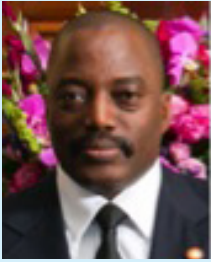
**Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General**

“China’s contribution and sacrifice during the Second World War is very much recognized, (China is) appreciated for all such sufferings, and sympathized by the world’s people...It’s important to look to the past, what kinds of lessons we have been learning, and how we can move ahead to a brighter future based on the lessons learned. That is the main purpose.”



**Dilip Barua, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (ML)**

“The commemoration ceremonies bear historical significance and long future impact. They will surely contribute to global peace and stability in the days ahead. Today’s military parade is also a kind protest against the fascists who try to create instability in the world.”



**Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Kabila said he is happy to attend the V-Day celebrations, adding China’s invitation means trust and encouragement for his country. The president said that the bilateral friendship between the two countries has a long history, and he highly appreciates China’s long-term assistance and support. DR Congo will continue to consolidate and develop its strategic partnership with China.



**Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan**

“China is playing a unique and constructive role in international affairs. The two countries (China and Uzbekistan) enjoy a high level of political mutual-trust, complementary advantages in economy and profound friendship. Uzbekistan is willing to deepen cooperation with China and promote the bilateral ties.”



**Sato Kilman, Prime Minister of Vanuatu**

“It is of great significance for China to hold the commemorations...Vanuatu maintains a vigorous relationship with China and appreciates the assistance and support provided by China over the years, especially the valuable aid in the national reconstruction after the recent intense tropical storm. Vanuatu hopes to keep cooperating with China in national development.”



**Jioji Konrote, Minister for Employment, Industrial Relations and Productivity of Fiji**

“On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the victory, we commemorate today the heroic and indomitable Chinese people, fighting bloody battles and making tremendous sacrifices, defeating invaders and safeguarding China’s independence and national pride. As we commemorate the victory of this conflict, let us remember history and learn from the mistakes of our past...Today, as a peace-loving country, China has placed national security firmly in the hands of its own citizens, and has adopted a realistic and pragmatic defense strategy to protect its national integrity and security and at the same time meet its obligations as a permanent member of the UN Security Council in maintaining and preserving world peace.”



**Nicolás Maduro, President of Venezuela**

Maduro said that he is delighted to visit China and commemorate with the Chinese people the 70th anniversary of the war victory. He said China’s victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is of important historical significance. Venezuela cherishes the comprehensive strategic partnership with China, and is willing to strengthen cooperation with China and to maintain close bilateral coordination and cooperation on int’l affairs.



**Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan**

Nazarbayev said that he is happy to come to China on the first visit after his re-election as the President of Kazakhstan and to attend the commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-fascist War. The Chinese people made great sacrifice and significant contributions to the victory of the anti-fascist war.



**Vladimir Putin, President of Russia**

“The V-Day parade was very grand. I felt that not only Chinese leaders, but also ordinary Chinese, could cherish the memory of the victory in the war against Japanese aggression, as well as the memory of the martyrs who made contributions.....For all humans and all nations who fought against the Nazis and militarism, it is of utmost importance to make everyone aware of their fight. I think it was good China held such a large-scale commemorative event. It lets the people know the meaning of the fight against Fascism and militarism, so that such a tragedy will never happen again.”



**Gerhard Schroeder, former Chancellor of Germany**

“Especially in China, people have suffered from the consequences of the Japanese aggression. The successful resistance put by the Chinese people at great sacrifice was a very important contribution to ending the Second World War... Therefore, I will come to China to express my sympathy to the victims and their descendants, and to pay my respects to the country.”



**U Thein Sein, President of Myanmar**

Myanmar also suffered aggression during WWII and people rose up to fight against invaders, he said, adding his attendance at the Chinese commemoration was to remember history along with China and show the importance of bilateral relations. Myanmar looks forward to deepening cooperation in infrastructure and other fields with China.



**Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa**

Zuma said the V-day parade “not only showcased China’s military capacity, but also China’s commitment to working with the int’l community in the maintenance of peace and security. As a major power, China has consistently used its strength for defending peace and security globally and not for aggression.”

## Voices of scholars

The quotes are listed in alphabetical order of the given names of each scholar.



**Kerry Brown, Director of China Studies Center and Professor of Chinese Politics, University of Sydney**

“Whatever the current geopolitical atmosphere, people throughout the world need to take the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of the ending of the WWII in Asia to appreciate and give thanks for the vast contribution of Chinese to their victory over fascism in 1945. It mattered then, and it continues to matter now. And the world needs to pay its respects.”



**Mart Laanemets, Chairman of the Association of Oriental Studies, Tartu University**

“China was undoubtedly a main force in the World Anti-fascist War against Japan in the Far East battlefield. For much of the outside world, it seems that the United States and the Soviet Union won the war in the East. In fact, without China’s full participation, they could have hardly achieved Japan’s unconditional surrender.”



**Sumantra Maitra, foreign affairs journalist, and research scholar on foreign policy and neo-realism based in London**

“There have been celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the end of the most devastating war in human history thus far, and China, being one of the front line combatants, and one of the countries suffering a staggering human loss, has a right to mark the anniversary. It is foolish to infer this act as a hidden message to the West or Japan.”



**Sajjad Malik, journalist, columnist and researcher based in Pakistan**

“The military parade and other activities are a tribute by the government and the current generation of people to the struggle of those who were part of Chinese resistance against oppression and their contribution to the outcome of the war.”



**Lauri Malksoo, Director of Estonia's Foreign Policy Institute**

“China undoubtedly made a huge sacrifice for WWII and was one of the more notable victims. It experienced a similar fate to that of Eastern European countries in the war, but it has been able to independently regain its power. Undoubtedly, China actively seized the post-war opportunity to gradually become a big power, moving from victim to active participant in international affairs.”



**James DeShaw Rae, Associate Professor in the Department of Government, California State University**

“It (the establishment of a new national holiday and a massive military parade through Beijing) reminds us of the enormous sacrifices made by the Chinese people to stall Japan’s advancement before Western countries rebounded from setbacks in battles with Japan to secure victory.”



**John Ross, Senior Fellow of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China**

“In the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression more than 30 million Chinese people died. This gigantic sacrifice was not in vain. It is solely due to their efforts that their children and grandchildren see the rebirth of China symbolized in the Victory Parade of a country with the world’s most dynamic economy and military forces so strong no country dare attack it.”



**Shen Dingli, Associate Dean of Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, and Director of the Center for American Studies based in Shanghai**

“Remembering the past has nothing to do with sustaining the hatred. Actually remembering the tragic past of the WWII by former enemies together adds to the value of sharing their present consensus of preventing the recurrence of such disasters and protecting international security under the current circumstances. That is how the upcoming Beijing parade has been actively perceived, despite the fact that some Western countries attempted to keep a distance.”



**Dan Steinbock, Research Director of International Business at India China and America Institute (U.S.A.) and Visiting Fellow at Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (China) and the EU Center (Singapore)**

“As China prepares to commemorate WWII Victory Day, it’s time for the West to reassess China’s critical role in the triumph and its own historical amnesia.”



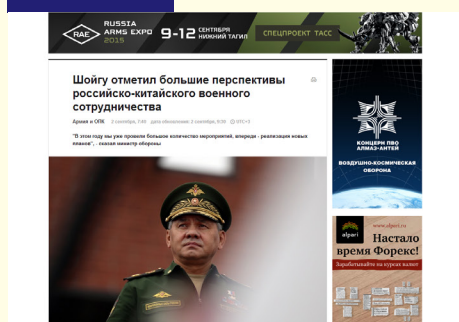
**Yang Bojiang, Deputy Director of the Institute of Japanese Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences based in Beijing**

“In his statement (marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II), Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe thanked countries for accepting Japan’s return to the international community after the war, and thanked the tolerant Chinese who raised 3,000 Japanese orphans. But his words need to be proved by actions.”

## Media reports



“Forgotten ally? China’s unsung role in World War II,” published by CNN on Sept. 1, 2015. Click the photo for full text.



“Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu: China-Russia military co-op has broad future,” published by TACC, Russia, on Sept. 2, 2015. Click the photo for full text.



“China reminds the world of Japanese invasion” published by efe.com, Spain, on Sept. 1, 2015. Click the photo for full text.



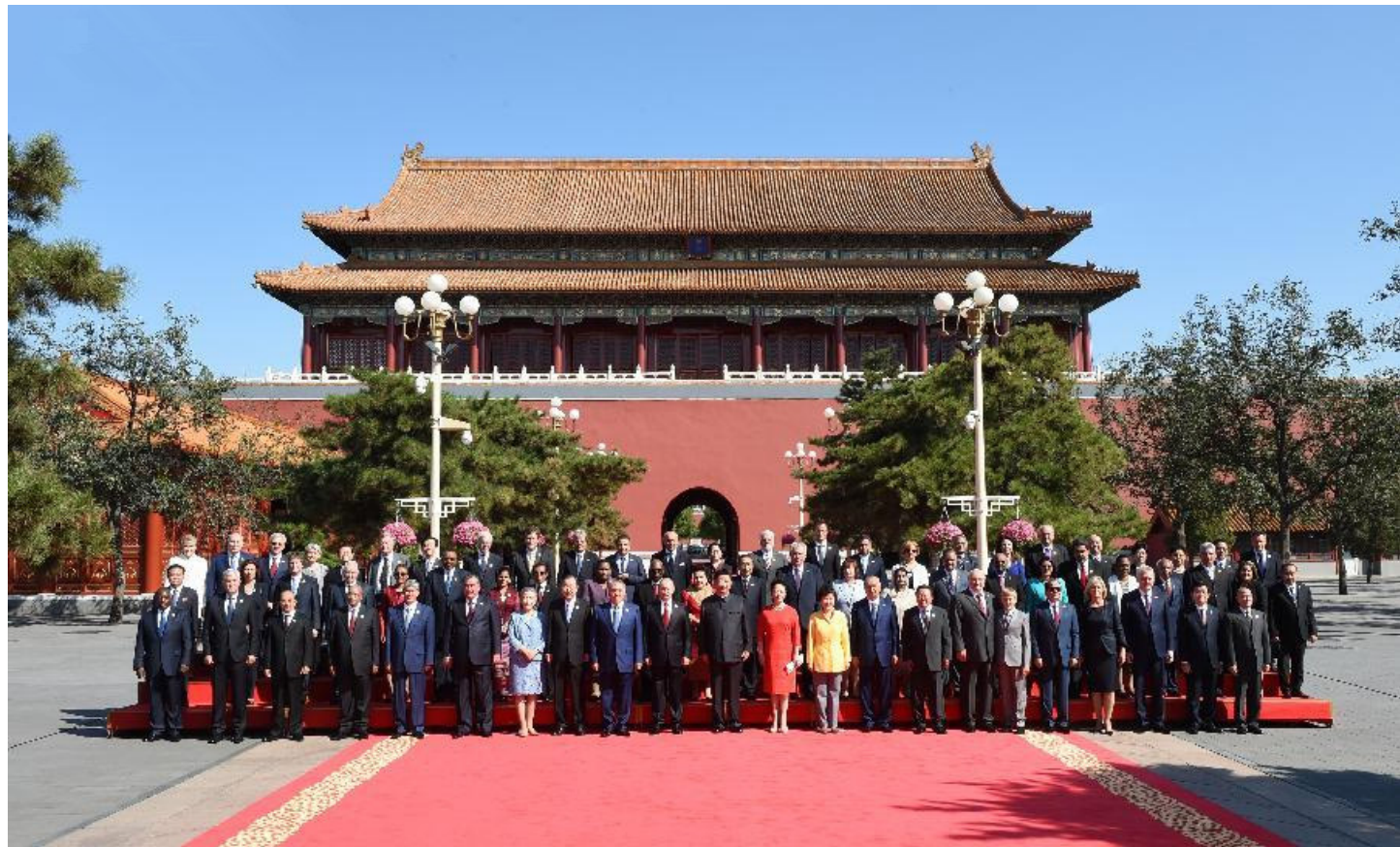
“Egypt agrees anti-Fascist alliance with China” published by elwatannews.com, Egypt, on Sept. 1, 2015. Click the photo for full text.



“China’s V-Day parade: a tribute to history and a call for peace” published by China.org.cn on Sept. 2, 2015. Click the photo for full text.



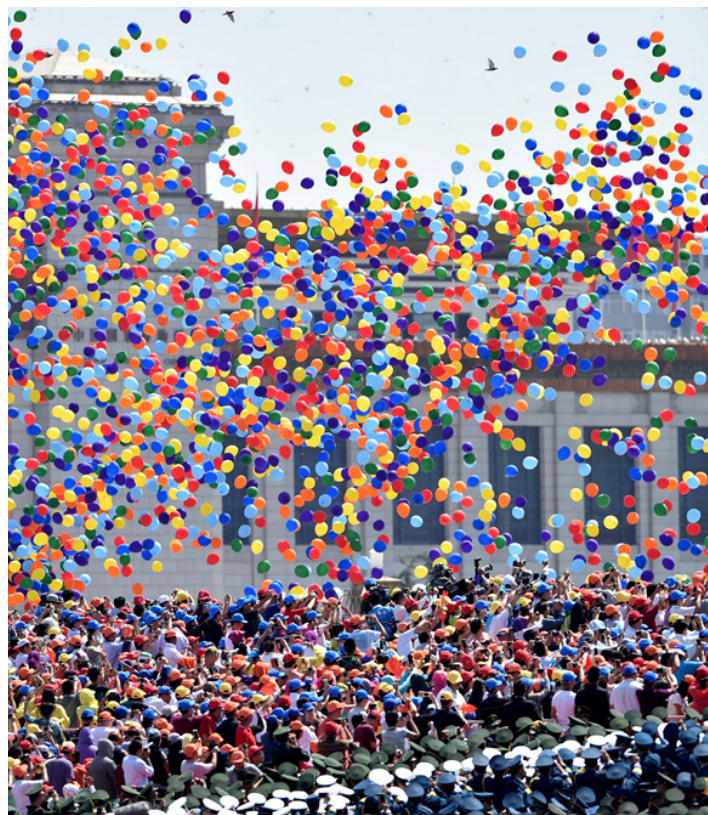
# Snapshots of Beijing's V-day military parade



Chinese President Xi Jinping (11th L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (11th R) pose for a group photo with dignitaries of foreign countries and international organizations and their spouses during the commemoration activities to mark the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, in Beijing, Sept. 3, 2015.



President Xi Jinping reviews Chinese troops in Beijing, Sept. 3, 2015



Balloons raised in Beijing air for V-Day celebration, Sept. 3, 2015



Audience watching the military parade on the Tian'anmen Square, Sept. 3, 2015



Chinese troops in Beijing's V-day parade



Foreign troops in Beijing's V-day parade



# China's contribution to WWII victory



Sparked by Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939, the war would drag on for 6 deadly years until the final Allied defeat of both Nazi Germany and Japan in 1945.



Over 2 billion people, more than 80% of the world's population were affected.

## Military strength



5 million in total



2 million in total

60



285

including 4 aircraft carriers

223



1,600



Battles between China and Japan during World War II:

200,000

## Japanese atrocities



Performing germ experiments on human beings



Using chemical weapons



Killing civilians



Forcing people to become comfort women or sexual slaves



"I could not imagine how the Chinese people resisted the brutal Japanese attack and pinned down large numbers of enemy troops on the vast continent of Asia."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

From 1937 to 1945, the eight-year struggle of the Chinese people to defeat fascist Japan was China's outstanding contribution to the victory in the global anti-Fascist war. Thanks to its indispensable contribution to World War II, China became one of five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

## Facts about China's anti-Japanese war



Duration of the war  
8 years



Casualties  
35 million  
Chinese people  
(killed or injured)



War-related loss  
US\$ 560 billion

China's war against Japanese aggression was the longest and bloodiest among different theaters during World War II.

## China's contribution

The Chinese people's struggle contained over 2/3 of the Japanese land forces, making Japan lack sufficient power in other battle arenas during wartime.

The lack of Japanese military cooperation with Germany and China's cooperation with allies made a great contribution to the final victory in the world anti-fascism war.

Jul. 7  
1937

The Marco Polo Bridge Incident, or the July 7th Incident, broke out, marking the beginning of Japan's full-scale invasion of China.

Dec. 13  
1937



The Japanese military occupied Nanjing and began a 6-week massacre; 300,000 were killed; 20,000 women were raped.

Jun. 22 – Nov.  
1941

Nazi Germany and the Axis forces (except Bulgaria) invade the Soviet Union.

The Chinese people's struggle weakened Japanese militarism, making Japan too weak to attack the Soviet Union and enabling the Soviet Union to devote every effort to the fight against Nazi Germany.

Before the Pacific War broke out, China was the only battlefield in the fight against Japan, where 80% of Japan's land forces were contained.

Dec. 8  
1941



The Pacific War broke out

When the Pacific War broke out, Japan's total military strength was 2.1 million soldiers, of which 1.4 million were sent into China. 67% of the total Japanese military strength was tied up in China.

After the Pacific War broke out, China still was the main arena for fighting Japanese fascists, containing at least 54% of Japan's land forces.

Aug. 14  
1945

Japan agreed in principle to unconditional surrender, Japan formally surrenders, ending World War II.



China's agricultural and mineral supplies

The Soviet Union



US\$450 mln worth

The United States



US\$747.85 mln worth

Britain



£114.8 mln worth

Sources: Xinhua, Wikipedia

Produced by China.org.cn