



## Explore the Research Topics in Researching the Great Rear Area of the Anti-Japanese War in China

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**Supported by** Chongqing Municipal Philosophy and Social Science Major Commissioned Projects in 2013 “A Research on Activities of the Communist Party of China in the Great Rear Area of the the Anti-Japanese War” (2013-ZDZX10).

Received 17 August 2014; accepted 23 October 2014  
 Published online 26 December 2014

### Abstract

In China, the great rear area of the Anti-Japanese War was a real existence. It generally refers to the western region with Chongqing at the center during the the Anti-Japanese War. In recent years, scholars have gradually paid more attention to research the great rear area and have done in-depth research, but there still are some disadvantages which are not conducive to deepening and broadening research on the great rear area. Therefore, it is important to clarify basic problems of the research on the great rear area for researching the history of the the Anti-Japanese War in China and the history of the Second World War. The “research topics” is a basic problem in researching the great rear area. This paper discusses the “research topics” from eight aspects in order to benefit the development of the research on the great rear area.

**Key words:** the great rear area of the Anti-Japanese war; Communist Party; Kuomintang; World Anti-Fascist war

Hong, F. Z. (2014). Explore the Research Topics in Researching the Great Rear Area of the Anti-Japanese War in China. *Cross-Cultural Communication*, 10(6), 217-224. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/ccc/article/view/5611>  
 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/5611>

### INTRODUCTION

The great rear area of the the Anti-Japanese War was a real existence and it generally refers to the western region with Chongqing at the center during the the Anti-Japanese War. (Zhou, 2012) In recent years, scholars have gradually paid more attention to the research on the great rear area, done in-depth research, obtained many achievements in researching its political, economic, cultural, social and other fields, and written more papers and books about the great rear area,<sup>1</sup>but there are a lot of deficiency.

First, the research on the great rear area is lack of an overall historical point of view. There is more research on details, which are not associated with the historical topic of the the Anti-Japanese War, so it is difficult to construct a general understanding of the war.

Second, there are no special research views on the great rear area and some research submerges in grand narratives of the the Anti-Japanese War of ignoring special characteristics of the great rear area.

Third, there are shackles of traditional thinking in the evaluation of many problems of the great rear area and we need new horizons to look at.

Fourth, in the historical education, the use of the history of the great rear area for educating national people should be strengthened based on paying attention to ascertain the truth of history. (Gao, 2013)

The existing deficiency sets the direction for efforts. Therefore, for researching the history of the Anti-Japanese

<sup>1</sup> In researching the great rear area, there are fruitful results in data collection or special research, the former such as “The Documentary Series of Second Cooperation of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party” published by Chongqing Publishing House in 1983 – 1992, and the latter such as Zhou Yong, chief editor: “The Anti-Japanese War History of Chongqing” published by Chongqing Publishing House, 2005 edition; Zhang Kaiyuan, chief editor: “Istorical and Cultural Book Series in the Great Rear Area of Chinese Anti-Japanese War” published by Chongqing Publishing House, 2011 edition. There are thousands of monographs on this topic.

War in China and the history of the Second World War, it is important to clarify basic problems of the research on the great rear area. This paper mainly discusses the “research topics” in researching the great rear area of eight aspects in order to benefit the development of the research on the great rear area.

In general, the “research topics” of researching the great rear area refer to the major issues of politics, economics, culture, society and other fields of the great rear area during the the Anti-Japanese War, including the following.

## **1. THE DIFFICULT COOPERATION PROCESS OF THE KUOMINTANG AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER THE FLAG OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE NATIONAL UNITED FRONT**

The Anti-Japanese War was a war of resistance against Japanese aggression based on the cooperation of the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Communist Party of China (CPC) under the flag of the Anti-Japanese National United Front advocated by the Communist Party. The final victory of the war is the victory of the people of China. This is the core topic in researching the great rear area during the Anti-Japanese War.

After the outbreak of the war of resistance against Japan, the national contradiction between China and Japan became the main contradiction and class conflicts gave way to the national contradiction. “Insist the state and national interests first and vow not to become conquered people” was the consensus of main political forces of China at that time (Hu, 2005), and also was a cornerstone of burying the hatchet and the cooperation of the KMT and the CPC. In the large historical background, the KMT and the CPC timely adjusted their policies, and were gradually from the fierce armed confrontation to cooperation in the the Anti-Japanese War. After the incident of July 7, 1937, the two parties finally implemented the second KMT-CPC cooperation through negotiations. Facing the vital occasion of the nation, the two parties constantly adjusted their policies and finally realized the cooperation between the KMT and the CPC.

The relation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party during the Anti-Japanese War was not completely equivalent to cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, (Yang, 1999) but the cooperation was the central issue in that period of time. The bipartisan unity for fighting with Japanese was the supreme interest of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party during the war and also was the reflection of “Insist the state and national interests first” in the relation between the KMT and the CPC, because maintaining bipartisanship was the victory foundation. During this

period, although there were a series of conflicts between the KMT and the CPC in political, military and other aspects, and even there was the major military conflict in the southern Anhui incident that almost broke the cooperation between the Kuomintang and the CPC, these conflicts had not resulted in the Kuomintang and the Communist Party splitting. It showed that the unity and cooperation between the Kuomintang and the CPC still were the mainstream of this phase of the history. Because of the differences of guiding principles and the goals, the Kuomintang and the Communist Party inevitably walked on the road full of thorns in the cooperation, but these difficulties gave them greater honor for their burying the hatchet and dealing with the national crisis together on the vital occasion of the nation.

The great rear area was the main region for the cooperation between the Kuomintang and the CPC and a lot of significant events had happened in the great rear area during the second KMT-CPC cooperation. The great rear area became the most important political stage during the second KMT-CPC cooperation; therefore, the history of the second KMT-CPC cooperation undoubtedly is the core and key point for research on the great rear area history. In the process of the research, it is important to adhere to the national standpoint, go beyond the inherent thinking, and have in-depth research on the difficult process of the cooperation during the the Anti-Japanese War. We should take the South Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the great rear area as the center to research on the model of cooperation and the second KMT-CPC cooperation mechanism for discovering the truth of the second KMT-CPC cooperation history, Systematically demonstrate major results of the second KMT-CPC cooperation and its significance for the great victory in the war of resistance against Japan, the nation moving towards the revitalization and the development of cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, and research on the profound and lasting influence of the international background of the world anti-fascist war over the cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party and even the historical destinies of the Communist Party and the Kuomintang.

In-depth research on the difficult process of the cooperation, the scientific view and correct understanding of the second KMT-CPC cooperation history, achievements, effects and experience have important historical and realistic significance. Through discovering the truth of the history, we will have better understanding of the mainstream of this historical period, correct understanding of the important position of the great rear area during the war of resistance against Japan, and correct understanding of great contributions and the position of the war of resistance against Japan in the anti-fascist war of the world. On the realistic significance, the research on this period of history is helpful to learn

from the historical experience, cooperation is beneficial to the country, separation will hurt the national strength”, settle differences between the parties, increase mutual trust, solve problems left over by history, and correct wrong understanding of the history for the realization of peaceful reunification of the motherland, so enhance the conscientiousness for developing the relation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party and the cross-strait relation in the new era; the research on this period of history is helpful to actively explore new content, new forms and new mechanism between cross-strait relations and between the two parties in the new situation; the research will help to deepen research on China modern history, history of the Anti-Japanese War, the great rejuvenation history of China, the relation history of KMT-CPC, and history of democratic parties, and further limit “Taiwan independence” by using relevant theories for promoting the reunification of the motherland.

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## **2. THE RULING KUOMINTANG PARTY AND ITS GOVERNMENT IN CHINA**

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At that time, the Kuomintang of China was the ruling party in China and it was recognized by the world. Without its participation, the Anti-Japanese National United Front was difficult to be established and the Anti-Japanese War might be difficult to motivate the whole nation. The great rear area was the region directly ruled by the Kuomintang government in the period of the Anti-Japanese War, so making the KMT and its government as the main research topic is a key point.

We should adhere to the ideological line of seeking truth from facts when we research on the Kuomintang and its government in the great rear area. We should break through the bondage of traditional thinking based on discovering the truth of history. In traditional thinking, the Kuomintang government in the period of the Anti-Japanese War was still a government with corruption, compromise, and surrender and was a symbol of backwardness and the force of the dark. The victory of the Anti-Japanese War was achieved under the leadership of the government which was compromised, not firm, ready to surrender. (Chen & Cao, 2012) This understanding can not explain the historical facts that China was able to maintain a long-term war and win when it was facing a strong enemy. The key sign of the success of Anti-Japanese National United Front advocated by the CPC was to let the KMT join the front. If we insist that the Anti-Japanese National United Front is successful and deny the ruling KMT government at the same time, we will form a logical paradox: the corrupt, backward, compromise, and surrender government had led the anti-Japanese national militaries and civilians winning a great, just and historical victory in the war. This conclusion is unable to let the international community to correctly

understand the period of the war of resistance against Japan, and also can not convince ourselves, at the same time, many major historical events occurring in the eight years of a comprehensive the Anti-Japanese War can not be explained reasonably. Therefore, we should not only fully affirm the important role of the Communist Party in the war of resistance against Japan, but also seek truth from facts and correctly evaluate the Kuomintang and its government’s participation in the front and its contributions to the war of resistance against Japan. No matter from the angle of restoring historical truth, or from the perspective of summing up the historical experience, it is necessary to use new thinking and ideas to strengthen the research on the Kuomintang and its government. During the Kuomintang and its government ruling period, there were perplexing international and domestic situations and the government’s domestic and foreign policies were complex and changeable with domestic and international situations that undoubtedly increase the difficulty of understanding of the Kuomintang and its government. The traditional view of Kuomintang’s “passive resistance against Japan, active anti Communist party” does not reflect all actions of Kuomintang and its government in this period. Researchers should more widely collect historical data, work hard in historical truth research, and more carefully put forward argument with concrete analysis of concrete problems and the so-called “bold hypothesis, careful verification”.

In recent years, the research on the Kuomintang and its government in the great rear area has made great progress but also needs to deepen in many aspects. Research on the Kuomintang and the national government ruling in the great rear area is to restore the panorama of the wartime government, is an important part to promote the overall research of the great rear area, and also is an important topic in promoting in-depth research of the the Anti-Japanese War of China.

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## **3. THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S HISTORICAL ROLE IN THE GREAT REAR AREA OF THE THE ANTI-JAPANESE WAR**

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The Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China were the two major political parties which had impacted Chinese modern historical process. In addition to the Kuomintang, the Communist Party was the only party which had a stronger army during the war of resistance against Japan. The historical positions of the Communist Party of China in the war of resistance against Japan and in the great rear area are two concepts which have some similarities and differences. On connotation and denotation, the historical position of the Communist Party of China in the war of resistance against Japan should

include its historical position in the great rear area, but the form of expression of its specific role in the great rear area had its particularity. The great rear area mainly refers to the western region ruled by the Kuomintang with Chongqing as the center in the comprehensive the Anti-Japanese War. According to the agreement reached between the two sides, in the great rear area, the Communist Party's activities were subject to restrictions and the activities mainly were the political activities. The Communist Party combined the public activities and secret activities in the great rear area and both parties understood from their hearts what the matter was but did not choose to say so in public. Therefore, in researching on the great rear area, some researchers have tended to focus on the role of the Kuomintang and its government position, even only research the KMT and its government. Some researchers have tended to focus on the Anti-Japanese base areas behind the enemy and the CPC controlling regions when they research on the historical position and role of the Communist Party, quite ignoring the historical position and role of the Communist Party in the great rear area. In fact, as an advocate and promoter of the Anti-Japanese National United Front, the Communist Party of China played an important role in the political, economy, cultural, military, diplomatic and other aspects in the great rear area.

In the politics, the CPC upheld and consolidate the Anti-Japanese National United Front, to maintain the cooperation and win over the middle forces. Fighting to the end of the war not only depended on the battlefields, but also relied on winning in the political arena. (Zhou, 2005) The Communist Party focused on winning in the political arena in the great rear area. During the the Anti-Japanese War, it took at least two conditions for winning the war: one was sufficient to motivate the people to let them be organized and armed; another was that the right policy and measures for the victory should be clearly explained. (Jin, 1995) The Communist Party of China was the important force to realize these conditions. In this regard, the Communist Party of China was mainly to work through the South Bureau and its united front group and played an important role.

In the economy, the Communist Party of China vigorously conducted propaganda about the financial policy of the Anti-Japanese democratic base, promoted the United Front work in the business sector, collected economic data of the great rear area through the internal economic group of the South Bureau. Although the economic work of South Bureau mainly was to sincerely communicate with national industrial and commercial circles for encouraging, guiding and helping them and mainly used the force of personality to call on fighting with Japanese, but these work had the "moisten things silently" effect. The majority of businessmen not only insisted to put national interests first, but also gave

financial support to the war, which further consolidated the foundation of the Anti-Japanese National United Front. It was a special contribution which the Communist Party of China made in the economy of the great rear area.

In the military affairs, there were no violent battle scenes in the great rear area, but the Communist Party had done a lot of work for communication between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party and between the two military forces through the South Bureau, the military group of the South Bureau and the open office of the Eight Route Army in Chongqing.

In the Culture, the South Bureau of the Communist Party established the culture work committee to lead the cultural movement in the great rear area. By the third division of political department of the national government military commission and so on, these public platform, the culture work committee united and affected a large number of cultural groups and celebrities who produced many excellent cultural products. The unprecedented scale, profound and lasting impact cultural progress movements were conducted in Chongqing, Kunming, Guilin, Chengdu and other cultural centers. These movements enhanced triumphalism of the national people in the Anti-Japanese War, made "resistance, unity, democracy" as the flag to let Anti-Japanese and cultural progress become the mainstream culture, had great contributions to the inheritance and development of national culture, and also played an important role in Chongqing becoming the culture center of the great rear area.

In the diplomacy, the CPC opened up a new situation in the foreign affairs in the great rear area. With Chongqing became the international contact center in China, the Communist Party put forward the guideline of "propaganda, winning over the people", extensively contacted with diplomatic officials of various countries and foreign friends in the great rear area. Especially in Chongqing, the Communist Party produced propaganda about the Communist Party's war policy for the international community to understand and support the Communist Party. Since the Communist Party's propaganda worked well in foreign affairs, the international community increased attention to the Communist Party and eventually US military observation groups went to Yanan. The CPC representative Dong Biwu as a formal member of Chinese delegation also attended the charter conference of the United Nations held in San Francisco, US. These were the Communist Party's special contributions to Chinese diplomacy during the the Anti-Japanese War.

During the Anti-Japanese War, the nation had a great spirit for the resistance, which included the Communist Party's dedication spirit of Yanan and Hongyan. The former appeared in the Anti-Japanese base; the latter appeared in the great rear area. The spirit is a precious

spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation and the Communist Party of China.

The key point of the research on the role of the CPC in the great rear area is to research how the Communist Party maintained and developed the Anti-Japanese National United Front which made contributions to fully mobilizing the people, uniting the people, and winning the final victory in the war. At the same time, because the CPC had done a lot of secret work in the great rear area and the relevant historical materials were not preserved easy, there are many little-known historical facts need to be researched, such as the South Bureau, although there are many current research works on the South Bureau, still need to continually do in-depth research on research direction, theoretical frameworks, the original data etc..

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#### **4. THE HISTORY OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE NATIONAL UNITED FRONT**

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The Anti-Japanese National United Front lasted throughout the whole war of resistance against Japan. It is the key point to research and understand the particularity of the war of resistance against Japan. As the advocate, practitioner, promoter and maintainer of the Anti-Japanese National United Front, the Communist Party of China had developed guidelines and policies which accorded with the fundamental interests of the whole nation. The Anti-Japanese National United Front was the most important political basis for uniting the national people and the decisive factor in the victory of the Anti-Japanese War. (Zhou, 2005) The great rear area was the main area where the Anti-Japanese National United Front was implemented. The implementation of the Anti-Japanese National United Front was an important guarantee for the great rear area becoming "the great rear area". Therefore, the Anti-Japanese National United Front is the theme in the great rear area research.

The more current research on the Anti-Japanese National United Front is limited in the perspective of the history and the role of the Communist Party. Therefore, researchers must research various main political forces at that time when their research on the Anti-Japanese National United Front. In the period of the Anti-Japanese War, not only the Communist Party needed the National United Front against Japan, but also the Kuomintang needed it. As a ruling party, if the Kuomintang was unable to effectively unite the domestic various political forces, it was absolutely unthinkable to defeat the powerful Japanese invader. Therefore the Kuomintang also wanted to "unite the whole national strength and collect all ideas and thoughts of the nation for better determining and implementing national policies." (Rong, 1985, p.486), The middle parties also needed to participate in the political life of the nation. So, the Anti-Japanese National United Front emerged as the times required. Therefore,

when researchers in research on the Anti-Japanese National United Front, they not only need to research the role and position of the CPC in the Anti-Japanese National United Front, but also research the role and position of the Kuomintang and the middle parties.

The Anti-Japanese National United Front was a flag which led the people of China to the victory during the Anti-Japanese War; at the same time, the front was also a changing dynamic process. In the different stages of the Anti-Japanese War, with the change of international and domestic situations, the content and form of the Anti-Japanese National United Front were changing, the Communist Party of China was changing, the Kuomintang was changing and the middle parties was also changing. Therefore, the Anti-Japanese National United Front itself was a changing evolutionary process. We need to observe and analyze it with a dynamic perspective.

Today, when we research the Anti-Japanese National United Front, should adhere to the principle of "the state and national interests first", pay less attention to the entanglements of partisanship, research the Anti-Japanese National United Front as a whole, especially research the occurrence and development history of the Anti-Japanese National United Front and research the mechanism and methods of forming the United Front. Even you are familiar with the Anti-Japanese National United Front's theory, practice and practical significance, you can also make a further discussion from a new position or a new angle of view for better learning from the valuable historical experience, carrying forward the great national spirit with patriotism as the core, uniting the people, strengthening patriotic united front work in the new period, and promoting a peaceful reunification of the country.

In short, in-depth research of the Anti-Japanese National United Front helps to summarize the relation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party during the Anti-Japanese War, helps to reveal the process and the overall trend of modern China political development, and can also get an important reference for the socialist political development with Chinese characteristics today.

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#### **5. THE JAPANESE AGGRESSION CAUSED A HUGE DISASTER**

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The Japanese invasion caused a huge disaster to China. "During Japanese overall invasion of China (1937-1945), there were more than 930 cities occupied by Japan in China." (The Information Office of the State Council, 1991) "According to incomplete statistics, the Japanese invaders caused 35,000,000 Chinese casualties." "By the Exchange Ratio in 1937, the Japanese invaders caused direct economic losses of \$100,000,000,000, and the indirect economic losses of \$500,000,000,000. The Japanese invaders to Chinese people committed crimes,

which became the most brutal and cruel events in the history. (Jiang, 1995) If the year 1931 was used at the beginning of the war of resistance against Japan, the losses would be more serious. In the losses, there were both direct casualties and damage, and there also were indirect casualties and losses; there were both direct physical harm and indirect mental harm to the civilians and militaries of China; there were both the tangible property damage and other intangible losses.

Through exposing Japan's war atrocities, people can determine the nature of the war of Japanese aggression against China. Therefore, it has been an important for the research of the Anti-Japanese War. Important progress has been made in the field. However, most of these studies reflect the huge losses of the occupied areas and the anti-Japanese base areas behind enemy lines, such as the Nanjing Massacre, germ warfare, chemical warfare, economic plunder and other disasters, and pay less attention to the disasters caused by the Japanese invasion in the great rear area.

Therefore, the research on the disasters caused by the Japanese invasion in the great rear area should not only focus on the bombing of Chongqing and so on which caused material damage of soldiers and civilians in Chongqing, but also research the Japanese invasion caused mental harm to the people in the great rear area. In recent years, the Japanese militarists deny the Japanese war crimes and the aggressive nature of Japan's wars against Asian countries. Therefore, the research should not only pay attention to the war disasters themselves, but also carry out theoretical analysis on the causes of the disasters, so that we can achieve the goals of exposing Japanese crimes, comforting the victims, alerting the world, and maintaining peace.

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## 6. THE RELATION BETWEEN THE THE ANTI-JAPANESE WAR IN CHINA AND THE WORLD ANTI-FASCIST WAR

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Correct understanding of the relation between the Anti-Japanese War in China and the world anti-fascist war is the premise and guarantee of correctly evaluating contributions of the Anti-Japanese War in China to the world anti-fascist war and also is the premise and guarantee of correctly evaluating the position of the the Anti-Japanese War in the world anti-fascist war.

The Anti-Japanese War began after the incident on September 18, 1931, and the incident was a prelude to the Second World War. From the start, the Sino-Japanese war was not only the war between China and Japan. "The Anti-Japanese War in China is a world war" ( Department of Law of Peking University, 1960, pp.59-60), Mao Zedong's brilliant exposition showed the war had an international nature. The history proved that Mao Zedong's exposition was objectivity. Chinese the Anti-Japanese War began in

1931, and China was the nation which fired the first shot in the world Anti-Fascist War. China had adhered to fight with Japan for 14 years. Chinese battlefields were not only the organic part of the world anti-Fascist battlefields, but also were the main battlefields of the world anti-Fascist war in the East. The wartime allies highly valued major contributions made by China to the world anti-Fascist war. Franklin Roosevelt once pointed out:

without China, if China goes under, how many divisions of Japanese troops do you think will be freed to do what? Take Australia, take India and it's as ripe as plum for the picking. Move straight on to the Middle East. What's wrong with a giant pincer movement by the Japanese and the Nazis, meeting somewhere in the Near East, cutting the Russians off completely, slicing off Egypt, slashing all communications lines through the Mediterranean? (Roosevelt, 1947, p.49)

Churchill, Stalin and other Allies leaders also highly valued major contributions made by China.

However, if we have in-depth examined the evaluations made by the mainstream of the Western society since the war started, we will find that we have a wishful thinking. There is a larger difference between the evaluations made by the mainstream scholars of the United States, Russia (including the former Soviet Union), the United Kingdom, etc. and the wartime leaders, namely the wartime leaders had made higher evaluations for the Anti-Japanese War in China than the western academic mainstream. Influenced by the European center theory, post-war domestic political direction, international situations after the founding of the PRC (People's Republic of China) and other factors, the historical position and contributions of Chinese the Anti-Japanese War have not gotten enough respect and recognition. It highlights the urgency and importance of the research on the relation of Chinese the Anti-Japanese War and the world Anti-Fascist War.

The relation between the war in China and the world Anti-Fascist War was complex. The world Anti-Fascist War related to many countries and regions had unprecedented influence on China in modern times. Clarifying the complex relation is the premise and the foundation of a correct understanding of the relation between the the Anti-Japanese War and the world Anti-Fascist War.

During the the Anti-Japanese War, Chongqing was the wartime capital of China. It was the location of Chinese government which was widely recognized in the world. It also was the center of wartime diplomacy in China. In 1941, Chongqing became the battlefield command of the world anti-Fascist war in the East after the outbreak of the Pacific War. Many important decisions that affected China and even the world were made in Chongqing during the the Anti-Japanese War. Research on the wartime diplomacy needs to research the great rear area. Research on the relation between China and the world Anti-Fascist War also needs to research the great rear area.

From the beginning of the Anti-Japanese War, the relation between the Anti-Japanese War and the world Anti-Fascist War caught the world's attention. The relation has become the focus of academic research since the beginning of implementing the reform and open policy in China. However, the foreign parties' literature has not been used enough in the previous studies. Some major historical issues are often expounded by Chinese materials, which may be biased and not enough. Therefore, the current researchers should especially use the abundant archives and documents of the West and research the relation between the Anti-Japanese War and the world Anti-Fascist War world from a global perspective to obtain objective conclusions which accord with the truth.

## **7. THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHANGE OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GREAT REAR AREA DURING THE WAR OF RESISTANCE AGAINST JAPAN**

In the war of resistance against Japan, the Japanese militarists brought disaster to China, but Chinese soldiers and civilians also rose up against the harsh Japanese invaders. Then the war brought great changes and profound and lasting influence in political, economic, cultural, social, life and other fields in China.

In the politics, the Communist Party and the Kuomintang cooperation had won the great victory in the war of resistance against Japan. The victory marked a great turning point for the Chinese national revitalization and had profound and lasting influence on the development of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party; after the war of resistance against Japan, the bipartisan political opposition split the country and caused serious damage to the national rejuvenation and interests. We need to summarize the experience carefully. The rise of the middle forces deeply influenced Chinese politics and had a significant impact on the political trend in postwar China. An in-depth and detailed analysis on the middle forces from closing the Kuomintang to advocat the Communist Party should be carried out. During the the Anti-Japanese War, the Kuomintang and the Communist Party had made major policy adjustments and the new characteristics had appeared in the Republic of China history, such as the National Political Council, a new county system and so on. These measures and activities were new things in the Kuomintang ruling regions. The Communist Party timely adjusted policies, especially made achievements in the United Front, and built a solid foundation of

the political party system, the Political Consultative system and the National People's Congress system for its ruling in the future. A large number of coastal enterprises migrating to the inland changed the wartime productive layout, and especially brought great changes to Chongqing because it was the center of the great rear area. Then these changes affected the development of Chongqing city and even produced profound and lasting effect on the Chongqing city's position after the founding of the PRC. For maintaining the Anti-Japanese War, the Kuomintang's government led investigations and the local development of the southwest and northwest of China, which has provided useful experience for the Western development today. The educational institutions migrating to the great rear area and the flow of population caused by the war improved the education and enhanced humanistic quality in the great rear area; the people of all ethnic groups had mutual understanding and mutual integration in the flow of population, which promoted national unity; various social customs exchanged that led to the rich and colorful folk culture; various cultural elites gathered in Chongqing, Kunming, Guilin, Chengdu and other rear area cities, produced a large number of outstanding cultural works, and formed a peak of the Chinese cultural development in modern times. Because the Anti-Japanese War was an unprecedented situation with great changes in modern China, research on the great changes of political, economic, cultural and other aspects will help to have full understanding of profound changes of modern China in this special period.

## **8. THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE, ALL ETHNIC GROUPS, DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, ANTI-JAPANESE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WAR OF RESISTANCE AGAINST JAPAN**

Historical researchers need to research the mainstream, and also need to research the tributaries. "When we research the Chinese political history during the Anti-Japanese War, if think that only researching the Kuomintang and the Communist Party is enough and pay no attention to other parties and other social forces, then it will be like that only see the trunk but the branches and only see the mainstream but the tributaries "It is one-sided."<sup>2</sup> The present research focuses on parties, factions, associations and people who had large influence and there are abundant materials about them. It is the relative lack of the research on groups with less historical materials related to them, behind the scenes or at the grassroots.

<sup>2</sup> Zhang Haipeng's preface for Wen liming's book. ( Ed.). (2004). *The third force and Chinese politics during the Anti-Japanese War* (p.2). Shanghai Bookstore.

The Anti-Japanese War was a national war, every anti-Japanese person made his contribution to the final victory in the Anti-Japanese War. The Kuomintang, the Communist Party, other political groups and parties that played actively in the political arena and ordinary people all made their contributions to the final victory. In front, soldiers fought the bloody war on battlefields and in rear areas, the people lived frugally to support the fighting. The Chinese nation was capable of evoking praises and tears in fighting with Japanese, and all walks of life, all ethnic groups, the democratic parties, the Anti-Japanese organizations and social people from all walks of life in the great rear area had made their own contributions to the final victory of the Anti-Japanese War. They made an indelible mark in the modern history of China. Researchers who research the great rear area should take those once ignored groups into the scope of the research, which is significant for expanding the breadth and depth of research in the great rear area, the cohesion of national consensus, refining the national spirit, and enriching and deepening the connotation of patriotism.

Correct historical experiences must be based on the guidance of scientific theory and the basic facts. Without an objective, thorough and systematic research, it is impossible that we seek truth from facts and understand various historical contradictions and conflicts which have had long-term impact on the relation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. It is not conducive to academic research and correctly summing up historical experience just to meet the political conclusions already set up. We must adhere to the Marx doctrine as guidance, adhere to academic standards, and make great efforts to restore the truth of history. We should be based on the existing academic research results, be suitable to the new situation, broaden new fields, find new historical materials, establish new systems, put forward new thoughts, and make great progress in the historical research, so that deepening the understanding of China modern history, the history of the Anti-Japanese War, the rejuvenation history of the Chinese nation, the history of relation between the Kuomintang and the Communist party and the democratic parties history of China.

More importantly, in historical and cultural research of the great rear area, especially the second KMT-CPC cooperation history research, the basic premise of these researches is “a China” principle. Therefore, the research of the history is to prove “a China” principle and is to stick to the “one China” principle. Scientific and rational research on the history of the Anti-Japanese War in the great rear area is to limit “Taiwan independence” from the theoretical and legal aspects, which is a real contribution that scholars from both sides of the Taiwan

Straits should make, for promoting the reunification of the motherland.

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