

# Global China in the Second World War

(Hist 32352)



(Japanese troops on North Sichuan Road, Shanghai, August 1937)

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Zoom consultation: Monday 12 June, 2-3pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9501375212?pwd=tZO21cZk1PIH3SJMrNkUIUeaTNhX5n.1>

Meeting ID: 950 137 5212, Password: A6C0M8

Feel free to email with any questions or to arrange a chat at a separate time

China's resistance to Japanese invasion (1937-45) was the longest-lasting conflict of what became the Second World War. It also brought an appalling human cost, with a death toll of at least 20 million people. But historians have often treated China's war of resistance as a separate conflict from the emerging global war. In this new module, we take a different approach by thinking about China's international connections, including its links with the western allies, the Soviet Union, and still-colonised nations such as India, Burma, and Vietnam. We also examine connections between Chinese collaborators and the Japanese Empire. The module includes discussion of politics and diplomacy, but we also explore the social and cultural histories of China's global war. These include the individual experiences of the men and women of all backgrounds whose work connected wartime China to the rest of the world: soldiers, road builders, truck drivers, journalists, and pilots.

**Assessment:** Source analysis or blogpost (1500 words, 35%)

Research essay (3000 words, 65%)

### Indicative seminar topics:

- Japanese imperialism in China
- 1938: Wuhan at the Centre of the World
- Communist Connections: Soviet aid and Chinese Communism
- Colonial Connections: Britain and Burma, France and Vietnam
- Anti-Colonial Connections: Chiang Kai-shek, Indian National Congress, and X Force
- Fascist Connections: Chinese collaborators in the Japanese Empire
- Smuggling and Stockpiling: international consumer culture
- The 'Flying Tigers' and the Himalayan 'Hump'
- Black Americans and indigenous peoples on the Ledo Road
- The East Asian war in global memory



(US and Chinese soldier on the Ledo Road, February 1945, Office of War Information Photo 535573)

### Indicative reading:

- Zach Fredman, *The Tormented Alliance: American Servicemen and the Occupation of China, 1941-1949* (2022).
- Vivienne Xiangwei Guo, *Women and Politics in Wartime China: Networking Across Geopolitical Borders* (2018).
- Hsiao-Ting Lin, *Tibet and Nationalist China's Frontier: Intrigues and Ethnopolitics, 1928-1949* (2006).
- Rana Mitter, *China's War with Japan: The Struggle for Survival* (2013).
- Hans Van de Ven, *China at War: Triumph and Tragedy in the Emergence of the New China, 1937-1952* (2017).
- Hans Van de Ven, Diana Lary, and Stephen MacKinnon (eds.), *Negotiating China's Destiny in World War II* (2014).
- Cao Yin, *Chinese Sojourners in Wartime Raj 1942-1945* (2022).