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China, 1942.



CHINA  
The third lecture in the series on "Where Brave Men Are  
Fighting" and "What Brave Men Are Fighting For"

By  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At  
The Temple

On  
Sunday morning, October 25, 1942



For many of us China is somehow a legendary land, a land of pagodas. Yet this war began in a real sense in China back in 1931. This war will probably not end, at least as far as the Pacific is concerned, until China is enabled to render her maximum military aid to the united nations. The second World War did not begin in Poland in 1939. The first phase of it began in Manchuria in 1931. The final phase began just out of Peiking, the ancient capital of China.....

The Japs struck at China in 1931. Japan struck at the United States in 1941. During those ten years the whole international order crumbled, was destroyed. The League of Nations failed to act in the case of Chinese aggression in Manchuria. It lost prestige. It lost authority. It failed to serve notice, particularly to smaller nations that they could count on collective security, upon being protected by the League of Nations in the case of aggression. So they proceeded to arm themselves as best as they could. The whole program of international disarmament collapsed. The unchecked Japanese aggression in Manchuria inspired Mussolini to his act of aggression in Ethiopia where the League made an attempt to intervene, but failed again. The success of Italy to defy the League inspired Hitler to do the same. He took his cue from these two precedents. He realized that he could carry on his acts of aggression with impunity.... Started with the dismemberment of Checkoslovakia, followed by Poland and the Second World War.

It is very strange when you come to think of it, that an act of aggression in a remote corner of the world, distant China, in an Asiatic Province, far removed from us, that that act of aggression would lead to a series of serious succession of events to a world war which would involve you and me and all the nations of the world. But so ~~gxe~~ closely intertwined are nations today.



No isolation is possible. The slightest disturbance in any part of the world disturbs the balance of power, and the whole edifice crumbles to the ground. That was true in the last World War. A sharp fire of a gun in far, out of the way Sarajevo was heard round the world and ushered in the First World War. And this time in Manchukuo.

The leaders of China warned the nations of the world that Japan's aggression in China would lead to a world conflict, a world conflagration, but the nations of the world failed to believe what they heard, failed to pay heed. Considerably long before Pearl Harbor, before Japan laid open its plan of world domination, Madame H. H. Kung, sister of the wife of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek spoke over the radio to the American people. She said almost prophetically:

"My friends, you who are thousands of miles away from China, may ask how this Japanese aggression affects your country. Let me tell you, it affects you in a most vital and dangerous way.

"First of all, Japan's policy of war and aggression aims not only at the conquest and domination of China; it aims also at the exclusion of all foreign interests from any market where the Japanese sword holds sway, and at the eventual expulsion of America and Europe from their territorial possessions in the Pacific and Asia. The experience of foreign interests in Korea and Formosa has given stern warning in the past; in Manchuria and Jehof they have already been kicked out through the 'Open Door'; and a foretaste of what they may expect in other Chinese territory under Japanese domination has been clearly indicated in North China today. Driven by unbounded lust for power and supremacy and by frantic belief in a "divine mission," Japan is ruthlessly seeking the domination of China as a steppingstone to establishing her hegemony in the Pacific and finally world domination. Her former Premier, Tanaka, stated in



his well-known memorial to the Emperor that to conquer the world Japan must first conquer China. Read some of the books written by Japan's responsible leaders today, such as "The Pacific Crisis," "The Next World War" and "An American-Japanese War Is Inevitable," and you can readily see for yourselves how they openly advocate war against your own country, preparing for that emergency, and aspiring to grab and smash the Philippines, Hawaii, and your western coast, once they succeed in commanding China's vast natural resources."

We paid no heed to this warning and to similar warnings. Now we find ourselves in this world war which will not end, certainly not in the Pacific waters until China is enabled by weapons given to her to render her able to give maximum military aid to the allied support. It is clear, and so all military analysts are agreed, that the war on the Pacific can not be won unless there is a powerful coalition between the United States, China and the Soviet Union in the Pacific.

Military analysts like Max Werner in his recent book, "The Great Offensive", point out that Japan is strong in the Pacific and the reason for her success has not been her naval supremacy. The Japanese Navy has so far avoided any major engagement. Japan has conquered on the sea the greatest colonial empire of the world, although no Japanese battleship fired a single shell on an American battleship. The Allied defeat in the Pacific came without naval defeat and the Japanese victories were attained without naval victory. Japan did not visualize the war in the Pacific as primarily a sea war as did the United Nations, but as a land, sea and air war in which the army, navy and air force cooperated closely to conquer one objective after another. It is clear that Japan will be defeated only through a combined sea, air and land war. Japan is vulnerable in the North where Soviet and American bases are near to Tokyo. She is vulnerable on the side of the Asiatic continent, on the side of China.



Now China had for five years tied down a great Japanese army. In China Japan did not have the same kind of success. They were far less successful than in their blitz campaign in the Pacific against the United States, the Dutch and the English. The Chinese, like the Russians, have forced upon Japan a long and costly war of attrition.

Max Werner makes this very true observation: "If China had received Anglo-American support in time, China could have been transformed into a military force able to tie Japan down completely and to make her incapable of attacking in any other direction. Anglo-American aid for China in time would have prevented the Japanese conquest of the Southwestern Pacific. China can offer the anti-Japanese coalition a mass army on the Asiatic continent. For more than three years, from the beginning of 1939 to the spring of 1942, the Chinese ~~arm~~ army showed not only great tenacity, but also tactical skill and amazing adaptability to all weapons of modern warfare. Well-equipped and trained, the Chinese soldier would be superior to the Japanese soldier. China furthermore offers the anti-Japanese coalition a theater of war on the Asiatic continent, and it can tie down large Japanese land forces. It is interesting that the leading Japanese military writer, Tota Ishimaru, who called for an attack on Great Britain years ago, regarded the military conquest of China by Japan as an impossibility."

China is thus vital to the victory of the Allied cause. Fortunately we in China a great and gallant Ally of more than four hundred fifty millions of human beings, one-fourth the population of the globe, larger than the United States, Russia, Germany and Italy combined, a people inspired by the love of freedom, led by a great patriot and military leader, a people determined to fight to the end for freedom and to end the shameless exploitation of its country.



Japan's aggression in in the Pacific began a long time ago with China. It was systematic, deliberate and planned. It began nearly a <sup>half</sup>/century ago, in 1894. From that moment to this through a series of aggressions on China, it extended her control and dominatio n over that country. Japan made headway during the Russo-Japanese War. In 1910 it absorbed Korea. During the World War the 21 infamous demands <sup>were</sup>/forced upon China. In 1931 through the invasion of Manchuria by Japan, China was bound by a treaty which Japan and nine other powers forced on her. From that time there followed very quickly one act of aggression after another. In 1932 it was Shanghai. In 1933 the Province of Reho was taken over. For the next few years was an undeclared war between Japan and China and in 1937 the war broke out in full force until today Japan occupies practically one-half of China. A puppet government was set up, many chinese cities were bombed and left in ruins and some fifty million Chinese fled to new homes. China for five long years almost with bare hands and bare breasts have been fighting, holding.

The history of China in the last forty or fifty years has been a very sad one. China was one of the last of the great countries of the world to adjust herself to the modern world -- China which was the first civilized people on earth. China, which is the most ancient people on the earth and the Jewish people are the only two peoples who have so long a record of history and continuity. China was a great people when Europe was practically unknown. It produced great ethics, great <sup>religious</sup>/philosophers five hundred years before Christianity became known and a thousand years before Mohammendanism came on the scene. China produced great art and literature. It discovered printing, paper, gunpowder, the compass. YetChina was perhaps the last of the great nations that adjusted itself to the new machine age, the new scientific age in the last one hundred or one hundred fifty years. And the transition from the



Old World to the new has been extremely difficult for the Chinese people and almost shattering. Their break with the cultural, spiritual and political and social life was seemingly almost sudden and catastrophic. The life of their people was shaken to the foundations. The West brought to China new ideas, scientific ideas with its mechanism and its materialism as well as its economic and political exploitation. China was predominately agricultural. The Chinese people have not been able to adjust themselves in so short a time, to make normal adjustments to these ideas in so short a time. It had to adjust itself to a new machine age and to the tempo and speed of that age. Patriarchal family structure began to disintegrate as Western ideas of individualism and state authority influenced their tradition ties and standards of mankind. Their morals and customs were affected when Western empires sought privileges and concessions in China. They fought over its markets, its resources, and its cheap labor reserves and they contributed to its political decline and dismemberment.

It was only a few weeks ago that Great Britain and the United States surrendered their territorial privileges in China. Yet in spite of all this out of China has been struggling to make adjustments, to preserve its past its own culture and adopt what is valuable in the new. She has been struggling to reintegrate, to reunite, to preserve the national existence of this national culture.

The decline of China began rapidly with the decline of the decadent Ching or Manchu Dynasty which had ruled China since the middle of the 17 Century. The revolution of 1917 put an end to that Dynasty and established a Republic in China. The guiding spirit of the revolution was Dr. Sun-Yat, a man of great vision, a man of wonderful power of personal influence and of prophetic social outlook. He led not merely a political revolution for the independence of China, but a social and economic revolution to improve the conditions of the masses of China. Because in spite of the fact that it was a rich land, a



a country which possessed rich resources and rich mineral deposits, the vast masses of the Chinese lived in abject poverty.

Dr. Sun Yat inspired his people with ideas of political freedom, but gave them three principles to guide them: 1) Government of the people and for the people, 2) a sufficient livelihood for all and 3) freedom from control of foreign nations.

The career of Dr. Sun-Yat<sup>sen</sup> was beset with the greatest of trials and the greatest disappointments like that of all nation builders. The entire history of the last thirty years was shot through with suffering, strife, shot through with war lords, with disastrous Japanese intervention, foreign intrigue not mention famine and floods.

The work of Dr. Sun-Yat sen was carried on by his disciple, Chiang Kai-shek, present leader of Chinese hosts. After the death of Dr. Sun-Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek began a triumphal conquest of China in an effort to unify the country under one central ruler. Aided by Moscow - large communist element arose -- a People's Party -- large leftist element which split the People's Party. While many people of China who believed in the three points of Dr. Sen had believed in peace were not yet ready for Communism. A sharp and bitter struggle set in. In 1935 the government of China was reorganized and the destiny of China lay practically entirely in the hands of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek who was out to unify China. Japan scored one victory after another in China but are losing the war just as in Russia the Nazis have scored one victory after another but have not won. The Chinese followed the same technique of the Russians -- retreat and counter-attack. They forced the enemy to spread their lines ~~of~~ to extend their line of communication and then proceeded to harass, attack and make him pay his price in men, material and economic loss. The Chinese held him bogged down, drained him white.



And today, after five years of war China is said to have an army of five million but China needs arms, weapons with which to fight. Napoleon said a long time ago: "When China moves, she will move the world."

A great friend of China, Rabindraneith Tajore said of China that "it is unconquerable. Her civilization under the dauntless leadership of Marshal Chang Kai-shek is displaying marvellous resources; the desperate loyalty of her peoples, united as never before, is creating a new age for that land."

It is our great hope that out of these vast riots and suffering through which this brave people is now passing, China will emerge a free country after this war and will be able to resume her place as one of the great civilized and civilizing nations in the world, a place which she occupied with such honor and distinction so often during the long and glorious past.

I should like to conclude this talk of mine on China with a message which I received yesterday from the New Chinese Ambassador to Washington, Dr. Wei Tao-ming, which message expresses the noble sentiments which I have endeavored to present to you this morning:

"I deeply appreciate your dedication of service to the defenders of my country.

"More than five years ago, when Japan embarked on her ambitious program for world domination, China stood alone in her path, undaunted and unyielding. We were a peaceful nation, ill-prepared to do battle against a powerful and ruthless enemy. But we were determined in the defense of freedom, knowing that we were also defending the rights of all mankind.

"Today we fight on with renewed courage and good cheer.

"We are beginning a new chapter in our resistance.

"At long last our cause has come to be embraced by all the freedom-loving peoples of the world as their common cause. The United Nations are fully pledged to the defeat of the forces of evil and are resolved to build a better world in



which all peoples, irrespective of race or creed, will be assured unfettered freedom to develop their cultures and to contribute to the advancement of mankind.

"Sincerely yours,

"Wei Tao-ming"

We pray that these fervent hopes of this representative of his great people for a new world and for peace and for a chance for his people to live unmolested will come to pass, and may it come to pass soon!





1) Began W.C. 1931 - Probably not end - Pacific - enabled  
Poland, 1939. First phase - Manduria, 1931 - Final phase -  
Road - I stuck at C - in 1931 - U.S., 1941 - Decade -  
League failed to act. prestige - Disarmament - Mussolini  
Hitler - cue - impunity - Rhinland etc.

2) Strange - remote corner - As province - lead by successors  
our children - Such is close interlocking.  
unintentionally bound up - No isolationism - Delicately poised  
a slight disturbance anywhere - balance of power - Defies  
1914 - Sargers. this time - Manduria.

3) Warned - Madame Kung - sister - Soong (Jinh)

4) World war began in China - Will not end -

War in Pacific, going badly - cannot be now - crash



Madame H. H. Kung

My friends, you who are thousands of miles away from China, may ask how this Japanese aggression affects your country. Let me tell you, it affects you in a most vital and dangerous way.

First of all, Japan's policy of war and aggression aims not only at the conquest and domination of China; it aims also at the exclusion of all foreign interests from any market where the Japanese sword holds sway, and at the eventual expulsion of America and Europe from their territorial possessions in the Pacific and Asia. The experience of foreign interests in Korea and Formosa has given stern warning in the past; in Manchuria and Jehol they have already been kicked out through the 'Open Door'; and a foretaste of what they may expect in other Chinese territory under Japanese domination has been clearly indicated in North China today. Driven by unbounded lust for power and supremacy and by frantic belief in a "divine mission," Japan is ruthlessly seeking the domination of China as a steppingstone to establishing her hegemony in the Pacific and finally world domination. Her former Premier, Tanaka, stated in his well-known memorial to the Emperor that to conquer the world Japan must first conquer China. Read some of the books written by Japan's responsible leaders today, such as "The Pacific Crisis," "The Next World War" and "An American-Japanese War Is Inevitable," and you can readily see for yourselves how they openly advocate war against your own country, preparing for that emergency, and aspiring to grab and smash the Philippines, Hawaii, and your western coast, once they succeed in commanding China's vast natural resources.



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Max Werner

"The Great Offense"



16  
Military analysts have pointed out that J. strength in Pre +  
reason for ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> successes has not been naval superiority. The  
Japanese Navy has so far avoided major naval engagements. ~~the J. Navy~~  
engaged on the sea the greatest colonial empire in the  
world - altho no J. battleships fired a single shell at an  
am battleship. The Allied defeat in the Pacific came  
without naval defeat, and the J. victories were attained  
without naval victory. J. did not visualize the war in the  
Pacific as primarily a sea war - as did the United  
Nations, but as a land, sea and air war - in which  
the army - navy and air force cooperated closely to con-  
quer one objective after another. And J. will be  
defeated only thru a combined sea, air and land  
war. J. is vulnerable in the North, where the Soviet  
Union & Amer. bases are near the heart of Japan. She  
is vulnerable on the side, the Asiatic continent - on the  
side of China.

Now China, had for 5 yrs. held down a great J. army.  
In China, the J. had been far less successful than in  
their blitz campaign in the Pacific ag. U.S. - Dutch &  
the Eng. Chinese, with Russians, forced a <sup>early</sup> ~~series~~ of  
attention upon J. (Josh Map Warner, "The Great  
Offensive" (4-2-59) (Josh)

4) China is thus vital to Victory. Fortunately - we  
have in C. a most & gallant ally - a brave people - 450 MY -  
<sup>U.S. + Russia + Japan + Italy</sup>  
1/4 of the earth - inspired with love & freedom, after  
led by a genuine great leader and military <sup>gloriously</sup> ~~bravely~~  
and determined to fight unto the end - for their <sup>freedom</sup> ~~independence~~  
& end of shameful exploitation & domination



- 5/ J's Aggression in Pootung, ~~Japan~~ Mission - began with <sup>13</sup>  
- 1/2 C. ago - Successive spurts - Infamous 21  
demands - In 1931 - Manchuria - 9 Power Treaty  
- A year later - Shanghai  
- 1933 - Jehol (Re-ho) <sup>Ho-ba</sup>  
- next few years - Uddand war - Hopei - Cherhar  
- 1937 - War broke out on full force - invaded  
now occupies vast - 1/2 C.  
Puppet Govt - Nanking - Murder  
- 50% fled to new homes  
- Cities ruined - Fighting

6/ C. which was just avilized - ancient Israel  
Great Rel. Philos - Christianity  
have avilized Printing - Paper - gun powder - Circles  
was lost -



Trans. which is <sup>- a really 7 days 7 1/2 years</sup> ~~Recent~~ <sup>has</sup> been extremely difficult +  
shattering +  
Break with cultural, sp. + pol. past has been sudden  
and catastrophic. Social life shaken to its very foundations  
The West came to China bringing new ideas - Sc. reg. men -  
its mechanism + its materialism - As well as its  
pol. + Econ. exploitation + its ideas of nationalism, racism  
C. was <sup>- Boxer Insurrection - 1900 - anti-foreign</sup> ~~prolonged~~ <sup>approached</sup> It had to adjust itself  
to the machine, the factory, the new tempo,  
Patriarchal Family structure beg. to disintegrate as West.  
Traditions + standards <sup>ideas of individualism and State authority influenced them</sup> ~~integrated~~ - Morals + Customs were seriously affected  
W. empires sought privileges + territories in C.  
Fought over its markets - its resources - its choke  
laine reserves, + contributed to its pol. decline  
+ disarmament.  
It was only a few weeks ago that U.S. 1913  
finally renounced their extra-ter. right in C.  
8/ C. has been struggling valiantly - to adjust - to re-integrate - Conserve  
what is best - Save its Nat. existence  
7/- C's decline began with the break up of the  
unified + decadent Ching a Manchurian D -  
which had ruled C. two unbroken C.  
- Revolution which finally ended it - 1911  
- Its guiding + inspiring genius was Dr. Sun. Yat-  
Sen - Great vision + ideals - Prophetic Social outlook -  
- wonderful power of personal influence  
- Social and Economic Revolution



- Wanted C. not only Free - Independent - but a land  
| economic justice for all - improve econ. position of  
wretched masses - { some of best natural countries in world  
rich in resources + immense deposits
- Inspired his followers - 3 Peoples Principles
- ① Govt. of the people and for the people
  - ② A sufficient livelihood for all
  - ③ Freedom from control of foreign nations.

The present generalissimo of C. Chiang Kai-shek - was  
his disciple - married a sister of Madame Sun-Yat-  
sen - one of the 3 famous Song sisters.

8/. His career, like that of all nation builders, beset with  
parent trials + disappointments.

Entered history of 30 yrs. of C. Republic shot thru  
with civil strife - rival factions + <sup>of War lords +</sup> ~~foreign~~ <sup>German</sup>  
disruptions ~~Japan~~ <sup>intervention</sup> <sup>not to speak of</sup>  
wide-spread banditry - famine + floods.

After death of Dr. Sun - 1925 - Chiang began a  
triumphal march northward - to estab. authority over  
a unified C. - aided by <sup>Dr. Sun - military</sup> <sup>troops</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>large</sup> <sup>com. element</sup>  
in Kuo-min-tang - <sup>Peoples</sup> ~~Peoples~~ <sup>Party</sup> - Danger - Break  
Between and Left Right - Split the Peoples  
Party



- 9/ In 1935 - Gvt. reorganized - Chiang Virtual dictator
- Engulfed in War since 1937 - Unable to carry on
- War has united C. people - solidarity - aroused Nat. Consciousness
- Aroused highest patriotism
- Demonstrated noblest qualities - patient endurance
- Heroic resistance of 1/2 China in hands / invaders
- Ports lost - Burma Road - Millions lost - Privileges

Sack of Nanking - Dec. 12 - 1937

- J. win Victory after V. - but not war
- Hit Nazis in Russia
- Retreat + counter attack - Spread lives
- Heavy price - men - material - econ. cost
- 5 Million - waiting for Armistice + Officers
- Napoleon - "When C. moves, she will move the world"

10/ Rabindranath Tagore . "C. is an invincible Her

civilization under the dauntless leadership of Marshal

Chang Kai-shek is displaying marvellous resources;

the desperate loyalty of her people, united as never before,

is creating a new age for that land"

11/ Ambassador (Joshi).