

# Truth, Not Demonization: China's Vision for Anti-Fascism

Yong

21307140051

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A few hours before Hitler put a bullet through his head, he uttered a final curse: “The seed has been sown that will grow one day.”(Shirer, 1960) He was right—the world still grows in the soil he poisoned. Yet the West has long blamed World War II solely on Hitler and fascism, portraying them as the embodiment of pure evil. But is that fair? Fascism is, in my view, merely the most vicious form of imperialism. Could the West hold an impartial trial of it? No. That is why China should challenge the Western demonization of fascism and promote a just interpretation.

We should value truth above Western narratives that condemn fascism while ignoring their own crimes. The UK and the US opposed Nazi Germany in World War II not out of justice, but out of geopolitical interests and ambitions for global dominance. When the Allied Powers accused the Nazis of starting the war, few remembered Britain’s policy of appeasement, America’s prewar financial support for Germany, or the Soviet Union’s *Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact*. When they condemned the Nazis for slaughtering Jews and Slavs, few remembered that Britain invented the “concentration camp” during the Second Boer War, and that racial segregation persisted in America until 1963. When they denounced the Nazis for violating the *Geneva Convention*, they ignored similar atrocities

committed in Hamburg by Allies—and today, the West continues to support Israel as it commits the same crimes against the Palestinians. The Western narrative of justice rests on selective memory, not truth. In contrast, China emerged from World War II without a single stain: it invaded no country and oppressed no people. This gives China the legitimacy to restore the truth—something the West is not able to do, because it owes the world an impartial judgment.

With this moral legitimacy, China can inspire postcolonial nations to reclaim their voices in global justice. The anti-fascist war was the most righteous war in human history, for it led to the disintegration of imperialism. Four-fifths of humanity around the world no longer had to be treated as merchandise or slaughtered like livestock. Yet imperialism, though dismantled, did not disappear. This is why the ghost of fascism continues to haunt the world, from racial hatred in the Middle East to Japan’s veneration of fascist war criminals. This is also why China must clarify the causes of fascism and judge it through China’s historical framework. This is not only a challenge to Western narratives, but also a reminder to postcolonial nations that this war is far from over.

My opponents might argue that discouraging the demonization of fascism is an attempt to excuse its atrocities. As a Chinese, I hate fascism as much as anyone else, but I believe it was not the only force to blame. From a Marxist perspective, imperialism bears the greater responsibility for causing the two world wars. Just because humanity produced more goods than it could consume, European rulers sent an entire generation of

young people to slaughter one another. World War I ended with the *Treaty of Versailles*, which, as Ferdinand Foch put it, was “an armistice for twenty years.”(Foch, 1919) It was the capitalists—Germany’s Junker aristocracy, Britain’s political elites and Wall Street financiers in the United States—who nurtured Hitler into power. Yet at the Nuremberg Trials, these culprits sacrificed Hitler, hoping to wash away their bloodstains. Can we let them get away with this? Absolutely not.

As Aldous Huxley put it, “That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.”(Huxley, 1956) I am even more pessimistic: human memory is short, and a hundred years is enough to wash away the truth. This is why China must re-examine history and honor the truth. Remembering history is, in itself, a form of power.

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