Japan has paid its dues, people.

1. State officials have formally apologized

1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the ‘‘comfort women’’, which expressed the Government’s sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal.

1. If money were the issue, Japan has addressed it

Asian Women’s Fund has raised $5,700,000 to extend Japanese atonement for the maltreatment and suffering of the comfort women to the comfort women through projects and programs.

1. Japan strongly advocates women rights and security

Government of Japan did sign the 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and supported the 2000 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security which recognized the unique impact on women of armed conflict.

1. Japan isn’t the only one. What about the damn US?

The United States, after all, has never formally apologized for enslaving Africans, invading Mexico and Canada, stealing Texas, colonizing the Philippines and Guam, or carpet-bombing Vietnam. Americans have conveniently forgotten the relish with which they slaughtered two hundred thousand Filipinos when they rebelled against our "liberation" a century ago. Take General Jacob "Hell-Roaring Jake" Smith, the military governor of the Philippine island of Samar. He ordered his troops to turn the entire island into "a howling wilderness" and specified that all males over the age of ten should be killed. "I want no prisoners," he declared. "I wish you to kill and burn; the more you kill and burn, the better you will please me." His men obliged, and the carnage was fantastic. On the main Philippine island of Luzon, a visiting American congressman said: "They never rebel in northern Luzon, because there isn't anybody there to rebel. The country was marched over and cleaned in a most resolute manner. The good Lord in heaven only knows the number of Filipinos that were put under the ground. Our soldiers took no prisoners, they kept no records; they simply swept the country, and wherever or whenever they could get hold of a Filipino they killed him."

One can argue that Americans have forgotten their atrocities in the Philippines because they occurred a century ago. But even in the case of World War II, Americans have almost no acquaintance with the brutality in which their own troops often engaged. The historian John Dower has gathered a series of horrifying accounts of Americans and Australians slaughtering wounded or surrendering Japanese and collecting grisly souvenirs such as teeth and ears-in one case, from a wounded Japanese man who thrashed about on the ground while a Marine cut his cheeks and yanked out his teeth. The Marines' Leatherneck journal reported in 1943. "It was not disgusting, as it would be from the civilian point of view." Charles Lindbergh, who accompanied American troops during the war, wrote in his diary that soldiers kicked in the teeth of Japanese prisoners, both before and after executing them. "It was freely admitted that some of our soldiers tortured Jap prisoners.

1. Japan acknowledges wrongs, educates all Japanese

Thanks to court intervention, the textbooks in recent years have become more honest and complete. The junior-high textbooks, for example, now mention Japanese "aggression," Unit 731 , and the Rape of Nanjing (the massacre that unfolded after Japanese troops seized the Chinese city at the end of 1937) . Moreover, Japanese scholars and journalists, who are disproportionately leftist, have increasingly been writing about the

Rape of Nanjing, about the comfort women and other atrocities, and in fact the best research and most damning evidence of government complicity usually comes from Japanese scholars themselves. Far more, for example, is published in Japanese than in English about the Rape of Nanjing.