

# The Japanese Invasion of China

TW: rape, murder

# Poem

## **No Justice For the Dead**

The sounds of suffering

The view of violence

The smell of death

Horrible feelings

Nanjing

The cruelty of human nature

Shown in front of my eyes

The rape of a city

The deaths of innocents

Nanjing

Soldiers killing civilians for sport

Rape, murder, mutilation, cannibalism

The world sat watching

Perpetrators found innocent

No trials for victims

No justice for the dead

Nanjing

# Artist's Statement

In this genocide project, I decided to study the Japanese invasion of China. It took place in China between 1937-1945. The Japanese empire, assisted by Nazi Germany, invaded China right before and during World War 2. Japan believed that Chinese people were inferior to them. The most gruesome part of this invasion, and the centerpiece of my poem, was the Rape of Nanking. In the Chinese capital of Nanking, about 300,000 Chinese civilians were murdered by the Japanese army. 20,000-60,000 Chinese women were raped, giving the atrocity its name. In my poem, I call it Nanjing as Nanking is the westernized version of the name. There were murder contests where Japanese soldiers would compete to see who could behead more Chinese people. These contests were reported on in Japanese newspapers as if they were sporting events. There were also rape contests, but I'd rather not get into that. While this was all happening, most of the world turned a blind eye. After the war, very little was done to punish Japan for these atrocities. Japan has to this day, never apologized or paid reparations. However, the United States did officially apologize to Japan for the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki despite the death tolls from the two bombs combined not even being half as much as the Rape of Nanking, but I digress. I wanted to fully portray the horrors of this event in a respectful and meaningful light while not downplaying the tragedy. I really wanted to bring awareness to an event that is usually forgotten by history. I wanted to specifically focus on the Rape of Nanking to narrow in on one of the most gruesome events of the invasion. This study has shown me how the world can completely ignore genocide if that genocide doesn't affect them directly and how cruel humans can be.

# Works Cited

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