

2012 China Study Tour

The “New Jersey Alliance for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia” (NJ-ALPHA) is sponsoring several secondary school/college teachers/educators on a two-week immersion learning experience on the history of WWII in Asia. All the participants who have returned from these China Study Tours have praised the experience as unforgettable and eye-opening, and it has changed their lives.

The China Study Tour includes discussion of the history of Sino-Japan relations, meeting with survivors of wartime atrocities, participation in briefing sessions and lectures by Chinese scholars, professors, and visits to museums and historical sites. The tour in 2011 also included visiting Seoul, South Korea. The 2012 Tour is tentatively scheduled for July 6-21, 2012, with a tentative itinerary of Shanghai, Nanjing, Harbin, Seoul, and Hong Kong.

For teachers/educators, NJ-ALPHA will provide scholarships to pay for all the in-China and Korea expenses, approximately \$3,000 per participant. The participants will be responsible for their travel expenses from the U.S. to Shanghai, Harbin to Seoul, Seoul to Hong Kong, and Hong Kong back to the U.S. (plus some miscellaneous expenses), with the expected total to be around \$2,500. The application deadline is March 1, 2012. More information about the 2012 China Study Tour and an application form can be found in: http://www.nj-alpha.org/study_tour.html.

Many people in the U.S. are aware of the Holocaust that occurred in Europe during WWII, but few know anything about the massive atrocities that occurred in Asia during WWII. For example, during the six-week Nanking Massacre, on the average one person (man, woman, or child) was killed approximately every 10 seconds.

Working in partnership with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and former participants of the China Study Tour, NJ-ALPHA has published two editions of “The Nanking Massacre and Other Japanese Military Atrocities, The Asia-Pacific War: 1931-1945.” The NJ Commission on Holocaust Education has distributed copies of this Curriculum Guide to every high school in NJ, and many schools are beginning to incorporate this part of history into their history/social studies curriculum.

The significance of remembering this part of history is captured so eloquently in the following quotes:

“Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it” – George Santayana

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The world is a dangerous place not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing” --- Albert Einstein