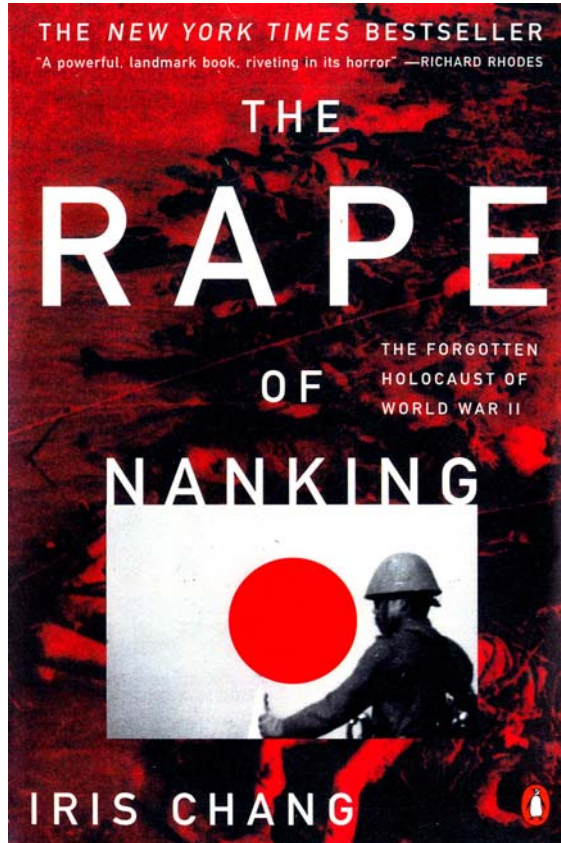


## Book of The Century



Iris Chang (1997). *The Rape of Nanking. The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II.* Penguin Books. New York

In December 1937, the Japanese army swept into the ancient city of Nanking. Within weeks, more than 300,000 Chinese civilians and soldiers were systematically, raped, tortured and murdered—a death toll exceeding that of the atomic blasts of Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. Using extensive interviews with survivors and newly discovered documents, Iris Chang has written the definitive history of this horrifying episode.

### Additional Commentary

The present generation in Japan faces a critical choice. They can continue to delude themselves that the war of Japanese aggression was a holy and just war that Japan happened to lose solely because of American economic power, or they can make a clean break from their nation's legacy of horror by acknowledging the war and was not able to impose its harsh "love" on more people than it did. If modern Japanese do nothing to protect the truth, they run the risk that history will leave them as tarnished as their wartime ancestors. (Epilogue, pp 224-225). <http://www.irischang.net/>.

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Iris Chang committed suicide on Monday, November 8, 2004 in Los Gatos, CA.

In 2005, the victims memorial hall in Nanjing, which collects documents, photos, and human remains from the massacre, added a wing dedicated to Chang. (Wikipedia)

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The World has not learned the lessons from *The Rape of Nanking*, as mass-gang rapes continue throughout human history and throughout modern human cultures. The Rape of Nanking; the mass-gang rapes in Bangladesh, Bosnia, Kosovo, Rwanda, The Congo—to name a few—have reached a level of sexual brutality and terror unknown in common warfare. Sexual violence has become more than an instrument of warfare but an instrument for cultural genocide and ultimately species extinction. "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo" (HBO Documentary, Broadcast April 8, 2008) is a stark reminder of the failure of humanity--again. Ending sexual violence against women and children must be a World Priority, if humanity is to survive—(jwp 17 April 2008).