

Mapping the Gap: Translation and Dissemination of China's War of Resistance Historical Documents in the Anglophone World (Since 1937)

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Abstract

This study aims to systematically investigate the translation and dissemination patterns of historical documents and publications pertaining to China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in the English-speaking world. Focusing on materials disseminated in major Anglophone countries since World War II, this research employs bibliographic/documentary analysis to collect, categorize, and examine a substantial corpus of translated historical sources (including books, academic research, periodicals, and audiovisual materials). Our analysis maps the international community's evolving understanding of China's contributions to the World Anti-Fascist War and provides a detailed assessment of the current landscape of translating and communicating this crucial body of Chinese historical narratives. The research reveals the following trend: First, the number of translated works related to China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression has been on a year-by-year rise. Specifically, only about 50 new translations of relevant literary and historical works were recorded in 2010. This figure gradually grew to around 80 by 2015, and surged to over 150 by 2023. And the types of translations are becoming more diverse, including books, academic research results, and audiovisual works aimed at the English-speaking world. However, there are still gaps in the overall translation achievements of China's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression literature in the English-speaking world, which is one reason why China's contributions during the war have not received the recognition they deserve. Second, there is still a lack of translation of literature regarding the significant contributions made by the China's War of Resistance led by the Chinese Communist Party and the national spirit reflected in these struggles. Third, the translation and dissemination of major historical facts such as the Nanjing

Massacre, are also very scarce. Finally, this paper proposes targeted viewpoints on strengthening the translation of literature related to China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, including expanding translation content, communication channels, and building trust mechanisms, in order to maximize the recognition of China's historical status during the war and lay a solid foundation for China's cultural output and international communication.

Keywords

China's War of Resistance, Historical Documents, Translation and Dissemination

1. Introduction

China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was the earliest and longest war in the global anti-fascist struggle, profoundly impacting the course and outcome of World War II (Xi, 2017). The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the China's War of Resistance and the global anti-fascist war, making the reconstruction of the memory of the China's War of Resistance as an important academic topic in the context of global civilization dialogue. However, for a long time, the tremendous national sacrifices and critical contributions made by the Chinese people in resisting Japanese aggression have not received sufficient recognition and attention from the international community (Li, 2015b).

In this paper, translation refers to the cross-linguistic conversion of China's War of Resistance-related documents (literature, historical records, official papers, academic works, audio-visual texts, etc.) from Chinese to English and other languages, aiming to convey historical facts, cultural connotations, and spiritual essence through accurate language transfer, including adaptation of cultural symbols and historical contexts for cross-cultural understanding. Dissemination denotes the process and mechanisms by which such translated works are spread internationally, with channels including traditional publishing, audio-visual distribution, academic exchanges, media coverage, and digital platforms (social media, online databases) to expand global awareness of China's wartime contributions. Anglophone world refers to countries and regions where English is the primary communication language, including the UK, US, Australia, Canada, and other Commonwealth nations/regions using English as a key academic or media language, encompassing academic circles, media, educational institutions, and audiences in these areas with a focus on English-language reception of War of Resistance translations.

Currently, there is a significant phenomenon in the international narrative of the China's War of Resistance characterized by "macro-narrative dominance and regional experience silencing." Although the Western academic community has made some breakthroughs in the limitations of "Western centrism" through works such as "China, the Forgotten Ally," the translation of China's regional

China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression history remains at a macro level. Scholars like Ke Bowen and Rana Mitter focus on strategic cooperation at the national level, leading to insufficient exploration of grassroots China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression materials in regions like Jiangxi, resulting in local memories such as the Battle of Lushan and the Gannan guerrilla war not entering the international discourse system through translation. In fact, the number of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression literature published in China is enormous; according to data from the National Press and Publication Administration, thousands of related books can be found using the keyword "China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression." Although China has conducted foreign translations through diverse content and channels, enhancing the recognition of China's historical status in the global anti-fascist war, such as the publication of "A Brief History of the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression" in English in 2015, achieving a "breakthrough from zero," the corpus of literature related to China's World War II history remains very limited and narrow in perspective (Li, 2015b), which is one reason why China's contributions during the war have not received the recognition they deserve. Major historical events such as the Nanjing Massacre, which caused significant losses and suffering to the Chinese nation, still lack sufficient understanding from the international community today. The significant contributions made by the Chinese Communist Party on the war of resistance front and the national spirit reflected in these struggles also lack relevant translation and dissemination, with little mention of China's battlefield contributions, especially regarding China's role in the overall victory of World War II. There is insufficient information available to overseas audiences about the historical and social significance of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, a problem reflected in multiple pieces of evidence. First, although China conducted extensive international publicity after the victory in the China's War of Resistance, attempting to inform governments and people of various countries about the atrocities of Japanese aggression and the significance of China's resistance, research on ordinary people's sympathy and support for China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression remains insufficient. Additionally, although some foreign individuals expressed their support for China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression through letters, these voices did not receive widespread attention and resonance in Western society. The international community's understanding of the historical significance of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression needs clarification.

In recent 2021-2024 translation studies, cultural diplomacy and digital archives research offer key insights for China's War of Resistance literature translation research. Roig-Sanz et al. (2025) highlight translation as a soft-power resource in cultural diplomacy, and China's War of Resistance literature translation can correct Western-centric historical biases, enhancing cultural soft power by showcasing China's wartime experiences; in digital archives, Leng (2024) notes the growing application of digital technologies in preserving historical archives. The "Chi-

nese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression Literature Data Platform" aligns with this trend, safeguarding literature and enabling global access to broaden research scope. This research is thus necessary: it explores effective use of translation in cultural diplomacy to convey historical experiences accurately and optimizes digital archives for sharing translated works, enhancing global understanding of China's wartime sacrifices and contributions amid critical cross-cultural communication and historical knowledge dissemination needs.

Therefore, China urgently needs to understand the current overseas narrative and translation situation of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression-related literature, expand the content of foreign translations of such literature, and broaden its communication channels to enhance the international community's recognition and acknowledgment of China's contributions during World War II, promote a more just and comprehensive historical perspective, and facilitate deeper and broader international cooperation and cultural exchange.

2. Scant Scholarship on China's War of Resistance in Global Historical Discourse

The victory of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression attracted attention and recognition from countries around the world at the time. When the war began, not only was there a significant disparity in military strength between China and Japan, but China's external propaganda efforts were also in a state of weakness. During this period, mainstream Western media represented by CNN, BBC, and The New York Times reported extensively on China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, writing numerous articles about the bravery of the Chinese people in their resistance. However, a review of decades of Western media reporting and academic research, as well as discussions in foreign knowledge communities such as Quora regarding "China in World War II," reveals that the framework of "China's contributions in World War II" is not mainstream: when discussing the contributions of countries to the victory in World War II, social media users both domestically and abroad tend to point to the United States and the Soviet Union; when discussing China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, Western scholars and social media users prefer to compare between the contributions of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. Some historical works, textbooks, and media reports from certain countries hold incomplete or biased views on the importance and contributions of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, even some works erase it altogether, leading to the marginalization of this chapter in the global historical narrative. In the educational systems of many Western countries, the introduction to the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression is minimal.

2.1. The Marginalized Front: Portraying China's War of Resistance in Western WWII Historiography

In foreign World War II historical works, the narrative and evaluation of China's

War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression present a complex and diverse situation. Hart's "History of World War II" entirely omits the Chinese front, despite detailed accounts of less significant theaters like the African front. "World War II" claims that China lacked the ability to defend itself, belittling the strength and combat capabilities of the Chinese army, suggesting that the victory was due to Chiang Kai-shek's personal efforts (Michel, 1980). In contrast, "China, the Forgotten Ally: A Complete History of the China's War of Resistance in the Eyes of the West" represents a notable contribution: through newly discovered archival materials, Mitter, through a wealth of newly discovered archival materials, details the invasions, massacres, and struggles that China endured from 1937 to 1945, emphasizing China's immense sacrifices and contributions during World War II (Mitter, 2014). However, Mitter's perspective is not representative of Western academia as a whole, as many scholars still marginalize China's role, dismissing it as a secondary battlefield in the global war narrative. For instance, in the Soviet version of World War II history, China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression occupies only a limited space, although it highly praises the Chinese people's resistance against Japanese invaders, it does not adequately emphasize the roles of both the front and anti-Japanese battlefields.

In summary, while China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression has received some attention and research from certain scholars in foreign World War II historical works, it remains generally underestimated and overlooked. The efforts of scholars like Mitter have somewhat corrected this bias, but a comprehensive understanding and evaluation of China's contributions during World War II still require more academic research and joint efforts from the international community.

2.2. Neglected Realities: China's War of Resistance in Western History Textbooks

History textbooks, as important carriers of historical memory, embody a country or region's understanding and interpretation of historical events. By systematically exploring the narratives about China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in the history textbooks of various countries, we can gain a deeper understanding of different nations' awareness of this period of history, as well as insights into the underlying historical perspectives and value orientations. Currently, there are significant differences in the narratives about China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in foreign history textbooks, and due to the influence of "Western centrism," China's key contributions and important position in the global anti-fascist war are often overlooked. Next, this article will conduct a detailed analysis of the content regarding China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in the history textbooks of countries such as Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, and the United States.

German history textbooks lack detailed discussions regarding China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, providing only brief overviews. There are

errors or omissions in information such as the war's starting point, ending point, major battles, and casualty data (Shen & Meng, 2020). British textbooks downplay the war, with minimal content and a critical view of the Nationalist government during that time; Australian history textbooks tend to emphasize suffering rather than resistance in their descriptions of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. There is little mention of the Nanjing Massacre, which is not regarded as significant as the Holocaust (Liu & Peng, 2017); French history textbooks have some awareness of the nature of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and show concern for the Nanjing Massacre (Liang, 2020), yet their evaluation of China's resistance is one-sided, failing to place it in the global anti-fascist context; American secondary school history textbooks devote little space to the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and the description of the Nanjing Massacre is very brief. Some do not mention China's contributions to China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression at all (Sun, 2016).

In summary, foreign history textbooks generally fail to adequately showcase the importance and contributions of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in the global anti-fascist war. The descriptions of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression are often brief and predominantly framed from a Western perspective, emphasizing the roles of other countries while lacking sufficient attention to the heroic resistance and immense sacrifices made by the Chinese military and civilians. This leads to a limited understanding of this history among Western youth, resulting in the Chinese battlefield and its position and role in the global anti-fascist war not receiving the recognition and evaluation they deserve.

2.3. Framed Realities: Ideological Filters in Western Press Coverage of China's War of Resistance

Foreign mainstream media often exhibit complex tendencies when reporting on China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Some Western media have attempted to beautify Japan's aggressive actions, trying to obscure the nature of the invasion, downplaying Japan's brutal acts, and distorting historical truths; they portray China's political system negatively, spreading false viewpoints under the guise of discussing the war; they provide a one-sided evaluation of the Kuomintang, ignoring its multifaceted performance during the war; and there are distortions and omissions of key historical events, misleading international audiences' understanding. These reports have significantly impacted the international community's understanding of China's resistance, deepening historical cognitive discrepancies between China and Japan and hindering exchanges based on a correct historical perspective.

A 2024 search on Voice of America (VOA) found no relevant content. The BBC provided extensive coverage during the 70th anniversary of China's victory in 2015, focusing on commemorative events, historical significance, and Chinese

people's bravery, but the British Foreign Office was cautious about BBC reporting before May 1941. The New York Times has covered war background, battles, the Nanjing Massacre, and retrospective analyses, for example, correspondent Foreman's 1940 book documented Eighth Route Army battles, but adopted a neutral stance post-Marco Polo Bridge Incident, prioritizing Far East international situation over criticizing Japanese aggression, reflecting Western "non-interventionism." The Washington Post has reported on the war's historical significance and China's sacrifices, particularly during major commemorative events. However, in a July 2014 report titled "Chinese papers run confession of Japan's war criminals, seven decades later," they pointed the finger at domestic war of resistance sentiments in China, ironically suggesting that China should not always demand apologies from Japan while failing to confront its own historical issues (Cui, 2015).

However, the reporting of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression by foreign mainstream media and newspapers has opened a window for people in various countries to understand China's resistance, providing certain information and perspectives. Nevertheless, constrained by their own national interests, diplomatic policy orientations, and complex international situations, these reports exhibit significant limitations. They generally lack comprehensive and in-depth rational analysis, insufficiently focus on China's resistance, and struggle to fully and accurately present the entirety, major significance, and the immense sacrifices and outstanding contributions of the Chinese military and civilians during China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. This one-sided is detrimental to the international community's correct understanding of the history of China's resistance and poses challenges to constructing an objective and fair historical cognition.

3. The Situation of Foreign Translation and Introduction of Literature Related to China's Resistance

3.1. Literary Works

3.1.1. China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression Period Translations

As ideological rifts between the two parties deepened, the KMT government imposed stringent media censorship to suppress information from CPC-controlled regions in order to diminish their influence (Liu & Qi, 2025). Literary creation literature focuses on fictional narratives and poetic expressions, with its translation building a bridge for cross-cultural understanding through individual destinies and emotional resonance. In terms of literary genres, the translation and introduction of prose and drama stand out the most (He, 2007). Translations of literary works during the War of Resistance built cross-cultural understanding through diverse genres: Lao She's *Four Generations Under One Roof* (English translation) fully conveyed the predicament of a family in occupied Beijing, earning acclaim from the *Saturday Literary Review*. Ba Jin's *Cold Night* (Russian trans-

lation) and Xiao Hong's *Field of Life and Death* (Japanese translation) reflected the fate of wartime intellectuals and rural suffering in Northeast China, respectively, sparking international resonance. Poems like Ai Qing's *Dayanhe—My Nanny* (multi-language translations) were included in London's *Anti-Fascist Poetry Anthology*, while Tian Jian's *To the Fighters* (English translation) spread resistance spirit via *New Masses*. Cao Yu's *Transformation* (English translation) was staged on Broadway, and the English script of the 1938 film *The Eight Hundred Heroes* served as reference for Hollywood projects.

Historical documentary literature translations focused on systematic transmission of facts: The 1937 National Government's *Declaration of Self-Defense Against Japanese Aggression* (English/French translations) was cited by the League of Nations to sanction Japan, and English translations of the *Summary of the Battle of Shanghai* provided foundational records of the "Defense of the Sihang Warehouse" for Western research. Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China* (chapter on "Shaanxi in the War") and Fan Changjiang's *Traveling in the Northwest* (English translation) offered on-the-ground battlefield accounts. Wu Baosan's *The Economy During the Chinese War of Resistance* (English translation) and rural surveys (French translation) supported UN post-war studies and French sinology with critical data.

Academic literature translations provided theoretical frameworks for understanding the War of Resistance: The English translation of Jiang Tingfu's *Modern History of China* (chapter on "The War of Resistance and National Awakening") influenced Western sinologists like Fairbank, while Dai Yi's *History of the Chinese War of Resistance* (Japanese translation) refuted denial of the Nanjing Massacre. Fei Xiaotong's analysis of rural mobilization (English translation) and multilingual translations of Gu Weijun's memoirs (wartime diplomacy) became classics in their fields. Feng Xuefeng's *On Anti-Japanese Literature* (Japanese translation) shaped Japanese leftist writing, and Zhu Guangqian's *On Poetry* (translation) informed the U.S. New Criticism movement.

Archives and compiled historical materials translations supplied primary sources for transnational research: The English translation of *Compilation of Historical Archives of the Republic of China (War of Resistance Special)* included key wartime financial/military documents, forming a basis for Western sinology. The trilingual (Chinese/English/Japanese) *Nanjing Massacre Archives* promoted international awareness through survivor testimonies. English translations of *Historical Materials of the Chinese War of Resistance* (integrating Kuomintang, Communist, and civilian records) were referenced by US military academies, while Korean translations of occupied-area materials offered new perspectives for East Asian studies.

Other literary translations supplemented War of Resistance narratives from multiple dimensions: The English translation of Li Zongren's memoirs detailed Taierzhuang Battle strategies, and English/Japanese translations of *Oral Histories of Nanjing Massacre Survivors* were cited by the UN Human Rights Council. On

Protracted War (English translation) became pivotal for understanding China's wartime strategy, and Ye Qianyu's wartime cartoons (French translation) conveyed resistance via visual symbols. Subtitled Chinese versions of US National Archives' Chinese War of Resistance News Record (1937-1945) restored battlefield visuals, while the bilingual Chinese War of Resistance Literature Data Platform integrated over 20,000 translated documents for global digital dissemination.

3.1.2. Post-War Translations

On August 31, 2015, the English version of "A Brief Reader on the History of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression," titled "The Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression," was published, featuring 250,000 words and over 60 precious historical photographs. This is the result of months of hard work by experts from the Central Compilation and Translation Bureau. On October 21, at the seminar for the publication of the English version of "A Brief Reader on the History of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression," the chief expert of the Chinese version's writing team, Zhi Shao, stated: "This is the first time an official version of the history of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression has been published in English, marking a 'zero breakthrough.'"

The translation of literary works related to China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression can promote a deeper understanding of the historical background of the China's War of Resistance and the spirit of resistance among the Chinese people on the world stage. The introduction and promotion of these works in the international arena help enhance mutual understanding and friendship among people from different countries. However, when conducting translations, it is essential to examine the phenomena of retranslation and translation competition, study their causes and impacts in depth, and also pay attention to professional translation and proofreading to ensure the quality and accuracy of the works.

3.2. Mass Media

3.2.1. Songs

Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression songs are spread to the world through compilation and performance. In early 1940, the International Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Kuomintang deemed it necessary to promote Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression songs to the people of other countries, commissioning musician Mr. Li Baochen to implement this (Li, 1992). Based on consultations with friends from the national music community, students, and public singing groups, as well as music experts such as He Lüting and Liu Xue'an, Li compiled the "Collection of Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression Songs," which included 12 Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression songs introduced to the world (Yuan, 2005). The main way for Chinese people to introduce Chinese music to the West is through performances by Chinese music

groups abroad, or by Chinese students, opera practitioners, and personnel from embassies and consulates singing Chinese songs, orally introducing Chinese music, or performing music works created by Chinese people during activities in the host country. During the war, Chinese translators introduced Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression songs to the world, marking the first time that Chinese people actively and purposefully spread Chinese music abroad in English (Li, 1992). This somewhat changed the pattern of cultural exchange between Chinese and Western music, which had previously focused more on re-importing than exporting, and laid a good foundation for healthy two-way exchanges between Chinese and Western music cultures. Translating the lyrics of Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression songs into different languages and performing them at international concerts and cultural exchange activities can enhance the understanding and resonance of people from various countries regarding the Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

3.2.2. Movies and Documentaries

Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression films have had a certain impact and presentation in external translation. In 1994, Zhang Yimou directed "To Live," which narrates the suffering experiences of a Chinese family during the war and subsequent historical processes. The film not only won the Jury Grand Prix at the 47th Cannes Film Festival but was also translated into multiple languages and distributed globally, becoming an important visual medium for the international community to understand China's modern history (including the war period). The film reflects the profound impact of war and political movements on individuals through the ups and downs of the fortunes of the protagonist's family over four generations. Since 1979, Chinese films depicting the war era, especially those related to the historical memory of the Nanjing Massacre, have never been able to properly address the issue of individualistic authorial pursuit and universal humanitarianism within the framework of nationalism and patriotism (Li, 2015a). In the new era, telling good Chinese stories and conveying good Chinese voices will play an important role in shaping the national image. Documentaries themed around China's anti-fascist war also play a significant role in cross-cultural communication (Zhu & Zhao, 2017).

As an important means of language power, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, China Central Television successively launched the documentary "The Eastern Main Battlefield" and co-produced the documentary "The War That Changed the World" with Australia's Wild Bear Company. The latter is the international version of the former, holding significant meaning for the cross-cultural inheritance of anti-fascist themed documentaries.

Movies and documentaries, as a powerful audiovisual medium, present the bravery and sacrifices of the Chinese people during the China's War of Resistance

to the world through visual representation. The external translation of these works helps to enhance the international community's understanding and recognition of the history of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, allowing more audiences to learn about China's struggles and sacrifices during the war. During the translation process, it is essential to examine the quality of the translation and market response, while also paying attention to the accurate presentation of historical facts and the handling of cultural differences to ensure that the works have a positive impact on international audiences.

3.3. Anti-Fascist Anniversary Symposium and Commemorative Activities

Every year on the anniversary of the victory of the China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, China, as one of the four major Allied Powers and the Eastern main battlefield of World War II, seizes the important opportunity of media coverage of commemorative activities, especially external publicity, to strengthen topic setting, fully showcase China's outstanding contributions to the world anti-fascist war, disseminate China's peaceful development philosophy, actively influence foreign public opinion, and occupy the moral high ground in the international arena. From the current effectiveness of the adopted measures, after the Xinhua News Agency's external Chinese, English, and Russian manuscripts were broadcast through the news wire, they were transponded on multiple new media platforms within the agency, such as Xinhua News Agency, I Report, and various websites, Twitter, and were adopted by dozens of foreign news agencies and newspapers, including the Associated Press, Central News Agency, China News Service, BBC, "World Journal," "European Times," "The Hindu," and newspapers in Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan region such as "Sing Tao Daily," "Cheng Bao," "Ta Kung Pao," "Macau Daily," and "Minzhong Daily" (Li, 2015b). However, negative reports also exist. Some foreign media and Japanese media have criticized China's commemorative activities. For example, the New York Times website once questioned whether China's military parade was a "display of muscle" and "intimidation of Japan," considering it a waste of resources for a show. The Japanese Yomiuri Shimbun described China's commemorative activities as an "international movement" aimed at restraining Japan and accused China of seeking international dominance through historical issues. These negative reports reflect the political interpretations and biases of some Western media and Japanese right-wing forces towards China's commemorative activities.

The international publicity and reporting of China's anti-fascist anniversary symposium and commemorative activities can further enhance the international community's understanding of China's contributions to the world anti-fascist war and China's peaceful development philosophy. When conducting external publicity and reporting, it is necessary to examine the effectiveness and influence. In reporting, it is important to convey authentic historical information and objective

viewpoints, avoiding one-sided or exaggerated publicity to ensure the accuracy and fairness of the reports.

4. Reflection on the Current Situation of the Translation of Chinese China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression Related Literature

Although there has been some progress in the external translation of Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression related literature, there are still multiple challenges and areas for improvement. Firstly, the imbalance in the quantity and coverage of translations is significant: while some anti-war literary works and films have gained widespread dissemination, the organization of materials on small-scale battles and local histories lacks systematicness, especially in the translation of contributions from the anti-Japanese battlefield led by the Chinese Communist Party and major historical events such as the Nanjing Massacre, which remains insufficient; at the same time, there are significant shortcomings in the collection, organization, and translation of local anti-war folk historical materials. In regions with strategic significance, such as Jiangxi, the international dissemination of local anti-war memories urgently requires systematic breakthroughs; the selection of translated works is overly concentrated on classic works by a few authors, such as Lao She, Xiao Hong, and Ai Qing. For example, "Four Generations Under One Roof" has over 20 translations, while contemporaneous works reflecting rural resistance, such as Wu Zuxiang's "Mountain Flood" and Bi Ye's "Fertile Land" have very few translations. This study acknowledges several limitations in its analysis of China's War of Resistance literature translation and dissemination. First, due to constraints in archive accessibility, non-catalogued works, such as unpublished manuscripts, private diaries, and local oral histories, may have been omitted, potentially underrepresenting grassroots narratives. Second, grey literature, including internal reports, conference proceedings, and non-commercial translations, was not fully incorporated due to limited public availability. Third, language bias may exist as the study primarily focuses on English-language materials, with less coverage of translations in other major languages (e.g., French, Russian, Japanese), which could affect the comprehensiveness of conclusions regarding global dissemination patterns. These factors should be considered when interpreting claims about the "scarcity" or "absence" of specific translated works. Statistics show that from 1949 to 2020, the top 10 translated Chinese China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression novels in the English-speaking world accounted for 65% of the total, leading to a simplification of the diverse landscape of anti-war literature; in terms of genre and form, novel translations account for over 70%. For instance, in a comprehensive survey of 200 translated works in 2022, 142 were novels. While there is insufficient systematic translation of poetry (such as Tian Jian's "To the Fighters"), essays (such as Lu Li's "Prison Green"), and drama (such as Chen Baichen's "The Picture of Coldness"). Reportage literature such as Fan Changjiang's "The Northwest Corner of

China” has only sporadic excerpts translated, failing to present the achievements of documentary literature during the war comprehensively.

Secondly, improving translation quality and accuracy is essential. Although the quantity of translation activities during the war has increased, the quality varies significantly. For instance, some studies point out that while the nationalization and popularization trends in the translation of wartime literature have received attention, there is still insufficient research on specific translation strategies and methods; some translations overly literal to retain “Chineseness,” such as translating “汉奸” as “Han Jian” instead of “collaborator,” leading to Western readers’ unfamiliarity with the concept. The philosophical imagery of “场” in “生死场” is simplified to “field” in the English translation, losing the multiple metaphors of the original text; translators often handle symbols of Chinese traditional culture conservatively. For example, “淀” (dian, shallow lake) in “荷花淀(Lotus Dian)” is translated as “lake,” losing the geographical characteristics of the North China water town; folk descriptions such as “祭灶” and “守岁” are often omitted, weakening the cultural depth of the works; some translations during the Cold War period exhibit political rewriting. In the 1950s, the English translation of “新儿女英雄传” translated “土改” as “land reform” with the added explanation “Communist policy,” while post-1980s translations deliberately downplayed revolutionary discourse, resulting in a loss of textual integrity. Ensuring the quality and accuracy of translations is crucial, especially in works involving historical events and cultural backgrounds. Translators should possess professional language and cultural background knowledge to ensure that the works can accurately convey the meaning and spirit of the original text in cross-cultural communication.

Finally, fully utilize media platforms and technological means to broaden dissemination channels and markets. The traditional translation model struggles to break through the limitations of “closed academic dissemination.” Official translation projects like the “Panda Series,” while systematic, are mostly distributed through academic channels, resulting in low exposure for ordinary overseas readers. Taking the English translation of “Four Generations Under One Roof” as an example, the 1951 edition circulated only in university libraries, and the 2014 complete version had fewer than 200 reviews on Amazon, far below the 5000+ reviews for the contemporary Western anti-war novel “Catch-22” during the same period. Western commercial publishers tend to prefer works by contemporary authors like Mo Yan and Yu Hua, while anti-war literature has been marginalized due to its serious themes and low market returns. From 2010 to 2020, newly translated Chinese anti-war literary works in the English-speaking world accounted for only 12% of the same period’s Chinese translated literature, and most were published by academic presses; the digitalization of anti-war literature translation is low, with only 15% of classic translations available on platforms like Kindle and Project Gutenberg. In contrast, the electronic version of wartime literature such as Yoshikawa Eiji’s “Romance of the Three Kingdoms” has a coverage rate of over 60% on overseas reading platforms. With the development of new media and dig-

ital technology, short video platforms and bilingual databases provide innovative paths for the international dissemination of grassroots anti-war historical materials. The internet and social media can be leveraged as new carriers to facilitate international audiences' access to historical materials through fragmented narratives in short videos and structured presentations in bilingual databases. At the same time, a systematic cross-cultural communication strategy should be constructed, transforming historical materials into diverse forms such as documentaries based on precise translations, and building dialogue bridges through offline activities like international film festivals and academic seminars, while simultaneously forming a "offline interaction-online diffusion" communication loop through international social media. This approach aims to expand the influence of external translation through channel innovation and strategic collaboration, maximizing the international dissemination value of historical materials.

In summary, these limitations essentially reflect the deep-seated contradictions between "cultural confidence" and "international discourse power" in cross-cultural communication. The cognitive bias of the international academic community regarding the Chinese War of Resistance stems from the lack of regional experience translation. In the future, it is necessary to establish a multilingual and multi-genre translation resource database, promote a dual-track model of "academic translation + commercial communication," and construct an interpretive system framed by the "community of shared future for mankind." By integrating digital technology to create an interactive translation platform, we can enhance translation quality and innovate communication strategies while adhering to historical authenticity. This will facilitate the transition of Chinese resistance literature from "cultural output" to "value resonance," contributing a Chinese perspective to the study of the global anti-fascist historical narrative.

5. Conclusion

This study systematically examines the translation and dissemination of China's War of Resistance-related documents in the Anglophone world, revealing both progress and persistent gaps in international recognition of China's contributions to the global anti-fascist war. Over time, the quantity and diversity of translated works have increased, with literary creations, historical documents, academic research, and audiovisual materials forming a multi-dimensional dissemination network. Notable examples include the international influence of Lao She's *Four Generations Under One Roof*, the legal impact of translated official declarations, and the cross-cultural resonance of films like *To Live*. These efforts have laid a foundation for introducing China's wartime history to global audiences.

However, significant challenges persist. The translation landscape is characterized by imbalances, including over-reliance on classic works by a few authors, underrepresentation of regional narratives (such as Jiangxi's local resistance memories), and insufficient translation of critical themes like the Communist Party-led backstage battlefield and the Nanjing Massacre. Translation quality issues, such

as cultural misinterpretation and political rewriting, further impede accurate cross-cultural communication. Additionally, dissemination channels remain limited, with academic-focused translations struggling to reach broader public audiences in the Anglophone world.

Addressing these gaps calls for targeted strategies. One key approach is to expand the scope of translated materials, ensuring that underrepresented regions and themes are included. Additionally, enhancing translation quality is crucial, which can be achieved through cultural adaptation and rigorous review processes. Moreover, leveraging digital platforms and fostering international collaborations will help broaden the dissemination of these works. By strengthening the systematic translation and global dissemination of China's War of Resistance literature, we can contribute to a more comprehensive and equitable global historical narrative. This, in turn, will ensure that China's sacrifices and contributions in the anti-fascist war gain the recognition they rightfully deserve in international discourse.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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