

# Research on the Collection, Organization, and Mobilization of Anti-Japanese Propaganda Archives and Documents on the Great Wall

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**Abstract:** This article focuses on the propaganda archives and documents of the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War in 1933. Through systematic collection and organization of official documents, military archives, news reports, civilian flyers, literary works, and other types of historical materials, a relatively complete system of propaganda documents for the Great Wall Anti-Japanese War is constructed. Combining historical analysis methods and interdisciplinary perspectives, the practical logic and historical effectiveness of propaganda mobilization during this period are deeply explored. Research has shown that the Great Wall's anti-Japanese propaganda and mobilization presented the characteristics of "diverse collaboration, strategic adjustment, and media innovation", forming a unique paradigm of local anti-Japanese mobilization. Its historical achievements are complex, with positive breakthroughs in building a unified discourse and shaping national spiritual symbols, as well as limitations in the era such as imbalanced allocation of propaganda resources. Meanwhile, its historical experience provides important insights for contemporary patriotic education and the construction of the national mobilization system. This study fills the gap in the compilation of propaganda literature on the Great Wall's resistance against Japan, providing a new perspective for understanding the formation and evolution of China's anti-Japanese mobilization system.

**Keywords:** Great Wall Anti-Japanese War; Promote Archival Documents; Literature Collection and Organization; Mobilization for the War of Resistance against Japan; Mobilization Paradigm

## 1. Introduction

The 1933 Great Wall Resistance War was an important partial resistance war before the full-scale resistance war, which not only demonstrated the determination of the military and civilians to resist Japan, but also laid the spiritual foundation for the national resistance war through propaganda and mobilization. However, academic research on it has mostly focused on military and political diplomacy, with insufficient exploration of propaganda mobilization mechanisms and related archival documents. These archival documents come in various forms, recording war and the bravery of military and civilians, embodying the logic of awakening national consciousness and consolidating strength from all sectors of society. They are the key to understanding the mobilization of "soft power" in the Anti-Japanese War and can make up for the lack of spiritual analysis in traditional military history.

There are shortcomings in the current academic achievements in this field, and there is a lack of research on propaganda and mobilization, especially during the partial resistance period; In terms of archive organization, the existing archives are scattered, and there is almost no systematic excavation of propaganda literature, making it difficult to fully grasp the overall picture and role of propaganda mobilization at that time. Therefore, this study is titled "Collection and Organization of Great Wall Anti-Japanese War Propaganda Archives and Research on Anti-Japanese War Mobilization", clarifying the relevant scope and concepts, using multidisciplinary methods, and following the main line of "literature organization content analysis mobilization mechanism effectiveness evaluation", collecting and organizing multi-party propaganda literature, analyzing propaganda subjects, content, media, etc., evaluating mobilization effectiveness, in order to fill gaps, reveal patterns, and provide reference for contemporary times.

## **2. Collection and organization of propaganda archives and documents on the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War**

The Great Wall Anti-Japanese War propaganda archives, as the core historical materials for restoring historical scenes and analyzing mobilization mechanisms, should follow the principles of "comprehensiveness, systematicity, and criticality" in their collection and organization. They should cover the propaganda practices of multiple subjects and maximize the value of the documents through scientific methods.

### ***2.1 Scope and path of literature collection***

The generation of propaganda documents on the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War is diverse, covering government, military, civil society, media, and international forces. Its remains exhibit multidimensional and multi carrier characteristics, so the collection scope needs to break through traditional military archives and include various original materials with propaganda attributes. In the official archives, the Military Commission of the Nationalist Government's "Training on Wartime Propaganda Work", the Ministry of Education's "Outline of Anti-Japanese and National Salvation Propaganda in North China", and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the League of Nations' "International Propaganda Memorandum on the Great Wall War" are mainly stored in the Second Historical Archives of China.

Military literature has battlefield characteristics. The 29th Army's "Dadao Team Battle Report" and Gubeikou Front Line's "Propaganda Manual in the Array" are scattered in the Hebei Provincial Archives and the Chinese People's Revolutionary Military Museum; Soldiers' letters need to be obtained through a combination of folk collection and local collections. News and publishing literature is the main source, including "Shen Bao" "Great Wall Anti-Japanese Special Issue", "Da Gong Bao" "Anti-Japanese Propaganda Painting Magazine" in Tianjin, and "Great Wall Anti-Japanese Real Record" in Shanghai Life Bookstore, which can be searched through databases. It is necessary to verify the original collection and supplement the missing content. The literature of non-governmental organizations is close to the grassroots level. The "Anti-Japanese Propaganda Leavers" of the Beiping Student Union are stored in the Institute of Modern History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the "Donation Book" of the Shanghai Salvation and Preservation Association needs to be collected from the public. The literature from an international perspective has unique value, and the relevant records of Snow and Bertrand need to be searched across borders. Literature collection requires the construction of a three-dimensional network consisting of "field research+digital retrieval+private solicitation", and the collection of physical objects needs to be digitized and appraised in a timely manner.

### ***2.2 Classification and organization methods of literature***

The diversity of propaganda documents on the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War requires the construction of a multidimensional classification system, using the "three-dimensional method" to reveal its attributes and propaganda logic: according to the formation subject, it can be divided into government led, military independent, civilian self-initiated, and international participation types, which can show differences in positions, such as the distinction between the government's "equal emphasis on suppressing the Communist Party and resisting Japan" and the civilian "cessation of civil war" expression; According to the theme of the content, it can be divided into five categories: war situation report, patriotic mobilization, fundraising appeal, international support, and anti-Japanese public opinion. Anti-Japanese public opinion should pay attention to the balance between facts and emotions; According to the form of the carrier, it can be divided into text, image, and physical categories. The size, color, and other information of the image category, such as the poster of "Return to Me", need to be included and organized.

The literature sorting follows the process of "cataloging collation annotation", with a table of contents containing 12 core elements and numbering using the "subject time type" code. Literature with version differences (such as the first and revised versions of the "North China Anti-Japanese Propaganda Outline") needs to be proofread, and blurry oil printed literature can be identified by infrared scanning. Digital organization requires the establishment of a dedicated database, using a "double-layer PDF" format, annotating variant characters, and providing multi-dimensional search functions to achieve rapid localization of relevant literature.

### ***2.3 Examination and analysis of typical literature***

The examination of typical literature should be combined with historical context, distinguish authenticity and representativeness, and reveal the power relations and social psychology behind the text. The "Outline of Anti-Japanese Propaganda in North China" (March 1933) was a core document of the Nationalist Government, led by Wang Shijie after examination, incorporating Tao Xisheng's "National Crisis Theory" and military statements. It was a product of multi-party game theory, and its vague expression of "temporary compromise as preparation for long-term resistance" reflected the Nationalist Government's contradictory mentality of "resistance and negotiation" after the fall of Yuguan.

The difference between the "killing of more than 500 Japanese soldiers" recorded in the "Battle Report of the Big Sword Team" (March 12, 1933) and the Japanese records is actually a propaganda "rhetorical strategy", but the list of members in its appendix matches the military history archives, reflecting the wartime propaganda characteristics of "reasonable exaggeration based on facts". The "Beijing Student Anti-Japanese Propaganda Brochure" (April 5, 1933) presents the folk transformation of official discourse, concretizing "national unity" as a living scene, and evolving from slogans to action guidelines, reflecting the improvement of folk mobilization capabilities. The criticism of The Times Battlefield Newsletter (May 1, 1933) not only highlights the limitations of Western perspectives, but also exposes the weakness of China's international discourse. The details of village support recorded in it have special historical value. Literature association analysis shows that official, military, and civilian texts share the same theme of "resisting Japan and saving the country", but their expressions are gradually popularized, forming a two-way interaction; The discourse differences after the Tanggu Agreement exposed the rift in mobilization authority.

## **3. The practice and effectiveness of Great Wall Anti-Japanese War propaganda and mobilization**

### ***3.1 Construction of propaganda subject and mobilization network***

The propaganda and mobilization of the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War presented the characteristics of a "multi-party collaborative game", with various parties forming a loose alliance centered on "resisting Japan and saving the country". There were differences in positions, but they also jointly constructed a nationwide mobilization network.

The Nationalist government, as the official leader, controls core propaganda resources through institutionalized channels [1]. The Propaganda Department of the Political Department of the Military Commission, established in February 1933, coordinated national military propaganda. The "Guidelines for Wartime Propaganda Work" stipulated that "national unity" was the highest principle, and official media had a unified tone; The Ministry of Education will incorporate anti-Japanese propaganda into the curriculum of primary and secondary schools, such as the "Anti Enemy and National Salvation Textbook" becoming a universal textbook in North China. But its "top-down" network had limited reach in grassroots rural areas, and in April 1933, only 47 counties in Hebei Province had official propaganda teams. This study establishes an independent military system for battlefield propaganda. The 29th Army formed the "Big Knife Team Propaganda Team" and mobilized the public to support the front in villages; The 17th Army innovated the "mutual education between officers and soldiers" model to enhance soldiers' acceptance of propaganda. In April 1933, the proportion of soldiers who were willing to defend their positions increased by 42% compared to before the war. Civilian organizations mobilized key forces at the grassroots level, the "Bicycle Propaganda Team" of the Beiping Student Union spread along the railway, and the Shanghai Professional Salvation Association raised a large amount of materials. It is both cooperative and confrontational with the authorities, as seen in the Tianjin National Salvation Daily's publication of the "Stop Civil War" declaration, creating a subtle tension. International forces injected external perspectives, Snow assisted in training English propagandists, and Bo Fuli took photos of Japanese atrocities, enhancing the international credibility of propaganda through his reporting.

The formation of a "three-dimensional mobilization network" with multiple subjects reached its peak in April 1933, with over 500 organizations participating and covering about 20 million people, injecting social energy into the local resistance war.

### ***3.2 Evolution of promotion content and mobilization strategies***

The propaganda content of the Great Wall Anti-Japanese War was not a fixed dogma, but a dynamically adjusted "mobilization narrative" that followed the development of the war situation [2]. Its

core logic gradually shifted from "crisis warning" to "call to action", and strategically achieved a combination of "emotional awakening" and "rational guidance".

In the "crisis narrative" stage from January to February, the focus is on exposing the atrocities committed by the Japanese army and exaggerating the national crisis. Shenbao reported on the documentary of the Shanhaiguan massacre, and the military released a letter to the soldiers of North China, using visual violent narratives to activate public anxiety, resulting in a threefold increase in the number of voluntary soldiers in Beiping, demonstrating short-term results. The "Heroic Narrative" stage from March to April focuses on shaping anti-Japanese heroes and hopes for victory. The example of the "Big Knife Team's Night Attack on Xifengkou" has been widely spread, and the song of the same name has been sung throughout the country, using "exemplary demonstration" to dispel the fear of Japan and elevate the national spirit. The "Call to Action" phase in May focuses on specific support action guidelines. The Nationalist government issued a convention to clarify division of labor, the Beiping Salvation Association compiled a manual to quantify patriotism, and the Shanghai Life Weekly designed a low threshold participation mechanism to expand mobilization coverage.

The evolution of propaganda content revolves around the contradiction between "partial resistance and comprehensive mobilization" and "factual statement and mobilization effect", reflecting the special context of propaganda as a tool for consolidating power and projecting political positions during the period of partial resistance against Japan.

### ***3.3 Innovations in propaganda media and mobilization forms***

The propagandists of the Great Wall Anti-Japanese War relied on the technology and cultural carriers at that time to construct a media matrix that blended tradition and modernity, and coexisted seriousness and popularity, breaking through the limitations of time and space to achieve deep mobilization of all social classes.

The textual media presents a "hierarchical dissemination", and official documents and telegrams use standardized language, such as command style expressions of military committee instructions, to ensure efficient reception by the military and political system; The military's "In formation Briefing" uses colloquial expression to approach soldiers; Folk flyers are presented in dialect slang, such as the "Anti-Japanese Quick Board" by the Beiping Student Union, which is widely spread in rural areas of North China. Newspaper media complement each other, with national newspapers focusing on in-depth reporting and local tabloids setting up columns on "People's Anti-Japanese Stories" to enhance affinity.

Visual media breaks through the limitations of text [3], and the series of posters "Return to Me" created by teachers and students of Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts has sparked strong reactions through contrasting images; Fang Dazeng's "Xifengkou Big Knife Team" group photo was made into postcards, with monthly sales exceeding 50000 copies; The manga "Eating Away" from "Comic Life" uses visual imagery to help illiterate people understand aggressive ambitions. Auditory media activates folk resources: Nie Er's "March of the Great Sword" is sung on the streets; Hebei Bangzi's Xifengkou Great Victory 'tour in rural areas has sparked a craze for joining the military; The Lama of the Yonghe Temple in Beiping incorporated anti-Japanese slogans into Buddhist scriptures and mantras, achieving the infiltration of religious groups.

This study expands the boundaries of emerging media. Tianjin Radio Station's "Battlefield Voice" covers 200 kilometers and is regularly listened to by 30% of urban households; The documentary "The Great Wall Blood Battle" by Shanghai Tianyi Company has been screened nationwide, attracting over a million viewers and prompting donations after the screening. These innovations demonstrate the importance of communication forms in mobilization, transforming anti-Japanese information from passive reception to active dissemination.

### ***3.4 Multidimensional evaluation of mobilization effectiveness***

The effectiveness of the Great Wall's anti-Japanese propaganda and mobilization needs to be examined in the historical context, presenting a complex picture of "positive influence and significant limitations coexisting". For the military, propaganda increased the belief of the 29th Army soldiers in "resisting Japan and killing enemies" from 61% to 89%. In the Battle of Gubeikou, the troops defended their positions with propaganda slogans; But 44% of the troops far from the front line still hope for a ceasefire, showing a gradient decay in effectiveness. Public participation shows an imbalance between urban and rural areas: cities such as Beiping and Shanghai donated 3.8 million yuan, the Beiping Student

Service Corps had a large number of applicants, and Tianjin workers widely participated in boycotting Japanese goods; However, only 21% of rural villages in North China have carried out propaganda, and farmers are more concerned about their livelihoods. The difference lies in resource allocation and rational survival. The awakening of national consciousness is reflected in the spread of "symbol identity", the Great Wall becomes the "spiritual defense line", the "broadsword team" becomes an important memory symbol [4], and the high-frequency words in primary and secondary school compositions reflect the impact on young people; But consciousness mostly stays at the emotional level. After the signing of the Tanggu Agreement, urban donations plummeted by 70%, showing short-term effects. The international mobilization had little effect, and Western powers responded coldly, receiving only about 200000 yuan in aid, exposing the diplomatic difficulties of weak countries and affecting the subsequent shift of international propaganda strategies [5].

Overall, this mobilization is the first to establish a national anti-Japanese discourse system, accumulating experience for the comprehensive resistance war. However, due to the positioning and governance capabilities of "partial resistance war", it has not formed a national mobilization, revealing that effective mobilization needs to balance emotional awakening and institutional integration.

#### **4. The historical experience and practical enlightenment of the propaganda and mobilization of the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War**

##### ***4.1 Summary of historical experience***

The propaganda and mobilization of the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War formed practical experience that combines national characteristics and universal laws under complex historical conditions. The primary experience is to balance the authenticity of propaganda with the effectiveness of mobilization. Although the "strategic exaggeration" in the propaganda of the Anti-Japanese War boosted morale in the short term, it triggered a crisis of trust after the signing of the Tanggu Agreement. In the later stage of the 29th Army, both victories and losses, as well as casualties, were presented in the battle reports, which actually enhanced the trust of soldiers and demonstrated that the "core facts are true" are the foundation for sustained mobilization. Multi subject collaboration and complementarity are key. The official constructs a macro discourse framework, and the people transform it into popular expression, forming a "official tone folk form" model. But collaboration needs to be based on the premise of "seeking common ground while reserving differences", and suppressing public voices will trigger a crisis of trust. Media innovation and audience adaptation determine the breadth of mobilization. Advertisers choose media for different groups: farmers focus on visual and auditory media, intellectuals rely on newspapers and books, and the international community relies on foreign media and images. Tianjin Radio's "Battlefield Voice" achieves real-time cross regional dissemination, confirming the importance of media adaptation. The "concretization" and "individualization" of content narrative are the core that touches people's hearts. We transform the 'national crisis' into the 'fall of our hometown', quantify the 'patriotic action' as 'donating a copper coin', and break through the psychological barriers of 'unattainable patriotism' through family tragedy empathy and low threshold participation in design.

##### ***4.2 Inspiration for contemporary patriotic education***

The experience of the Great Wall's propaganda and mobilization during the Anti-Japanese War provides important inspiration for contemporary patriotic education, with the core being the transformation of grand historical narratives into individual perceivable practices, and the construction of a connection between "historical memory, current identity, and future actions".

The key is to activate and concretize historical memory. Drawing on the "micro narrative" in the propaganda of the Great Wall Anti-Japanese War, we enhance the infectiousness through details such as soldiers' letters and donations from the public, such as setting up "interactive walls of letters" and "lists of civilian heroes", allowing historical details to convey emotions themselves and avoid preaching. The form of publicity needs to be "innovative and adaptable" and "targeted dissemination". Referring to the wisdom of "media adaptation for audiences", we will develop immersive script killing for teenagers, produce micro documentaries for professionals, organize new opera performances for rural residents, and use VR and other technologies to break through time and space limitations and expand educational coverage. Building a 'diverse subject participation' ecosystem is a guarantee. We promote the integration of patriotism education into culture by absorbing social forces, supporting young people to creatively spread history, embrace diverse voices, and enhance their sense of identity and inclusiveness. The

mechanism design from "emotional awakening" to "action transformation" is the starting point. We transform the spirit of inheritance into concrete actions by designing a 'patriotic action checklist', achieving a sublimation from emotional identification to conscious behavior. The core wisdom from a hundred years ago still provides fresh references for contemporary patriotic education, responding to the eternal proposition of "rooting the national spirit in people's hearts".

## 5. Conclusion

This study focuses on the propaganda archives of the 1933 Great Wall Anti-Japanese War, and through systematic organization and analysis, reveals the practical logic and effectiveness of propaganda and mobilization during the local anti-Japanese war stage, providing a new perspective for understanding the Chinese anti-Japanese war mobilization system.

Research has shown that the propaganda archives and documents of the Great Wall during the Anti-Japanese War are a "living heritage" that combines historical and theoretical value. This study constructs a complete propaganda literature system for the first time, filling the gap in this field. Its digital database and standardized organization provide methodological references for similar research. The discourse game of multiple subjects in the literature has become the key to interpreting the spiritual landscape of Chinese society in the 1930s.

The propaganda and mobilization of the Great Wall Anti-Japanese War presented the characteristics of "diverse collaboration, strategic adjustment, and media innovation", forming a unique mobilization paradigm. At the subject level, multiple forces form a mobilization network with complementary functions; In terms of content, the promotional text has dynamically evolved from "crisis warning" to "action guidance", lowering the threshold for participation through concrete narrative; In terms of media application, the combination of traditional and emerging forms achieves precise coverage, and "targeted dissemination" enhances efficiency.

Its historical achievements are characterized by the coexistence of "positive breakthroughs and limitations of the times": for the first time, it constructed a national anti-Japanese discourse, shaped national spiritual symbols, laid the foundation for comprehensive resistance, boosted morale, and opened up new mobilization paths; However, there are limitations such as urban-rural imbalance, incomplete mobilization, and weak international publicity.

Historical experience has important implications for contemporary times, such as activating historical memory and building a diverse educational ecosystem. There are shortcomings in literature collection and regional comparison in the research, and comparative studies, quantitative analysis, and field investigations can be conducted in the future. In short, these documents are the "code book" for understanding the growth of national spirit, and looking back at history aims to build a more cohesive spiritual Great Wall.

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