

Educators in Nanjing during the occupied period (1938-1945)

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Abstract

After the Nanjing Massacre, some educators who survived and did not move west stayed in Nanjing. Due to psychological panic and social unrest, most of the surviving educators waited and saw the situation and were in a state of hibernation. In March 1940, Wang's puppet National Government was established in Nanjing. Later, the Wang puppet regime resumed the construction of higher education in Nanjing, establishing colleges and research institutions, and the educators who stayed in Nanjing and the new educators who came with the Wang puppet regime formed the group of educators after the Nanjing Massacre.

Keywords: occupied period, slavish education, Nanjing, educators.

1. The path choice of scholars and teachers

With the gradual stabilization of the social order in Nanjing and the end of the dormant state of the educators after the Nanjing Massacre, some well-known experts and scholars chose to join the Wang puppet regime, such as Chen Changzu (Wang Jingwei's brother-in-law), and Li Shengwu (Wang Jingwei's old subordinate), as well as Fudan University professor Fan Zhongyun, Chinese Socialist Party leader Jiang Kanghu, and scholar Zhao Zhengping and other well-known figures in the educational and cultural circles. Fan Zhongyun, Li Shengwu, and Chen Changzu all served as the presidents of the puppet Central University, Li Shengwu and Zhao Zhengping also served as the minister of education of the puppet Wang regime, and Jiang Kanghu served as the president of the puppet private Southern University and the president of the Examination Yuan of the puppet Wang regime. Qian Weizong, vice president of the puppet Central University, resigned from the university immediately after he got the post of minister of puppet Education Department of Anhui Province after serving for three months. Yang Weizhen, director of the Department of Foreign Language, was promoted to the post of puppet Ministry of Education in August 1942. These professors and scholars could be regarded as the upper echelon of educators in Nanjing at that time. There were also some adjunct professors and lecturers in the puppet Wang regime, and these people account for 17 percent of the total number of faculty in the puppet Central University.

This trend was not only spreading among upper-class educators, some young people, including college graduates, were also trying to join Wang puppet regime. In 1940, Jiang Kanghu successively served as an uninvited member of the Wang Puppet Central Political Committee, a member of the puppet National Government and Minister of Civil Service, vice president and president of the Puppet Examination Yuan, etc., and then also served as president of the puppet private Southern University, which was restored and established in Nanjing. Some graduates of the Southern University, upon learning of the news, praised him for his tireless efforts and hard work in the peace movement. After that, they collectively expressed their willingness to follow Wang Jingwei and come to Nanjing for development.

In addition to the educators who took refuge in Wang's puppet regime, most of the educators, including scholars, professors and primary and secondary school teachers, chose neither to take the initiative to resist Wang's puppet rule, nor to take refuge in the puppet regime to do evil things, and did their own work to do their part, not to harm the interests of the national state. Most of the teachers and researchers in puppet Central University and the National Compilation and Translation Museum, including physicists Cui Jiuqing and Zhong Ziming, jurist Gao Weijun, classical Chinese writer Qian Zhonglian, educators Huang Puhuan and Shao Mingjiu, historian Li Taifen and other famous scholars, had been able to live in poverty and enjoy the way, and had made due contributions to the inheritance of national culture and the continuation of higher education. There were also some professors adhere to the bottom line and integrity, such as the former Central University professor Wang Xie in Nanjing after the Nanjing massacre, illness and lost sources of living, could only rely on the sale of collection of paintings and calligraphy, classics to maintain a basic life, but he resolutely refused to work in the puppet Central University; The original Central University professor Wang Boyuan was also unyielding to death, refused to accept Wang puppet regime's appointment. Professor Wang Xie and Wang Boyuan such patriotic literati who would rather die than yield, not afraid of threats and inducement could be called the model of patriotic educators after the Nanjing Massacre.

After the Nanjing Massacre, educators, including scholars, professors and teachers, had different choices, some of them joined the Wang puppet regime and worked in the puppet National Government. These people's choices were either for self-preservation or could be regarded as acts of traitors. Minnie Vautrin believed that many of them still had patriotic heart, but were forced to work in puppet jobs in order to live. From the analysis of internal and external environment, after the War of Resistance against Japan entered the stage of strategic stalemate, neither China nor Japan could completely destroy each other, and the Pacific War broke out later added new variables to the Chinese battlefield. After the massacre, Nanjing was restored by the Japanese puppet regime and the society gradually stabilized, while the Wang puppet regime carried out public opinion propaganda such as saving the country peacefully and restoring Nanjing under the banner of "Blue Sky with a White Sun" flag and the sign of "National Government", which had great deceiving and demagogic power to educators, making them think that working for the Wang puppet regime was to serve the country. It blurred the line between right and wrong, but these should not be used as an excuse, in the nation state facing the threshold of survival, educators should stick to the bottom line.

2. The struggle of young students

Among the group of educators after the Nanjing Massacre, only the progressive young students, mainly some of the students of the puppet Central University, really formed a force, fought collectively and took action. They first organized and mobilized patriotic forces by means of association and propaganda, and Wang Puppet Regime actively promoted slavish education in Nanjing and its surrounding areas, forcing their families to recruit their exiled children to return to their hometown for education, which was resolutely resisted by young educators represented by the young students of the puppet Central University. The young patriotic students of the puppet Central University spontaneously organized anti-Japanese groups, using open organizations such as the "student mutual Aid Association" to carry out the students' progressive movement on the basis of uniting the broad masses and combating the Japanese puppet rule. Beginning in 1940, the puppet Central University students successively set up secret anti-Japanese groups such as "Masses Society", "Unity National Salvation Society" and "Youth National Salvation Society". Even the "Student Association" organized by Zhang Fanliang (Director of Land Office of Wang Puppet Regime) which was founded in September 1942, and the "Gan Movement Practice Association" established in December 1943 whose chairman was Lin Basheng (Director of Publicity Department of Wang Puppet Regime), were actually led by progressive young students. The progressive students published publications in the name of these two "legal" organizations, and under the cover of the Wang faction under the sinister and complex political environment, they secretly carried out many progressive and beneficial activities, which not only attracted and united a large number of aspiring young people with a sense of justice to take the road of anti-Japanese progress, but also caused considerable influence in college and middle schools around the occupied areas at that time. Then it laid a solid mass foundation for launching a large-scale student movement. At the end of May 1943, the members of the "Youth National Salvation Society", together with the anti-Japanese patriotic forces of all parties in the school, planned and launched a movement to expel the principal Fan Zhongyun, which was supported and participated by the majority of students who were dissatisfied with the dark rule of the Japanese puppet and the corruption and malpractices of the school.

They gathered teams to petition, mobilized class strikes, and set up a temporary school committee composed of 11 students to act as president. Wang's puppet government was forced to comply with the students' demands, replaced the principal, improved school meals, and the Anti-Fan movement won a huge victory.

At the end of 1943, the progressive young students launched a more powerful Anti-drug movement in Nanjing. The puppet Central University youth students led by Li Enyu and Wang Jiamo used the "Youth Rise Society" presided over by Lin Baisheng (Director of the New National Movement of Wang Puppet Regime), to promote the smoking ban and gambling in order to expand their power and buy people's hearts, and united the patriotic and progressive forces of all parties to launch a huge Anti-drug movement. At that time, the Japanese invaders carried the poison policy to poison the Chinese people in the occupied areas, and sale opium drugs, the puppet government was complicit, allowing the opening of tobacco from the tax, resulting in the occupied areas of drugs like a plague spread. Among them, more than 3,000 liang opium were sold in Nanjing every day, which made the city of Nanjing a foul atmosphere, and the people all hated it. On December 17, 1943, Li Enyu mobilized more than 200 college and middle school students overnight to march to the Confucius Temple area where tobacco shops were concentrated, destroyed several large tobacco shops, and publicized the dangers of drugs to the surrounding masses. The next day, they organized a larger scale action, more than three thousand students of colleges and middle schools in Nanjing from all directions gathered in front of the National Hall, formed a anti-drug team, all the way to shout anti-drug slogans, singing progressive songs, the mighty march to the Confucius Temple. Faced with a large number of heavily armed Japanese military police and armed puppet police, the students were fearless, smashed a number of smoking dens and gambling dens in Zhuque Road and Confucius Temple, and confiscated more than 10,000 liang tobacco and a large number of tobacco devices such as tobacco guns and smoke lamps on the spot. The anti-drug team later turned back to the square of the National Hall, and collected the seized tobacco soil, tobacco and gambling devices and set them on fire. Subsequently they announced the establishment of the "Capital Students Anti-Drug Committee", elected Li Enyu, Wang Jiamu as the president and vice president, the general association included the organization, publicity, general affairs groups, "Youth National Rescue Society" members were divided into groups. Later, the association set up anti-drug branches in major middle schools, and sent people to contact and encourage schools in large and medium-sized cities in occupied areas, affecting many cities in East China, Central China and North China. The movement was so influential that it forced the Japanese government to abandon its policy of planting, trafficking, and distributing opium in Nanjing and Central China, and the Japanese General Command and Embassy in China warned the Japanese military and people not to interfere in the tobacco issue and disbanded Hongjishantang, the official Japanese organ of poisoning in Central China.

Nanjing school students under the leadership of the "anti-drug committee" continued efforts, and launched a number of movements. In early 1944, a total of more than 100 people from the "Anti-drug movement Winter Vacation work group" and the "Gan Movement practical Winter Vacation living camp" joined forces to search the house of Cao Yucheng, a drug dealer who relied on the Japanese puppet forces to sell tobacco in large quantities and was known as the "King of heroin", and burned the drugs found from Cao's home in public, and the students immediately handed them over to the puppet Capital Police Department for treatment. On May 6 of the same year, more than 600 students from colleges and middle schools in Nanjing rushed into the Central Hotel to clear the drug, and they guarded it by layers, inspected it layer by layer, and raided more than 3,000 liang opium hidden there. Since the "anti-drug movement" occurred, the Wang puppet regime began to negotiate with Japan on the issue of smoking ban. After obtaining the consent of the Japanese side, the anti-drug regulations were promulgated in March 1944, followed by the execution of Cao Yucheng, a major drug trafficker in Nanjing, and drug traffickers in Nanjing and Central China did not dare to operate easily. By the end of 1944, opium trafficking had fallen by more than 60 percent, and the number of drug users had dropped significantly. It can be said that the "anti-drug movement" launched by the young educators led by the progressive students of the puppet Central University had achieved a major victory.

The number of students, including students and graduates, accounted for more than half of all the graduates of colleges and universities in Nanjing at that time, while the graduates of colleges and universities in Nanjing at that time were mostly liberal arts majors, business, law and other liberal arts majors, and relatively few science and engineering graduates, and due to war, economy and other reasons, relatively few students received higher education, and the loss of students was relatively serious, and only more than 500 graduates. In order to cater to the Japanese authorities, the Wang puppet government hired Japanese teachers in the puppet Central University. However, due to economic difficulties, insufficient investment in higher education and poor educational administration, the shortage of teachers in Nanjing universities and colleges resulted in low salaries for teachers and even unable to meet the needs of life. It was more difficult to carry out scientific research and the loss of university teachers was more serious. After the Nanjing Massacre, the work, study and living conditions of college teachers and students were more difficult, and there was a big gap compared with the period of the National Government.

3. Conclusion

It is worth pointing out that the reason why the young progressive students launched the "anti-drug movement" had achieved a great victory could be said to be the use of the differences and contradictions between Wang Puppet Regime and Japan, on the contrary, Wang Puppet Regime was divided due to dissatisfaction with Japan through the Hongjishantang to monopolize drug sales and profits, and the opposition had turned to support the student movement, so as to crack down on the Japanese forces. Lin Baisheng (Director of Publicity Department of Wang puppet regime) sent people to contact Li Enyu, Wang Jiammo and other students of the puppet Central University began to act, and said that they would protect the safety of students who marched and demonstrated. However, regardless of the motivation, the movement dealt a heavy blow to the drug epidemic in Nanjing society, and the phenomenon of drug trafficking and drug abuse in society was significantly reduced. The movement also united young students and developed progressive forces, and young educators made their due contributions to maintaining social stability and national interests.

4. Acknowledgement

This paper was supported by The 13th Five-year education science planning project of Jiangsu Province (B-b/2018/01/02).

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