

On the Japanese Government's Implementation of the "Comfort Women" System

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Abstract: The "comfort women" system implemented by the Japanese government and army during World War II is a planned and organized national war crime. Hundreds of thousands of women in colonies and invaded countries lost the minimum dignity and personal freedom, and were forced to serve as sexual slaves of the Japanese army, that is, "comfort women". At the same time, the issue of "comfort women" system is still a legacy of war that has been shelved for a long time after World War II. The Japanese government and army also understand that this system is a shameless act that violates international law, gender ethics and humanity, so the Japanese government and army generally adopted quite secret supervision and management measures in wartime. In addition, before the defeat, Japan organized the destruction of the archives of "comfort women" and the "intentional" non-opening of related documents after the war, and shirked its responsibility for the war and pleaded not guilty, which greatly delayed the settlement of the problem of "comfort women". Based on the historical data, Japanese soldiers' recollection and the testimony of the victims of the "comfort women" system, this paper tries to find out the relevant historical facts of the implementation and operation of the Japanese "comfort women" system and analyze the national responsibility that the Japanese government should bear on this issue.

Keywords: "Comfort women" system, Government of Japan, Japanese army.

1. Definition of "Comfort Women"

"Comfort women" refer to women who provide sexual services and serve as sexual slaves for Japanese soldiers according to the orders of the Japanese government or army. They suffered cruel sexual abuse from the Japanese army and were exclusive sexual slaves of the Japanese army. Japanese scholars define "comfort women" as women who were recruited into comfort stations set up in Japanese army and navy battlefields and occupied areas from the Shanghai Incident in 1932 to the defeat of Japan in 1945, and were forced to act as sexual objects between Japanese soldiers and their families. Among the women who were forcibly recruited for Japanese "comfort women" were Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, Indonesians, Vietnamese, Dutch and so on. After the analysis of various data, Japanese scholars came to the conclusion around 1992 that the ratio of Japanese troops to "comfort women" was 29: 1, and the replacement rate that needed to be supplemented when fleeing or dying was 1: 2. At that time, the total number of Japanese troops was about 3 million, so the calculated number of "comfort women" was 206,897. Among these 200,000 women, Japanese, Southeast Asian and especially Korean women are the main body, while Chinese women are a minority. After nearly 20 years of investigation and research, the China Research Center for Comfort Women of Shanghai Normal University put forward a turnover rate between 1: 3.5 and 1: 4, so the calculated result is 360,000 to 400,000 people, of which about 200,000 are Chinese women.

2. Background of the "Comfort Women" System

2.1. Analysis from a national perspective

The Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1894, and the Russo-Japanese War started in 1904. The victory of Japan's two wars against China and Russia greatly encouraged the domestic

militaristic forces. Japan began to expand its armaments, and has become one of the five major powers in the world side by side with Britain, France, the United States and Germany in terms of the number of warships and standing troops. However, Japan is an island country, and its economic strength, material resources, culture and education are extremely disproportionate. With the increase of the number of standing troops but the low level of professional education of soldiers, Japan can't provide more than advanced gunboat weapons based on fascist-educated military slave ideology, and can only encourage the national policy of plunder and atrocities. Moreover, this unjust war of aggression itself is a terrorist machine that kills humanity and shows the brutal side of human beings. It is Japan's naked militaristic policy that leads to the idea that Japan is proud of war and aggression and the cruelty of the Japanese army. This is the national background for the Japanese army to implement the sexual slavery system that shocked the world.

2.2. The moral concept of male superiority and female inferiority

The implementation of sexual slavery by Japanese army is related to the abnormal moral concept of male superiority and female inferiority in Japanese society. Japan is a typical patriarchal country, and men are in an absolute dominant position in society. Patriarchal system and eldest son inheritance system have prevailed in Japan for a long time. Men, especially the eldest son, are in an absolute dominant position in politics and economy, whether in family or society. The privileges of Japanese men are embodied incisively and vividly in all aspects, especially after Meiji, with the continuous expansion of Japanese militarism, the status of soldiers is obviously higher than that of other men. Women have no equal rights, they are just a force to assist men. Forming a family is not to pursue harmony and happiness between the two sexes, but to have children for men. Therefore, Japanese men's sexual life is very indulgent,

whoring and raising lovers, as Japanese recognized common sense of life, become an indispensable part of men.

The indulgent sexual life of Japanese men is even regarded as a symbol of men's ability and glory. In order to make women adapt to this so-called "born humble" fate and cultivate women's slave spirit of forbearance and obedience, women have received different education from men since childhood. Finally, women think that they are just tools for breeding offspring, only accessories for men, and they are willing to do their best for men and the country from the heart. For a long time, Japanese women's social status is extremely low and they can't control their own destiny, which objectively supports the establishment of the "comfort women" system. The idea that men are superior to women is deeply rooted, and their rights and dignity cannot be guaranteed. During World War II, Japan advocated "national unity" and called on everyone to contribute to the war. For this reason, a large number of women joined the ranks of "comfort women". At that time, men's patriotism was to die for their country, while women died for soldiers. For the emperor's "jihad", men gave their lives, while women gave their bodies. It is both natural and glorious for women to soothe those soldiers who shed blood and died with their bodies. Based on this understanding, Japanese women who have lost themselves condone and support the "comfort women" system to a great extent. Japanese women were the first to become "comfort women" of the Japanese army, among which, apart from some prostitutes, most of them were good women. Most of them volunteered to become "comfort women" with the good wishes of loyalty to the emperor, and there were also some factors of being deceived and deceived. Their low status, lack of independent consciousness and militarism have made Japanese women the earliest victims of this barbaric system. In an interview with reporters during World War II in 1942, Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo said, "Women are a kind of strategic material, and they are unique and nutritious strategic materials indispensable to victory. This is the view and proposition of the Japanese government and army on "comfort women ". Not only Chinese "comfort women ", but also Korean "comfort women ", even Japanese "comfort women ", can only make "strategic materials "in the eyes of Japanese imperial people.

3. The Essence and Management of Japanese Comfort Stations

The military comfort station was set up as a rear facility of the Japanese army. Japan's army ministry and navy ministry are the highest military bureaucratic organizations in Japan. In Japan's view, the establishment of military comfort stations also has so-called "legal basis". According to the research and investigation of Professor Nagai of Kyoto University, the legal basis for the establishment of comfort stations as rear facilities is Luda No.48 "Correction of Field Bartender Regulations" issued on September 29, 1937.

In the author's opinion, this is a very convincing evidence. With the protracted and comprehensive war of aggression, the first provision that was corrected was that "field bartenders are set up for the purpose of providing food and other necessities to soldiers, military families and other designated military personnel in the battlefield or occupied areas". To put it simply, a bartender is a canteen in the army. After the amendment of this provision, the content of "field bartenders should also set up necessary comfort facilities in addition to

the preceding paragraph" was attached. The "necessary comfort facilities" here are mainly comfort stations. Comfort station is one of the rear facilities of military. Many of the buildings in comfort stations are houses taken over by the Japanese army. People's homes, hotels, shops, canteens and other houses originally owned by individuals or public buildings such as schools, churches and mansions are used as comfort stations. After being transformed by carpenters in the army or coercing local craftsmen, the big house is divided into several small rooms with wood boards, and a curtain can be hung on the door. The log of the Chongxin class dispatched by Okinawa North Airport Brigade records the "Outline Design of Internal Reconstruction of Military Club", which transforms people's homes as comfort stations. The log of the 6th Squadron of Fortress Construction Service in Okinawa has the following records: The room of "comfort women" is about 5-6 square meters, and there is not much space left when they go to bed. Sometimes tents are also used as comfort stations, as well as trenches. That is to say, even on the battlefield, soldiers force "comfort women" to provide them with "sexual" services. After the Japanese army established comfort stations, they would formulate strict rules and regulations. For example, the Regulations on the Utilization of Military Clubs of Zhongshan Guard of the 13th Infantry Brigade of Guangdong Province. This is a typical logistics regulation for resident garrison in small and medium-sized cities. Here, the canteen of the garrison is called the First Military Club, and the comfort station is called the Second Military Club. There are the following regulations on management. First, the army adjutant controls, supervises and guides the business of military clubs to ensure the smooth operation of comfort stations. Secondly, the army is equipped with military doctors, who mainly serve as health facilities for military clubs, as well as health implementation and physical examination of "comfort women". Third, the army is equipped with a controller to be responsible for the manager of the military club. Fourth, strictly prevent the infiltration of spies. Fifth, servicemen who enjoy sexual services should report information about business owners, "comfort women", facilities or other military clubs to the army adjutant.

There are several regulations on military personnel who experience service. The first and second military clubs are forbidden to eat and drink. Second, the expenses need to be paid in cash. Third, soldiers are prohibited from tipping "comfort women". Fourth, the following people are not allowed to use the Second Military Club. 1. Users outside the specified time. 2. Those who do not wear military uniforms. 3. Drunk people are not allowed to use it. 4. No companions are allowed, except for general schools. The regulations of each comfort station are similar, and the regulations revolve around several major sectors: users, condom use to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, use time, The operating hours and expenses of comfort stations vary according to military ranks. Ordinary soldiers go from eight or nine o'clock in the morning to three or four o'clock in the afternoon, and non-commissioned officers and military families go from afternoon to eight o'clock in the evening. After that, generals can use them and even spend the night. The utilization time of each unit is arranged in advance, and the "comfort women" basically have no rest days. In addition to separating the use time of ordinary soldiers from non-commissioned officers and generals, special comfort stations for generals are usually set up to avoid meeting each other. After arriving at the comfort station, "comfort women" must

register first. Hankou, for example, "comfort women" must take valid materials to register at the comfort department of the military station. First, the non-commissioned officers will confirm the photos, household registration books, oaths, parents' commitment letters, police permits, and identity certificates of city and town heads of "comfort women". Second, the resume clearly states experience, home address, occupation, family size, advance amount, etc. After that, add some personal characteristics such as "business suspension", "illness in hospital" or "drunk alcohol", which are clearly recorded in it. Third, the Gendarmerie is responsible for filling out the resumes of "comfort women". That is to say, the army is fully aware of the origin of "comfort women" and the whole process of recruitment and manages them.

As mentioned above, even comfort stations run by operators are controlled by the army. The detailed utilization regulations, utilization time, utilization amount, utilization date of each unit, health management until the appointment of the manager are all decided and directly participated by the army. fees and STD inspection, etc.

4. The Motivation of The Japanese Army to Implement The "Comfort Women" System

According to the discovered documents, the Japanese army formulated the "comfort women" system and organized the motives for setting up comfort stations, mainly including the following four points.

Maintain military discipline and prevent Japanese rape. The Japanese army fought in China and Southeast Asia. During the war, Japanese officers and men came out to look for women everywhere and raped and gang raped them. Most of the time, in order not to leave future trouble for themselves, they killed them directly after doing bad things. Senior Japanese officials believe that in order to reduce rape, the only way to restore order in the occupied areas is to implement the system of "comfort women". That is to say, some women in the occupied areas and Korean women are sacrificed to maintain the discipline of the Japanese army, so that comfort stations can play the role of safety valves to prevent excessive atrocities by the Japanese army.

In fact, the establishment of military comfort stations did not really prevent sexual violence against local women. Imprisoning "comfort women" in comfort centers designated by the army, forcing them to provide sexual services to the Japanese army, and committing collective rape contributed to the hypertrophy of Japanese sexual desire. The opening of comfort stations tacitly acquiesces to sexual violence against a specific group of women. When the Japanese army didn't go to comfort stations or didn't have comfort stations, they still went out to commit sexual violence and rape against local women.

Prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in Japanese army. Japanese generals and soldiers often visit folk entertainment places to buy sex in battlefields or occupied areas. Most prostitutes here suffer from sexually transmitted diseases, and as a result, they naturally contract sexually transmitted diseases. The treatment time of sexually transmitted diseases is long, which will greatly consume troops. In order to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in the army, Japanese generals and soldiers are prohibited from entering and leaving brothels. Instead, it is a special facility for soldiers and their families-Japanese

comfort stations. But this failed to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in the army. In the Japanese army, there are a large number of soldiers suffering from sexually transmitted diseases. Comfort stations built to prevent sexually transmitted diseases have become the main places to spread sexually transmitted diseases. Military doctors give regular health examinations to "comfort women" every week to manage sexually transmitted diseases. Even so, it is impossible to put an end to sexually transmitted diseases, because there is no management of military personnel in this respect. The Japanese army has implemented the regulations on the use of condoms and "Star Secret Cream" to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, but the effect is not obvious, and most soldiers will feel very troublesome and give up using them. The number of new STD infections held by the Army was 11,983 in 1942, 12,557 in 1943 and 12,587 in 1944. This figure is only the tip of the iceberg, because sexually transmitted diseases are also disgraceful diseases in the army, and it is difficult to promote and reuse them when suffering from sexually transmitted diseases, so many generals and soldiers try their best to hide them. The overall number of STD infections is increasing year by year. The Japanese policy of setting up comfort stations to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases failed again. Provide "sexual comfort" service to the Japanese army. Use "comfort women" to ease the tension between officers and men. Japan launched an unjust war, and many Japanese soldiers who entered the battlefield did not know the significance of the war, so the Japanese military could not effectively mobilize them politically. Moreover, due to fascism in Japan, the internal system is absolute patriarchal, the relationship between superiors and subordinates, and the relationship between soldiers is only obedience. Veterans often bully and beat recruits for fun, while officers bully soldiers for their duty. In this kind of military environment, soldiers' feelings are depressed, hatred is produced, and there is no place to vent, which is a large number of rape cases and an increase in resistance to officers.

Fourth, prevent espionage. This reason sounds a bit difficult to understand. What does the "comfort women" system have to do with preventing spies? Japanese troops often go to local sex entertainment places and have close relations with women inside, thus revealing some important military information. Therefore, the army prohibited soldiers from entering and leaving private sex shops, and set up military-specific comfort facilities, that is, comfort stations, which can be completely controlled by the Japanese army, operators and women. Let women serve the army.

Japanese and Korean "comfort women" can be used with confidence. Before, China's "comfort women" were not recruited to prevent espionage. But in fact, the number of "comfort women" in Japan and North Korea is far from meeting the needs of the Japanese army, so a large number of Chinese women are forced to serve as "comfort women" and control their personal freedom.

5. Conclusion

This paper briefly discusses how the Japanese government and army implemented the terrible "comfort women" system during the Second World War. The issue of comfort women has brought serious harm to the body, mind and reputation of many women. Moreover, there are many historical documents that can prove that the Japanese government and army actively intervened in the setting and management of comfort

stations and the recruitment and transportation of "comfort women".

Japanese comfort stations are under the control and management of the army, which is a superior-subordinate relationship. In such comfort centers, "comfort women" are treated inhumanely, and they are faced with the fear of death and sexually transmitted diseases every day, which is obviously the living condition of sex slaves. Efforts should be made to find a way to solve the problem of Japanese "comfort women", and on the basis of historical data and reliable facts such as the testimony of former Japanese soldiers and victims "comfort women", the historical factual relationship and responsibility related to the Japanese "comfort women" system should be clarified.

First, admit the crime. The Japanese Government should clearly recognize that the Japanese army and the Japanese Government had kept women in sexual slavery against their will in the past, which was also illegal at that time.

Second, apologize and compensate. The Japanese government should apologize to the victims and pay compensation as proof.

Third, the transmission of memory. Through history education and human rights education, people should pass on the memory of the "comfort women" issue to prevent the same history from repeating itself.

Regrettably, in the second half of the 1990s, historical revisionism emerged in Japanese society that denied the comfort women issue, and these accounts were deleted from the 2006 edition of textbooks. Moreover, since 2010, the Japanese government has denied the issue of "comfort women". In the international community, it can be said that the Japanese Government's understanding of history and awareness of human rights has drifted farther and farther away from the universal concepts of mankind. We believe that the Japanese government and society can only gain the trust of the international community, represented by the victims and victimized countries, if they implement the above

measures against the "comfort women" system, which seriously violated women's human rights. Moreover, only by seriously correcting the mistakes of the past can Japan and the Japanese people become newly honored.

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