Matthew Rybicki

Title: “Japanese War Crimes: an Infamous Debate for an Infamous Act”
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Matthew Rybicki is a history and political science major. Matthew enjoys learning about many different time periods of history, but his favorite areas to study are the American Civil War and wartime atrocities. At IPFW, Matthew is one of the four second year Chapman Scholars; as well as one of the first generation of Chapman Scholars. In his two years at IPFW, Matthew has been on the Dean’s list every semester. Matthew plans to complete both of his degrees at IPFW and then move on to graduate school.

Abstract

The 20th century brought mankind advancement not only for advancement but in warfare as well. Tanks, airplanes, and automatic weapons helped progression on the battlefield. However, the 20th century brought something as horrific as these inventions upon civilian populations as well: mass atrocities and extermination. The ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Holocaust generally come to mind when discussing war atrocities on civilian populations; however, due to the adamant denial of war atrocities which has been conducted by the Japanese government and Japanese scholars, one subject which is often overlooked in these discussions is the Japanese wartime atrocities committed during the Sino-Japanese War and World War II. This paper discusses the war crimes committed by the Japanese during the 1930’s and 1940’s giving specific attention to the event known as the Rape of Nanking and traces the evolution of Japanese denial for war atrocities from the end of World War II to present day Japan.