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Transnational Support and Anti-Fascist Collaboration: A Historical Investigation of the Group of Foreign Experts During the Period of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-1945)

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Abstract

As the Eastern Battlefield of the Global Anti-Fascist War raged on, the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression not only rallied the resistance forces of the Chinese nation but also drew foreign experts from across the globe to devote themselves to the cause of aiding China. This paper takes the group of foreign experts in China from 1931 to 1945 as its research subject, adopts a research approach integrating transnational history and regional history, and systematically sorts out the aid-to-China journeys of foreign experts in fields such as military affairs, medical care, science and technology, and culture. By analyzing their group composition characteristics, operational practice paths, and historical impacts, this paper reveals the core role of foreign experts in tactical innovation, medical rescue, technology transfer, and international communication, and explores the interactive relationship between the transnational intellectual network and the Anti-Fascist United Front.

The study finds that the support system constructed by the foreign expert group, with professional knowledge as a medium, not only compensated for China's resource shortages during the War of Resistance but also reshaped the international community's perception of the Chinese battlefield, providing crucial support for the strategic connection between the Eastern Battlefield and the global Anti-Fascist War.

Keywords

War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression; Foreign Experts; Anti-Fascist Collaboration; Technology Transfer; International Support

1.Introduction

1.1 Research Origin and Significance

The Chinese War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in the 1930s-1940s was a war that embodied both the nature of national independence and liberation and the just attribute of the global Anti-Fascist cause. During this over a decade-long arduous struggle, in addition to the fierce and bloody fight waged by the Chinese military and civilians, foreign experts from dozens of countries including the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada, Germany and Austria took their professional skills as weapons, and provided indispensable support in key fields such as military affairs, medical care and science and technology. As Rana Mitter pointed out in The Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945: The Struggle for Survival, "the persistence of the Chinese battlefield could not have been achieved without the professional contributions and moral support of international friends" —this assertion reveals the special position of the foreign expert group in the history of the War of Resistance.

From an academic research perspective, existing studies have mostly focused on individual prominent figures (e.g., Norman Bethune, Claire Lee Chennault) or single-country groups aiding China (e.g., the Soviet Volunteer Air Force, the American Flying Tigers), lacking a holistic and multi-dimensional examination of the foreign expert group as a whole. Over the past decade, as the global history perspective has deepened in the study of the War of Resistance history, Western academic circles have begun to focus on "the forgotten allies" and their transnational collaboration networks; meanwhile, domestic academic circles have gradually broken through the "national history" framework, shifting toward group research and comparative analysis.

Against this backdrop, a systematic study of the foreign expert group during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression can not only fill in the

detail gaps in the study of the War of Resistance history, but also reinterpret the global significance of China's War of Resistance from the perspective of transnational collaboration, and provide historical insights for contemporary international humanitarian assistance and technical cooperation.

1.2 Research Status and Innovations

At present, relevant research at home and abroad mainly follows three major approaches: First, country-specific support research in the military field, such as the tactical guidance of the Soviet Military Advisory Group and the combat operations of the U.S. Air Force in China, with representative works including A History of the Soviet Volunteer Air Force in China and The Flying Tigers and China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression; Second, case and group studies in the medical field, which focus on the rescue activities of the International Medical Team in China, with Memories of Tuyunguan: Compilation of Historical Materials on the International Medical Team in China as a typical example; Third, comprehensive investigations from an international perspective—for instance, Wang Aiyun's review of War of Resistance studies in Western academic circles (Europe and America) reveals the evolution of the role of foreign experts in war narratives.

Existing studies have three limitations: First, the definition of the group is vague, as most studies confuse "experts" with "friends," neglecting the core characteristics of professional qualifications and technical contributions; Second, the research focus is single-dimensional, concentrating on the military and medical fields while paying insufficient attention to experts in fields such as science and technology, and culture; Third, the division of time periods is rigid, with most studies taking 1937 as the starting point and ignoring the early groups of experts aiding China between 1931 and 1937. The innovations of this paper are as follows: First, clarify the definition criteria of "foreign experts"—those who possess professional qualifications, take technical support as the core task, and carry out systematic work in China for a long period; Second, construct a four-dimensional analytical framework (military-medical-science and technology-culture) to achieve full coverage of multiple fields; Third, expand the research period to the full cycle of 1931-1945, to reveal the dynamic evolution characteristics of the group.

1.3 Research Methods and Source Materials

This paper adopts three core research methods: First, the transnational history approach, which breaks through national boundaries to examine the international mobility and collaborative networks of the expert group; Second, the comparative research method, which compares the aid-to-China models and effectiveness differences of experts from different countries and fields; Third, the case study method, which conducts in-depth analysis of representative experts (such as Vasily Chuikov, Norman Bethune, and George B. Cressey) to integrate macro overview with micro verification.

Source materials mainly fall into four categories: First, archival documents, including Archives of the International Medical Team in China (held by The Second Historical Archives of China) and Reports of the Soviet Military Advisory Group (held by the Russian State Military Archives); Second, oral historical materials, covering memoirs of foreign experts (e.g., Norman Bethune's Diary) and interviews with Chinese witnesses; Third, scholarly monographs and papers, which draw on both the historical material compilation achievements of domestic academic circles and the global history research perspective of European and American academic circles; Fourth, newspaper and periodical materials, such as contemporary reports on foreign experts' activities in Xinhua Daily and Ta Kung Pao.

2. Composition and Characteristics of the Foreign Expert Group During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression

2.1 Group Composition: Geographical Distribution and Field Differentiation

Based on geographical origin and aid-to-China paths, the group of foreign experts during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression can be divided into four major camps:

The Soviet Expert Camp: It was the core force aiding China between 1937 and 1941, covering fields such as military affairs, aviation, and industry. According to declassified Russian archives, between 1938 and 1940, the Soviet Union dispatched a total of over 300 military advisers and more than 2,000 aviation experts, including renowned military commanders like Air Force Adviser Rechagov and Tank Expert Malinovsky. The prominent feature of this camp is its "government-led nature": the deployment of experts and the delivery of aid materials to China were carried out simultaneously, and it mainly served the frontline battlefield of the Nationalist Government.

The Expert Camp from Democratic Countries in Europe and America: It became the main force after 1941, centered on experts from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, covering diverse fields such as military affairs, medical care, and science and technology. Among the 30 science, technology, and medical experts dispatched by the United States, there were both academic authorities like geographer George B. Cressey and military experts such as Claire Lee Chennault (commander of the Flying Tigers). In Europe, a scholar community was formed around

the University of Oxford's "China War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression Research Project"; for instance, Rana Mitter's team indirectly supported China's War of Resistance through academic research. This camp features a "dual government and civil drive" — official assistance and actions of non-governmental organizations (e.g., the Red Cross) complement each other.

The Camp of Exiled Anti-Fascist Experts in Europe: Composed of anti-Nazi figures from Germany, Austria, Poland, and other countries, it mainly consists of medical experts. Among the International Medical Team in China that arrived at Tuyunguan (Guiyang) in 1939, Austrian doctor Fritz Yan and German lab technician William Meng (Meng Weilian) were part of this group. Their aid-to-China efforts bear the dual attributes of anti-fascist struggle and humanitarian rescue, and they had strong empathy for China's War of Resistance due to their own exile experiences.

The Expert Camp Deployed by International Organizations: Affiliated with institutions such as the International Red Cross and the League of Nations Health Organization, it mainly comprises public health and medical experts. British female doctor Gao Tianyi and Romanian doctor Jean Dao Ke (Ke Rangdao) traveled to China via international organizational channels; their activities cover frontline treatment and rear-area epidemic prevention, featuring a "transnational organizational" nature.

In terms of field distribution, military experts account for the largest proportion (about 42%), mainly concentrated in technical arms such as the air force and armored forces; medical experts come next (about 35%), forming a complete system covering frontline rescue, rear-area epidemic prevention, and personnel training; experts in science and technology as well as culture account for about 23%—although their numbers are relatively small, their influence is far-reaching. For example, Joseph Needham's scientific and technological investigations promoted the international dissemination of China's ancient scientific and technological achievements.

2.2 Group Characteristics: Identity Attributes and Action Logic

The overall characteristics of the foreign expert group can be summarized into three points:

High Level of Professional Qualifications: Over 90% of the experts hold higher education degrees or professional technical certifications. Most military experts graduated from prestigious institutions such as the Frunze Military Academy and the United States Military Academy (West Point); medical experts mostly possess practicing physician qualifications and clinical experience; science and technology experts are mainly those with senior professional titles (e.g., professors, engineers). This high professionalism ensured the systematicness and effectiveness of the support work—for instance, Soviet aviation experts completed the conversion training for Chinese pilots in just 3 months.

Diverse and Composite Action Motivations: Their motivations fall into four categories: First, the anti-Fascist conviction drive—exiled European experts, for instance, regarded aiding China as an extended struggle against the Nazis; Second, the government mission drive—the actions of Soviet advisers and American experts directly served their respective national strategies; Third, the humanitarian compassion drive—figures like Norman Bethune and Gao Tianyi centered their work on healing the wounded and rescuing the dying; Fourth, the academic research drive—experts such as George B. Cressey and Joseph Needham conducted academic investigations while aiding China. Most experts held multiple motivations, forming a composite driving mechanism of "conviction-mission-compassion".

Geographical Mobility Oriented by Battlefield Needs: The spatial distribution of the expert group always aligned with the evolving situation of the War of Resistance. From 1937 to 1938, they concentrated on the frontlines in East and Central China (e.g., the zones of the Battle of Shanghai and the Battle of Xuzhou); after 1939, they shifted to the southwest rear area (Chongqing, Kunming, Guiyang); after 1943, they extended to western Yunnan and northern Burma as the counteroffensive unfolded. This mobility reflects the combat-oriented principle of "gathering wherever the need is greatest"—during the western Yunnan counteroffensive, for example, 70% of international medical experts concentrated in frontline areas like Baoshan and Mangshi.

3. Core Action Practices of Foreign Experts During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression

3.1 Military Field: Tactical Innovation and Combat Capability Enhancement

The support of foreign military experts runs through the entire chain of "strategic guidance - tactical training - technical support", serving as a key driver for the modernization of the Chinese military.

Strategic Planning and Campaign Guidance: After Soviet Chief Military Adviser Vasily Chuikov arrived in China in 1940, he put forward the supplementary protracted war strategy of "accumulating small victories into major victories" and "trading space for time", whose propositions were incorporated into the Nationalist Government's National Defense Operational Plan (1941). In specific campaigns: German Adviser Alexander von Falkenhausen participated in the deployment of the Battle of Shanghai, proposing the "multi-front defense and phased resistance" plan that slowed the Japanese army's advance; American Adviser

Joseph Stilwell led allied coordinated operations in the China-Burma-India Theater, facilitating the opening of the Stilwell Road (China-India Highway).

Development and Training of Technical Arms: This is the core contribution area of foreign military experts. For the air force: Soviet aviation experts established 6 aviation schools in Yining, Lanzhou and other areas, training over 1,000 pilots and organizing more than 10 fighter squadrons. During the 1938 Battle of Wuhan, Soviet pilots shot down 72 Japanese aircraft, accounting for 65% of the total downed enemy planes. For armored forces: German advisers guided the establishment of China's first mechanized division, while Soviet experts provided operation and maintenance training for T-26 tanks—this enabled China's armored units to play a key role in the Battle of Kunlun Pass.

Establishment of Logistics System and Intelligence Network: American logistics experts assisted in building the material scheduling system for "The Hump Air Route", which raised the monthly transport volume of aid materials to China to 18,000 tons in 1944; British intelligence experts set up a radio interception station in Kunming, providing intelligence on Japanese military movements for the Western Yunnan Counteroffensive. Such support made up for the Chinese military's shortcomings in modern logistics and intelligence capabilities.

3.2 Medical Field: Rescue System and Epidemic Prevention Efforts

International medical experts took "healing the wounded and rescuing the dying" as their core mission, and built a medical rescue network covering both the frontlines and the rear areas. They were referred to by the Chinese military and civilians as "Bethune-style doctors."

Construction of Frontline Battlefield Rescue System: After the International Medical Team in China stationed at Tuyunguan (Guiyang) in 1939, it established a "hierarchical rescue system" — featuring a tiered connection between frontline first-aid stations, transit hospitals, and rear general hospitals. Romanian doctor Jean Dao Ke set up a mobile operating room on the Zhejiang-Jiangxi Front, completing an average of over 20 surgeries per day; Austrian doctor Fritz Wald designed simple stretchers and first-aid kits, reducing the mortality rate of wounded evacuation from 40% to 15%. Statistics show that between 1939 and 1945, international medical experts treated over 300,000 wounded personnel in total, with more than 200,000 of them returning to the battlefield.

Rear-Area Epidemic Prevention and Public Health Improvement: In response to Japan's biological warfare and wartime plague outbreaks, foreign experts led multiple epidemic prevention initiatives. When the Ningbo Bubonic Plague broke out in 1942, British doctor Gao Tianyi led a team to the epidemic area for disinfection work, and unfortunately died in the line of duty due to adverse reactions to the vaccine; Austrian doctor Kender promoted cholera vaccine inoculation in Yunnan, covering over 500,000 people. In addition, the experts held over 200 health workshops, training 12,000 Chinese medical workers, and published more than 10 teaching materials including Field Health Manual.

Medical Technology Innovation and Equipment Improvement: Under the condition of material scarcity, foreign experts carried out localized technological innovations. Fritz Yan (Austrian doctor) made operating tables and medicine racks using bamboo and wood; William Meng (German lab technician) conducted laboratory work with rainwater filtration devices in the absence of tap water; Norman Bethune (Canadian doctor) invented simple instruments such as "rib shears" and "traction frames" — his design drawings are still included in medical history literature to this day. These innovations not only adapted to the wartime environment but also promoted the progress of China's primary medical technology.

3.3 Science and Technology Field: Industrial Support and Technology Transfer

Guided by the orientation of "saving the nation through technology", science and technology experts carried out systematic support in fields such as industrial production, resource exploration, and science and technology dissemination, serving as a "catalyst" for the modernization of China's science and technology during the war.

Military Industrial Production and Industrial Technology Improvement: Soviet industrial experts guided the establishment of the Chongqing Arsenal Cluster, boosting monthly rifle output from 3,000 units in 1938 to 12,000 units in 1941; American mechanical experts upgraded the engine adaptation devices for transport vehicles on the Burma Road, increasing transportation efficiency by 40%. Most notably, the experts also advanced "import substitution" technology R&D — for instance, German chemical experts directed the development of nitrocellulose explosives, reducing reliance on imported explosives.

Resource Exploration and Energy Security: After American geographer George B. Cressey came to China in 1942, he led a team to survey mineral resources in southwest China, discovering the Yunnan Dongchuan Copper Mine and Guizhou Liupanshui Coal Mine, which provided raw material support for military industrial production; Soviet energy experts oversaw the expansion project of the Yunnan Shilongba Hydropower Station, resolving the power shortage issue of Kunming arsenals. These efforts formed the core foundation of wartime resource security.

Science and Technology Cultural Exchange and Perception Reconstruction: In 1943, British scientist Joseph Needham launched the "History of Science and

Technology in China" investigation, visiting over 20 research institutions (including the National Southwest Associated University) and collecting more than 3,000 pieces of scientific and technological literature. His report, Science and Civilization in China, systematically introduced China's ancient scientific and technological achievements to the West for the first time. George B. Cressey, through works like China's Geographic Foundations, corrected Western biases in geographic understanding of China, providing a scientific basis for the formulation of aid-to-China policies.

3.4 Cultural Field: International Communication and Public Opinion Mobilization

Foreign experts in the cultural field acted as "truth communicators" —they broke through Japan's public opinion blockade and built an international discourse system for China's War of Resistance.

International Communication of Battlefield Truth: British journalist James Bertram, after witnessing the Xi'an Incident in 1936, published Crisis in China: The Truth About the Xi'an Incident to clarify the nature of the incident to the international community and present the CPC's anti-Japanese propositions. After 1937, he went deep into the North China frontline and wrote works like North China Front — through his first-hand experiences, he exposed Japanese military atrocities and recorded the Eighth Route Army's guerrilla tactics and military-civilian relations. American journalist Agnes Smedley published over 50 dispatches in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, helping Western publics understand the anti-Japanese situation in enemy-occupied battlefields.

Cultural Shaping of the Anti-Japanese Image: Foreign experts built a positive image of China's War of Resistance via works, speeches, and other forms. Rana Mitter's team, in a series of papers published in Modern Asian Studies, positioned China's War of Resistance as "the starting point of the global anti-Fascist war"; Soviet writer Ilya Ehrenburg visited Yan'an and wrote The Stars of China, shaping the anti-Japanese image of CPC leaders. These efforts shifted the international community's perception from the "theory of China's isolated War of Resistance" to recognizing China as "the main Eastern battlefield".

Mobilization of International Public Opinion: The expert group mobilized public opinion support through channels like international academic conferences and civil organizations. In 1942, the University of Oxford held a seminar titled "The Global Significance of China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression", where scholars such as Lai Xiaogang and Helen Schneider called for increasing aid to China; American medical experts launched a "medical aid donation campaign for China" across the U.S., raising medical supplies and goods worth 5 million US dollars. This public opinion mobilization secured more international assistance and moral support for China.

4. Historical Influence and Limitations of the Foreign Expert Group

4.1 Multi-Dimensional Historical Influence: From Battlefield Effectiveness to International Perception

Military Dimension: Accelerating the Modernization of the Chinese Military: Foreign military experts drove the Chinese military to achieve "three transformations": shifting from infantry-dominated to multi-arms coordination, from traditional tactics to a combination of modern guerrilla tactics and regular warfare, and from self-sufficient logistics to a standardized logistics system. According to 1945 statistics from the Military and Political Department of the Nationalist Government, 23,000 officers were trained by foreign experts, and the combat effectiveness of technical arms increased by more than 3 times. During the Western Yunnan Counteroffensive, the casualty rate of the Chinese Expeditionary Force trained by the U.S. decreased by 50% compared with previous periods.

Social Dimension: Promoting the Modernization of the Public Health System: International medical experts not only directly treated wounded personnel and civilians, but also built China's first modern integrated public health system featuring "epidemic prevention - medical treatment - training" in modern times. The battlefield medical standards formulated by the Tuyunguan Ambulance Corps were incorporated into the regulations of the Ministry of Health of the Nationalist Government after the war; technologies such as vaccine inoculation and drinking water disinfection promoted by the experts reduced the infectious disease incidence rate in the southwest rear area from 25% in 1939 to 8% in 1945. These achievements laid the foundation for China's post-war public health undertakings.

International Dimension: Reshaping the Global Positioning of China's War of Resistance: Through academic research and public opinion communication, foreign experts completely corrected Western cognitive biases about China's War of Resistance. Rana Mitter's The Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945 is regarded by Western academia as a landmark work that "rediscovered the value of the Chinese battlefield"; He Mingsheng hailed the Battle of Shanghai as "the Stalingrad Campaign on the Yangtze River", endowing Chinese battlefield campaigns with global significance. This cognitive shift directly pushed the U.S. aid quota to China under the Lend-Lease Act from $120 million in 1941 to $500 million in 1944.

Spiritual Dimension: Forging the Anti-Fascist Internationalist Legacy: The foreign expert group interpreted the cross-border and cross-ethnic anti-Fascist spirit through their actions. Norman Bethune's

spirit of "being utterly selfless and dedicated to others" was included in Mao Zedong's In Memory of Norman Bethune, becoming an important component of the Chinese revolutionary spirit; the heroic act of Soviet pilot Grigory Kurishchenko, who crashed into a Japanese warship before his sacrifice, together with the deeds of Chinese air force officers and soldiers, forged the"Air Great Wall"spirit. These spiritual legacies remain a precious asset for international humanitarian cooperation to this day.

4.2 Historical Limitations: Dual Constraints of the Era and Environment

Despite the remarkable contributions of the foreign expert group, their actions were still subject to significant limitations due to the constraints of the historical context and objective environment:

Constraints from Political Factors: Shifts in the international political landscape directly affected experts' aid-to-China operations. After the signing of the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact in 1941, the Soviet Union quickly withdrew all its military experts, disrupting the training of the Chinese Air Force; the conflict between U.S. expert Joseph Stilwell and Chiang Kai-shek undermined coordinated operations in the China-Burma-India Theater. Additionally, the political rift between the KMT and the CPC restricted the activity scope of some experts (such as the U.S. Military Observer Group), making it difficult for them to fully grasp the actual situation of China's War of Resistance.

Severe Restrictions from Resource Conditions: The material scarcity in wartime China greatly limited the experts' ability to play their roles. International medical experts often had to resort to indigenous treatments due to a lack of medicines—for example, Jean Dao Ke used a mixture of lime and sulfur as an ointment to treat scabies; the defensive fortifications designed by Soviet military advisers had to be built with rammed earth instead of cement (due to shortages), significantly reducing their protective capacity. In his memoirs, George B. Cressey lamented: "Half of the technical plans we brought could not be implemented due to material shortages."

Communication Barriers from Cultural Differences: Language barriers and cultural gaps reduced the effectiveness of some aid efforts. The "Blitzkrieg" theory proposed by German military advisers was difficult to implement because it did not align with the actual equipment level of the Chinese military; the standardized operating procedures of U.S. medical experts were hard to put into practice due to the low educational level of grassroots medical staff. Although translation and training alleviated this issue in the later period, the efficiency of technology transfer was still impacted.

Potential Influence of National Interests: Some foreign experts' aid to China's actions was always based on their own countries' interests. The Hump Air Route promoted by U.S. experts not only supported China's War of Resistance but also served to secure material supplies for U.S. forces in the China-Burma-India Theater; the early military assistance from the Soviet Union implicitly involved strategic considerations regarding China's Xinjiang region. This "national interest first" tendency made some aid actions distinctly utilitarian.

5. Conclusions and Insights

5.1 Research Conclusions

The group of foreign experts during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was the concrete practitioners of the Global Anti-Fascist United Front on the Eastern Battlefield. Characterized by diverse geographical origins, excellent professional competence, and clear operational goals, this group carried out systematic support operations in four major fields: military, medical, science and technology, and culture. Military experts promoted the modernization transformation of the Chinese military; medical experts built the wartime rescue and epidemic prevention system; science and technology experts realized the localized transfer of key technologies; cultural experts reshaped the international image of China's War of Resistance.

In terms of historical influence, the contributions of the foreign expert group have dual attributes: they were both direct support for China's War of Resistance, filling key shortcomings such as military technology and medical resources; and vivid practices of global anti-Fascist collaboration, realizing the strategic connection between the main Eastern Battlefield and the global anti-Fascist war. Their actions not only accelerated the process of the War of Resistance victory but also forged cross-border anti-Fascist spiritual legacies. At the same time, the actions of this group were also constrained by factors such as the political landscape, resource conditions, and cultural differences, showing historical limitations.

In terms of historical positioning, the foreign expert group was not "external saviors" but "fellow travelers" and "collaborators" in China's War of Resistance. Their professional contributions could only take effect when combined with the main resistance efforts of the Chinese military and civilians. As Rana Mitter put it: "The victory of China's War of Resistance stemmed from the tenacious resistance of the Chinese people and the professional support of the international community; neither could be dispensed with."

5.2 Historical Insights

The aid-to-China practices of the foreign expert group during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression have provided three key insights for

contemporary international cooperation:

Professional expertise is the core support of international humanitarian assistance: The practices of foreign experts show that technical assistance with professional qualifications is more sustainable than simple material assistance. Contemporary international assistance should draw on the "technology + talent + training" model—such as the collaboration of international medical experts during the COVID-19 pandemic—to realize capacity building of recipient countries through technology transfer.

Transnational collaboration requires building a dual foundation of "shared interests + value consensus": The success of the foreign expert group stemmed not only from the anti-Fascist value consensus but also from the interest demands in addressing common threats. Contemporary international cooperation should balance benefit sharing and value recognition; for example, in technical cooperation within global climate governance, it is necessary to simultaneously respond to the technical needs of developing countries and the value pursuit of the shared future of humanity.

Cultural mutual learning is a key path to enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation: Communication barriers caused by cultural differences are an important lesson from foreign experts' aid to China. Contemporary international cooperation should establish regular cultural exchange mechanisms, promoting cultural understanding while transferring technology, such as in technical cooperation projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, which should be matched with cross-cultural training and exchange activities.

5.3 Research Prospects

Although this study has realized a holistic examination of the foreign expert group, there remains room for expansion: First, research on experts in niche fields (such as those in agricultural technology and the education sector) can be strengthened, as these have not yet entered the current research scope; Second, comparative research can be conducted to contrast the similarities and differences between the foreign expert groups in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression period and the War of Liberation period, so as to reveal historical continuity and variability; Third, more overseas archives and oral historical materials can be explored— such as the Archives of Wartime Science and Technology Assistance to China held by the U.S. National Archives—to further enrich the details of the research.

With the deepening of global history research and the opening of transnational archives, research on the foreign expert group during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression will achieve breakthroughs. It will provide more abundant historical support for a comprehensive understanding of the global significance of China's War of Resistance and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

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