

On April Fools day of this year [2004] , I met Iris for the second time. When I said goodbye to her that evening, where she and I had exchanged some heartfelt words to each other, I did not know that those were goodbye words, forever.

A Thank You Note to Iris Chang

An Introduction of Iris Chang

during her lecture in Richardson, Texas April 1st, 2004

by Da Hsuan Feng

Vice President for Research and Graduate Education, The University Of Texas at Dallas

Iris Chang, an author with global impact, needs NO introduction. Since she needs no introduction, I thought the best I could do here is to use this opportunity to say a profound "thank you" to her.

About 35 years ago, when I was a struggling "foreign student", a friend of mine, who was Jewish, invited me to go to a lecture on campus. My roommate told me that the lecture was by a "Holocaust" survivor. Until then, I had never heard of the phrase "The Holocaust". The lecture, and the photos she showed, which were so haunting and so profoundly lacking in humanity, left a deep impression - probably more correctly, a deep scar - on my mind. I remember to this date the final phrase of the lecture: "NEVER AGAIN!"

When I returned to my room after the lecture, I began wondering about the meaning of the phrase THE HOLOCAUST. Did it apply only to the deep sufferings, in mind, souls and bodies, of the Jews in Europe? Well, in fact, it wasn't until last night, when I was preparing for this introduction, I looked up Cambridge Dictionary and found that it defined the phrase "The Holocaust" as "The Holocaust" was the systematic murder of many people, esp. Jews, by the Nazis during World War II.

Yes, any systematic murder of "many people", is a Holocaust! I learned from my mother as a child in Singapore, who was a professor of music in Ginling Woman's University in Nanjing (or Nanking) after WWII, about the "Nanking Massacre". I am sure because it was so painful for her to remember the Nanking Massacre that she was only willing to tell me bits and pieces of this horrible event in China during WWII. I remember that I was deeply angered by what I learned, but was frustrated because I could not learn more. There were no books I could find on the subject, at least none readily available!

Soon, life went on for me and the issue of the Nanking Massacre was put on the back burner. It was not until I read Iris' book a few years ago, entitled the Rape of Nanking, that rekindled that deep feeling of rage in me. Her writing was not just great, it was haunting. For the first time in my life, I could profoundly appreciate why anyone possessing a sense of justice - whether you are Chinese ethnically or not - could say NEVER AGAIN!

The book articulated for me, for the first time, why not being Jewish, I could be so deeply angered by THE HOLOCAUST in Europe. It succinctly stated for me that I am their fellow human being. I am sure that any one

reading Iris' book, whether he/she be ethnically Chinese or not , can feel the deep pain and profound anger as a fellow human being.

It was the first book which brought some justice to the deep sufferings of the hundreds of thousands in Nanking in W.W. II. So, thank you Iris, for being so brave, for me, and for all humanity!

我与张纯如 Iris Chang 最后一面的回忆

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两天前在脸书上有人提到犹太人大屠杀纪念日。有两个字我 50 年前来到美国就听到的，那就是「永不能再发生」Never Again。看到这个宣布，令我想到 2004 年，我有幸在德州达拉斯旁边的理查德森市 Richardson 的中国城见到张纯如(Iris Chang)。

张纯如是一位美籍华人著名作家。她最有名并轰动全球的著作就是《南京大屠杀》Rape of Nanking。那本书是血淋淋地把二战时候的南京大屠杀清楚并仔细地描述出来。

2004 年 4 月 1 号，也就是愚人节的那一天，张纯如被德州的华人组织请到达拉斯来做演讲。当时我是达拉斯德州大学的副校长，所以当地的华人组织给了我一个非常大的荣耀，那就是在她演讲之前，介绍张纯如。我特别高兴的另一个原因是因为张纯如的父亲张绍进是一位优秀的理论物理学家。因为是同行，所以我和他也稍微认识。

附上是我的演讲的中文翻译。

2004 年愚人节那天，我第二次见到张纯如。当天晚上我跟她道别的时候，我们互相说了一些由衷之言。没想到那些言语，就是永别之辞了。一路好走，张纯如！

谢谢张纯如

介绍张纯如

德州达拉斯旁理查德森市（Richardson）演讲 2004 年 4 月 1 日

冯达旋

德州大学达拉斯分校研究副校长

女士们，先生们，晚上好。

作为一个全球有深远影响的作家，张纯如女士是不需要介绍的。

既然她不需要介绍，我想我真正能够在这里讲的话就是向她说一声由内心发出的〔感谢〕两个字。

在 1964 年，当我是刚到美国新泽西州的大一学生时，我有一个同学请我去参加大学主办的一个演讲。这位同学告诉我，演讲者是大屠杀 Holocaust 的生还者。当然我当时从来也没有听说过这个英文词。

一直到今天，那个演讲配合上图片深深的印在我的脑海中，也算是我脑海中的一个伤痕吧。那些图片是绝对没有人性的。我清楚记得最后两个字那位演讲者说的就是〔永不能再发生〕Never Again！

我记得当天晚上我回到我的房间，我就一直想起那个英文词 Holocaust。我想是不是这个字只能用在形容犹太人在欧洲所面临的思维，肉体及灵魂的沧桑？

当我那天晚上把我的剑桥词典拿出来查了一下，根据该字典的翻译是

“The Holocaust” was the systematic murder of many people, esp. Jews, by the Nazis during World War II. “

看了这个翻译，我才认识到 Holocaust，是代表任何的大屠杀。

二战之后，我母亲是一位在南京金陵女大的音乐教授。我记得她曾经用简短的话跟我讲了南京大屠杀的事情。但是很可能是南京大屠杀是极端惨不忍睹的事情，我母亲从来没有也不愿意跟我仔细地讲这件事。我记得知道了这件事情以后，我非常愤怒，但是也感到非常无奈，因为当时没有其他的办法能

够让我真正去了解南京大屠杀的真相。

慢慢的我就把南京大屠杀的这个事情抛到脑后。重新能够让我从记忆中取出来就是几年前我读了到张纯如《南京大屠杀》**Rape of Nanking** 这本书。

这本书让我清楚地了解到虽然我不是犹太人，我能够感受到同样的愤怒并对犹太人在二战时期所受的创伤感同身受。这本书清楚的让我了解到我和犹太人都是人类的族群。

我也深深地相信，任何人读了张纯如这本书，无论他/她是不是华人都能感到同样的愤怒。

张纯如的这本书是为了千千万万在南京受到非常惨痛之害的人高喊正义的要求！

所以，我希望我能够以薄弱的我为全人类向您说一声谢谢，张纯如。

(冯达旋 达旋专栏 2018 年 5 月 26 日, 盛捷 Zoe Sheng & 么丽 Lily Yao 集合)