

# 中国历史与文化

## **IREE 2010 - History and Culture of China**

### **Activity: Why We Fight**

**Estimated Time: 60 minute video, 15 minute debrief/discussion**

As you participate in the orientation sessions, you may realize that some of your own preconceptions about Chinese history, society, and culture are incorrect or incomplete. But what are the origins of these preconceptions? They can come from a variety of sources, including the mass media, lessons in school, books we've read, and interactions with friends, family, and colleagues.

In this activity you will practice analyzing media images of China in historical context, including by identifying some possible preconceptions about China that may still linger in contemporary American culture. The assigned video, "Why We Fight: The Battle of China," was released in 1943 as a World War II propaganda film. An edited version was shown in American classrooms for decades. For many who went to school in the 1950s and 1960s, this film was a primary source of information about China. As you watch the film, take notes on the discussion questions listed below.

1. How does the film portray China's role in the war, as well as its relation to other countries?
2. How are Chinese society and culture represented in this film? How are Chinese people depicted?
3. Can you name any contemporary misconceptions about China that are apparent in this film?
4. How does the video reflect American values and ideals? What does it say about American culture?
5. How have media representations of China changed (or not changed) since this video was produced?

\* Developed for International Research and Education in Engineering (IREE) 2010 China  
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