

An Analysis of “ Victory over Japan Day ” Reporting in Chinese Newspaper Media

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The aim of this paper is to show how newspaper media in the Republic of China depicted “ Victory over Japan Day ”, or VJ Day, right after the end of its war with Japan that lasted for 8 years, and to clarify the message they attempted to convey.

As we have seen in this paper, big celebrations of the Victory Day were held in the Republic of China, both on August 15 and on September 3, both nationally, and in provincial cities like Tianjin. However, as time passed, light-hearted celebration of the day as the day of victory, political independence, and escape from dependency became a thing of the past. Instead, what came to occupy the central position were religious ceremonies honoring the war-dead, and entertainment featuring songs, dances, and music. At the same time, it is evident that the harshness of the real situation came to be felt with increasing urgency. In a number of articles on the celebratory events published in Dagongbao and in Yishibao, we can discern an increasing sense of difficulty of the post-wartime China.