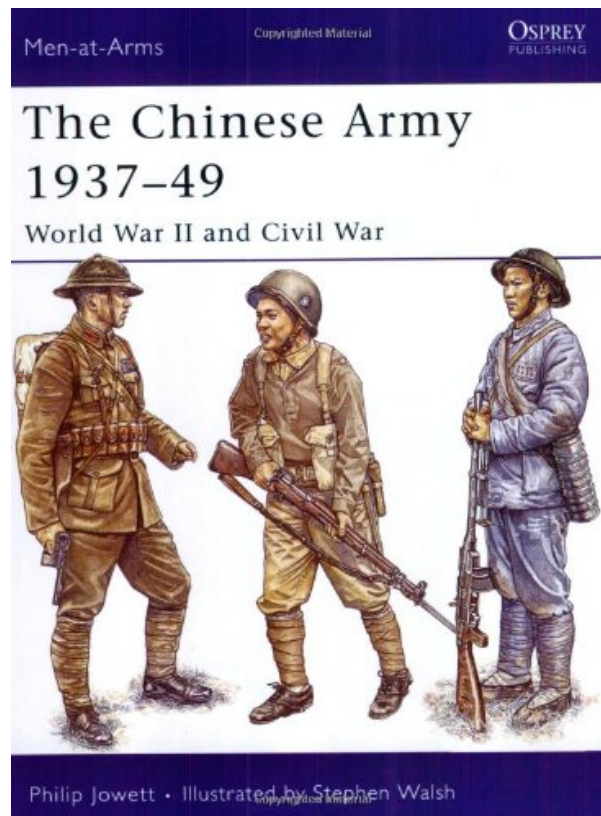


# THE CHINESE ARMY 1937-49: WORLD WAR II AND CIVIL WAR (MEN-AT-ARMS) BY PHILIP JOWETT



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# The Chinese Army 1937–49

World War II and Civil War



Philip Jowett • Illustrated by Stephen Walsh

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## About the Author

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Although the Chinese contribution to Allied victory in World War II (1939-1945) is often ignored, China fought the Japanese Empire for far longer than any other belligerent nation. By the time that the Sino-Japanese War became absorbed into the wider conflict at the end of 1941, Chinese armies had already suffered huge casualties and half the country had been lost. By fighting on with Allied support, China tied down a million Japanese troops. After Japan's defeat in 1945, China was immediately plunged back into civil war between Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists and Mao Tse-tung's Communists; and the latter's victory in 1949 changed the world for the rest of the 20th century and beyond.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

If you thought it was rough in the Japanese army...

By Alan D. Cranford

I was undecided about which soldier had a rougher life--the Japanese, Soviet, or Chinese soldier. After reading Philip Jowett's "The Chinese Army," I'll vote for the Chinese soldier. One in four soldiers issued a blanket? The virtual lack of a logistics pipeline severely hindered the Chinese Army's effectiveness. What little trickled down to the soldier's unit was often stolen and sold by his officers. No wonder Mao won! China was in a state of civil war since the mid 1920's. Japan needed resources and saw a failed nation as ripe for the picking. After Japan exhausted itself in China, Japan declared war on the rest of the world and was utterly crushed--Chinese soldiers played an important role in that defeat. Afterwards, China resumed its civil war,

with the Communists routing the Nationalists. That civil war continues today with the conflict over Taiwan.

"The Chinese Army" covers the Nationalist Chinese Army--and I am abusing the term "army." Most of the Nationalist army was a half-trained peasant rabble that would have felt at home in the 100 Years War. It astounds me that the Chinese managed to survive close to three decades of civil war--with nearly a third of that in a formal declared war against Japan. I'll have to look up the other Chinese army, Mao's.

Details on uniforms and equipment included a series of color plates that are worth the price of the book. The details on unit organization are sketchy--but then, Chinese Army organization was flexible to the extreme. This book is 48 pages long, a bit slimmer than other Osprey products--but then, the Chinese fought a "come as you are" war. Virtually all weapons were either imports or copies of foreign weapons. Uniforms ranged from ordinary peasant garb (and a sack for ammunition--the few cartridges available) to German-based uniforms for Chiang's personal divisions.

I have to respect these tough soldiers. The only thing harder than being a Chinese soldier was being a Chinese peasant.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great info

By Robert T. Shultz

As far as I know, this is THE book on The Chinese Army of the thirties and forties. The illustrations and photos are the best I've ever seen and show outstanding detail. This book, even though it is short, shows the fantastic diversity of the Chinese Armies of this period, not just in uniforms, but in weapons and other gear. How this ramshackle collection managed to fight major wars against the Japanese and each other is almost beyond comprehension.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A mixed review of this book

By N. Wang

As a Chinese American interested in the 2nd world war history, this is the ONLY book in English on this subject I know of (of course there is a sibling book covering the time period starting 20 years earlier).

The book does cover a lot of information and the readers need to go through every page and every picture including the captions of the drawings. The author tried to cover so many issues in such a small booklet: army organization, uniform, personal equipment, and weaponry from light firearm to artillery and armored vehicle. The vast amount of material can be better organized for easier reading. I'll give it a 5 for the fact that there is much information in such a thin book and the only one on this subject in English.

However, as I also accessed information in Chinese, I'm somewhat disappointed by the mistakes in the book and the somewhat poor way of organization of the material. Majority of the information is accurate, but some mistakes are made, such as some of the weaponry used - not a surprise as Chinese Army had to use what they could lay hands on and even article in American Rifleman on the rifles used by Chinese army in the WWII also has several mistakes! It is a total chaos in fact. For the shortage of some important information, I feel it is a 3.

Therefore a rating of 4 is given. But for readers of English only and interested in this subject, it is still highly recommended as a starting material.

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