that when Minnie was in charge, the school was in a “golden age of blossoming”; she introduced teaching programs, student mentoring, and more classes such as health, fitness, and music education.\textsuperscript{16} She also adopted a good neighbor policy after touring Nanking: classes were extended to the public and conducted in the front gate house of the campus.\textsuperscript{17} After pioneering fundraisers to build an elementary school and a free local clinic\textsuperscript{18}, Minnie became known as “Miss Hua” because she had improved the quality of life in and around Ginling College.\textsuperscript{19} Before she left on her second furlough, Minnie was thorough in her thinking and tried to anticipate every scenario that could happen amidst political turmoil.\textsuperscript{20} No one, not even Minnie Vautrin, could have anticipated the extremity of what was to come. When she returned, she met face-to-face with sheer chaos.

On July 7, 1937, Japan engineered the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, launching a full-scale war against China.\textsuperscript{21} Just miles outside of Beijing, the Japanese gained vital axis to the city. When Minnie heard about the fall, she noted in her diary, “\textit{China does not want war and knows that she is not prepared for it.}\textsuperscript{22} One hour later, an air raid siren sounded; Japanese planes immediately swept the city at two o'clock and five o'clock.\textsuperscript{23} It was at this point that two sworn enemies, the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party, forged an alliance under the Sian Agreement. Although their effort was hardly coordinated, they merged and fought side-by-side to fend off an uprising enemy.

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{18} Masser, K.
\textsuperscript{19} Ibid. “Hua” refers to the Chinese people or civilization; “Miss China”.
\textsuperscript{20} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{21} Hu, Hualing. 59. This was a battle between the Republic of China's National Revolutionary Army and the Imperial Japanese Army, often used as the marker for the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War.
\textsuperscript{22} Ibid. 60.
\textsuperscript{23} Ibid.
uncertain days in Nanking. He especially touched on the cruelty of the Japanese, and consequently, how the Chinese suffered.


This article discussed the author’s motive to expose the brutal ways of the Japanese, with its iron hand policies. It explains that looting and rape hurt Chinese civilians the most, with the Safety Zone protecting them the most.


This book presented Minnie Vautrin’s perspective through her personal, daily diary entries, beginning in 1937. In addition to providing details about the supreme massacre of Nanking, it helped me understand the problems and struggles from a Western point of view.