

# A Summary of Newspapers' Reports on the Red Army's Long March

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## Abstract

The Red Army's Long March has always been a hot topic in the field of history. Newspapers and periodicals are important historical materials for the study of modern Chinese history. During the process of the Red Army's Long March, a large number of newspapers and magazines carried out various reports on the Red Army's Long March. same.

## Keywords

Newspapers; The Red Army's Long March; Reports.

## 1. Introduction

The Red Army's Long March ended successfully in 1936. It has been 86 years. For more than 80 years, the research on the Red Army's Long March has achieved fruitful results. In the past ten years, scholars have demonstrated the new era on the basis of existing research. The characteristics of the research include the sublimation of traditional research questions, such as the reasons for the Long March, the time of the Long March, the important battles during the Long March, and the meetings during the Long March. [1] Newspapers were the main means of mass media in the period of the Republic of China. Regarding the Long March of the Red Army, various newspapers and periodicals have different propaganda angles and positions. There are red newspapers, white newspapers, and foreign newspapers all reporting on the Red Army Long March from their own positions. This article uses a new one. Perspective, focusing on the news media (mainly newspapers) on the Red Army's Long March to make a research review.

## 2. The Research Status of Newspaper Reports on the Red Army's Long March

The author inquired about CNKI. Regarding the reports on the Red Army's Long March by newspapers and magazines, CNKI included 28 papers, which mainly revolved around three perspectives, namely, the reports of the Red Army's Long March by the Red Newspapers (the newspapers and periodicals run by the Communist Party of China), and the reports by the White Newspapers on the Long March of the Red Army. Newspapers run by the Chinese Kuomintang reported on the Long March of the Red Army, and foreign newspapers (news run by foreigners) reported on the Long March of the Red Army. Among them, foreign newspapers reported more on the Long March of the Red Army, especially foreign missionaries Bo Fuli, and According to the reports of the Snow and his wife on the Long March of the Red Army, according to the different ideologies at the time, the Red Newspaper and the White Newspaper called it the Long March of the Red Army quite differently. In the report on the Red Army's Long March, "Ta Kung Pao" reporter Fan Changjiang can be said to be an important figure in reporting the Red Army's Long March. Yao Qunmin published an article in "Party History and Literature Collection" titled "Review of the earliest reports on the Red Army's Long March".[2] The paper clearly described the earliest newspapers that reported the Red Army's Long March. "Ta Kung Pao" reporter Fan Changjiang was "the first person to openly and truthfully report the 25,000-

mile Long March of the Red Army of Workers and Peasants in domestic newspapers". [3] Fan Changjiang's article "The Current Situation of the Military Suppression of Bandits in Minshan North and South" published in Ta Kung Pao from September 13 to 14, 1935 was the first report that disclosed the truth of the Red Army's Long March. [4] Snow and his wife from the United States also went to Yan'an in person to understand the process of the Red Army's Long March, and wrote a book "Red Star Shines Over China".

### **3. On the Key Issues in the Research on the Newspapers' Reports on the Red Army's Long March**

#### **3.1. The Earliest Report on the Red Army's Long March**

Regarding the earliest reports on the Red Army's Long March, the author learned from Yao Qunmin's "Review of the earliest reports on the Red Army's Long March" and "Review of the Early Reports of the Red Army's Long March". Chen Yun (pseudonym)'s "Long March with the Army" also introduced the Red Army's Long March and the main leaders of the Red Army to China and foreign countries. Shi Ping's "Heroic Westward March" is also one of the earliest documents to introduce the Red Army's Long March. In addition, Bo Fuli's "The Hand of Repression", Dong Jianwu's "The Red Army's Twenty-five Thousand Miles West Quote", and "The Red Army's Long March" compiled and printed by the Political Department and Propaganda Department of the Eighth Route Army in 1942, [5] These are the earliest documents reporting the Red Army's Long March.

#### **3.2. Hongbao's Report on the Red Army's Long March**

Liu Yang, a postgraduate student in Chinese history at Xiangtan University, wrote his master's thesis on the Red Star, the official newspaper of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army Military Committee during the Agrarian Revolution. In October 1934, the main force of the Central Red Army evacuated the Central Revolutionary Base and began the Long March. The Red Star also evacuated from its original editorial area and followed the Red Army on the Long March. This was the only newspaper published during the Long March. In October 1935, the Red Army entered the Shaanxi-Gansu region and finally published it. During the Long March, it played an important role in propaganda and education of the Red Army, by disseminating war information in a timely manner and conducting internal discussions. Greatly boosted the morale and revolutionary will of the Red Army. [6] The newspapers founded by the Communist Party of China to report on the Red Army's Long March include not only the Red Star, but Zou Cong, a graduate student of Chinese history at Sichuan Normal University, mentioned in his master's thesis "Research on the Propaganda Work of the Red Army's Long March in Sichuan (1935.1-1936.8)" Among them, the newspapers under the leadership of the various armies are one of the important propaganda organizations. When the Red Army's Long March passed through Sichuan, the propaganda newspapers published by the newspapers under the leadership of the various armies included: "Red Star" and "Red Star" published by the General Political Department of the Red Army. "Advance News", "Red Battlefield News" and "Cadres Must Read" published by the Political Department of the Fourth Front Army of the Red Army. In addition, there are "Warrior News" published by the First Red Army Corps, "Battle News" published by the Second and Sixth Red Army Corps, and The "Endless" newspaper published by the Nine Corps. The existence of these newspapers conveyed important information to the Red Army. [7]

The purpose of the Red News' report on the Red Army's Long March is to stimulate the morale of the Red Army and further improve its internal propaganda work. Xiao Yan mentioned in "News and Periodicals Propaganda of the Red Army's Long March in Sichuan" that another major task of the Red Army's internal propaganda is to pass The newspapers and magazines

reported a lot of the news of the Red Army's victory, and they extended the determination of the soldiers to destroy the enemy's prestige and improve the fighting spirit and confidence of the Red Army's soldiers. For example, the "Red Star" spread the good news one after another on the Red Army's Long March in a timely manner through brief news and newsletters. Such as "Wang Jialie called for help", "We have successfully crossed the Dadu River" and so on. These reports gave the Red Army commanders and fighters great inspiration. Another example is the 184th issue of the "Warrior" newspaper, which focused on the heroic deeds of the Red Army's rush to cross the Dadu River. [8]

The Red Army of Chinese Workers and Peasants not only founded the Red Newspaper in the Soviet area to report on the Red Army's Long March, but in the Kuomintang-controlled areas, the Communist Party of China still used its own methods to publicize the Red Army's Long March. In the Kuomintang-controlled areas to accurately publicize the Red Army and the Long March, the CCP also strives to make its voice heard. In July 1937, the "Yijing" magazine published by Shanghai Renjianshuwu published the "Red Army Twenty-five Thousand Miles West Citation" in the 33rd and 34th issues in serial form."Yougu", namely Dong Jianwu, an underground member of the Communist Party of China. [9] "The Red Army's Twenty-five Thousand Miles West Quote" truthfully introduced the process of the Red Army's Long March to the people of the Kuomintang-controlled areas. The publication of this article caused a sensation in the Kuo-mintang areas, and broke through the news blockade of the Kuomintang authorities, making the whole process of the victory of the Red Army's Long March clear. Spread the legendary heroic deeds of the Chinese Communist Party and the Red Army to the world. [10]

### 3.3. The White Paper's Report on the Red Army's Long March

The white paper is the newspaper of the Kuomintang-controlled area. As mentioned above, because of different positions, the red paper and the white paper have different reports on the Red Army's Long March. The red paper focuses on stimulating the morale of the Red Army and further improving the internal propaganda work, while the white paper The main purpose is to publicize the attack on the Red Army. In the white newspapers, the term Red Army Long March is also named as "suppressing bandits". The Red Army is called bandit army and communist bandit, During the Red Army's Long March, some newspapers and periodicals in the Kuomintang-controlled areas also reported on the Red Army's Long March. However, due to factors such as political stance, ideology and lack of first-hand materials. These reports are mixed, true and false. After the start of the Long March, the Kuomintang used all the propaganda machines such as "Central Daily" and "Mopping News" to publish the news of "encirclement and suppression" of the Red Army almost every day. Its main content is "Zhu-Mao bandits fleeing west", "The Red Army was defeated and entered a desperate situation", and "The National Army pursued with victory" and so on. [11] In his master's thesis "Central Daily News' Report on the KMT's Fifth "Encirclement and Suppression" of the Central Red Army (1933-1934)", Zhang Linlin, a master's student in Chinese history at Sichuan Normal University, mentioned that, in fact, in October 1933, the KMT Before launching the fifth "encirclement and suppression" of the Central Soviet Area and the Central Red Army, the "Central Daily" had already launched the "encirclement and suppression" of public opinion on the early CCP and the National Red Army. After the failure of the Great Revolution in 1927, the Kuomintang and local governments at all levels began to clean up the Party and "suppress the CCP" nationwide, trying to eliminate the CCP and the Red Army led by the CCP, and confuse the Red Army with "bandits". Looking at the relevant reports of the early CCP and the Red Army in the Central Daily, on the one hand, it directly distorted and vilified the CCP and the Red Army; [12]

In the Kuomintang-controlled areas, in addition to the Kuomintang-affiliated newspapers and periodicals, some private newspapers were influenced by the ideology of the Kuomintang-controlled areas, and their reports on the Long March of the Red Army had many similarities

with the Kuomintang-affiliated newspapers and periodicals. In the Kuomintang-controlled areas, in addition to the Kuomintang-affiliated newspapers and periodicals, there are also a large number of private newspapers and periodicals with a large audience and greater influence, such as Shen Shen, Ta Kung Pao, and National Bulletin, which also reflected the situation of the Red Army's Long March. However, most of these newspapers and magazines adhered to the official discourse system of the Kuomintang, and their focus was mainly to reflect the military actions of the Kuomintang to "encircle and suppress" the Long March. For example, regarding the start of the Red Army's transfer, the "Declaration" published "Jiangxi Bandits Abandoning their Nests and Going to the West", saying: "Jiangxi bandits lost their defense due to Shicheng's rejuvenation of the country and knew that they could no longer support the situation. channeling". [13]

However, Shen Shen's reporting attitude towards the Red Army's Long March has undergone a change. Shan Mingming's article "From "Westward Journey" to "Great Tactics"—The Red Army's Long March in " Shen Shen " mentioned that Shen Shen has been published since 1872. It has always maintained a "neutral" position. On November 13, 1934, Shi Liangcai, the then general manager of Shen Shen, was assassinated by Kuomintang agents, which was undoubtedly a major blow to Shen Shen. Since then, Shenbao reported on the civil war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party on the surface from a politically "neutral" standpoint, but actually stood on the opposite side of the CCP, and made a lot of negative reports and comments against the CCP on the fifth "encirclement and suppression" campaign of the Kuomintang and the CCP's Long March. Objectively, it has become the "buzzer" for the Kuomintang to "encircle and suppress" the CCP and its leading armed forces. [14] After the "July 7 Incident", although there were few reports on the "Long March" in Shenbao, there were no longer the words "fleeing" and "going west" in terms of appellation. The "Long March" began to appear, and the frequency gradually increased the title of the Red Army has also changed from "Communist Bandit" and "Red Bandit" to "Communist Army": in terms of the connotation of the word, the original derogatory and negative meaning has been changed to positive and positive. It was also after the start of the Anti-Japanese War that the "Long March" gradually became Red Army specific label.[15]

In the White Paper's report on the Red Army's Long March, there is also a person who has achieved a maverick. He is the "Ta Kung Pao" reporter Fan Changjiang, Yuan Wuzhen and Gao Xiping's "Notes on the History of the Red Army's Long March Truth Propaganda Report" by Chinese and Foreign Reporters mentioned that because the Kuomintang News blackout, the situation of the Red Army is little known to the general reader. In order to study the impact of the ongoing Red Army's Long March on China's political trends, Fan Changjiang went to the frontline of western Sichuan to interview the Red Army despite the difficulties and dangers of the journey. On July 14, Fan Changjiang set off from Chengdu to pursue the route of the Red Army's Long March, passing through Songpan, crossing Minshan, and crossing Minxian County, and arrived in Lanzhou on September 2. Although Fan Changjiang had never seen the Red Army, he wrote a report on "The Current Situation of the Military Suppression of Bandits in the North and South of Minshan" based on interviews and experiences along the way, and published it in Ta Kung Pao on September 13. This is the first time that the Red Army's Long March and its current situation in the Northwest have been reported in a national newspaper. The article not only exposed the disasters caused by Chiang Kai-shek's military "encirclement and suppression" on the Han, Tibetan and Hui peoples, but also described in detail The situation of the Red Army in northwestern Sichuan was analyzed, and the trend of the Red Army going north to resist Japan was analyzed, thus breaking the lie of the Kuomintang that the Red Army was about to be wiped out, and immediately attracted the attention of readers across the country. [16] It is precisely because of Fan Changjiang's truthful report that Fan Changjiang's report on the Red Army's Long March in Ta Kung Pao has become a clear stream among the

white newspapers. Fan Changjiang chased the Red Army in the Long March for follow-up interviews. His communication was real and vivid, and his analysis of problems was penetrating, which was highly valued by readers. These reports faithfully reflected the history and heroic deeds of the Red Army's Long March, analyzed the movements and prospects of the Red Army, and disclosed a lot of real information about the Red Army's Long March to readers across the country. In August 1936, "Ta Kung Pao" compiled the communications of Fan Changjiang's trip to the northwest into a volume, titled "Northwest Corner of China", which was publicly released nationwide and sold unprecedentedly. Seven editions were published within a few months. Instantly popular.

### 3.4. Foreign Newspapers' Reports on the Red Army's Long March

Foreign newspapers, as the name suggests, are foreigners and foreign newspapers' reports on the Red Army's Long March. The most well-known reports about foreigners' reports on the Red Army's Long March are the preacher Bo Fuli's report on the Red Army's Long March and the "Red Star Over China" written by the Snow couple. "

Bo Fuli was the first foreign missionary to report on the Red Army's Long March. He had lived in the Red Army for a long time and had a relatively objective understanding of the Red Army's Long March. In the article "Foreign Missionaries on the Long March", it was mentioned that Bo Fuli recorded a lot of the life of the Red Army, leaving many first-hand valuable materials for future generations. The operations of the Red Army, the meetings of the Red Army, the siege of cities and land, and the fight against local tyrants, etc., all left true records in his later memoirs. [17] After returning to China, Bo Fuli carried out truthful propaganda about the Red Army's Long March, so that foreign countries could understand the Red Army's Long March more truthfully and objectively. After Bo Fuli was released, he returned to the United Kingdom, and then to Switzerland, the United States, Japan and other countries. He spread the word about the Red Army everywhere, which caused great repercussions everywhere.

In addition to Bo Fuli, the Snow and his wife were also one of the first reporters to report truthfully on the Red Army's Long March. Edgar Snow was the first reporter to visit the Red Army in northern Shaanxi. He had many in-depth and extensive exchanges with Comrade Mao Zedong, the main leader of the Red Army in northern Shaanxi. It was mentioned in Yuan Wuzhen and Gao Xiping's "Notes on the History of the Red Army's Long March Truth Propaganda Report" by Yuan Wuzhen and Gao Xiping. Nuo conducted extensive interviews with CCP leaders and Red Army generals, down to ordinary Red Army commanders and fighters. during Snow's interview with Bao (Yan)an, Mao Zedong met with him almost every day. The book was very frequent and the issues involved were extremely wide. [18] During his visit to the northern Shaanxi Soviet area, Snow realized that the Kuomintang's negative reports on the Red Army's Long March in the past were confusing, Snow ended his four-month interview in the northern Shaanxi Soviet area, and returned to Peiping with a dozen diaries, notes and 30 papers, determined to put "what he saw, heard and learned these days. everything in an open, objective, non-partisan report." With the active support and assistance of his wife Helen Snow, he devoted himself to the intense writing, and quickly published in Shanghai "Miller's Review", "Great American Evening News" and "Democracy" magazines, etc. English newspapers first published Mao Zedong's visit and feature reports on various aspects of the situation in the Red Zone, which quickly caused a stir among Chinese intellectuals, caused a great uproar, and caused panic among the Nanjing government authorities. At the same time, Snow will also send the original texts of the telegraph reports to British and American newspapers such as the Daily Herald, The Sun and other newspapers, and also provide them to Chinese friend Wang Fushi in a timely manner. [19]

In addition to Bo Fuli and Snow and his wife, the Chinese newspaper "National Salvation Times" founded overseas by Chinese Wu Yuzhang also has relevant reports on the Red Army's Long

March. Although "National Salvation Times" was founded by Chinese people, it is an overseas newspaper after all, so the author still belongs to it. For the foreign newspapers, Lan Hongwen mentioned in the article "Paris <National Salvation Times> and the Red Army's Long March" that at the beginning of the publication of "National Salvation Times", the Red Army's Long March had reached northern Shaanxi, and it had reached northern Shaanxi earlier. The Red 25th Army led by Xu Haidong and the Northern Shaanxi Red Army led by Liu Zhidan joined forces. However, as far as the three main forces of the Red Army are concerned, the Red Second and Red Fourth Fronts are still far away in the mountains and mountains in the southwest. Therefore, the "National Salvation Times" paid close attention to the movements of the Red Army, especially the movements of the three main forces of the Red Army. [20] And take truthful reports on the Red Army's Long March.

#### 4. Conclusion

The coverage of the Red Army's Long March by newspapers and magazines varies according to different positions. The white newspapers stand in the Kuomintang's position, slam the Red Army's Long March, and confuse the public. Active propaganda, foreign newspapers have mixed praise and criticism. Our researchers still need to have an objective study of the Red Army's Long March through newspapers and other historical materials. Although the Red Army's Long March is currently a popular topic, the academic community's research on the newspaper's coverage of the Red Army's Long March is still relatively weak. It is also an area of research that we should explore.

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