

War and Peace: Relationships between Hmong and Chinese

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Background Information

- ❖ Eight students and two faculty went to Yunnan Province, China during July of 2012.
- ❖ Funded by Asian Network, which provided grants for 14 research projects in the United States that focuses studies in Asia.
- ❖ Visited 16 communities in Yunnan Province, China and was led by our tour guide Yu You Xiong.



Research Methods

- ❖ Using a qualitative approach, I interviewed Hmong groups in ten villages throughout Yunnan Province to gather their perspective on Hmong and Chinese past experiences.
- ❖ Recorded and collected data from participants on stories and personal experiences.
- ❖ Interviewed and communicated in Hmong with Hmong participants from China and United States.
- ❖ Discussed finding throughout trip with our mentors and collaborated with our research group.



References

- Cha, Ya Po. *An Introduction to Hmong Culture*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland &, 2010. Print.
- Lemoine, Jacques. (2008). —To Tell the Truth. *Hmong Studies Journal* Volume 9: 1-28. Link to view: <http://hmongstudies.org/Lemoine2008.pdf>.
- Xiong, Yuepeng L. "Chinese Odyssey: Summer Program offers Students rare opportunity to learn Hmong history in China." 1997. *Article on Studying Hmong History in China* (1997).



Research Questions with Findings

- ❖ **Q 1:** What was the war between the Hmong and Chinese called? What happened? why it happened?
 - ❖ The Han expanded rapidly southward into the Jiuli' s (Hmong' s) territory and war broke out between the two sides, called Zhuolu Battle. (Xiong).
 - ❖ The war of Zhuolu and the Hmong King Chiyou was not that well-known. Minimum information about the Hmong King Chiyou and war Zhuolu were provided.
 - ❖ About the war between the Hmong and Chinese people, Hmong villagers from Pong Hua, Yanshan, Xue Txong, 12th, and 13th, and Khom Faav village had little inputs.
 - ❖ Some responses from Hmong-Chinese were usually from older and more educated people. They are from people who are academically knowledgeable about the Hmong-Chinese and Chinese history and understand Chinese politics.
 - ❖ Younger generations of Hmong men and women have no knowledge and could not articulate the stories.
- ❖ **Q 2:** How were the Hmong categorized?
 - ❖ In China, the word Miao is used to categorize the Hmong as a nationality (Lemoine).
 - ❖ Every new born has to be registered into the Chinese system and classified under a nationality.
 - ❖ Hmong are categorized as Miao by documents and language.
 - ❖ There are symbols that represent the ethnic group such as symbols and art work.
 - ❖ Hmong symbols such as Qeej, (a Hmong instrument) at the entrance of the village.
 - ❖ Wearing Hmong clothing such as Hmong skirts or Hmong men shirts.

Research Questions with Findings continued

- ❖ **Q 3:** What are the similarities and differences between Hmong and Chinese?
 - ❖ Similarities and differences between Hmong and Chinese cannot be determined by their external appearance.
 - ❖ They all speak one language to each other, have black hair, and have tan skin.
 - ❖ Even though they have much in common, they are very different culturally.
- ❖ **Q 4:** What does the word Miao mean to them? What does the word mean to them? Do they accept the name Miao?
 - ❖ The Hmong are documented as Miao in Chinese terms, which is non-Han. (Lemoine.)
 - ❖ In Southeast Asia the term Miao has a negative connotation. In China, the term Miao is an official classification used by the government to classify 4 minority groups.
 - ❖ Referring to Chinese Hmong as Miao is supported by the leading researchers in this field (Lee and Tapp, 2010).
 - ❖ The term Miao does not have any special meaning and remains a name to categorized Hmong people as Miao in China.
 - ❖ They accept the name Miao because that' s what Hmong-Chinese are.
 - ❖ Some people don' t accept the name Miao because they were misinformed about what the term Miao really meant.
 - ❖ The word Hmong means Hmong and nothing else.

Implications

- ❖ Based on these findings, information about the war between the Hmong and Chinese was difficult to get.
- ❖ Moreover, the relationships between the Hmong and Chinese are better than before. Yet, Hmong-Chinese still believe it' s better to marry other Hmong-Chinese.
- ❖ Communication and understanding between the two groups is different in values because they do not share the same cultural background.