AUTUMN GEM: The Story of Modern China’s First Feminist Interactive Textbook

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BIOS

Rae Chang  Adam Tow

- UC Berkeley - Go Bears!
- Art and Anthropology
- Artist and Graphic Designer

- Stanford - Beat Cal!
- Symbolic Systems
- Photographer and Digital Media Producer
WHO IS QIU JIN?
With all my heart I beseech and beg my two hundred million female compatriots to assume their responsibility as citizens. Arise! Arise! Chinese women, arise!

- Qiu Jin

余願嘔心滴血以拜求之，祈余二萬萬女同胞無負此國民責任也。速振！速振！女界其速振！

- 秋瑾
Late 19th century China

- Wars and conflicts with foreign nations
- Qing Dynasty on the verge of collapse
- Traditional society seen as detrimental
WOMEN’S STATUS

Late 19th century China

- Physical oppression
- Domestic confinement
- Lack of education/economic opportunities
WOMEN’S MOVEMENT

Shanghai Patriotic Girls School 1902
愛國女學校
WOMEN’S MOVEMENT

秋瑾
QIU JIN
(1875 - 1907)
Women’s Rights Leader and Political Revolutionary
Qiu Jin Monument, Shaoxing, China
Qiu Jin Monument, West Lake, Hangzhou

秋瑾墓 杭州西湖
MAKING THE FILM
QIU JIN MUSEUM
SHAOXING, CHINA
PRODUCTION
MARCH-JUNE 2008
LI JING, ACTRESS

http://wushuactionstar.com
PRODUCTION
MARCH-JUNE 2008
SET BUILDING
ADAM & RAE’S GARAGE
POST-PRODUCTION

JULY 2008 - MARCH 2009
SCREENING
AUTUMN GEM
120+ SCREENINGS
SCREENINGS

Richmond City Council Chambers, Canada 2010
SCREENINGS

Torrance Public Library, California 2011
DVD

- $20 Personal Use
- $175 Institutional Version with Study Guide for educators, libraries, and organizations.

http://autumn-gem.com/buy/
STUDY GUIDE

Autumn Gem
A Documentary on Modern China's First Feminist

STUDY GUIDE

TIMELINE
1842 - First Opium War - Great Britain defeats China in major military conflict. First of several Unequal Treaties signed. The war marked the end of the country's isolation from the Western world and is often used to signify the beginning of modern Chinese history.
1844 - First school for girls in China started by foreign missionaries.
1860 - Second Opium War - China defeated by Great Britain and France.
1875 - Qiu Jin is born in Fujian Province.
1895 - Woman in China in Sino-Japanese War.
1896 - Qiu Jin marries to Wang Tiegui in Hunan Province.
1897 - Qiu Jin's son is born.
1898 - Hundred Days Reform Movement - Major social and political reform movement initiated by the Guangxu Emperor to modernize and strengthen the country. Reformers questioned the opium policy and expanded women's role in society. The movement came to a quick end when the Empress Dowager Cixi, who opposed the changes, staged a coup against the Guangxu Emperor. First school for girls established by the Chinese opens in Shanghai.
1900 - Boxer Rebellion - Domestic uprising led by a group of Chinese nationalists. Foreign armies occupy Beijing.
1903 - Qiu Jin's daughter is born.
1904 - Qiu Jin leaves her family to study in Japan. Revives a women's organization promoting education and political engagement. Publishes articles in the magazine "Autumn Gem" devoted to radical politics.

INTRODUCTION
At the end of the Qing Dynasty, a period of great social and political change in China against foreign powers created massive chaos. Domestic rebellions against traditional authority and upheaval opportunities emerged. In 1842, the Opium War between the Qing Dynasty and Great Britain marked the beginning of modern China. The country became open to Western influence, and the first school for girls was established in 1844.

FIGURES

DIC: 1842-1862 - Late Ming Dynasty woman general, often referred to as a "military Official" for her role in the defense of China. She is known for her strategic abilities and leadership.
1895 - Qiu Jin, the first female activist in China, became a leader in the women's rights movement. She founded the "Autumn Gem" organization to promote education and political engagement for women.

In education, girls and boys from gentry families would traditionally study the "Four Books" and "Three Classics." Boys were expected to focus on Latin and Greek, while girls were encouraged to learn traditional Chinese literature and needlework. The saying "A woman's place is in the home" emphasized the traditional role of women as caregivers and homemakers.

Translation: "A woman's place is in the home." Originating from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), the saying highlights the importance of women's role in the family and society. Literacy was considered unnecessary and unnecessary for women, who should focus on their domestic duties instead. Qiu Jin was instrumental in shifting this traditional attitude towards educating girls.
San Francisco Chinese Culture Center exhibit exploring feminist and gender identity in China

September 15 – November 30, 2012

autumn-gem.com/ipad
AUTUMN GEM iBook is available to purchase for $4.99 from Apple’s iBookstore.

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