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

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Independent Scholar

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AUTUMN GEM IBOOK



autumn-gem.com/ipad

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?





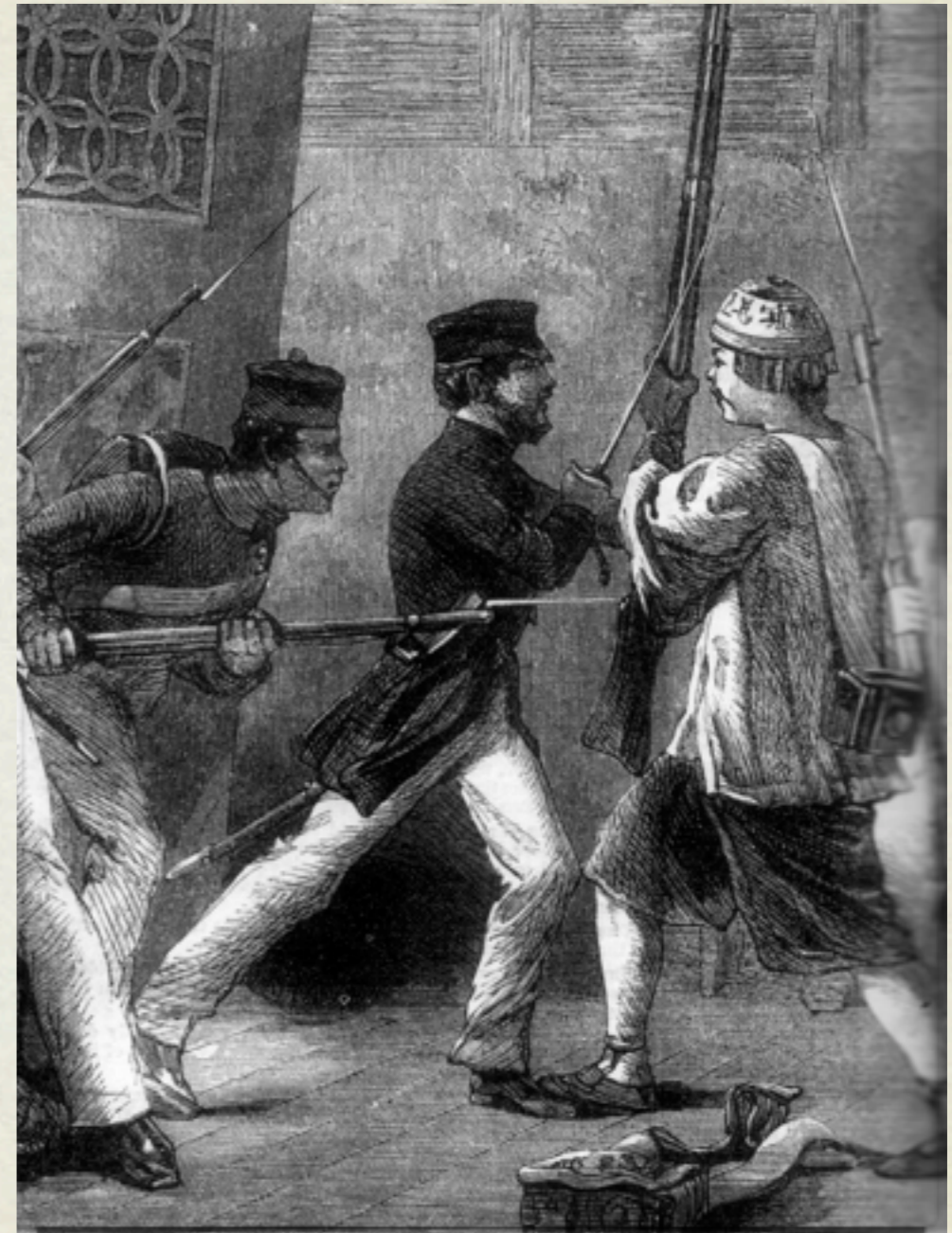
With all my heart I beseech
and beg my two hundred
million female compatriots to
assume their responsibility as
citizens. Arise! Arise!
Chinese women, arise!
- Qiu Jin

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

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Late 19th century China

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



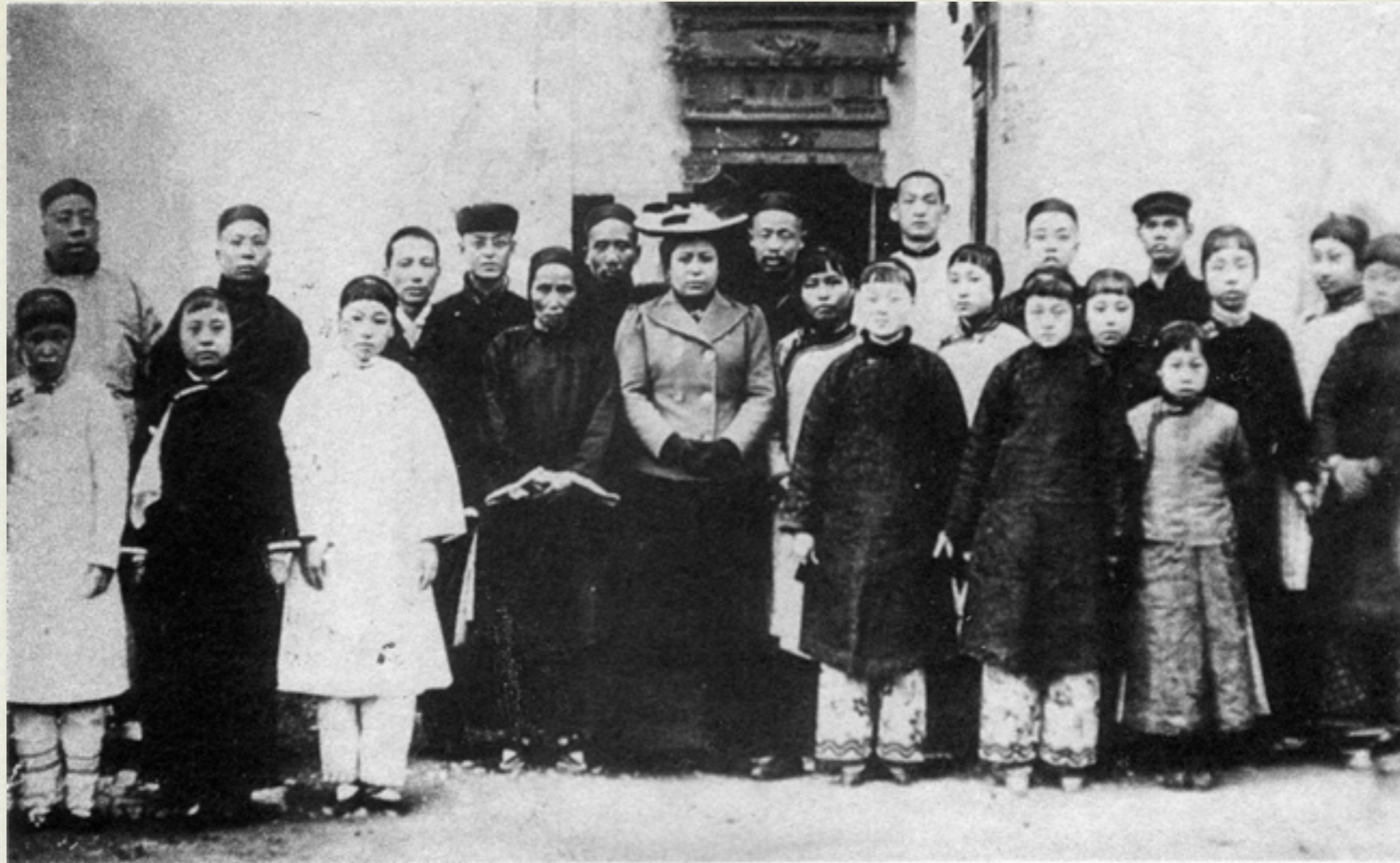
WOMEN'S STATUS

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

REVOLUTIONARY MARTYR



Qiu Jin Monument, Shaoxing, China

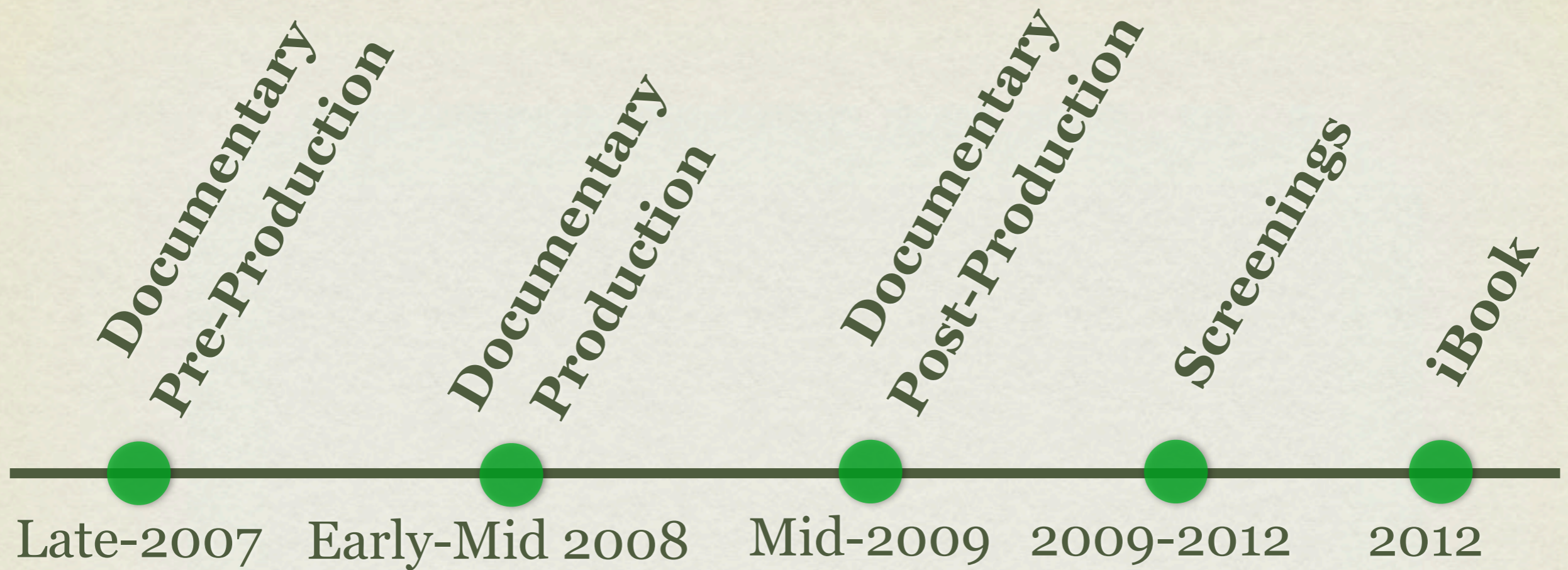
NATIONAL HEROINE



Qiu Jin Monument, West Lake, Hangzhou

秋瑾墓 杭州西湖

PROJECT TIMELINE



MAKING THE FILM





CHINA

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2008



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

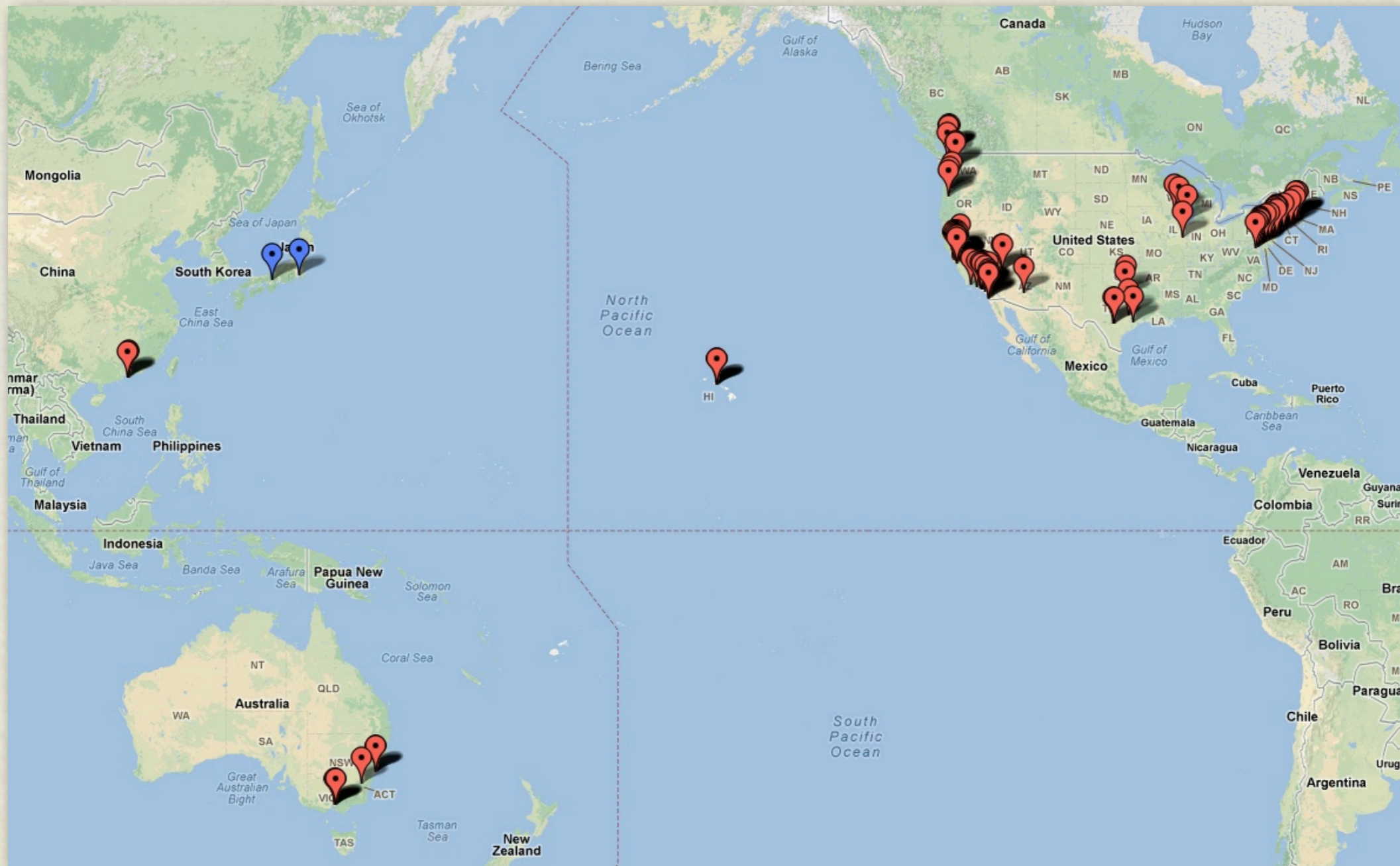


POST-PRODUCTION

JULY 2008 - MARCH 2009

SCREENING
AUTUMN GEM

120+ SCREENINGS



SCREENINGS



Stanford University, 2009

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

秋瑾 Autumn Gem

A Documentary on
Modern China's First Feminist



STUDY GUIDE

Last Updated: February 3, 2011

Rae Chang and Adam Tow
studyguide@autumn-gem.com
<http://autumn-gem.com/>

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 Japan defeats China in Sino-Japanese War. Qiu Jin moves to Hunan Province where her father serves as official.
- 1896 Qiu Jin is married to Wang Tingjun 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 oppressed status of women and linked it to China's weakness. There was a push to ban footbinding and expand women's education. The movement came to a quick end when when the Empress Dowager Cixi, who opposed the changes, staged a coup against the Guanxu Emperor.
- 1900 First school for girls established by the Chinese opens in Shanghai.
- 1900 Boxer Rebellion - Domestic uprising led by Fists of Righteous Harmony (also called the Boxers) begins.
- 1901 Defeat of Boxer Rebellion by Eight-Nation Alliance. Foreign armies occupy Beijing.
- 1903 Qiu Jin's daughter is born.
- 1903 Qiu Jin and her family move to Beijing.
- 1904 Qiu Jin leaves her family to study in Japan. Revives Humanitarian Society (共愛會) - women's organization promoting education and political engagement. Publishes articles in *Vernacular Journal* (白話報), devoted to radical politics.



INTRODUCTION

At the end of the Qing Dynasty, a period of great social and political change in China. Conflicts against foreign powers created massive chaos. Domestic rebellions rocked the country. Yet during this time of uncertainty and upheaval, opportunities to challenge their traditional place in society.

FIGURES

Qiu Jin, a revolutionary heroine who joins the army to fight in her country. Disguised as a man, she serves for several years in battle. Her family remains unaware of her true gender. The story of her life, written in the 5th or 6th century, has since become a legend in China.



Qiu Jin (1875 - 1907) - Late Ming Dynasty woman general, the highest ranking female official in Chinese history. She accompanied her army commander husband during his military campaigns. After his death, she took over his post. Promoted to the rank of 1st Grade, 1st Level, she eventually retired from service. She was the Southern Ming Emperor, with a military career of 20 years.



Qiu Jin (1644 - 1660) - Ming Dynasty female commander in the military. She was the daughter of a military official, she took her father's place after he was killed in battle. Known for her military skill in battle, she eventually retired from service. She was a role model for girls in both academics and martial arts.



Qiu Jin (1875 - 1907) - Qiu Jin was the second child and eldest daughter in a family from Shaoxing. Her grandfather and father served in the Qing government. Her mother was a highly educated woman.

Qiu Jin's education - Boys and girls from gentry families would traditionally study from a young age and taught different subjects. Boys would study classic literature, history, and philosophy. Girls would learn rules of moral behavior and domestic skills such as embroidery.

Qiu Jin's education - Traditional proverb translated as "A woman without talent is a disgrace" (女子無才便是德) - Originating in the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644), the saying is used to discourage women from pursuing education. Literary talent was considered unnecessary and even a source of shame for women, who should focus on their domestic duties instead. Qiu Jin was a pioneer in explaining the traditional attitude towards educating girls.

IPAD TEXTBOOK

Chapter 5

The Women's Movement

5.1 The Women's Movement

5.2 Review

Chapter 1

Adam Tow and Rae Chang

秋瑾

Chapter 1

Autumn Gem

The Story of Modern China's First Feminist

en -

紅綠綠的花

出。

in red and green.

13

WOMEN 我們 EXHIBIT



San Francisco
Chinese Culture Center
exhibit exploring
feminist and gender
identity in China

September 15 –
November 30, 2012

autumn-gem.com/ipad

WOMEN'S HISTORY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD



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is available to purchase
for \$4.99 from Apple's
iBookstore.

[Click here for more info
and a free preview](#)

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Autumn Gem

A Documentary on
China's First Feminist



Latest News: [Women's History Month Events – Screening and Conference Presentation](#) »

Attend a Screening



Sunday, May 2 at 2:00pm
Saratoga Library Community Rm.
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Free screening and Q&A
with filmmakers.
Please bring a donation of canned goods or
other non-perishable food items to charity.
Sponsored by Chi An Circle Club

Watch the Trailer



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autumn-gem.com