



Norman Bethune Health Science Center of Jilin University
(General Affairs State Council of Manchukuo)



Jilin University school hall
(A palace of Manchukuo)



Changchun 461 hospital
(The Supreme Judicial Court of Manchukuo)

The buildings in these three pictures are from the Manchukuo period and they are still in use today. The history of this Manchurian state in my hometown, Changchun, is reflected in our history textbooks and local museums. Since childhood, I have received oral history education from my elders, and my impression of this history is only on the surface, knowing that this is a history of national humiliation, and nothing more. Some film and art works such as "The Last Emperor" also reflect this period of history, but this is an artistic expression and is very different from real history. When my grandfather talked about his life in the Manchurian period, I did not have a strong sense of substitution, and even felt that this was just an ordinary time. My grandfather took me to the museum or some historical buildings, and he always told me some details about this period. So

could my memory be equal to my grandfather? Even if I live in a city full of historical buildings, they are just ordinary buildings to me, and they cannot evoke a collective memory.

My generation is in the position of ‘second generation’, my memory about historical trauma could be called ‘post memory’ as Marianne Hirsch mentioned in the reading *The Generation of Postmemory*. Even though the history is repeatedly represented by stories and surroundings, we could not touch upon the whole picture of this historical period. There is a lack of specific connection between the second generation and the truth of the history. Post-memory is centered on the continuity and transmission of traumatic experience, and is formed through imagination and re-creation instead of recall and recall. Therefore, the memory information carried tends to be fragmented, imaged, and personalized.

Our generation carries a kind of cognition, which is the result of information processing of external things through a variety of ways, including audiovisual, sensory, thinking, and imaginative. And this result is obtained from various sources such as movies, memoirs, oral history, etc. For me, the personal memory is far from historical facts and very vague. But postmemory is both personal and congregative, the continuation of racial culture and tradition is of great significance for racial identity. So the historical buildings, like those in three pictures above, are still important for this city and all the citizens.