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A Sino-German relationship spanning a century, the story of the Rabe family and China

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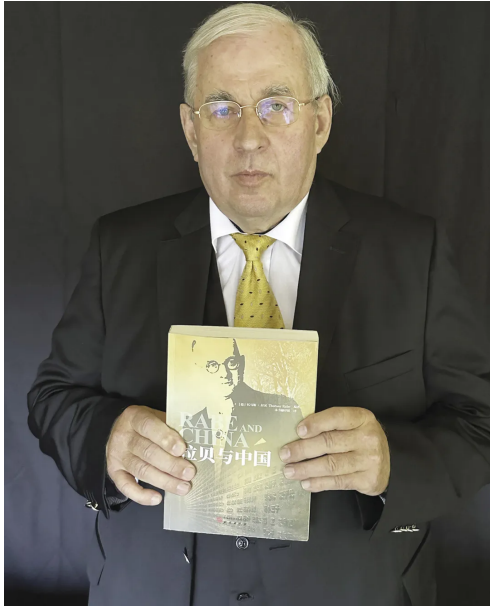


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This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of an all-round strategic partnership between China and Germany. From April 14th to 16th, German Chancellor Scholz paid his second official visit to China during his tenure. This is his longest overseas trip since taking office as prime minister in 2021. It is also the first leader of a major Western country to visit China this year. It is regarded as an important signal to help stabilize and promote Sino-German relations. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that China and Germany are the second and third largest economies in the world. The significance of consolidating and developing Sino-German relations transcends the scope of bilateral relations and has an important impact on the Eurasian continent and even the entire world.

At the beginning of this year, the book "Rabe and China" written by German expert Thomas Rabe was jointly released by the Research Publishing House of China Publishing Group and the John Rabe Beijing Exchange Center of Beijing Union University. This book, which reflects the friendship between China and Germany, displays the diary manuscript of the author's grandfather, John Rabe, and a large number of documents provided and authorized for use by his relatives and friends. This German who worked in China during the Japanese invasion recorded the tragedy of the Nanjing Massacre in diary form and led the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone to save hundreds of thousands of Chinese lives.

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Thomas Rabe
(Thomas Rabe)



"Rabe and China"

Thomas Rabe is the organizer and narrator of this Sino-German friendship. He said that he has been collecting various historical records and documents related to his grandfather for many years, and hopes to publish a documentary work to comprehensively display the life of John Rabe, as a symbol of the continuous relationship between China and Germany, and to make this friendship last forever. Strong.

Living in China for 30 years
Protect hundreds of thousands of Nanjing civilians

In the movie "Rabe's Diary", German businessman Rabe and his wife Dora originally planned to leave Siemens China and embark on a journey back to their hometown. During the Japanese invasion of Nanjing, Rabe witnessed bombs falling from the sky and innocent residents fleeing in all directions. He resolutely opened the factory gate and took in Chinese employees and refugees. This historical film, released in 2009, objectively restored the social scene at that time and the touching deeds of John Rabe in China.

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Stills from the movie "Rabe's Diary"

On August 18, 1908, John Rabe arrived in China and worked in the Beijing office of Siemens. In the nearly 30 years since then, except for John Rabe who was deported to China due to Germany's defeat in World War I in 1919, he has not left China for the rest of the time. He has lived in Beijing (17 years), Tianjin (6 years) and Nanjing (6 years). .



John HD Rabe

In the autumn and winter of 1937, the Japanese air raids and invasion of Nanjing killed more than 300,000 Chinese people in two months. John Rabe, then manager of the Siemens office in Nanjing, decided to stay in Nanjing. He

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encountering serious difficulties. Shouldn't we try to help them? At least save some people."

Zhang Jianjun, the former director of the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by the Japanese Invaders, recalled that John Rabe made full use of his special status and was recommended by more than 20 foreign colleagues who also stayed in Nanjing to serve as the director of the "Nanjing Safety Zone" of the humanitarian relief organization. Chairman of the International Committee. **During the bloody days of the Nanjing Massacre, 250,000 Nanjing civilians were saved from the Japanese army in an area of about 4 square kilometers, creating a feat of rescuing refugees during wartime.** It is worth mentioning that Rabe used his residence as a refugee shelter and, with the assistance of his Chinese colleagues, protected 650 refugees. The recipients gratefully called him "the living Buddha of hundreds of thousands of people."

In 1938, after John Rabe returned to Germany, he gave many reports on the atrocities committed by the Japanese army in Nanjing in Berlin and publicly screened documentaries of the Nanjing Massacre. He was warned and investigated by the Nazis. After the war, the Rabe family lived in poverty. It was so difficult that "the children were cooking vegetable soup, the adults were eating dry bread, and the whole family was on the verge of starving to death." Thomas Rabe said that at that time, his grandfather's family received US\$2,000 in funds and food supplies voluntarily raised by Nanjing citizens, and they barely survived. At noon on January 5, 1950, John Rabe suffered a sudden stroke and died in the evening at the age of 68.

Thomas Rabe introduced that Erwin Wickert, the former German ambassador to China, was a friend of John Rabe. He once wrote an article in a book praising his grandfather's contribution to protecting Chinese refugees. In August 1997, exactly 60 years later, the Chinese version of "Rabe's Diary" was published in Nanjing.

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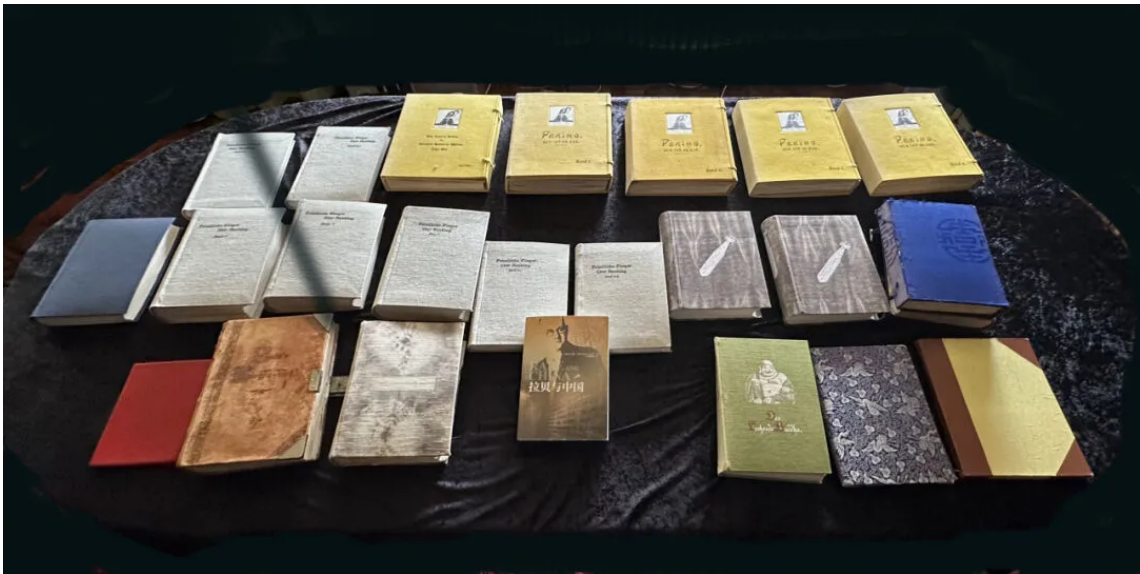


"Rabe's Diary" Chinese version

At the end of that year, with the efforts of Ambassador Victor, the Deutsche Verlag Verlag (DVA) published the German version of "Rabe's Diary". "Rabe's Diary" has also become the most numerous and most complete historical data on the Nanjing Massacre, and has extremely high historical value.

According to Thomas Rabe, in 2016 he donated the manuscript of "Rabe's Diary" left by his grandfather to the National Archives of China. These materials were also included in the "Memory of the World Register" by UNESCO. In December 2017, photocopies of the "Memory of the World Register – Archives of the Nanjing Massacre" and the photocopies of "Rabe's Diary" were released at the same time. The contents are authentic and detailed, becoming strong evidence of the massacre caused by the Japanese invaders in Nanjing.

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Information related to "Rabe's Diary"

Compiling and compiling books over more than ten years
Four generations interpret Sino-German friendship

Over the years, Thomas Rabe has continued to trace his grandfather's footprints in China. It took more than ten years to write a book, recording John Rabe's 30 years of living and working in China. His diligence and persistence are commendable.

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On January 19, 2024, Beijing Union University and China Publishing Group Research Press jointly hosted the book launch conference of "Rabe and China". The event was hosted by Professor Liang Yi of the John Rabe Beijing Exchange Center.

As a good friend of Thomas Rabe, Liang Yi, former director of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Beijing Union University and chief expert of the John Rabe Beijing Exchange Center, has a deep understanding of this. Liang Yi introduced that when she was a senior visiting scholar in Germany in 2023, she rented at the home of Thomas Rabe and was fortunate to see all the 22 volumes of the "Diary of John Rabe" manuscript. In recent years, Mr. Thomas Rabe has selected the main content from his grandfather's diary, and also included some content from the works of Erwin Weickert, Ursula Reinhardt, Root Harlow and Rome Jun. They were put together and successively edited into German, English and Spanish versions. "I admire him very much for his hard work, dedication and lofty sense of historical mission."

Thomas Rabe is a gynecologist at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital of Heidelberg University in Germany. This also adds special meaning to the promotion of international humanitarian spirit by two generations across time and space. Ruan Xiangyan, director of the Department of Gynecological Endocrinology at Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital Affiliated to Capital Medical University, is Thomas Rabe's friend and Chinese medical partner. They are both obstetricians and gynecologists and experts in the fields of reproduction and gynecological endocrinology. "Professor Rabe is very willing to share his expertise and technology with Chinese colleagues. We have co-authored 4 academic books. He also serves as the honorary editor-in-chief of the English magazine "Gynecological Endocrinology and

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Publishing House. He has made outstanding contributions to China's medical cause."



On September 6, 2023, Ruan Xiangyan (second from left), director of the Department of Gynecology and Endocrinology of Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, invited Thomas Rabe (second from right) to celebrate the second birthday of Youyou, the first healthy baby after cryopreserved ovarian tissue transplantation in China.

Thomas Rabe said that he has always maintained close cooperation with Chinese schools and institutions. In the professional field, he has joined hands with doctors from Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital such as Ruan Xiangyan to establish a number of collaborative innovation projects such as the International Reproductive Protection Center, the Sino-German Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the International Interdisciplinary Endometriosis Center. He also created China's first An ovarian tissue cryopreservation bank has filled a gap in the field of reproductive medicine in China. In the field of historical research, he founded 6 John Rabe exchange centers around the world, 2 of which are in China (Beijing and Nanjing). He also cooperated with Beijing Union University to organize several exhibitions and lectures for educators and the public, striving to promote humanity, doctrine and the concept of peace.

Since 1908, the friendship between the Rabe family and China has lasted for four generations. The director of the Rabe and International Security Zone Memorial Hall at Nanjing University said that Thomas Rabe always had

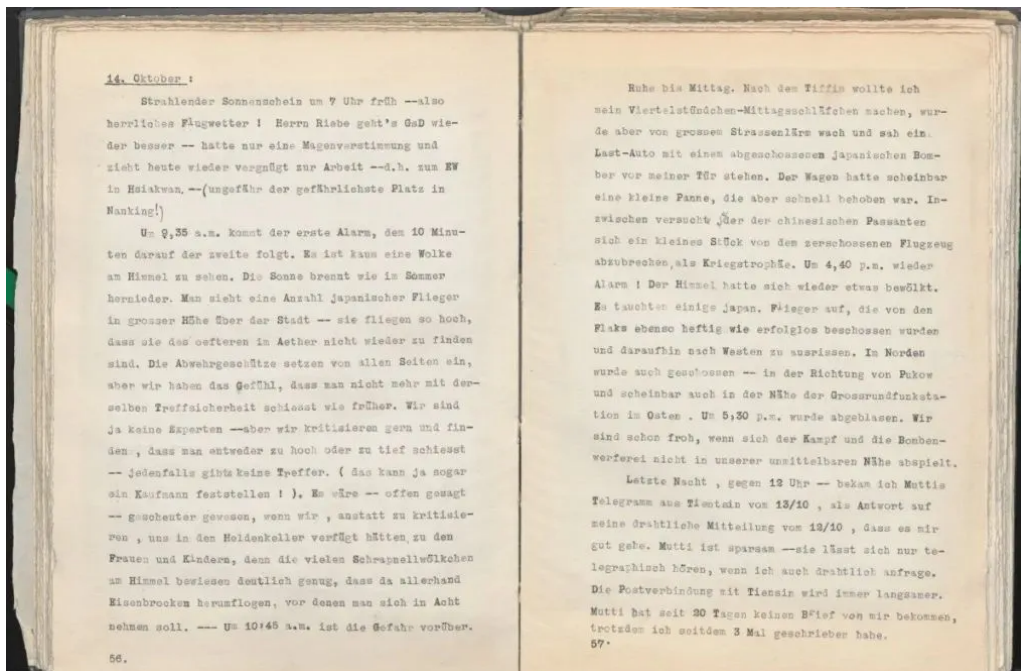
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whether it is the artwork in the bookcase or the memorial on the windowsill, Chinese elements are everywhere visible. The Heidelberg Exchange Center not far from home provides a platform for Chinese students and visiting scholars to carry out peace projects.



Rabe's former residence on the campus of Nanjing University

Thomas Rabe had never met his grandfather. He received all the original diaries of his grandfather from his father, Otto Rabe, and has since cherished them as treasures. His son is also currently learning Chinese and will pass on the "baton" of Sino-German friendship in the future.



"Rabe's Diary" Manuscript

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once interviewed Thomas Rabe in her book "Foreign Experts' Love in China". She described the latter as "having a great love for life and pursuing peace." Xu Qingqun stated in the book that Thomas Rabe not only continued research in obstetrics and gynecology, gynecological endocrinology, reproductive medicine and family planning, but more importantly, he inherited his grandfather John Rabe's desire for peace and devoted himself to Sino-German friendship and the cause of world peace.



北京妇产医院为托马斯·拉贝教授举办庆祝仪式

“我们的门诊环境十分简陋，外国专家没有单独的诊室，医生、研究生和患者是挤在一个狭小的诊室里的。”北京妇产医院副院长阴赪宏教授介绍说，“近几年妇科内分泌团队在外国专家的帮助下实现了快速发展，并且取得了巨大成就，为进一步促进学科建设、改善就诊环境，内分泌科搬入了新址。”采访结束后，妇科内分泌科举行了新址剪彩仪式，北京妇产医院严松彪院长、阴赪宏副院长、阮祥燕教授、托马斯·拉贝教授共同为新址剪彩揭牌。瞬间，象征妇科内分泌科快速发展与成就的“卵巢组织冻存库”等15块牌匾呈现在大家的面前，和托马斯·拉贝教授从刘鹤副总理手里接过的奖章一样，闪耀着光芒、散发着温度。“没有缪克教授、拉贝教授，

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Xu Qingqun, editor-in-chief of "International Talent Exchange" magazine, conducted an exclusive interview with Thomas Rabe in his book "Foreign Experts' Love in China".

Zhang Kun, head of the brand promotion department of Research Press, planning editor and editor-in-chief of "Rabe and China", said that Mr. Rabe inherited the spirit and temperament of his grandfather, upheld justice throughout his life, paid attention to international solidarity, and used affectionate writing to It describes John Rabe's deep friendship with China. The hard-won "Rabe and China" published earlier this year is a tribute to human civilization and history and culture, an accusation and exposure of the crime of aggression, and the pursuit and practice of world peace and international solidarity.

In 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping awarded Thomas Rabe the commemorative medal "70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression" at the Great Hall of the People. In the same year, the Nanjing Municipal Government awarded him the title of "Honorary Citizen". In 2018, he received the Chinese Government

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Peace Prize" in 2009, dedicated to recognizing international friends who promote exchanges between China and the world and enhance mutual understanding.

Thomas Rabe said that the bond between four generations of the Rabe family and China is the best proof of the close ties between China and Germany in the past, present and future.

Editor: Zhao Yixue

Preliminary review: Xu Weiyi

Review: Qu Jingfan

Final Judgment: Gao Deming

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