

RESEARCH ON MEANINGS OF WAR MONUMENTALITY DIFFERENCES:

By the Cases Investigated the Purpose of Monument Erection in Kinmen Island and Gettysburg, U.S.A.

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ABSTRACT

Monumental Architecture signifies the buildings and monuments themselves in situ together with deeper associations which correspond with specific event, and it perpetually and characteristically changes over time and space. This research has started the exploration of the consequences of the two Civil Wars-Battles in Kinmen and the Battle at Gettysburg. They both have shaped two different monumentalities over time and space. War Monumentality holds and shapes in its spirit of place, intangible meanings and associations exposed by actual causes, consequences, and the extent of events to form cultural heritages.

Through this paper's argument it is possible to give rise to a singular hypothesis to memorials/monuments and to add further insight into the public ambitions behind war monumentality. In conclusion, this study asserts that although the war monuments are a consequence of Civil Wars *per se*, these are nevertheless represent dialectical spirit of places by what they commemorate.

1. Introduction**1.1 PURPOSE AND AIM**

Monumentality has been embedded with diversities of meanings in different era. The differences that emerge from the role they play are to be

clarified by monument erection in each epoch. Since the ancient meanings of monumentality that presents imperial power and triumph of kings. The meaning of monumentality has changed dramatically after series of war, republican of the Third Reich, and the revolution during twentieth century. The meanings of monuments and their meanings monumentality has been defined and redefined radically of their changing courses. To research on Monumentality of “War monument” need to look into the historical axis that navigates better understanding of their monumental meanings differentiated by their course of the event (war or battle), national identities, geological settings, and the end “result”.

Inspiring notions were raised to address that monumentality had faced challenges by questioning the eternal quality and its stable meanings under the title of “Monumentality and City” in *The Harvard Architecture Review* in 1984. The ambiguity of the statement of contemporary war memorial would turn celebratory and triumphalist into acts of civil based transformation. Therefore, this paper starts to rethink meanings of monumentality derives from war memorial between different nations, result and identified status. The author would argue that war monumentality changes over time and it could be perceived in various meanings from civil wars. Nations involved in civil wars are cultural production process to construct identities in order to express notions of war monumentality.

The author would start to analyze changes of monumentality and monument that situates in each era since the end of nineteenth century till the beginning of twentieth century, and to compare their discrepancy between each war event for embedded monumental value.

1.2 SCOPE AND RESEARCH METHODS

Making clarification of the background and process of civil wars, and to analyze the courses of defeat and defeated would be a first step to explore spiritual quality of “Zeitgeist” in order to investigating the monumentality of civil wars. “Zeitgeist” of the war memorials erected after end of war (monument, memorial museum or memorial statue) commemorating the dead and which are the metaphoric purposes of official mourning. Two comparative studies of the civil wars- between Taiwan and China, and one of the American Civil War (Battle of

Gettysburg) as cases to raise diverse commemorate means and different in civil/official monumentality expresses mourning value by memorial erection, which shows how much the official commemoration willing to remember and to share the result with the public.

2. Definition and Meaning of Monumentality and Memorial

Issue of monumentality and monumental phenomenon has represented in history symbolically. Monumentality and city used to constitute eternal quality that establish a firm spirit over every era.

2.1 TRANSFORMATIONS OF MONUMENTALITY AND MEMORIAL IN HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Material form (relics, artifacts, and monumental architecture) are as construction of public expectation in cities. Ritual spaces that constituted by politics and society, monuments in civil spaces just as a symbolic sign of “loci” with historical meanings. Notions of monument originated at the concept of that as human creation; in addition, it is expected to be realized by future generations of its original “specific purpose” of human behavior or event. In 1903, Risgl. A. defined commemorative value to three categories- age value, historical value and art value. Besides, he also categorized monuments into five types, such as sepulchral monuments, prominent symbols of imperial authority, political status, identities (nation and region) and prestigious signature. Before the breaking out of First World War, attitude towards historical building is to monumentalize them just like an isolated tombstone erected in the park. After deaths and destructions coursed by the First World War, “living monuments” has been constructed in order to satisfy needs on memory- libraries and museums, to provide instant needs of society. Shortly, after the Second World War, architects and scholars began to feel the needs of “modern monumentality”. Early in the 1950s, the need for a “new modern monumentality” had also taken into wide ranges of discussion in several ways, such as series of conferences, research papers and books, especially during 1943 to 1947.

The architectural historian Giedion, S., architect Sert, J. L. and artist Léger, F. (1943) addressed “Nine Points on Monumentality”, emphasized on the role that monument acts and its meanings. What it was talking out on monument to be a basis of monumentality was to express as an ultimate of human needs. Hence, monuments ought to transform collective human strength to “symbol” in order to satisfy external needs, most importantly, to express collective power- feels and thoughts. Most of the Nine Points raised and defined was its “eternity”, and also had to present meanings of an endless epoch. The principle value of eternity was essential no matter which kind that monument was categorized to. At that time, the value of eternity also manifests both on “internal” and “spiritual” value. But Riegl, A. suggested that the external appearance would change under the transition of eras as well effect examination of monumentality.

External form of art value and age value would not be enough to equalize or to define monumental meanings alone long period of time, only to seek “commemorative value”, enable to reveal the “epochal spirit”. Therefore, monumental value showed from the external value (art value and age value) to internal form (historical value, intentional monumental value) to reveal epochal value. Riegl, A. categorized monument to “intentional” and “unintentional” monument, the former indicates monument was constructed to meet proprietor’s original intentions that remind certain past; and the latter indicates that monument were not constructed to meet their original intentions. He also pointed out that investigating monumentality should not single out its internal spiritual values only to its sculptural form.

Giedion, S. (1981) regards monumentality to that social symbolic concepts of inner live revealed by people’s external needs, the reason is that people has impulsion to create monumental symbol as to express the “reminding thing”, to be delivered to future generations. Novicki, M. (1949) expressed his opinion on monumentality, he emphasized that “large scale” of monument and the external texture are unavoidable debates toward monumentality. In 1964, Millon, H.A. thought that monument should not only be large, but also need to be noble and stable; furthermore, it should be a timeless construction. Mumford, L. also addressed that monument should emerges changes of character, from

expressing monumental power to democratic spirit that carries. This “power” is seen as a collective power. Later, Mumford took monument as kind of monumental expression; it is not only a carrier of the past, but also a living monument of people and event.

After the First and Second World War, Europe and America had experienced The Third Reich, Korean War and Vietnam War etc., that had brought large amount of deaths and destructions. Thus to tackle the meanings of war monumentality had moved from symbol of authority /power expressions for triumph to event’ cause and end result. In addition, Whittick, A. (1974) also reminded us not to borrow ancient monumentality such as magnificent classical architectural language represents certain history, to express monumentality of our time which would be a “false monumentality”. Scholar Fenton, B. C. (2006) addressed specifically that “monumentality” can be just closely related to a small part of people or place which is important to, and has to be established in a public realm. Analysis from the above, the key aspects that influence monumental meanings are that monument should be placed in public realm, monuments should be a response of epochal meaning, and should be a collective power. Start from here, we know that it would be inappropriate to judge whether one building (or a place) be monumental only by its scale. Therefore, the premier principle to measure monumentality of a building (or a place) should depend on specific site, place, and peoples’ historical value.

While this study has started to clarify monumental conception, peoples’ internal need is a preferable point of view raised by Giedion, S., and that war monumentality is unnecessary to talk about its volume, classical language and ornament; but to reveal social conception and Zeitgeist by use of abstract form. Concept of erection of modern monument has undergoing several changes, these are:

- (a). Large scale of monument is no more necessary factor to express monumentality;
- (b). Monument is no more to be erected only on squares and disconnected to one’s place or environment;
- (c). Formation of monumentality provide a projection of collective memory, and emerges strong relationship with specific locus;

- (d). Monumentality embedded in monument expresses monumental “environment”, not its sculptural form;
- (e). Monumentality responds original event and place itself;
- (f). Nature of monumental meaning affected by “complete” or “incomplete” of monument.

2.1.1 Monument is a Symbol and as a Projection of Monumentality

While the inner forms of monument become effective factors toward monumental meaning, investigating epochal intention would be essential. Monument represents diverse meanings in different time and space, cultural background and commemorated event/ people. Furthermore, layering of social structure with cross culture/ nation and historical event differentiates monumentality.

According to the above research of changing on monumentality in history, it can be analyzed to several parts, which are as followed:

A. Monument used to be Seen as High Prestige of Landmark

In the “Nine Points on Monumentality” that Giedion, S., et al. (1984) addressed that emphasized on its role and meaning. Most content indicate mainly at noticeable characters of emergence of eternity, to act as linkage between past and future. Worth mentioning here is the forth point, that reminded the “spiritual factors” and “collectiveness” of monument. He also pointed out structure of national economics began to change after the First and Second World War, thus it started to rethink significant of communal organization. The use of the term “monument” in the conjunction with social and communal integration functionally and aims of monumentality, pleasure, and pride.

B. Monument Seen as in Universal Value

By the time of 1960s, the close relationship between monument and monumentality can be realized from *the II International Congress of Restoration* organized by ICOMOS in 1964. Large amount of research papers contributed technical and conceptual approaches toward restoration for monument. Among them, there were four specific researches focusing on the meaning of monumentality and defined

monument with epochal view. Unique meaning of monument can be analyzed the emerging sense of its time.

C. War Memorial as an Evidence of National Identity

The other symbolic meaning that monument act is suggestion of spiritual metaphor. Young, E. J. (1993) raised the issue presented as a catalyst to evoke absent memory of trauma in history. Accompanied by discourses emphasized by Ranger, et al. (1983), that war memorial occurs in between public art and political memory; therefore monument would project reformation on Aesthetics and politics as notions on “interpretation”. Winter, J. (1999) advocated that war memorial constructs family, society and national identity, especially to present shared experience for social groups.

3. War Memorial Erection and its Monumentality

3.1 TWO WARS IN KINMEN AND THEIR MONUMENTAL MEANING

The 823 Kinmen war and the Battle of Gu-ning-tou are the key wars in Kinmen. Differ from the turning point to united nation that Battle of Gettysburg occurs; wars in Kinmen were under the confrontation between Taiwan and China for more than 50 years. Therefore, monumentality to Kinmen inhabitant is merely to project national triumph. Inhabitant lived in a shared “military-civilian’s family”, they lived in a homeland of battlefield that to be “Anti-Communist” and “Anti-Soviet Union”. Thus, it is a passive living model to suit memory of “Period of Military Rule”. In that period war monumentality stayed at a national level. Monumentality in Kinmen has undergoing in an opposition status over course of time. In addition, the “commemorative purpose” is not shared by inhabitants and soldiers and it is constructed under absolute power of military control.

3.1.1 Intentional and Unintentional Monument of Kinmen Wars

A. Battle of Gu-ning-tou:

Battle of Gu-ning-tou was a battle fought over Kinmen in the Taiwan Strait during the Chinese Civil War began on 25th October and ended on 27th in 1949. The historical significance that the battle presents can be seen as a key to protect Taiwan from being taken by Communists. Under

the attention on the end result of triumph, the intentional monument emphasized on victory and basis on commemorating soldiers, from the memorial of “unknown hero” erected four years after the war till the War Museum establish in 1984, are intended to evoke drastic sacrifice [Figure1, Figure2]. In spite of the unintentional monuments- the Bei-shan Mansion, war as relics, can only be few of the closest war monuments represent “inhabitants’ life on battlefield”. Unfortunately, part of the mansion had under reconstruction, to a more “complete” and “newer” state includes repairing of bullet holes.[Figure3, Figure4]lost its original state- intentional evidence of authentic meaning of war.



Figure1. The monument of unknown hero.



Figure2. the War Museum.



Figure3. Bullet holes on the exterior of Bei-shan Mansion.



Figure4. Left side of the Bei-shan Mansion has been rebuilt.

B. Battle of 823:

Battle of 823-also called “the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis” began on the 23 of August, 1958. More than 480,000 artilleries launched by PRC during the 44 days, and as the definitive battle for the defense of Taiwan, Punghu and Matsu. Contribution to the victory was the defense works such as strongly pre-built tunnels reduced army lost. After the battle of 823, the PRC abandoned the plan of attacking and occupying the islands along coast. Thus, they were key unintentional monuments to the victory. Besides the unintentional monumental landscape, its monumentality also emerged from the intentional war memorials.

It is worth to start from the erection of commemorative monuments

to investigate monumental meaning especially after certain period of time that drastic event occurs. In 1968 the 823 Memorial situated in Gin-hu County, till the Hu-jing-tou History of Military Museum constructed in 1989. [Figure5] During the period of 20 years, war monumentality of Kinmen has been built by over 10 years of memorizing to war memory, to a non- instant commemoration. No matter how drastic the war was, its end result of triumph as the basis of official commemoration.



Figure5. The Hu-jing-tou History of Military Museum.

3.1.2 Commemorative Purpose of Kinmen War Monumentality

Commemorating Kinmen Artilleries demonstrate defining authority, power and national self- identification of regional government legitimate. Official commemorations are not only present prestige and eternity, but also an implication of a bargain by powerful symbols that evoke memory of war to form principle part of national identity for future Kinmen. Thus, it is just the same us to reform political process, can be influenced by dialectical historical narratives from the past that monumentality of Kinmen belongs to the nation (politically and militarily).

3.1.3 Monumentality after Declaration of Martial Law and Ended of Military Affair

Kinmen suffered 43 years of military control based on the factor of “security of the whole island”. Inhabitants of Kinmen could only allow taking concreted responsibility without offering any point of views. The regulation of “Co-Protection between Five Families”¹ executed during the Battle of 823 in the 1950s. During the time under threaten shadow of “emancipation Taiwan peacefully” and “unifying peacefully”. Hence two side of the Strait continuously remained “cold war with opposition” and always prepared for war. Island of Kinmen had not separated from military control. Consequently, it is more complicated in monumental meanings comparing with other battlefields that commemorating purely by their celebrate triumphs, instead, it is more dynamic and as a pair of scales balancing between two sides of the opposition. As mentioned earlier, monumentality of the nation is in higher hierarchy compare with the inhabitants of Kinmen. The exhibit of historical records emphasize as a framework of national identity and the construction of official legitimate authority towards monumentality. Although monuments were erected, their exhibits and commemorative purposes did not reflect the process but its result of victory and showing the turning point from the threats that Taiwan and China retained in the situation of political confrontation. Commemorative purpose aimed at the monumentality of military and political. Whereas, inhabitants of Kinmen were insisted to remember national pride and became dominated by it. People started to find their own memory of war wherein the declaration of Martial Law, and the establishment of “Kinmen National Park” in October, 1995.

The establishment of the National Park as an indicator transforming war memory “to” people to war monumentality that is “of” people. Due to the declaration of Martial Law and ended of military affairs, monumental meaning turns from official commemoration to the formation of war memory by Kinmen community. The most obvious living- with- war memory is the defense facilities found allover the Island of Kinmen, such as the engraved slogans on cement of nearly every exterior wall of habitants’ houses, and the

¹ The regulation of “Co-Protection between Five Families” came from the policy of Anti-spy Security, which means that if one family disobey the rule the rest of the four families would receive punishment.

attitude that stamps in everybody' s mind. [**Figure 6**] Unfortunately, most of the evidence (unintentional monument) has been vanished- engraved cement was dislodged for renovation, and the defense installations along sea shore were also dismantled. Unavoidable, the - Bei- shan Mansion shows the violence of war by countless bullet holes on the wall, were filled up, the “anti- airborne pole” were also removed for the reason of remaining traffic safety. Hence, the truly presenting of public monumentality of Kinmen has gradually disappearing, and it has displaced by architectural intentional monuments.



Figure6. The Hu-jing-tou History of Military Museum.

3.1.4 Monumental Activities Expressed

The “act of commemoration” can also be an alternative approach to war memorizing act for monumentality. Winter, J. (1999) pointed out that for group that bound together by shared experience as “memory activity”, which constitutes by powerful social groups to memorize the shared history. They support each other to be unreal relationship as “fictive kin” and as cause to “remembrance”.

The Association of 823 Strait War Veterans (found in 1992) conducts certain number of veterans back to Kinmen on 823 Memorial Day since 1992 for visiting. The purpose for sending back limit of 70 veterans is to mourn war deaths. From here we can see that the war monumentality exists in official commemorative purpose rather than the

individual memory. In contradiction, to the “Ordinary Participants”- the inhabitants of Kinmen Island, insist to forget about war memory- that is, Kinmen monumentality is “for” people and not “of” people.

3.2 MONUMENTS AND MONUMENTALITY OF AMERICAN CIVIL WAR- THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

The Battle of Gettysburg (1st - 3rd July, 1863) was not only one of the most effective and as a turning point of American Civil War, but it also had the most casualties of all. Monumentality that revealed was mainly from its democracy, and the inscription of eventual history has enhanced by tangible and intangible monument erection.

A. Tangible Monument of the Battle of Gettysburg

There are two tangible war monuments. One is the Gettysburg National Military Park, which has more than 1,000 monuments/ sites; and the other one is where Abraham Lincoln wrote the “Gettysburg Address”.

B. Intangible Monument of the Battle of Gettysburg

One of the intangible monuments is the “Gettysburg Address” known as the greatest speech of American history. It has redefined the civil war for not only fight for union but also for freedom, it is for American people “only”. The other intangible monument is the “National Identity” that constructed after the war. Ironically, the emerging of both national identity and memory constructed after violent war, especially when the fundamental issue becomes most discussed discourse, the historical significance realized by the construction and reconstruction of their original characteristics.

C. Gettysburg Anniversary Civil War Battle Reenactments as an act of Commemoration

Comparing with two civil wars in Kinmen, monumentality that expressed by Battle of Gettysburg has, gone far beyond opposition of two sides (the North and the South). Therefore, the detailed record about war has been activated by ordinary American people (not the veterans), by joining in the reenactment every year. The “re” enactment has also “re”

enforce construction of monumentality. [Figure 7]



Figure7. “Gettysburg National Military Park”, United States Department of National Park Service, 2004, Gettysburg.

3.3 FACTORS THAT DIFFERENTIATE MONUMENTALITY

Monumental meaning would depend on national, cultural, spiritual symbol and commemorative purpose differences to perform diversity of epochal monumentality. Factors that differentiate monumentality can be discussed from several aspects, which are: To discuss commemorative purpose of public meaning; Monument reaction and role it plays resulting diverse of monumentality; Different monumentality expressed by events of different nation/ culture;

Every group in the society has their shared experienced and destiny. Monumentality is also providing different group their own narratives. In order to express diverse monumental meaning, has to investigate the monumentality of public monuments of each era. To conclude from the above study, monumentality would also excrete different meaning by whether the veterans have still alive or not.

4. Conclusion

This study has discovered that monumentality should be constructed at the basis of the spirit of specific site and setting, which also presents upon principle of historical value, memory and aesthetic. It also defined by abstract aspects of “Zeitgeist” and social concepts for representational symbolic meanings and continuous necessity of epochal spirit of place.

Island of Kinmen is as a political deal of Taiwan and China. Its monumentality has undergoing dynamic changes since the last civil war.

Safety of Taiwan has benefited by the victory as an end result, whereas, the monumentality belongs to country and not people. Instead, construction of war monumentality for inhabitant is by conservation of unintentional monuments. Opposed to it, by the case of the monumentality of Gettysburg is of both nation and people, and remains stable monumentality.

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