

# ONCE WERE ENEMIES: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERPERSONAL, INTERCULTURAL, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

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The author, a peripatetic English language teacher, describes her social peace experiences in Japan, China, North Korea, and Turkey, emphasizing intercultural, international, and interpersonal aspects. In Japan, she explored cultural conventions relating to sense of time and grieved over Hiroshima's hellish tragedy. China revealed to her its cultural meanings and national pride in treasures like the Great Wall and reasons she needed to speak Chinese, even a little. In North Korea, the author lived in the foreigners' compound, not allowed to meet ordinary citizens. She later wrote a book on the ideology of *juche* (self-reliance). In Turkey, she loved the country's history, the culture, and wonderful Istanbul. She learned the deadly futility of international fighting at Gallipoli, where she was moved by the "Compassionate Soldier" statue. More reflections conclude the article.

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## BACKGROUND

I was born in England and grew up listening to my grandfather talk of his time as an ambulance driver in the First World War (the "war to end all wars"!), and of the horrors that he had experienced there. Barely more than

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