



**Name in English:** Iris Shun-Ru Chang  
**Name in Chinese:** 張純如  
**Name in Pinyin:** Use Pinyin for the Chinese name  
**Gender:** Female  
**Birth Year:** 1980  
**Birth Place:** Princeton, NJ

**Profession (s):** Historian, Journalist

**Education:** BA, Journalism, University of Illinois; M.A. Johns Hopkins University

**Awards:** John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Program on Peace and International Cooperation Award, the Woman of the Year award from the Organization of Chinese Americans, and two honorary doctorates (the College of Wooster in Ohio, and California State University at Hayward).

**Contribution (s):** Iris Chang was one of the nation's leading young historians. Her last, widely acclaimed book focuses on Chinese immigrants and their descendents in the United States -- their sacrifices, their achievements and their contributions to the fabric of American culture, an epic journey spanning more than 150 years. But even before the publication of "The Chinese in America: A Narrative History," Chang had established herself as an invaluable source of information about Asia, human rights, and Asian American history.

In her international bestseller, "The Rape of Nanking," Chang examines one of the most tragic chapters of World War II: the slaughter, rape and torture of hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians by Japanese soldiers in the former capital of China. Stories about Chang's grandparents' harrowing escape were part of her family legacy and prompted her to embark on this ambitious project, for which she interviewed elderly survivors of the massacre and discovered thousands of rare documents in four different languages. Published by Basic Books on December 1997 (the 60th anniversary of the massacre) and in paperback by Penguin in 1998, "The Rape of Nanking" - the first, full-length English-language narrative of the atrocity to reach a wide audience - remained on the New York Times bestseller list for several months, became a New York Times Notable Book, and was cited by Bookman Review Syndicate as one of the best books of 1997.

Chang's first book, "Thread of the Silkworm," a critically acclaimed and engrossing study of how Cold-war hysteria influenced American foreign policy, tells the ironic story of Dr. Tsien Hsue-shen. Born in China, educated at M.I.T. and Cal Tech, Tsien became a professor at both universities and a brilliant space age pioneer. Then, after 15 years of stellar achievement and major contributions to American military defense, he was branded a Communist and deported to

China -- where he revolutionized the Chinese missile program and developed the Silkworm missile that later threatened American armed forces.

**Publications:** Thread of a Silkworm, 1995, Rape of Nanjing: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II, 1997; The Chinese in America, 2003

**External Links:**

<http://www.irischang.net/about/>