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English 2XL
Section 4
PV Picture CM #1

The Tank Man

The photo of the tank man is easily one of the most influential and storytelling photos of all time. It is a simple photo of an unknown Chinese man standing in front of a line of tanks that were on their way to Tiananmen Square to break up peaceful protesting. It is a symbol of defiance against oppression and courage in the face of abuse. The photo was a huge symbol in the United States' fight against communism. China's communist regime was abusive and corrupt, and they killed countless innocent people who were peacefully protesting in Tiananmen Square. This man's simple act of defiance turned into an amazingly important symbol.

The tank man was just an ordinary man who had tremendous courage and bravery. One of the most important aspects of this photo is that the tank man has remained anonymous. Had he been caught, he would've been incarcerated and most likely executed for the whole nation to view, but he was not caught, and instead he stands today as a tremendous symbol for every single individual in China. Rather than being one commune, they are individuals with souls and good traits such as bravery. If one person can defy the government so greatly as to temporarily prevent them from slaughtering its own people, than what can billions of people do together?