

Chapter 17-2

- Communists Triumph in China
 - I) Civil war in China
 - II) Two Chinas and the Cold War
 - III) Transformation and Revolution

I) Civil War in China

- After World War II Mao Zedong's Communist guerillas resumed their battle against Jiang Jieshi's (Chiang Kai-shek) Nationalist forces
- Nationalists enjoyed a considerable advantage, outnumbering the Communists 3 to 1 and receiving \$2,000,000,000 in aid from the United States.
- Despite these advantages, Mao's troops were well trained in guerilla warfare and were motivated by his promise to return land to the peasants
- By October of 1949, Mao had gained control of the country and Jiang and the other nationalists leaders had fled to the island of Taiwan

II) Two Chinas and the Cold War

- China had split into two nations.
- One was the island of Taiwan (Nationalist China), which was aided by the United States.
- The other was the mainland or Peoples Republic of China, which was supported by the Soviet Union
- Communist China expanded into Mongolia and Tibet, causing resentment with the Soviet Union and India.

III) Transformation and Revolution

- After taking power, the Chinese Communists began to tighten their hold on the country, with Mao Zedong heading both the government and the party.
- Mao redistributes land to peasant collectives and nationalizes China's industries, and launched a Soviet style 5 year plan to set production targets.
- Mao proclaimed the Great Leap Forward for large collective farms (communes) where peasants would be organized into production battalions to work the land together.
- The Great Leap forward proved to be a great leap backward, hampering growth because the peasants had no incentive to work hard when only the state profited.

III) Transformation and Revolution

- China began to split with the Soviet Union and retreated from Mao's extreme policies.
- In retaliation Mao urged China's young people to learn revolution by making revolution, and millions left the classrooms to join militias called the Red Guard.
- The uprising led to the Cultural Revolution, the goal of which was to establish a society of peasants and workers in which all were equal.
- The Red guard targeted anyone who seemed to have a privileged life, professors, government officials, factory managers, even their own parents.
- The resulting chaos shut down factories and threatened farm production and when civil war seemed imminent, Mao had to admit the Cultural Revolution had to stop and approved of the army dissolving the Red Guard.