



# COMMUNISTS TAKE POWER IN CHINA



# SETTING THE STAGE

- During WWII Japan's army occupied and destroyed most of China's cities.
- 10-22 million Chinese civilians died

# COMMUNISTS VS. NATIONALISTS

- Before WWII even started the Chinese were having a civil war between the nationalists and the communists.
- WWII forced them to stop the civil war and join together and fight the Japanese.



# WWII IN CHINA

- Northwest were under control of communist leader Mao Zedong.
  - \* their army was made of peasants
  - \* they used guerilla warfare tactics
  - \* they encouraged education
  - \* improved food production



# WWII IN CHINA

- Southwest were under control of the nationalist forces led by Jiang Jieshi.
  - \* Their army was made up of 2.5 million trained men.
    - \*\* only fought in a couple of battles with Japan because they were saving their strength to fight the communists after the war.
  - \* They had natural protection by mountains
  - \* Were given \$1.5 billion in aid from the U.S.
    - \*\*however, most of that money ended up in the hands of corrupt officers.



# CIVIL WAR RESUMES

- 1946-1949

## Nationalists

- Had the advantage in the beginning b/c they outnumbered the communists and had \$ from the U.S.
- Disadvantages- did not have the majority and many soldiers deserted

## Communists

- Well trained
- Mao promised to return land to the people
- Supported by the Soviets





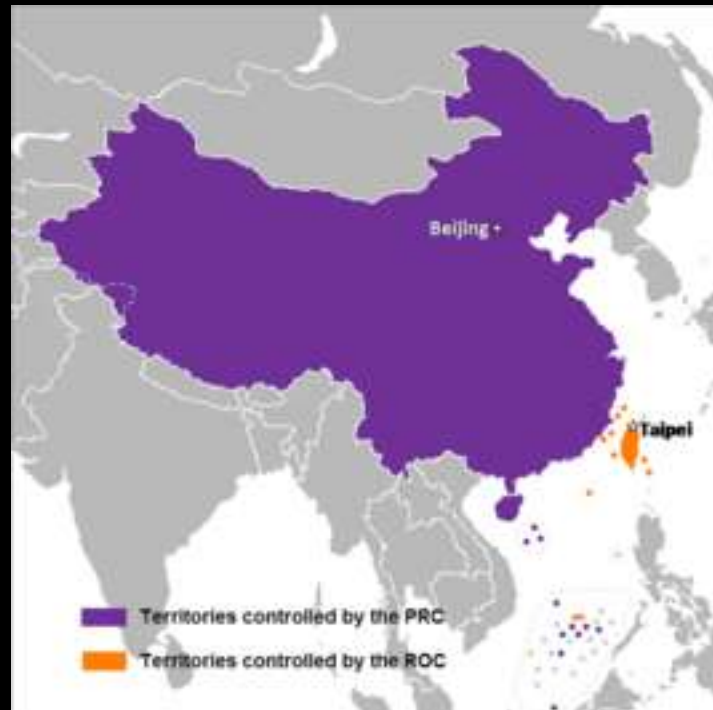
# CIVIL WAR RESUMES

- By the spring of 1949 major cities fell to the communists.
- The communists win; in 1950 China and the Soviets sign a treaty of friendship.
- This win and treaty scares the U.S.
- The U.S. is afraid that the Soviets are beginning taking over the world.



# TWO CHINAS AFFECT THE COLD WAR

- After the Civil War China split into two.
  - Mainland China- under communist rule, was called the People's Republic of China.
  - Taiwan- under nationalist rule; was called the Republic of China.









# THE SUPERPOWERS REACT

- The U.S. helped Taiwan set up a government and gives them financial support.
- The Soviets gave financial support to mainland China and made an alliance with them.
  - The U.S. tries to stop this.

# CHINA EXPANDS UNDER THE COMMUNISTS

- Under Mao's leadership China will expand into Tibet, India, and Mongolia.
- The expansion into Tibet in 1951 was very brutal
  - Many including the Dalai Lama are going to seek refuge in India in 1959.
  - This will lead to a resentment between China and India. The two will fight over the border in 1962.





Figure 3. China: Special Economic Zones



# COMMUNISTS TRANSFORM CHINA

- After the civil wars and WWII China was physically and financially destroyed.
- The communists goal was to restore China to a powerful nation.
- Before the communist take over 10% of the rural population controlled their own land.
- Mao's forces will kill more than a million landlords and give the land back to the people.
- Mao will set up collect farming
- No more private companies.



# “THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD”

- Mao established a 5 year plan to increase the industry in China.
- Part of his plan was called “The Great Leap Forward”.
- This called for communes- large collective farms.
- Life on the communes were strictly controlled
  - Peasants worked together on the farm
  - Communal dining area
  - Communal nurseries
  - The workers owned nothing

PROBLEM= no motivation to work

The program ends in 1961 after failures that caused a famine and killed 20 million people.

# NEW POLICIES AND MAO'S RESPONSE

- In the late 1950's the relationship between China and the Soviet Union faded
  - They were fighting over borders.
- After this and the failure of "The Great Leap Forward" Mao takes less of a role in the government.
  - Other leaders moved away from Mao's strict socialist ideas.
  - Example: farm families could live in their own homes, and could sell crops they grew on small private plots.

# NEW POLICIES AND MAO'S RESPONSE

- Mao disagree with this and believed it would weaken communist China.
  - He encouraged revolt
  - Millions of high school and college students formed a militia unit called the Red Guards.



# THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

- The Red Guards led the Cultural Revolution- goal was to establish a society of peasants and workers in which all were equal.
- The worker was the ideal person; intelligence and artist talents were considered useless and dangerous.
  - They are going to shut down colleges and schools
  - Scholars are going to be forced to “purify” themselves
  - Thousands were executed or imprisoned
- The cultural revolution is going to effect the economy to the point where Mao says the cultural revolution needs to stop.
- Afterwards China struggles to gain stability.