Conflict in China: The Chinese Civil War and More

Questions to ponder...



- What problems did the new republic of China face?
- Why did the Civil War erupt between the Guomindang (Nationalists) and the Communists?

- As of 1911, the Qing dynasty collapsed.
- Sun Yat Sen new president, wanted to rebuild China according to the Three Principles – nationalism, democracy, and economic security for everyone
- However, the leadership of Sun Yat Sen is not working, and China quickly falls into chaos.
- As China plunged further into trouble.
- "Twin evils" warlord uprisings and foreign imperialism
- Local warlords seized their own power and forced peasants to suffer terrible hardships. (i.e. taxes to support armies)
- Another issue that China will deal with at that time is foreign imperialism.

Foreign Influence

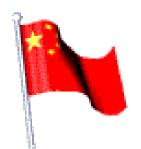
- How does the Paris Peace Conference at the end of WWI relate to this issue?
- What is the response of the Chinese nationalists?
- During WWI, Japan gave China the Twenty-One Demands, a series of humiliating measures that would make China a Japanese protectorate; China was too weak to resist and had to give in
- After WWI, the Allies gave Japan conti German possessions in China.
- The Nationalists were infuriated.

The May 4th Movement

- 5/4/1919- student protests erupted in Beijing, and then spread throughout China.
- This led to the movement (nationalistic, intellectual)
- Wanted to go away from traditions of China (ex. Confucianism) and become modernized
 - What Asian nation made this decision earlier?
- Women played a role in changing the culture of China during this movement.
- They joined marches and campaigned to end arranged marriages and the role of women in the home.

The Influence of Russia

- What had been going on in Russia?
- Who led this "movement"?
- Why would the ideas of Marx and Lenin be so appealing to the youth of China?



Further Changes

- By 1921 the Nationalists established a government in south China.
- Sun planned to raise an army and defeat all the warlords.
- When democratic nations refused to help, what did Sun do? What would you have done?
- The Soviets helped train the Nationalists and prepared them for the warlords.

- When Sun dies in 1925, Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-Shek) takes over. He rules with an iron fist.
- Chiang and his Nationalist Party allied themselves with the Communists in a combined effort to defeat the warlords in northern China.
- The Communists were starting to gain more support among the proletariat in cities; Chiang turned on the Communists. In 1927, the Nationalists killed thousands in massacres.
- This was the beginning of the CHINESE CIVIL
 WAR (1927 1949) 22 years
- However, one young Communist survived.





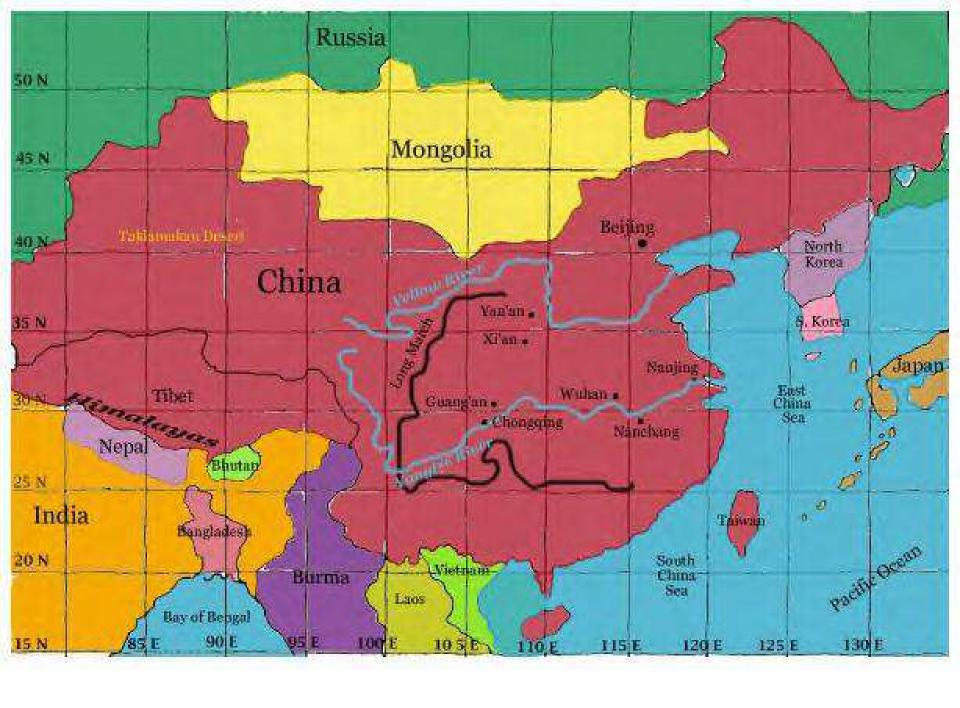
Mao in 1935 at the time of the Long March

Mao Zedong

- A young revolutionary, who disagreed with many other Communists on where the Communists should gain their support.
- Mao believed the support should come from the ever growing peasant class, and not the PROLETARIAT (working class).
- Do you see the logic in his decision?

The Long March

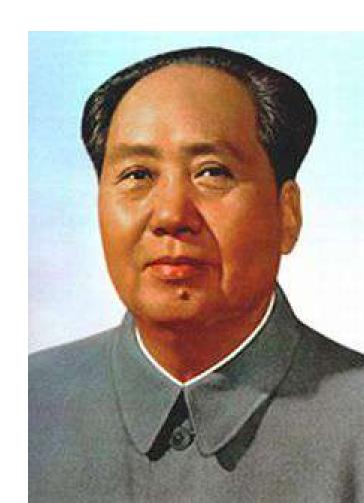
- In 1934, Mao and roughly 100,000 of his followers fled the Nationalists.
- Over the next year (370 days), they trekked 6,000 miles.
- Only 8,000 people survived the ordeal.
- How does this endear Mao to his followers?



Mao's rules

- During the march, Mao had rules for his soldiers.
 - Do not take a single needle or piece of thread from the people;
 - Turn in everything you capture;
 - Treat peasants politely;
 - Pay for goods they wanted; and
 - Avoid damaging crops.
- What impact will these rules have on the perception of Mao and his soldiers?

- "The Long March is also a seeding machine. It has sown many seeds in eleven provinces, which will sprout, grow leaves, blossom into flowers, bear fruit, and yield a crop in the future."
- Why did Mao makes this statement?
- What does it mean?



More problems

- While Chiang chased the Communists, Japan invaded Manchuria.
- This caused issue for Chiang, specifically with his own generals.
- Why was he wasting time fighting other Chinese, instead of mobilizing to fight foreign invaders?
- The Nationalists and the Communists will be forced to join together to stop the Japanese.

1937

- The Japanese strike China again, but this time attack mainland China.
- Chiang retreats, and the Japanese set up a new capital for themselves in China, in what used to be the Nationalist capital.
- The ensuing killing and torture will receive the title, The Rape of Nanking

Quiz (10 points)

- What were the "twin evils" that hurt China in the 1910s? (two points)
- What was the name of Sun Yat Sen's <u>key</u> ideas to improve China?
- What was the name of the dominant political party of China in the 1920s and 1930s?
- Who was the leader of the Communist Party?
- What nation had been victimizing China?
- What was the major event from 1934 1935 during which the Communists were attempting to escape and survive?
- Why did Communists appeal more to average Chinese people? (three points)

Prisoners being buried alive





Rape of Nanking

- Under the rule of the Japanese soldiers, over 80,000 women, elderly and children were raped.
- The women were usually murdered right after the rapes.
- A beheading contest was reported in the Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shimbun newspaper and the English-speaking Japan Advertiser much like a sporting event with updates on the score.
- This is only a small tidbit about the horror that took place.

Moving forward

 The power struggle continues, and by the early 1940's, it becomes obvious that the Chinese will continue their renewed Civil War after WWII.

This time however, the Communists are victorious.

Compare and Contrast

 Consider how Mao Tse-Tung's approach to Chinese nationalism and Gandhi's approach to Indian nationalism and winning SWARAJ (home-rule)?

How are they similar? How are they different?

Social Class Struggle

- Karl Marx said that human history is the struggle between the haves and havenots. What did he mean by this?
- Is this what we have seen this year?
 Consider the causes of
 - French Revolution
 - Russian Revolution

Social Class Struggle

- Haves in every society do not want to give more to the have-nots. Why not?
 - Greed
 - A feeling of entitlement; "I worked hard to be where I am. If other people want what I have, they can work hard, too."

Social Class Struggle

- Haves support the government How?
- Government supports the haves How?
- Haves support the Church How?
- The Church supports the haves (makes special exceptions)
- This is why Marx said that these institutions need to be overthrown by the proletariat; why there should be no religion in communism.

Real Life Examples

- The following areas have had revolutions having to do with communism
- Korea split North Korea "communist"
- Cuba and several other Latin American countries – mixed – Cuba "communist"
- Vietnam today "communist"
- Cambodia

Why does it happen in these places?

- Why should the haves care about the have-nots?
 - Self-Interest preventing riots and protests, preserving stability
 - It is right to do something for the less fortunate in society (Jesus and Gandhi)

- Why should the haves care that the havenots have medical coverage?
 - Haves say: "I studied and worked hard to gain medical benefits either through my job or by paying thousands every year. Why can't the have-nots do the same?"