



# **Chinese Civil War (Communists)**

## **Chair Letter**

## **DEAR DELEGATES,**

Welcome to the Chinese Civil War (Communists) JCC at CNYMUN 2025. Your chairs this year will be Octavia Miller and Caitlyn McLain.

## **ABOUT THE CHAIRS:**

Caitlyn McLain is a senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. She enjoys playing on the varsity tennis team during the fall. In her free time, she plays the piano and guitar and loves reading.

Octavia Miller is a senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School and has been doing MUN since her freshman year. This is her first time chairing. Outside of MUN, you can find her in rehearsal for one of the many music groups she is involved in, or practicing piano or voice in her room. She also loves being on the Science Olympiad team.

## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE:**

Your topic for this committee is the Chinese Civil War surrounding the Communists.

## **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:**

In accordance with CNYMUN tradition, debate Keeping in line with CNYMUN tradition, all committees will follow Harvard style debate, meaning delegates are prohibited from using pre-written clauses and/or resolutions during committee. Doing so will make a delegate ineligible for awards. To be eligible for awards, delegates must submit a Georgetown style position paper, which should be one page, single spaced, with a font size of 12 in Times New Roman. Position papers should outline the stance of your delegation and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of your topics. The use of AI is prohibited and will result in disqualification from awards. When deciding on awards, chairs will look favorably upon delegates who have put significant effort into preparation prior to the conference, collaborate with other delegates without being overbearing, remain within the bounds of their nation's policies, and encourage other's voices to be heard. CNYMUN committees are structured using a tiered structure, designating each committee as open, intermediate, or advanced. The Chinese Civil War is designated as an **open** committee. In turn, the Best New Delegate award will

be offered to a first-time delegate in this committee. This committee will feature several unique motions, including Head to Head debate.

Procedure for this motion can be found on

[www.cnymun.org](http://www.cnymun.org).

Please share position papers prior to the start of the conference. The chairs' emails are listed below for you to contact about any research, position paper, or committee inquiries. It is recommended that all delegates share their position papers to both chair's emails, although chairs will ask for any hard copies of position papers at the start of committee session one if necessary. We encourage you to scan our delegate preparation resources and award structure on [www.cnymun.org](http://www.cnymun.org). We wish you the best of luck and can't wait to see what you bring to CNYMUN 2026!

Caittlyn McLain

[26cmclain@fmschools.org](mailto:26cmclain@fmschools.org)

Octavia Miller

[26omiller@fmschools.org](mailto:26omiller@fmschools.org)

## **Background:**

### *Fall of the Qing Empire*

The fall of the Qing empire began in the middle of the 19th century, as conflict in the empire's court came to a head with the subject of modernization. The clash of conservative values throughout the court and general unrest stemmed not only from disagreement, but also from a corrupt government.<sup>1</sup> After its loss to the Western powers during the Opium Wars, the Qing were forced into several unequal treaties, including the Treaty of Nanjing (1842). This treaty left the military weak and the economy in a state of turmoil. The new 'treaty port system' allowed for more Western control (Great Britain and France) over the empire's trade.<sup>2</sup> Along with the loss of land in Hong Kong to Great Britain, climate issues (floods leading to famines) led to fostering dissatisfaction with the Imperial Government and Western Influence overall.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, Sino-Japanese relations regarding Korea and the Republic of Formosa (Taiwan) continued to strain the weak Chinese empire. Through gunboat diplomacy, the Empire of Japan accomplished the unequal signing of the Treaty of Kangwa with Korea. Under the treaty, Korea was liberated from Chinese control and established as an independent state "enjoying the same sovereign rights as Japan".<sup>4</sup> The nation of Japan, too, experienced reform and modernization during this time. Commodore Matthew Perry and the United States notably played a large role in Japan's emergence from isolationism.<sup>5</sup> Despite the treaty, the Korean government would continue to remain close to China, remaining essentially a Chinese Tributary in all but name. This brought China into conflict with Japan who wished to exercise their influence over the Peninsula.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>"Qing Dynasty." Encyclopædia Britannica, August 13, 2025.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Qing-dynasty>.

<sup>2</sup> "Treaty of Nanjing." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed August 21, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Nanjing>.

<sup>3</sup> "The Chinese Revolution of 1911." U.S. Department of State. Accessed August 21, 2025.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Qing-dynasty>.

<sup>4</sup> "Treaty of Kanghwa." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed August 21, 2025.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Treaty-of-Kanghwa>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Treat, Payson J. "Early Sino-Japanese Diplomatic Relations." *Pacific Historical Review*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1932, pp. 18–35. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3633744>. Accessed 20 Aug. 2025.

Diplomatic relations between China and Japan would remain uncertain regarding the influence of Korea from 1874-1894 and would eventually lead to the first Sino-Japanese war.<sup>7</sup> After a bloody war, the more equipped and modernized Japanese army declared victory, and the war ended in the Treaty of Shimonoseki (1895). This forced China to officially recognize Korea as an independent state, give up territories of Pengdu and Liaodong peninsula, and cede the Republic of Formosa (Taiwan) to Japanese troops.<sup>8</sup> Japan continued to pursue the status of a world power, winning several other conflicts, including the 1904 Russo Japanese War (1904-1905) and ultimately annexing Korea as Japanese territory in 1910.<sup>9</sup>

## **Beginnings of the Chinese Communist Party**

The collapse of the Qing Dynasty in the 1911 Revolution abolished the traditional system of government in China. The Republic of China was soon declared, run by Sun Yat-sen. 3 months later, he was exiled and overthrown by Yuan Shikai, who attempted to establish himself as emperor, but came into conflict with the Guomindang. Following his death in 1916, China was forced into a period of unrest. Sun attempted to create a new government in southern China to battle these warlords. At this time, around 1921, the CCP was founded in Shanghai.

The Whampoa Military Academy was established by Chiang Kai-shek to strengthen his army. Many future CCP leaders would emerge from here, including Zhou Enlai.

Following Sun Yat-sen's death in 1925, the KMT was split into the left-wing and right-wing branches. Many left-wing members were also members of the CCP, which had strong ties to the Soviet Union.

## **Origins of Maoist Ideology**

Maoism began as a type of Marxism-Leninism that arose during the creation of the Chinese Communist

---

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. 2018. "First Sino-Japanese War." In Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/First-Sino-Japanese-War-1894-1895>.

<sup>9</sup> Grandos, Ulises. 2008. "Japanese Expansion into the South China Sea: Colonization and Conflict, 1902–1939." *Journal of Asian History* 42 (2): 117–42. <https://doi.org/10.2307/41933494>.

Party (CCP).<sup>10</sup> Following Soviet advisors' guidance in the 1920s, the CCP first emphasized Marxist principles of class struggle. Marxism, as developed by Marx and Engels, mainly focused on the conflict between the working class (the proletariat) and the capitalist/middle class (the bourgeoisie).<sup>11</sup> Maoism acknowledges this conflict while placing a greater emphasis on the peasantry as a revolutionary force, specifically as it relates to China as an agrarian society.<sup>12</sup> Mao often emphasized the role of a vanguard party to lead the working class toward revolution. In theory, the proletariat was to be the primary force to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism. However, this framework was very difficult to apply in China, as Mao intended, since the industrial working class remained small and relatively weak.

Traditional Marxist theory often noted that the peasantry was incapable of initiating a revolution, but Mao Zedong recognized their revolutionary potential. Viewing the peasants as “poor and blank,” Mao believed they could be molded to develop a proletarian consciousness and serve as the foundation of a mass movement.<sup>13</sup> A central component of Maoist strategy was land reform.<sup>14</sup> Landlords were identified as the oppressive enemies of the peasantry, and class struggle was seen in anti-feudal uprisings and redistribution of land. In CCP-controlled areas such as the Jiangxi Soviet (1931–1934), land was confiscated from landlords and redistributed to peasants, helping to secure peasant loyalty to the Party. Mao and his colleagues conducted detailed rural investigations, beginning with the Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan

(1927), which highlighted the grievances of the countryside and laid the ideological groundwork for Maoist thought. These grievances were expressed through mass “speaking bitterness” meetings, where peasants voiced their suffering under landlords. Through the mass line strategy, the CCP gathered local concerns and transformed them into policies, presenting decisions as if they emerged organically from the people themselves.

Other factions of the CCP emphasized different areas than Mao. Soviet members of the party believed that the urban proletariat was the true revolutionary class, arguing that China needed to follow the Soviet model of industrialization before real socialism could emerge. Trotskyists within the CCP critiqued Stalinists for their use of just a single state, arguing that for a “permanent revolution,” socialism needed to be exported to the broader capitalist world. Later reformists such as Deng Xiaoping also departed from Mao’s vision, shifting emphasis away from constant class struggle and instead focusing on modernization, economic growth, and integration with global markets. These ideological divergences reveal that Maoism was both an adaptation and an extension of Marxism-Leninism. While this strategy proved decisive for the CCP’s success in the 1940s, it left behind unresolved tensions within the Party that resurfaced during later debates over China’s developmental path.

Mao’s theoretical contributions were shown clearly in his 1940 essay *On New Democracy*.<sup>15</sup> In this work, Mao redefined revolution in China as a staged process. The first stage, the national-democratic revolution, aimed to overthrow feudalism and imperialism. The second stage would transition toward socialism following national unification. This concept of a “New Democracy” was very distinctive in that it rejected both Western capitalist ideology and China’s Confucian-feudal traditions, instead presenting a joint dictatorship of four classes: the proletariat, the peasantry, the petty bourgeoisie, and the national bourgeoisie. By broadening the

---

<sup>10</sup> “Maoism.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 20 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Maoism>

<sup>11</sup> “Marxism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, edited by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., last updated 16 July 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Marxism>

<sup>12</sup> “Class Struggle in China.” *Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line*, first published in *People’s Canada Daily News*, Vol. 6, No. 113, 17 Nov. 1976, transcription and editing by Malcolm and Paul Saba. *Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line*, [marxists.org/history/erol/ca.firstwave/cpc-china.htm](http://marxists.org/history/erol/ca.firstwave/cpc-china.htm).

<sup>13</sup> The Commune, the ‘Great Leap Forward,’ and Sino-Soviet Relations.” Current Intelligence Staff Study, Central Intelligence Agency, 15 June 1960, CAESAR, POLO, and ESAU Papers, FOIA Reading Room, CIA, esau-08.pdf.

<sup>14</sup> “Land Reform Overview.” *Chinese History for Teachers*, Syracuse University, <https://chinesehistoryforteachers.omeka.net/exhibits/show/chinese-land-reform/land-reform-overview>

---

<sup>15</sup> Mao, Zedong. “On New Democracy.” *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, vol. 2, 1940, [https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2\\_26.htm](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_26.htm)

revolutionary base, Mao sought to unify Chinese society against imperialist powers, particularly Japan.

The ultimate goals of this strategy were to end imperialism and feudalism, achieve national independence, and lay the foundation for socialism. Unlike traditional Marxism, Maoism allowed for the protection of some private property, as well as elements of a mixed economy. Considering this, Maoism adapted the already existing Marxist theory to China's specific historical and social conditions, placing the peasantry at the center of revolution and shaping the future principles and actions of the CCP.

### **Military Conflicts:**

Before the civil war, the KMT and CCP allied numerous times in attempts to protect the country from imperialist Japan and to unify its people. The battles leading up to the civil war emphasize the importance of the KMT and CCP alliances and the struggle for power after Japan's defeat.

### **The Northern Expedition**

Between 1926 and 1927, relations between communists and nationalists turned sour. The Northern Expedition was a joint effort to defeat local warlords and China's imperialist rulers, such as Great Britain, in an attempt to unify the country<sup>16</sup>. During this period, Chiang Kai-shek began purging communists as well as anyone who was seen as "left-leaning" or different in their political ideologies<sup>17</sup>. The Nanchang and Autumn Harvest uprisings were the communists' failed responses to the arrests and executions and marked the beginning of the People's Liberation Army controlled by the communist party<sup>18</sup>. As the nationalists continued the Northern Expedition, the communists' numbers and popularity dwindled with their unpopular revolts<sup>19</sup>.

---

<sup>16</sup> Chen, Cheng-Siang. n.d. "China - Northern Expedition, Warlord Era, Kuomintang." Britannica. Accessed September 13, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/place/China/The-Northern-Expedition#ref590679>.

<sup>17</sup> "The Chinese Civil War | World History." n.d. Lumen Learning Accessed September 13, 2025.

<sup>18</sup> "China - Administration, Regions, Provinces." n.d. Britannica. Accessed September 13, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/place/China/Administration#ref589644>.

<sup>19</sup> "Northern Expedition | Manchu Dynasty, Warlord Era,

### **The Second Sino-Japanese War**

In 1931, Japan invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria to gain access to the Chinese railway and other resources.<sup>20</sup> War crimes committed against the Chinese by the Japanese military, loss of sovereignty and Japan's continuing advancements into Mongolia were the beginnings of the Second Sino-Japanese War.<sup>21</sup>

### **The Long March**

From 1934 to 1935, Chiang launched five military encirclement campaigns to destroy the main communist base at the Jiangxi Soviet. The communist strategy of guerrilla warfare was insufficient to halt the nationalist advances, and the communists retreated to Yan'an. Communist supporters grew during the Long March (as they retreated) and Mao Zedong was solidified as the communists' leader<sup>22</sup>. In 1937, Chiang was captured by nationalist generals Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng who both agreed that China's biggest threat was the Japanese and insisted that the military should focus on removing Japan from China. With Chiang's release, the nationalist and communist armies joined forces to defeat Japan, with this conflict ending in 1945 after years of stalemate and indirect foreign aid<sup>23</sup>.

### **Increasing Nationalist/Communist Tensions**

After Japan's defeat, the Nationalists and the Communists fought each other for power. Negotiations between the two sides, with the aid of U.S. representatives such as Patrick Hurley and George C. Marshall, ended when Soviet troops were

---

Nationalism." n.d. Britannica. Accessed September 13, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Northern-Expedition>.

<sup>20</sup> "Invasion of Manchuria | Harry S. Truman." n.d. the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. Accessed September 13, 2025.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/presidential-inquiries/invasion-manchuria>.

<sup>21</sup> "Second Sino-Japanese War | Summary, Combatants, Facts, & Map." 2025. Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Second-Sino-Japanese-War>.

<sup>22</sup> "Long March | Chinese History, Communist Retreat & Mao Zedong." 2025. Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Long-March>.

<sup>23</sup> "Xi'an Incident | 1937, Japan, China." 2025. Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Xian-Incident>.

removed from Manchuria. While fighting worsened in the north, the nationalists captured a communist base in Kalgan.<sup>24</sup> In early 1947, the communists continued their push through Manchuria and the nationalists took over the communist base at Yan'an in the spring.<sup>25</sup> Throughout 1947, the nationalists' gains lessened while the communists began their takeover of important transportation avenues. This is seen as a turning point in the Chinese Civil War. By the end of the year, the People's Liberation Army had entered the domain of the nationalists.<sup>26</sup>

### **Foreign Affairs:**

The CCP existed in a network of numerous foreign pressures that were crucial for its development. The roles of the Soviet Union, Japan, Vietnam and Korea, and the United States shaped its strategies, alliances, and ultimately its success.

### **The Soviet Union**

The USSR was the CCP's earliest and most important foreign ally. In 1922, the Soviets sought partners in China since it was isolated internationally.<sup>27</sup> The Beiyang government initially rejected cooperation, however, they eventually supported Sun Yat-sen's Nationalist Party (KMT). Soviet advisors like Mikhail Borodin helped reorganize the National Revolutionary Army and supplied weapons, which enabled the First United Front between the KMT and CCP.<sup>28</sup> They were also reliant on the Soviet Union for spies.

After Chiang Kai-shek's anti-Communist purge in 1927, relations between the USSR and the

---

<sup>24</sup> "Kalgan | Ancient Chinese City & Great Wall Gateway." n.d. Britannica. Accessed September 13, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kalgan>.

<sup>25</sup> "Yan'an | China, Geography, Map, History, & Facts." n.d. Britannica. Accessed September 13, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Yanan>.

<sup>26</sup> "Chinese Civil War | Summary, Causes, & Results." 2025. Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Chinese-Civil-War>.

<sup>27</sup> How the USSR Helped the Communists in China." *Russia Beyond*, 9 July 2020, <https://www.rbth.com/history/333268-how-ussr-helped-communist-s-china>

<sup>28</sup> "Mikhail Markovich Borodin." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, edited by The Editors of *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Inc., last updated 5 July 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mikhail-Markovich-Borodin>.

Nationalists weakened. They shifted to cautious CCP support during the 1930s–40s. But, Soviet aid remained crucial: the CCP's *New China* newspaper declared in 1941: "Over the four years of our sacred war, the most important and reliable foreign assistance has come from the Soviet Union."<sup>29</sup>

### **Japan**

Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931, and then a full-scale war occurred in 1937, forcing both the CCP and KMT into the Second United Front.<sup>30</sup> Pressured by the Xi'an Incident, Chiang temporarily allied with Mao to fight Japan. Japan's occupation subsequently destabilized China, as warlord loyalties shifted between the CCP, KMT, and puppet authorities.<sup>31</sup> Additionally, some Japanese communist groups opposed the war and supported the CCP.

Many leaders helped on both sides, showing how foreign invasion exploited worsening internal divisions. The CCP used this division to highlight the failings of the Nationalists and thereby won credibility among the population and gained strength during the war years.

In 1918, Japan and China signed the Sino-Japanese Joint Defence Agreement. This secret and unequal treaty gave Japan significant military privileges along the Sino-Russian border, emerging after China joined the Allied Powers in WWI.

### **Vietnam and Korea**

Regional struggles also heavily shaped the CCP. In Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh and his movement drew inspiration from Mao's peasant-centered revolution. In Korea, which Japan colonized, Chinese Communists worked with Korean guerrillas in

---

<sup>29</sup> Egorov, Boris. "How the USSR Helped the Communists Seize Power in China." *Russia Beyond*, 14 Jan. 2021, <https://www.rbth.com/history/333268-how-ussr-helped-communist-s-china>.

<sup>30</sup> "Nationalist Chinese Forces Battle Communists as Japan Advances." *Research Starters: History*, EBSCO, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/nationalist-chinese-forces-battle-communists-japan-advances>.

<sup>31</sup> "United Front." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, The Editors of *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Encyclopædia Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Front-Chinese-history-1937-1945>

anti-Japanese campaigns. These connections reinforced the idea that peasant-based revolution could succeed in other areas of Asia.

### **The United States**

Due to the intense fear of communism in America, the USA supported the Nationalist Party. With the basis of the Open Door Policy, the US wanted to maintain access to China's ports by ensuring that Japan didn't dominate them. America provided missionaries, traders, and diplomats, as well as military aid and advisers like General Joseph Stilwell. This assistance made a noticeable difference during Operation Ichi-Go (a major campaign between the Imperial Japanese Army forces and the National Revolutionary Army of the Republic of China)<sup>32</sup>. However, KMT corruption and failures made many Americans question the party, leading some to view the CCP more favorably.

### **Monetary Resources**

Prior to 1945, North China had a feudal agrarian system where wealthy landlords controlled most arable land and received high rents from farmers. Many poor peasants paid 40-60% of their crops as rent. Landlords were economically and politically powerful, and peasants didn't have much upward mobility. The CCP would seize excess landlord land and redistribute it to poor and landless peasants.<sup>33</sup>

The CCP initiated land reform in many areas under its control throughout the 1940s. The reform was highly experimental and was not unilateral across regions. They held public trials of landlords, and depending on the outcome, would confiscate their land and redistribute it to the lower classes. The party also lowered rent and initiated cancellation of debts to overall empower peasants across China. This governmental support led to increased agricultural productivity, as people were more incentivized to work the land. In the Liaotung Province, grain production rose from 230 catties per mou (25

bushels/acre) in 1942 to over 300 in 1950 (33 bushels/acre).<sup>34</sup> Hence, more people supported the CCP during this era after feeling their needs were met. Compared to the Nationalist agricultural policy, the communist one was a much more radical response to the peasants' demands. Ultimately, while the Nationalists failed to win rural loyalty, the CCP's land reforms bound millions of peasants to their cause, laying the foundation for their eventual victory in the civil war. Additionally, the CCP placed substantial taxes on the Chinese people during the 1940s. To uphold this practice, the CCP enacted programs allowing for resources such as farming equipment to be shared among many so that peasants could afford the taxes.<sup>35</sup>

### **Manchuria's Resources**

During the Japanese occupation of Manchuria, the Manchukuo government industrialized the area and built military bases so that it could continue its conquest of Asia. The Soviet Union invaded Manchuria in 1945 and took down the Manchukuo government. The Soviet Union raided Japanese food storage, industrial equipment and other resources. By 1946, the CCP began rebuilding factories in Manchuria.<sup>36</sup>

### **Communist Intelligence Network**

In early 1920's Shanghai, Chinese communists organized under the Comiturn. Led in Moscow and led by Vladimir Lenin, it targeted China in its foment for world revolution. For a time, the Soviets oversaw the intelligence network of the CCP. The Chinese diaspora in Paris brought an influx of new arrivals, including future leaders like Deng Xiaoping and Zhou Enlai. The CCP's Central Special Branch, often

---

<sup>32</sup> Pacific Atrocities Education. (2024, April 30). *Operation Ichi-Go: Japan's Pivotal 1944 Campaign in China*. Pacific Atrocities Education. Retrieved from <https://www.pacificatrocities.org/blog/operation-ichi-go>

<sup>33</sup> "Peasants Demand Speedy Land Reform; Good Crop Prospects, Land Reform Mean Higher Living Standard." 1950. CIA. August 3, 1950.

<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP80-00809A000600340676-4.pdf>.

---

<sup>34</sup> "Chances in Peasant Life since Land Reform in China." n.d. CIA. <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP80-00809A000700190160-2.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> "Yan'an Soviet." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 4 Oct. 2025, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yan%27an\\_Soviet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yan%27an_Soviet).

<sup>36</sup> The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree.... "Manchuria since c. 1900." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 26 Sept. 2025, [www.britannica.com/place/Manchuria/Manchuria-since-c-1900](https://www.britannica.com/place/Manchuria/Manchuria-since-c-1900).



referred to as *Teke* was first established in 1927 by Zhou Enlai to conduct “special operations”.<sup>37</sup> The leadership was handed to Kang Sheng, who used the network to fight a clandestine war against the Kuomintang. The Central Social Affairs Department was created in 1939 and was first directed by Kang Sheng. Its main goals were to gather intelligence and counter-intelligence on military affairs.<sup>38</sup>

### **Disease**

During the Second Sino-Japanese War, diseases such as malaria, smallpox and measles killed many Chinese troops.<sup>39</sup> This was mainly due to inadequate sanitation and the lack of medical resources under the control of the Nationalist government. Additionally, the KMT emphasized a switch from traditional Chinese medicine to preventive western methods, which were incapable of treating epidemics.<sup>40</sup>

In 1949, the Chinese Communist Party directed the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to invade Taiwan. The PLA began training in preparation for the military skills required for fighting both on land and in the water. The Yangtze River Delta was endemic with schistosomiasis and a large portion of the PLA caught Katayama fever.<sup>41</sup>

### **Current Situation:**

---

<sup>37</sup> Sempa, F. P. (2019, August 14). “Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping” by Roger Faligot. Asian Review of Books. Retrieved from

<https://asianreviewofbooks.com/chinese-spies-from-chairman-mao-to-xi-jinping-by-roger-faligot/>

<sup>38</sup> “Central Social Affairs Department.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 30 June 2025, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_Social\\_Affairs\\_Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Social_Affairs_Department).

<sup>39</sup> Liu, Michael Shiyung. “Epidemic Control and Wars in Republican China (1935-1955).” *Extrême-Orient Extrême-Occident*, Presses universitaires de Vincennes, 1 Sept. 2016, [journals.openedition.org/extremeorient/335?lang=en](https://journals.openedition.org/extremeorient/335?lang=en).

<sup>40</sup> Lee, Youngsub, and Hyoungsup Kim. “The Turning Point of China’s Rural Public Health during the Cultural Revolution Period: Barefoot Doctors: A Narrative.” *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, July 2018, [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6124148/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6124148/).

<sup>41</sup> Kanika Khanna, Ph.D. “How a Schistosoma Parasite Prevented a War.” *ASM.Org*, 28 Oct. 2021, [asm.org/articles/2021/october/how-a-schistosoma-parasite-prevented-a-war](https://asm.org/articles/2021/october/how-a-schistosoma-parasite-prevented-a-war); *Schistosomiasis: The Disease That Saved Taiwan | Military Medicine* | Oxford Academic, [academic.oup.com/milmed/article/189/5-6/128/7282744](https://academic.oup.com/milmed/article/189/5-6/128/7282744). Accessed 5 Oct. 2025.

The current date is January 4th, 1946. In August of 1945, Japan surrendered, leaving China once again divided between the Communists and the Nationalists. The CCP gained widespread support and expanded its armies, and now governs roughly 95 million people. The KMT, though internationally recognized and backed by the United States, suffered major losses and widespread corruption.

The Second United Front has collapsed. The CCP, supported by the Soviet Union and rural militias, controls much of northern and northwestern China, while the KMT holds most major cities and infrastructure. Despite peace talks, fighting has resumed in several regions.

A second civil war seems inevitable.

### **Questions to Consider:**



1. How can the Communists use their popularity in the countryside to defeat the Nationalists?
2. How can the Communists overcome their lack of industry and professional army?
3. How will the Communists maintain their independence while relying on Soviet aid?
4. How can the CCP reach out to their allies? What support should they request?

**Helpful Resources:**

Chronology of events:

<https://historydraft.com/story/chinese-civil-war/timeline/387>

General history:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Chinese-Civil-War>

Map of Communist controlled areas in China:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-chinese-civil-war/the-chinese-civil-war-source-1/>

### **DELEGATE ASSIGNMENTS (Communists):**

**Mao Zedong** - became the leader of the CCP during the Long March in 1935

**Marshal Rodion Malinovsky (Soviet General)** - Soviet military commander and marshal of the Soviet Union

**Zhou Enlai** - chairman under Mao Zedong, participated in the first and second eastern expeditions as a political officer, appointed as Nationalist Party representative and chief commissar of the First Corps (allowing for him to plant communists as commissars), appointed special commissioner for the East River District (where he was able to establish a communist party and strengthened CCP control of local unions)

**Lin Biao** - a general who commanded the Liaoshen and Pingjin campaigns, Marshal of the People's Republic of China, promoted guerrilla warfare and to abandon the Jiangxi Soviet base, successful commander during the Long March, followed Mao's ideas (although it is suggested that he only did this for power)

**Liu Shaoqi** - participated in the Long March, led anti-Japanese resistance efforts, in 1943 he became secretary of the CCP secretariat and a vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, in 1949 he became chairman of the standing committee, in 1959 he succeeded Mao as chairman, purged by Mao during the Cultural Revolution because of his economic reconstruction policies (they were similar to capitalist policies)

**Peng Dehuai** - military leader during the war, 1954-1959 minister of national defense (removed in 1959 because he criticized the military and economic policies of the CCP), initially a military leader under the KMT but left when Chiang Kai-Shek began to purge the leftist side of the KMT, senior military commander under Mao and participated in the Long March

**Gao Gang** - joined CCP in 1926, led guerrilla base in Shaanxi during war, toward the end of the war he became the party state and military head of Manchuria, 1952 became the head of the State Planning Commission of China, "Gao Gang Affair" attempt to gain power in the part by displacing Liu Shaoqi and Zhou Enlai from their positions in government, 1954 suicide

**He Long** - initially a part of the KMT and participated in the Northern Expedition, rebelled against KMT after Chiang Kai-shek began communist purge, joined Long March in 1935, successful in expanding area of CCP control, 1955 became one of the Ten Marshals and vice premier, one of the first leaders purged during Cultural Revolution for not supporting Mao's efforts to purge Peng Dehuai

**Li Zongren** - 1910 joined Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary party (Tongmenghui), purged his forces of communists, Chiang attempted to remove Li Zongren from the KMT government for life but Li was the best KMT general so he fought for the KMT against Japan, 1948 elected by national assembly as vice-president (Chiang Kai-shek as president), Li attempted to negotiate with CCP Mao's 8 points but Li didn't accept and war continued, Li's 7 Great Peace Policies, conflict between Chiang and Li continues, Li visits U.S.A and Harry Truman for medical treatment and denounces Chiang as a dictator, exile in Taiwan until 1965 when he returned to China in support of Zhou Enlai, goal was propaganda to encourage other KMT to return to China

**Ren Bishi** - 1929 Minister of the CCP Central Committee and head of propaganda in Jiangxi Soviet, set up Today News, Education Week and Shanghai Daily, arrested and tortured by police (Zhou Enlai negotiated a reduced prison term), released in 1929, protected CCP members affected by the "Anti-Bolshevik League Incident", part of the Long March, 1946 drafted proposal for communist youth

**Zhu De** - commanded the 8th Route Army, studied in Germany, where he met Zhou Enlai and joined the CCP, expelled for too many student protests and went to Moscow, defected from the KMT after helping create the Nanchang Uprising, "Zhu-Mao" name given to the Zhu De and Mao Zedong pair

**Zhou Enlai** - 1929 secretly established and organized independent communist cells, established an effective anti-espionage network within the KMT secret police (helped the CCP escape Chiang's Encirclement Campaigns), Zhou's chief aide in security affairs (Gu Shunzhang- strong mafia connections and weak connections to the CCP) was arrested by the KMT and was threatened with torture (he gave up CCP and Zhou's info), Zhou purged Gu's family, Xiang Zhongfa (Zhou's most senior agent) was arrested and

tortured (gave up all CCP info to KMT before execution), this led to Zhou Enlai becoming the most wanted man by the KMT, part of the escaping of the Encirclement Campaigns and the Long March  
**Su Yu** - Second in command of 2 armies during war, switched fighting style from guerrilla to mobile, major commander in Huaihai Campaign

**Wang Ming** - studied in Moscow at the Sun Yat-sen University, supported Stalin's communism, promoted the CCP and KMT alliance against Japan, and opposed Mao's version of communism. Mao stopped Wang Ming from entering government positions with the use of propaganda. Wang Ming was forced to apologize and was later on the CCP Central Committee at the 7th National Congress

**Ye Jianying** - joined Sun Yat-sen's Nationalist Movement, allied with Zhou Enlai, joined the CCP in 1927, joined Mao's Jiangxi Soviet, planned the Long March, during the civil war he was deputy chief of the general staff of the CCP armed forces, supported Hua Guofeng, opposed the Gang of Four (Jiang Qing (Mao's last wife), Zhang Chunqiao, Yao Wenyuan, Wang Hongwen (Maoist political faction) and the reforms of Deng Xiaoping

**Deng Xiaoping** - studied in France and joined the communist movement in France and the Soviet Union, transformed the economy into a socialist market economy, and allied with Mao during the war

**Chen Yun** - one of Mao's close advisors, important in the Yan'an Rectification Movement in 1942, large impact on finance and the economy in 1949

**Dong Biwu** - 1920s, part of the KMT until 1927, joined the CCP, studied in the Soviet Union and became active in the Jiangxi Soviet. In 1945 traveled to San Francisco to attend the founding session of the United Nations with T.V. Soong, and traveled to the U.S. to establish diplomatic relations

**Kang Sheng** - studied in Moscow, supported Wang Ming as leader of the CCP, 1930s switched support to Mao, expelled from the CCP in 1980 because of his relations with the Gang of Four (who were arrested)

**Li Fuchun** - studied in France, took part in Northern Expedition, head of the political division of the National Revolutionary Army's second army and acting CCP secretary of Jiangxi Province and met Mao, part of Long March, ruled northern China, Secretary of the CCP Manchuria Sub-Bureau standing committee member and deputy secretary of the CCP Northeast Bureau, vice-chairman of the

Northeast People's Government and deputy political commissar of the Northeast Military Region

**Bo Yibo** - organized CCP guerrilla movements in northern China in 1928, arrested by KMT in 1931, purged by Gang of Four in 1966, but reinstated by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s

**Luo Ronghuan** - Joined Communist Youth League in 1926 and the CCP in 1927, followed Mao in the Autumn Harvest Uprising and was the security Chief for the CCP during the Long March, political commissar of Lin Biao in Northeast China during the war, 1949 became Chief of Staff of the PLA and a Marshall in 1955

**Xu Xiangqian** - joined KMT in 1924, 1927 joined the Eyuwan Soviet and became commander of the Eyuwan-based fourth Red Army and rejoined the CCP under Mao, part of Chiang Kai-shek's Northern Expedition, led the failed Guangzhou Uprising, participated in battles in Northern China during the war.

**Tan Zhenlin** - 1926 joined CCP, head of workers' patrol and propaganda officer for the county trade union, special emissary for the CCP's mass movement among workers and peasants, organized local support for Northern expedition, established the Jinggangshan base under Mao, Tan stayed behind in the Jiangxi Soviet during the Long March, military leader during the war, gained government positions after the CCP victory