

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story stone building with Gothic architectural features, including a prominent clock tower and a large arched entrance. The building is partially obscured by a semi-transparent orange banner that contains the event title. The foreground shows a set of stone steps leading up to the entrance, with a person walking on them. The overall scene is set against a clear sky.

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Chinese Civil War

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Contents

Introduction:	3
The Chinese Civil War:	6
Background of the Republic of China.....	6
A Brief History of the Kuomintang (KMT)	7
A Brief History of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).....	8
The Nanjing (Nanking) Decade.....	10
Chinese Civil War (1927-37).....	11
Japanese Aggression.....	14
The Xi'an Incident.....	15
Sino-Japanese War and WWII	16
August 10, 1945	17
Economic Issues.....	18
Relations with the United States.....	20
Relations with the USSR.....	21
Positions:	4

Introduction

On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong stood atop the Gates of Heavenly Peace, and proclaimed the creation of the People's Republic of China. *Zhongguo* -- the cradle of civilization -- had finally achieved a modicum of stability after a century of chaotic lawlessness and brutality, marred by foreign intervention, occupation, and two civil wars. But it could have been different. Instead of the communist Chairman Mao ushering in the dictatorship of the people, it could have been the Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, of the Nationalist *Kuomintang* (KMT).

This committee does not just whimsically wonder about the counterfactual. It will challenge you, dear delegate, to construct what might have been. And so we'll be going back to 1945.

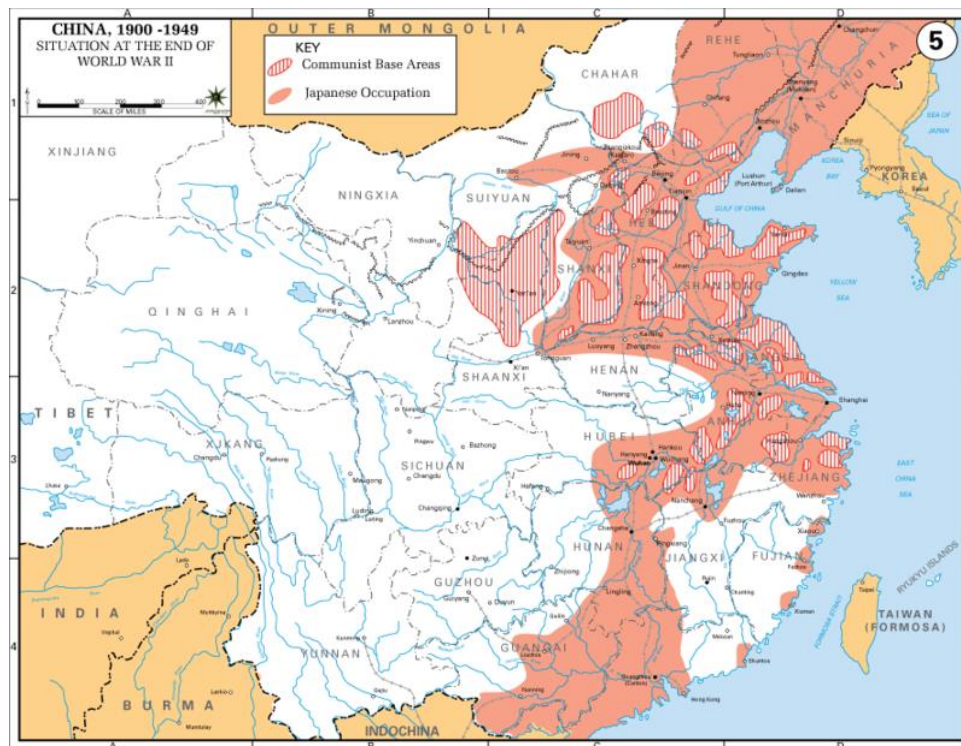
For the past eight years, beginning with its defense of the Chinese mainland against a Japanese invasion of Shanghai in 1937, the Republic of China Army has participated in the China theatre of World War II. In 1945, as the war is drawing to a close, members of the executive committee of the *Kuomintang* have been invited to the capital of the R.O.C. with the task of rewriting history by rebuilding a war torn state.

Delegates, welcome to Chongqing.

We pick the story up on August 10, 1945. In the past four days, the United States has dropped two nuclear bombs, affectionately named "Little Boy" and "Fat Man", on the bustling Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing damage heretofore unseen. The Soviet Union had broken its non-aggression pact with Japan, and had begun an invasion of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo. At this point, the Japanese Supreme Council for

the Direction of the War (“The Big Six”) has convened debate, with Emperor Hirohito, about a potential surrender. The Pacific Theatre appears to be reaching its denouement.

An unconditional Japanese surrender, with a full withdrawal from its overseas colonies, would mean a completely free China, independent from any foreign occupation, for the first time in nearly a century. But a completely independent China does not mean a politically stable China. In fact, despite being the official representatives of the Chinese state, since the 1920’s, the KMT’s Republic of China has allowed effectively a parallel government to be run by the Communist Party of China. And since 1936, the CCP and the KMT had signed an alliance to create a united front against Japan -- the larger, more existential, threat to China’s sovereignty. The KMT’s capital is Chongqing, in the province of Sichuan, while the CCP is situated in Yan’an. The fact that these two parallel governments run different parts of the country means there might be a race to capture the land the Japanese relinquish control over (see map below).



This committee is a crisis committee, and, as such, will be responsible for responding to challenges as they arise. Chiang Kai-shek has called for the assembly of this ad-hoc executive committee, comprised of family members, respected generals, brilliant diplomats and politicians, and other august members of the KMT. This committee will submit recommendations to the Generalissimo (not present in the room) through committee-wide directives and press releases.

Each member of the committee will also have portfolio powers to conduct operations through his or her personal capacity. The nature of the crises will range from military to social to economic -- reflecting the multidimensional nature of concerns that beset the KMT in 1945.

The challenge is to stamp the authority of the KMT onto the Chinese mainland as the war ends, so as to avoid a CCP victory during the Civil War that historically followed Japanese surrender.

The Chinese Civil War

Background of the Republic of China

After the tumultuous 19th century, with China chafing under the ambitions and intrusions of European powers, the 20th century began with China still under the rule of the Qing dynasty. However, despite Qing attempts at combatting foreign aggression and instituting domestic reform, resentment and civil unrest of the Han majority against the Manchu minority stirred. This resulted in a series of uprisings. In 1911, the Xinhai Revolution finally forced the abdication of the last Chinese emperor, six-year-old Puyi, thereby ending two millennia of imperial rule and ushering in the creation of the Republic of China in 1912.¹

Sun Yat-sen, despite being the leader of the revolution and the first President of the nascent Republic, was forced to step down and turn power over to Yuan Shikai, leader of the Beiyang Army, in return for the crucial role Shikai played in forcing Puyi's abdication.² Under Yuan's rule and overreaching ambitions (he abolished elected assemblies and eventually declared himself Emperor of China in 1915), China again entered a period of instability and rebellion which broke into chaos upon Yuan's death in 1916.³ The resulting "Warlord Era," as the feudal-sounding name suggests, was a time of infighting and shaky alliances between local military leaders, with no clear future for the country.

Foreign affairs, as they did in the 19th century, again tangled inextricably with the domestic situation. Concurrently in Europe, the end of WWI brought about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, under which German-controlled Chinese territories were to be

¹ Li, Xiaobing. (2007). *A History of the Modern Chinese Army*. University Press of Kentucky. 13, 26–27.

² Fu, Zhengyuan. (1993). *Autocratic Tradition and Chinese Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 153–154.

³ Ibid.

transferred to Japan, long-standing enemy of the Chinese.⁴ Chinese nationalism was riled up, and the May Fourth Movement and New Culture Movement, in response to the disillusionment with the Republic of China, sought to reform China through a modernization of thought. As historian Patricia Ebrey describes:

“Nationalism, patriotism, progress, science, democracy, and freedom were the goals; imperialism, feudalism, warlordism, autocracy, patriarchy, and blind adherence to tradition were the enemies. Intellectuals struggled with how to be strong and modern and yet Chinese, how to preserve China as a political entity in the world of competing nations.”⁵

It’s important to note that while these movements were anti-tradition and advocated democracy, they were not a move towards Western ideals. In fact, whereas some Chinese intellectuals were aligned with Western-style democratic principles before, now the perceived hypocrisy and betrayal of China in the Treaty of Versailles repelled them and drove them into the radical arms of communism.⁶

A Brief History of the Kuomintang (KMT)

Against the historical backdrop of the fall of monarchy, the Kuomintang (KMT), which means the “National People’s Party,” was formed. The party was initially founded by Sun Yat-sen in 1912 during the fall of the Qing dynasty. The KMT, as a conglomeration of revolutionary groups and guided by ideals of democracy, won a majority in the first elected National Assembly.⁷ However, as mentioned above, Yuan Shikai seized control and blatantly ignored the Assembly, going as far as to assassinate the most influential leader of the KMT,

⁴ Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (1996), 271

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Mackerras, Collin, *China in Transformation: 1900-1949*, 41

⁷ Ibid., xvi

Song Jiaoren, in 1913.⁸ In response, Sun Yat-sen and other KMT members led a failed coup against Yuan Shikai in July 1913, prompting him to dissolve the KMT and force its members to flee the country in fear.⁹

Sun Yat-sen reestablished the KMT in 1919 in Guangdong during the height of the Warlords Era. Pursuing his vision of a unified China, he sought help from foreign powers, signing the Sun-Joffe Manifesto in cooperation with the Soviet Union in 1923. Under this pact, the KMT agreed to form a united front with the fledgling CCP in return for Soviet aid.¹⁰

The guiding ideals of the KMT are the “Three Principles of the People,” a political philosophy espoused by Sun Yat-sen. These cornerstones include “nationalism, democracy, and people’s livelihood.”¹¹

A Brief History of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was born during the aforementioned May Fourth Movement in 1919, led by intellectual leaders such as Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu.¹² As the increasingly radical atmosphere engendered interest in Leninism, the CCP was officially established in 1923 along the lines of Lenin’s vanguard party theory.¹³ The first National Congress of the CCP elected Chen as leader and aligned itself with the Comintern, the international communist organization started by Vladimir Lenin.¹⁴

⁸ Ibid., 29

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Tung, William L. (1968). *The Political Institutions of Modern China*. Springer Publishing., 92, 106

¹¹ Sharman, Lyon (1968). *Sun Yat-sen: His life and its meaning, a critical biography*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. pp. 94, 271

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Van de Ven; Hans J. (1991). *From Friend to Comrade: The Founding of the Chinese Communist Party, 1920–1927*. University of California Press. ISBN 0520910877.

¹⁴ Ibid.

The CCP, under terms of the Sun-Joffe Manifesto, formed the First United Front with the KMT in pursuit of the common goal of ending the “Warlords Era” and uniting all of China. As such, CCP members were encouraged to join the KMT, forming the left wing of the party, while still maintaining their own political ideology. The relationship between the KMT and CCP started out as a symbiotic one, with the CCP taking advantage of the KMT’s numbers to spread its own ideology and the KMT taking this as an opportunity to monitor and control the growing CCP. With the KMT under Sun Yat-sen, the CCP did struggle with the right-wing branch for influence, but it wasn’t until Sun’s death in 1925 and Chiang Kai-Shek’s ascension to the leadership that open hostilities began.

Chiang, more right-wing than Sun, sought to purge the communists.¹⁵ Although CCP and KMT forces united to form the National Revolutionary Army in the Northern Expedition to fight the warlords, Chiang turned on the communists during the Expedition; despite the wishes of the central KMT government in Wuhan, he and his allies massacred 15,000 of the 25,000 CCP members in a series of attacks.¹⁶ Even though the Wuhan KMT government initially opposed Chiang’s actions, in 1927, it forced all communists from the party, prompting the CCP to form the “Red Army” in retaliation.¹⁷ Thus the seeds of the Chinese Civil War were sown.

The Nanjing (Nanking) Decade

The period from 1927 to 1937, known as the Nanjing (Nanking) Decade, was a time of relative stability before the outbreak of war. Chiang Kai-shek, in his campaign against the warlords, took control of Nanjing and made it the capital, even though the KMT

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Carter, Peter (1976). *Mao*. Oxford University Press

¹⁷ Ibid.

government was based in Wuhan. During this so-called “Golden Decade,” Chiang consolidated land gains and solidified power. In 1928, the Northern Expedition resumed, and Chiang finally defeated the Beiyang warlords in Beijing (remnants of Yuan Shikai’s reign).¹⁸ It’s important to note that while the KMT had steadily gained control from the South, up until now, the Beiyang government was still the internationally-recognized government of the Republic of China.¹⁹

With the defeat of the warlords and unification of China under the KMT, there were still power struggles between intraparty factions. Although Chiang led the National Revolutionary Army in the Northern Expedition, not all of the forces were directly loyal to him. He headed the Whampoa clique, but there three other factions within the Army: Li Zonren’s New Guangxi clique, Feng Yuxiang’s Guomingjun, and Yan Xishan’s Shanxi clique. Out west, there were the Xinjiang clique and the Ma clique.²⁰ Even though they were all nominally aligned with the KMT, the Nanjing Decade was marked by a series of attempted coups against Chiang from within. The KMT government under Chiang was somewhat of a totalitarian one-party state that attempted to stamp out all dissent. He was successful in the military campaigns against the rebel cliques, but the successes came at great financial cost, bankrupting the KMT government.²¹

All other political parties were suppressed under KMT’s control. Chiang again attempted to exterminate the communists using a strategy of “encirclement campaigns,” but the communists switched from urban warfare to guerrilla warfare strategies under the leadership of Mao Zedong, making it much harder for the KMT.²²

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Mackerras, Collin, *China in Transformation: 1900-1949*, 47

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid., 76

Chiang Kai-shek's preoccupation with stamping out all domestic threats to the one-party system blindsided to foreign threats, namely the Japanese. Even though Japan had invaded Manchuria and set up a puppet state there with the dethroned Emperor Puyi in 1931, Chiang did not consider them a real threat. He dismissingly proclaimed, "The state's greatest worry is not so much the dwarf-pirates [Japanese] as Jiangxi's local bandits [the CCP]."²³ This lax attitude, which angered many Chinese people, would have fateful implications and throw doubt on Chiang's judgment.

Chinese Civil War (1927-37)

The Chinese Civil War remains, to this date, officially unresolved, with no armistice signed between the warring factions: the KMT and the CCP. But the civil war definitely started in 1927, with a belligerent Chiang Kai-Shek taking the fight over control of the mainland to the communists. While our committee will focus on the Chinese Civil War that is also known as the Chinese Communist Revolution, from 1945-49, it is important to first ground our historical knowledge.

As of 1927, the Chinese mainland remained in a state of warlordism that had persisted from the fall of the Qing dynasty. Sun Yatsen's KMT commanded broad respect amongst the polity, but the communists had carved out an ideological bastion of their own too. But the KMT was a bit of a hodge-podge of ideological views: in Wuhan, Wang Jingwei -- a protege of Sun Yatsen -- led the KMT, collaborating with the prominent communists in Wuhan too.

In April 1927, as noted earlier, Chiang Kai-shek decided to purge the Republic of corrupting leftist influences, and began by orchestrating the "April 12 Massacre" of CCP

²³ Ibid., 54

members in Shanghai. Wang's KMT in Wuhan disagreed with Chiang's aggressive tactics, and thus faced the brunt of Chiang-supporting gangs who attacked Wang's KMT too. After capturing Shanghai, Chiang declared Nanjing the capital of the Republic.

After conducting a left-purge of his own party, Chiang then returned focus to the communists who he began to rout out of their major bases in the southeast, beginning with Shanghai and Wuhan -- the headquarters of CCP operations. By the end of 1927, Chiang had forced CCP out of Wuhan, and thus began the famed Northern Expedition, wherein Chiang organized the National Revolutionary Army to systematically defeat each of the prominent warlords, and to unify the Chinese mainland under the Nanjing government by the end of 1928.

The Communists had dispersed around the country, but reorganized in 1931 under the leadership of communists Mao Zedong and Zhu De, in the region of Jiangxi-Fujian (south of Wuhan), in the town of Ruijin. This was known as the Jiangxi-Fujian Soviet (or Jiangxi Soviet). From 1931 to 1934, the Jiangxi Soviet attempted to hold out Chiang's several attempts to wipe it out. But Jiangxi's mountainous and wild terrain made it difficult for a quick victory.

Chiang famously adopted Encirclement Campaigns to completely surround the region of almost 3 million people, and 140,000 trained communist fighters. Chiang hoped to block off supply lines and starve off the Communists, but time and again, it was hard to completely seal off the region.

At the time of the fifth Encirclement Campaign in 1933, the Soviet Union sent an advisor, Otto Braun, to help the CCP organize its defenses. Braun believed in traditional warfare, and sought to organize the CCP for a direct onslaught against the KMT. The results were disastrous, and Chiang annihilated the CCP army. It was in this environment of defeat,

that Chiang hoped to finally starve out the communists by erecting electric fences to squeeze out the Soviet -- but with the leak of crucial intelligence, the communists were able to extricate themselves, and began a long march out of Jiangxi, hotly pursued by the KMT. The Communists ultimately settled in Yan'an, in the Shaanxi province, where under the leadership of a young and charismatic Mao Zedong, they began to organize a parallel state.

The first part of the Chinese Civil War (1927-37) can be remembered as a grand victory for a brutal and belligerent Chiang Kai-shek. He united the country under a Nanjing government after decades of warlordism, and routed the Communists out of their hiding spots all over the mainland. This map below shows the path of the famous Long March -- that has since been etched into modern day China's founding lore -- that the communists had to take to find sanctuary.

However, in 1937, the KMT and CCP had to take a hiatus from their ongoing civil war to fight a larger, common enemy: The Japanese.



Japanese Aggression

Tensions with Japan began in 1931, when the Japanese forces invaded the northern province of Manchuria. Prior to the invasion, the Japanese made claims to the territory, originating from terms of the Russian surrender in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. The Japanese saw Manchuria as a source of great industrial raw material and a market for Japanese goods.

On September 18, 1931, there was a small explosion on the Manchurian railway lines, and the Japanese were quick to blame the restive Chinese populations for gratuitous acts of aggression. This would be known as the Mukden Incident, and paved the way for Japanese imperial forces to occupy Manchuria so as to preserve the peace.

Six months later, however, it was found that the Japanese had planted the bomb themselves, so as to trick the world into believing its occupation was based on humanitarian necessity. In humiliation and defiance of a shocked global community, Japan left the League of Nations, and doubled down on its occupation of Manchuria -- establishing a puppet state called Manchukuo under the deposed Qing emperor, Pu Yi.

From 1932 to 1935, Chiang Kai-shek's China would attempt to hold out against Japanese aggression, and fought many battles with the imperial army. However, the Japanese were simply better trained and better equipped, and so by the end of 1935, Chiang had effectively relinquished active efforts to repel Japanese invasion. As a result, Japan had successfully taken a bite out of the Chinese mainland.

The Xi'an Incident

In 1936, Chiang had flown to the northern town of Xi'an, in Shaanxi province, to meet with generals to discuss another plan of attack against the CCP. In the meanwhile,

Japan was continuing to harangue the northeast. One of the generals Chiang met with was Zhang Xueliang -- a marshal of the northeast who fought to stave off Japanese aggression.

Zhang tried to reason with Chiang to urge him to forge a truce with the CCP so as to focus attention on Japan. Chiang, disagreed and was more committed to trouncing the communists. On December 12, 1936, a frustrated Zhang kidnapped the Generalissimo, and in the commotion that ensued, a number of KMT officials were killed.

The KMT was able to negotiate the release of Chiang on one condition: that the KMT and the CCP would stop the fighting, and instead focus on the Japanese threat. The KMT agreed, and the Chinese Civil War came to a halt. Zhang was remembered as a hero, by the CCP, for his role. But upon returning to Nanjing with Chiang, Zhang was promptly then arrested by Chiang's men and kept under house arrest and would move with the KMT as it would move its capital for years to come.

Sino-Japanese War and WWII

Historian Rana Mitter has written a phenomenal book called *The Forgotten Ally* wherein he talks about how in remembering World War II, our collective memories often forget the Chinese theatre. While we remember Winston Churchill's famous speech to resolve to fight the Nazis on the beaches, and while we remember the Pacific war from Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki, we forget that from 1937 to 1945, the Japanese progress to the British crown jewel of India was staved off only by the sacrifice of the Chinese mainland. If China had fallen, Japan would have entered India, and shut off the supply for the British royal army, bringing victory to the Axis.

China's world war began in July 1937 when a skirmish near Beijing escalated, and Japan took control of Beijing and its port city of Tianjin. A livid Generalissimo appeared on

stage in Lushan to condemn the act of aggression, and promised retaliation. And with that, China was at war with the Japanese.

What followed was a brutal war, beginning with a Japanese takeover of Shanghai, which involved the commitment of 350,000 Japanese troops. Slowly, Japan began making the push through the mainland, most famously executing the brutal Rape of Nanjing in December 1937 -- wherein 300,000 Chinese, mostly civilian, were tortured and murdered, while houses were looted and pillaged. In sharp retreat, the KMT had to relocate their capital out of Nanjing, moving it to Wuhan and ultimately Chongqing.

The Chinese and Japanese forces clashed on a number of occasions. In one instance, the Chinese army was instructed to flood the Yellow River in 1938, in order to quell the rising tide of the Japanese advance into Wuhan. And so, in an act that has been called one of the deadliest acts of environmental warfare, the KMT destroyed the dikes of the yellow river, flooding cities of Japanese control. While strategically effective in staving off the inexorable Japanese advance, the breaking of the dikes resulted in the deaths of at least 800,000 innocent Chinese civilians.

By 1941, the United States had entered the pacific theatre, following Japan's provocations with the attack on Pearl Harbor. As a result, Japanese interests were being diverted: not only with the fight against the Americans, but also further into Southeast Asia. For instance, Japan battled with the British for control of Singapore as well.

In Chongqing, the Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek orchestrated the defense of the Chinese mainland. And he did so in concert with the CCP as well. But finances were tight, and the KMT needed assistance from the Allies to keep the fight alive.

By 1945, the war was turning on Japan. And the United States had finally perfected the production of nuclear bombs that they then exploded on Hiroshima and Nagasaki -- creating an intensity of carnage heretofore unseen in a single event.

August 10, 1945

We pick up the story on August 10, 1945. The Big Six of Japan's war council has convened to discuss whether or not to unconditionally surrender.

The KMT has been at war for decades. And from 1937 to now, it has been an active war of attrition against the Imperial Japanese Army. The map at the start of the Background Guide shows you the areas of mainland China that are under Japanese control as of the convening of the Japanese war council.

An unconditional surrender would finally mean a modicum of peace. However, the civil war with the CCP looms in the background. That was only placed on hold, following the Xi'an Incident, to bring the two parties together in coordination against the larger Japanese threat. If Japan was to surrender, it would withdraw its occupation of the mainland -- a race to reoccupy now occupies the mind of the Generalissimo. Also, the Soviets are at the border of Manchuria.

While the world may heave a sigh of relief, with the end of a World War in sight, China prepares for the war to begin.

Economic Issues

The domestic economy in this time of relative stability was characterized by continued growth of industry. Starting from WWI, when wartime foreign demand for

Chinese goods rose sharply, more and more factories were being built to take advantage of market opportunities. This trend continued during the Nanking Decade, as political stability contributes to investment and domestic growth. Although the Great Depression hit markets across the world, including China, in the early 1930s, the Chinese market was able to recover. “In 1932, China's GDP peaked at 28.8 billion, before falling to 21.3 billion by 1934 and recovering to 23.7 billion by 1935.”²⁴

The rural economy, however, was hit harder by the Great Depression. As world markets were glutted with oversupply, the simultaneous falling of crop prices and export of this surplus to China drastically decreased farmers' income. Given that the vast majority of Chinese people at this time were farmers, this was a serious crisis that fostered discontent at the KMT government, which the CCP was able to take advantage of. From 1935 to 1937, though, the agricultural situation improved as worldwide prices rose again. The KMT government also reformed the currency, improved communications, and built new infrastructure.²⁵

In the war years, 1937-1945, China saw the worst inflation in its recent history. The KMT under Chiang Kai-shek heavily controlled the banks and relied on bank loans instead of unpopular taxation to support government programs.²⁶ Later, Chiang's brother-in-law, T.V. Soong, established the Central Bank of China, which sold large amounts of government-backed bonds, which acted as a quick but temporary fix to the government's economic woes. The 1931 invasion of Manchuria by Japan caused bonds to fall to half their value.²⁷ In efforts to prop up their public image, directors of private banks were appointed to the board of the Central Bank, but the underlying problems of the KMT-controlled banking

²⁴ Sun Jian, *Economic History of China*, 1059-1071

²⁵ Collin Mackerras, *China in Transformation: 1900-1949*, 58

²⁶ Hewitt, Mike, “Hyperinflation in China: 1037-1949” (2007), 2

²⁷ Ibid.

system were not fixed. In the mid-1930s, silver flowed out of China as the U.S. began to purchase massive amounts of silver, leading to a deflationary recession that worsened the Chinese debt situation. Blaming these problems on private bankers, the KMT seized private banks and consolidated control over the banking system. However, with rampant corruption and mismanagement, inflation soon followed the introduction of a fiat currency in place of the silver standard in 1935. From 1937 onwards, the KMT printed more and more of this new currency to fund the war with Japan, leading to ongoing inflation with periods of hyperinflation.²⁸

Relations with the United States

After the Xinhai Revolution in 1911, the U.S. government formally recognized the Republic of China's new government. The KMT, having unified and quelled most of the factions and warlords, is the sole legitimate government from the U.S.'s perspective. During the Second Sino-Japanese War and WWII, the U.S. was a strong ally. President Roosevelt sent much-needed aid to China despite Congress passing a series of Neutrality Acts (China and Japan weren't *officially* at war, since war was never declared by the governments). With the deterioration of U.S.-Japan relations and the reporting of horrific Japanese war crimes (i.e. Rape of Nanking), American public sympathy sided strongly with the Chinese.

Post-Pearl Harbor, the U.S. sent significantly more aid to the KMT government to help defeat Japan. Chiang Kai-shek's wife, Soong Mei-ling, who was educated in the U.S., played a crucial role in garnering American sympathy and support by touring the country. She even spoke to a joint session of Congress. Relations between the U.S. and the KMT government were cordial in this time of war, as demonstrated by propaganda posters like

²⁸ Ibid.

those below. As signs of this friendship, Congress passed the Sino-American New Equal Treaty, which symbolically gives China equal standing on the world stage following a century of imperialism and subjugation, and repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act.



While the U.S. was a definite ally of the KMT, it also got into contact with the Communist government in the beginning of 1944 as part of the Dixie mission. Its goal was partly to establish relations with the Communists as war strategy with Japan and partly to investigate the CCP and prevent Yan'an (CCP capital) from further gravitating toward Moscow. Although the U.S. is still formally supporting the KMT at this point in 1945, could this alliance change?

Relations with the USSR

As mentioned previously, in the 1920s, the Comintern officially supported the KMT and asked the CCP to ally with the government. The Comintern and KMT established

official diplomatic relations in 1924. However, Chiang Kai-shek's actions, notably in purging the CCP post-Northern Expedition, complicated relations with the Soviets. In the following decade, there were skirmishes between Soviet forces and the KMT, such as the Sino-Soviet conflict in 1929 over the Manchurian Chinese Eastern Railway, the Soviet invasion of Xinjiang in 1934, and the Xinjiang War in 1937.

However, during the Sino-Japanese War and WWII, the Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. mended relations and signed a non-aggression pact to focus their efforts on other enemies. On August 9, 1945 (one day before the start of our crisis simulation), in the joint war against Japan, Soviet forces invaded Manchuria to drive out the Japanese Kwantung Army. At this point, Japan is almost certainly going to lose the war, but given the shaky state of KMT-Soviet relations before the wars, it's imperative to think about this as the KMT-CCP civil wars resume.

Positions

You will be assigned a character for the duration of this committee of advisors to the Generalissimo. The Generalissimo himself, Chiang Kai-shek, will not be present in the room. And instead, the chair will coordinate the committee on behalf of Chiang.

Below are brief introductions to the characters. This is in no way exhaustive. And in fact, you will be responsible for carrying out your own independent research into your characters.

Remember, please ignore details of these individuals' lives after August 10, 1945.

Chiang Ching-Kuo: son of Chiang Kai-shek and his first wife; studied in Moscow in a Communist university. He was the liaison administrator of Shanghai after the Second Sino-Japanese War.

Madame Kai-shek, née Soong Mei-ling; wife of Chiang Kai-shek; studied in the US and spoke with a Georgian accent; began social welfare projects, like building orphanages of Chinese soldiers

Zhang Qun: politician; ex-mayor of Shanghai; governor of Sichuan province during WWII

Wang Shijie: politician; scholar of the KMT

Dai Li: head of Military Intelligence Service; nicknamed the “Himmler of China”; officially began running the “Investigation and Statistics Bureau”

He Yaozu: politician; mayor of Chongqing

K.C. Wu: politician and historian; earned a doctoral degree in political science from Princeton University; mayor of Chongqing until 1942; Vice minister of foreign affairs from 1943-45

T.V. Soong: premier of R.O.C.; President of Executive Yuan; Foreign Affairs Minister; brother of the Soong sisters, one of whom is Madame Chiang Kai-shek; was in charge of negotiating Soviet-China relations with Stalin

Hu Zongnan: army general, along with Chen Cheng and Tang Enbo; one of Chiang Kai-shek's most trusted generals; led communist extermination campaigns

Wei Lihuang: army general; nicknamed, “Hundred Victories Wei” for his success in the anti-communist campaigns; later replaced Chen Cheng as leader of the Chinese Expeditionary Forces; worked effectively with American commanders

Li Zongren: Guangxi warlord; later military commander of KMT forces during Northern Expedition and Second Sino-Japanese War

H. H. Kung: economist; banker; politician; husband of Soong Ai-ling, Madame Chiang Kai-shek's sister; had great influence over KMT policy