

# China's Revolutions: 1912 to 1976

Lecture series

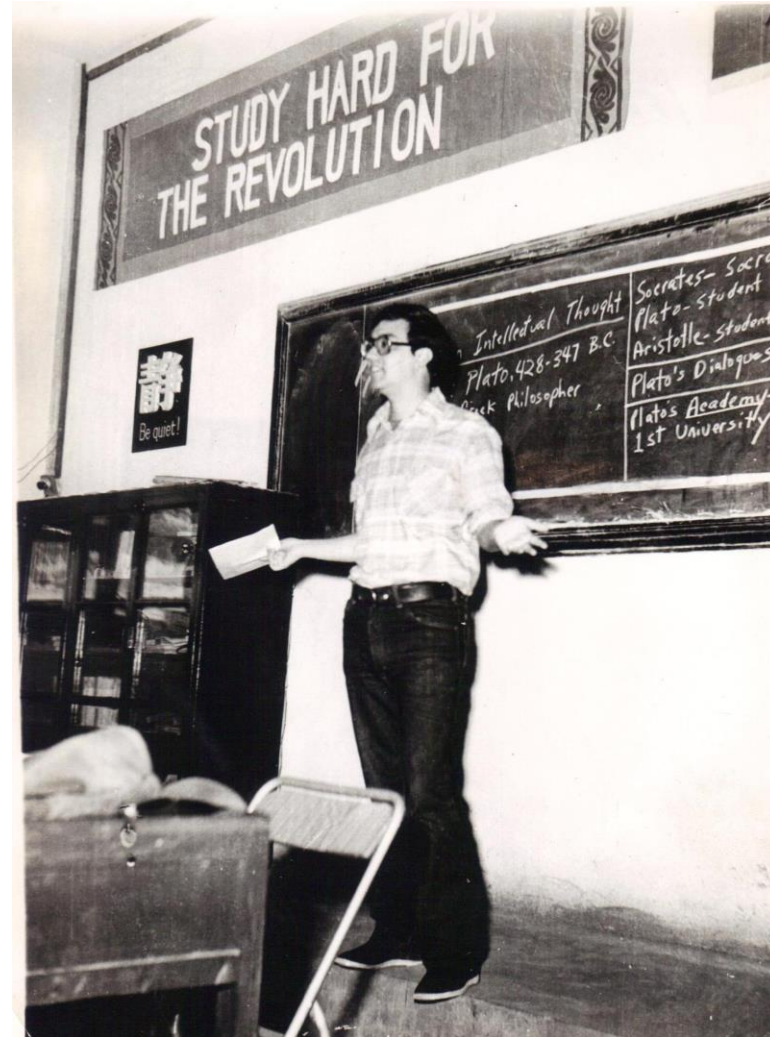
By

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# January, 1979

First group of about 22 American teachers invited to teach English as part of “4 Modernizations” Push



# 东方红

音乐舞蹈史诗

THE EAST IS RED  
Song and Dance Epic



Week 1

Building a Revolution

# 1866

Sun Yatsen is born to an affluent middle class family in Guangdong province



1887

Chiang Kaishek is born to a merchant family  
in Zhejiang province



1893

Mao Zedong is born to a peasant family in Hunan province.





1898

Zhou Enlai is born to an upper- class family in Jiangsu Province.



1886

Zhu De is born to a poor family in Sichuan Province



# Sun Yatsen's Road to Nationalist Revolution



1879 - 1882

13 year old Sun joins his older brother in Hawaii and attends Iolani School in Honolulu.

Returns to China after Graduation and in 1894 attains medical degree in Hong Kong

Sun leaves medical practice, returns to Hawaii in 1894  
to found “Revive China Society” (L)  
With Supporters in Japan (R)



# Sun's Failed Uprisings

1895 - Sun Yatsen leads an anti-Qing Dynasty uprising in Guangzhou. It is quickly defeated and Sun is forced into exile in Japan.

1900 - Almost five years to the day after the failed Guangzhou uprising, Sun Yatsen launches another uprising in Guangdong province. This also fails.

# 1905

Sun Yatsen returns from exile to China.

Attempts once again to lead revolution within China, but fails

Sun forced back into exile, goes to the U.S. and travels the world to gain support for revolution.

Supporters in China continue to agitate for revolution

**January 1, 1912**, Sun Yatsen named provisional president of the newly formed Chinese Republic. Formulates “Three Principles for New China”: *nationalism, democracy, and the livelihood of the people.*



# Sun's Revolution Disrupted

- Against advice of his followers, Sun Yatsen hands leadership over to General Yuan Shikai
- Yuan Shikai builds his own power base and allows warlords to divide up China



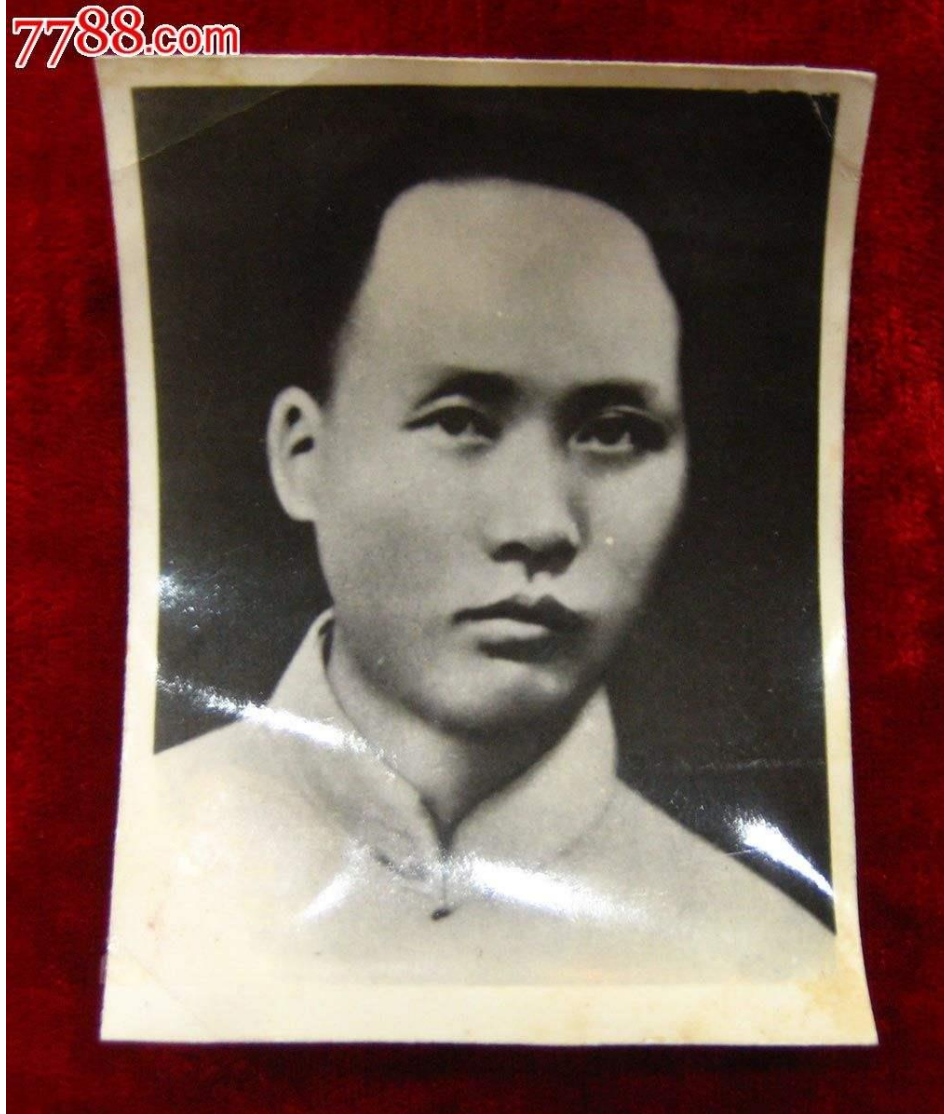
# Confusion Reigns

- Sun Yatsen retreats to Japan, calls for 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationalist Revolution
- Yuan Shikai names himself emperor, but is overthrown
- Sun Yatsen returns in 1915 to lead 2<sup>nd</sup> revolution
- Slowly, over several years, Sun rebuilds government in Southern China

And while Sun Yatsen's Nationalist Revolution Gains Country Wide Support, the Ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin Begin to Enter China. Mao Zedong Develops Marxism with Chinese Characteristics



1918



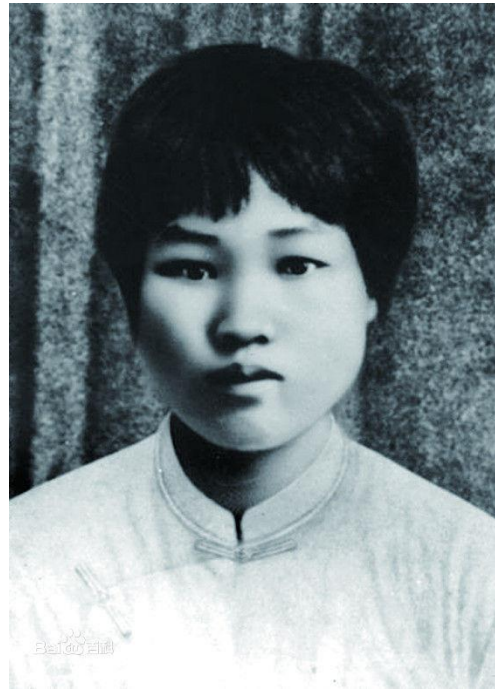
Mao graduates from Hunan Normal School at age 25. Goes to Beijing (Peking) and works in Beijing University Library, where he joins Marxist Study group

1919

**On May 4<sup>th</sup>**, what became known as “The May Fourth Movement” erupts among students in Beijing and spreads around the country protesting China’s treatment at the Paris peace conference and the continued undermining of Chinese sovereignty by Western powers.  
(r) 2019 Memorial Celebration in Beijing.



1920



Communist study groups founded in various cities. Mao organizes Hunan branch of Socialist Youth Association.

Marries Yang Kai-hui, daughter of his professor in Hunan.

1920



Zhou Enlai arrested for radical activities, and upon release goes to France to study and work. There he studies Marxism with other Chinese and foreigners, makes commitment to Communism.

# 1921

- **July 1<sup>st</sup>**, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) formed by 13 delegates in Shanghai, including Mao Zedong
- Mao appointed Party head of Hunan Province
- In France, Zhou Enlai became European organizer for newly formed CCP



# 1922



Zhu De travels to Germany and enrolls in Gottingen University. As a student he meets Communist Party European organizer Zhou Enlai. Zhu is expelled from Germany for political activity, joins the Communist Party and studies military affairs and Marxism for two years in the Soviet Union before returning to China. Here he is with his wife and fellow revolutionary Kang Keqing.



1906 - 1927

# The U.S. Awakens to China's Revolution: Yale in China – Edward Hume's Dilemma



## The Nashville Connection

Charlie Soong, Vanderbilt Graduate in Theology, 1885. (C)  
Supporter of Sun Yatsen and father of Soong Qingling, Sun's wife (L.  
1915) and Soong Meiling, Chiang's wife. (R. 1927)



Vanderbilt Student Photo



# Sun Yatsen – Honored Each Year in Tiananmen Square



# Week Two

From United Front to Civil War

# Sun Yatsen

## Unites Nationalists and Communists-But Not for Long

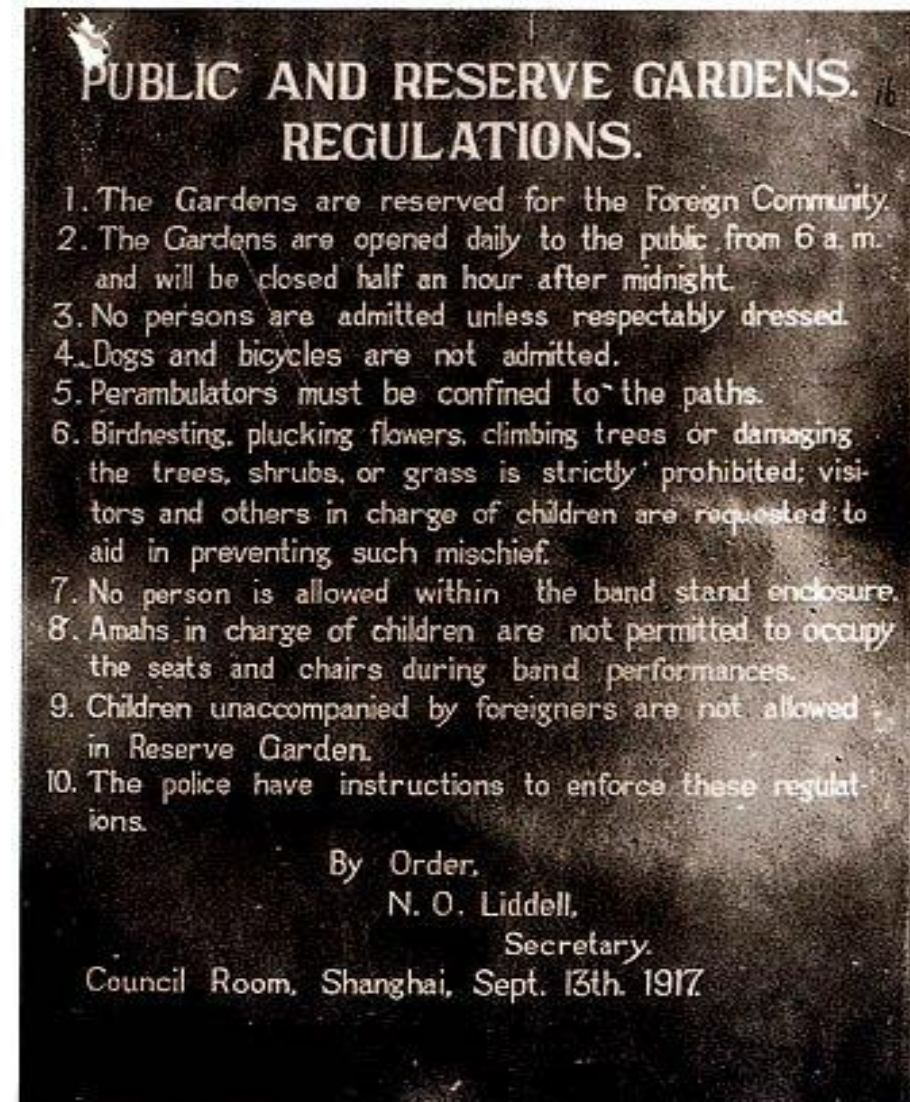


Tiananmen Square, Beijing



Sun Yatsen Memorial Hall, Taipei

# No Dogs and Chinese Allowed in Shanghai Park



# 1922 - 1923

## Setting Up a New Government

- Soviet Union only country to offer support to Sun's Yatsen's new government
- Sun welcomes Comintern (Communist International) advisor Mikhail Borodin
- Sun agrees to reform Nationalist Party along Leninist ideas and build united front with Communists



Mikhail Borodin speaking at  
Nationalist rally

# 1922 - 1923

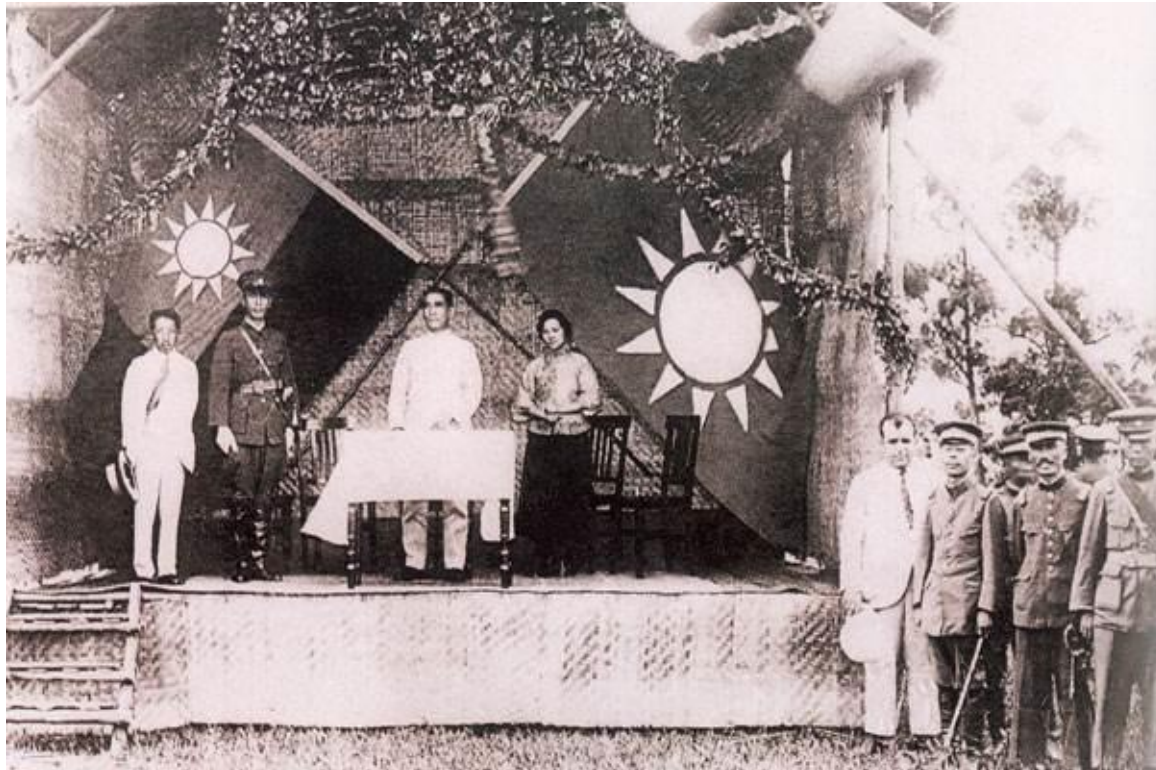
## Setting Up a New Government

- The CCP, under Comintern pressure, adopts policy of cooperation with the Nationalists. Membership stands at 300
- Chiang Kaishek, Sun's first lieutenant, sent by Sun to Moscow; meets with Stalin and Trotsky, studies Soviet military tactics



# 1924

- Huangpu Military Academy in Guangzhou (Canton) founded to lead revolution against warlords and foreign occupiers
- Lectures, military training, political instruction given by Nationalists, CCP and Comintern agents



Opening Ceremony  
June 16, 1924

1924

Chiang Kaishek, Sun Yatsen and Zhou Enlai ( l-r)  
at Huangpu Military Academy in Guangzhou (Canton)



## 1925 -1926

- Sun Yatsen, beloved by Nationalists and Communists, dies of cancer on March 12, 1925
- Chiang Kaishek emerges as leader of Nationalist Party and Army
- Chiang begins **The Northern Expedition** to attack warlords, evict foreign imperialists and unite China; CCP cooperating
- CCP membership stands at about 1500





# 1927

## The Year It All Changed

- Mao Zedong, organizing in countryside, sends his *Report of an Investigation Into the Peasant Movement in Hunan* to Central Committee in Shanghai. Will become classic document in Chinese Communist history
- Calls poor peasants the main force of revolution
- Rejected by Central Committee; does not follow Marxist Line upheld by Stalin and Comintern that revolution must be led by workers

# 1927

- CCP initiates recruiting campaign in cities and countryside; membership surges to more than 50,000.
- Zhou Enlai and other Communists go underground in Shanghai, waiting to support Chiang as they prepare for general strike and uprising once Chiang arrives.
- Nationalist and CCP troops under Chiang Kaishek defeat warlords moving north to Shanghai.
- Chiang Kaishek fears growing Communist popularity and influence.

March, 1927

- Mao and Soong Qingling (Madam Sun Yatsen) in Wuhan, awaiting word of victory in Shanghai



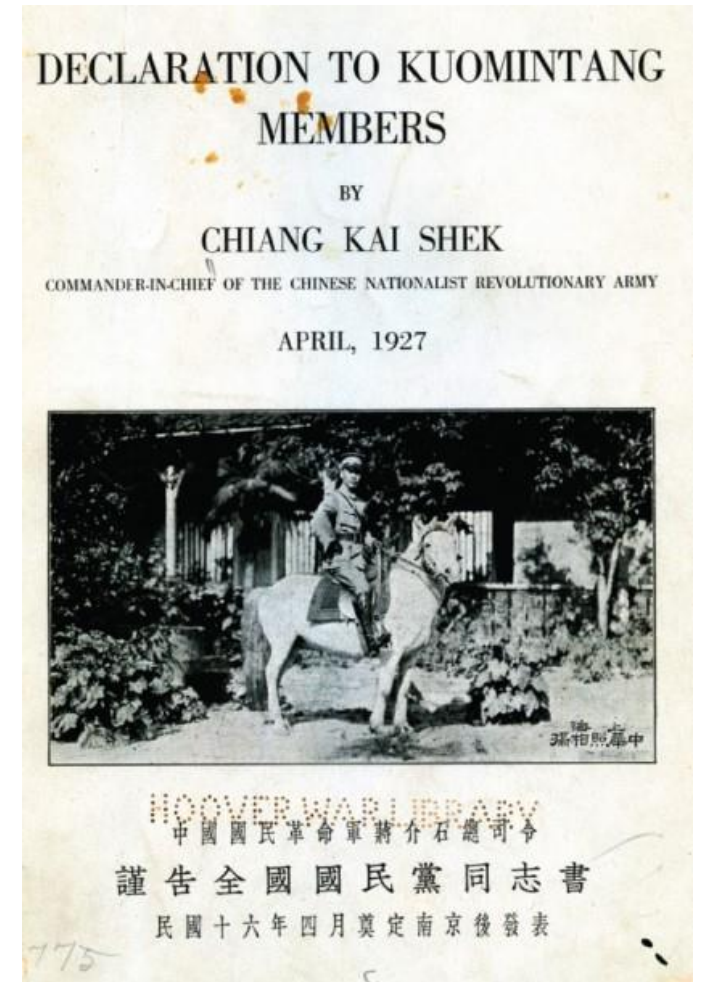
April, 1927

- Chiang Kaishek meets secretly with leading business community and Triad (mafia) leaders in Shanghai who swear allegiance to him if Communists annihilated.
- Chiang orders surprise mass annihilation of Communists, suspected sympathizers and left leaning Nationalists in Shanghai and other cities
- Tens of thousands imprisoned and executed
- Zhou Enlai captured, escapes and CCP goes underground



# 1927

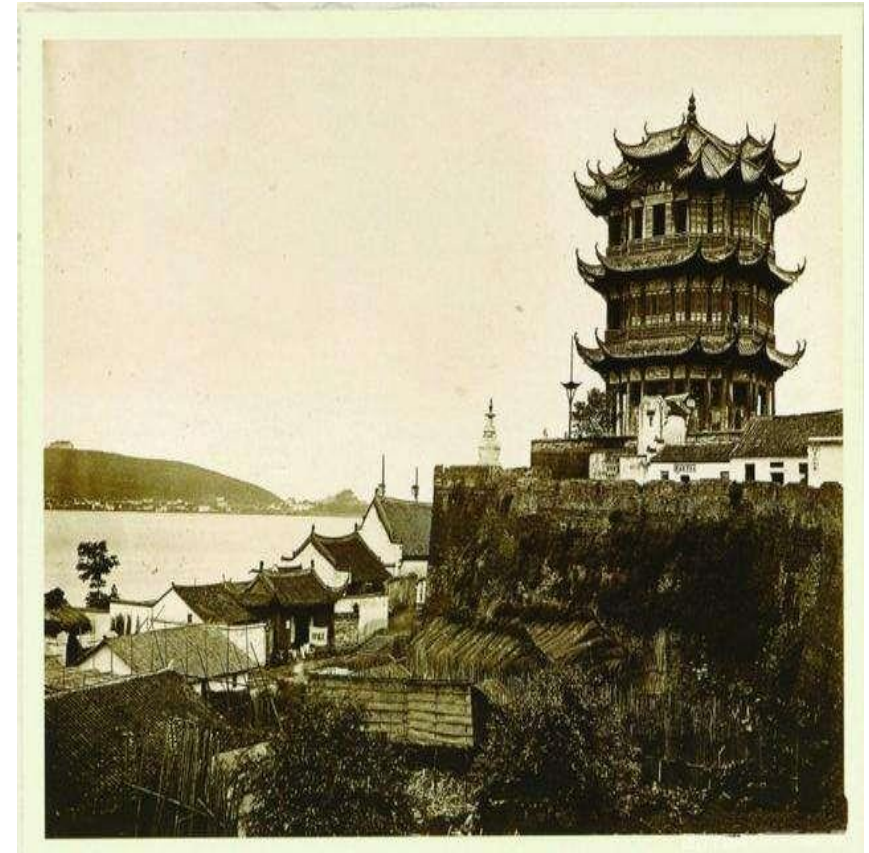
- United Front between Nationalists and Communists finished
- CCP membership reduced to about 10,000 scattered around the country
- Madam Sun voices outrage at betrayal
- CCP forces regroup under Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, attempt to seize control of Nanchang, south of Shanghai. Defeated.



# Yellow Crane Tower – Poem by Mao, 1927

"At that time the Great Revolution failed, I was greatly depressed and had no idea what to do. Thus I wrote this poem."

Wide, wide flow the nine streams through the land,  
Dark, dark threads the line from south to north.  
Blurred in the thick haze of the misty rain  
Tortoise and Snake hold the great river locked.  
The yellow crane is gone, who knows whither?  
Only this tower remains a haunt for visitors.  
I pledge my wine to the surging torrent,  
The tide of my heart swells with the waves.



September, 1927

Madam Sun Arriving in Moscow After Shanghai Massacre



# 1927

- Mao retreats to home province of Hunan, ignores Central Committee orders to focus on workers rather than peasants and leads the “Autumn Harvest Uprising.” Defeated after one week, though he continues to organize a peasant led revolution.
- CCP leaders order worker based Guangzhou (Canton) uprising to form a Soviet style government. Defeated within days.
- Separate scattered Communist armies formed throughout southern and western China as new recruits join.

# 1928 - 1929

Mao Zedong and General Zhu De join forces in Hunan to establish **Red Army**. Soon joined by General Peng Dehuai. Initiate guerilla warfare, capture territory, recruit peasants and expand Army to Jiangxi.



☞ Mao and Zhu



Zhu and General Peng Dehuai ☞



# Red Army Guerilla Tactics



The enemy advances, we  
retreat; the enemy camps,  
we harass; the enemy tires,  
we attack; the enemy  
retreats, we pursue

Mao Zedong

[PICTUREQUOTES.COM](http://PICTUREQUOTES.COM)

*Red Detachment of Women* Revolutionary Ballet

连 长.....宋 琛

小 庞.....李新盈

南 露 工

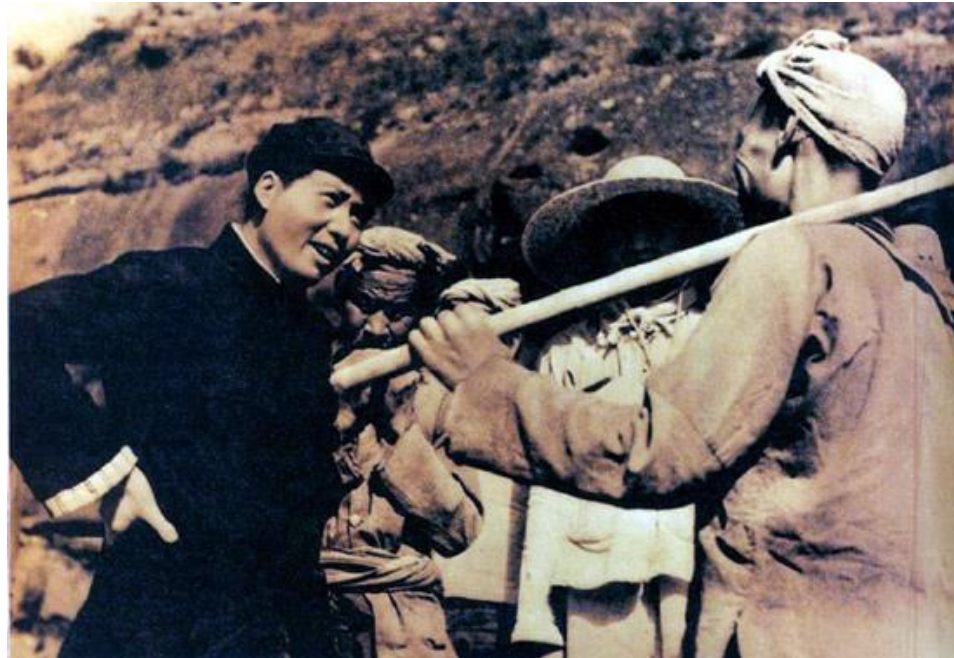
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# Mao's "Marxism with Chinese Characteristics" Begins to Take Shape

*From the masses to the masses*

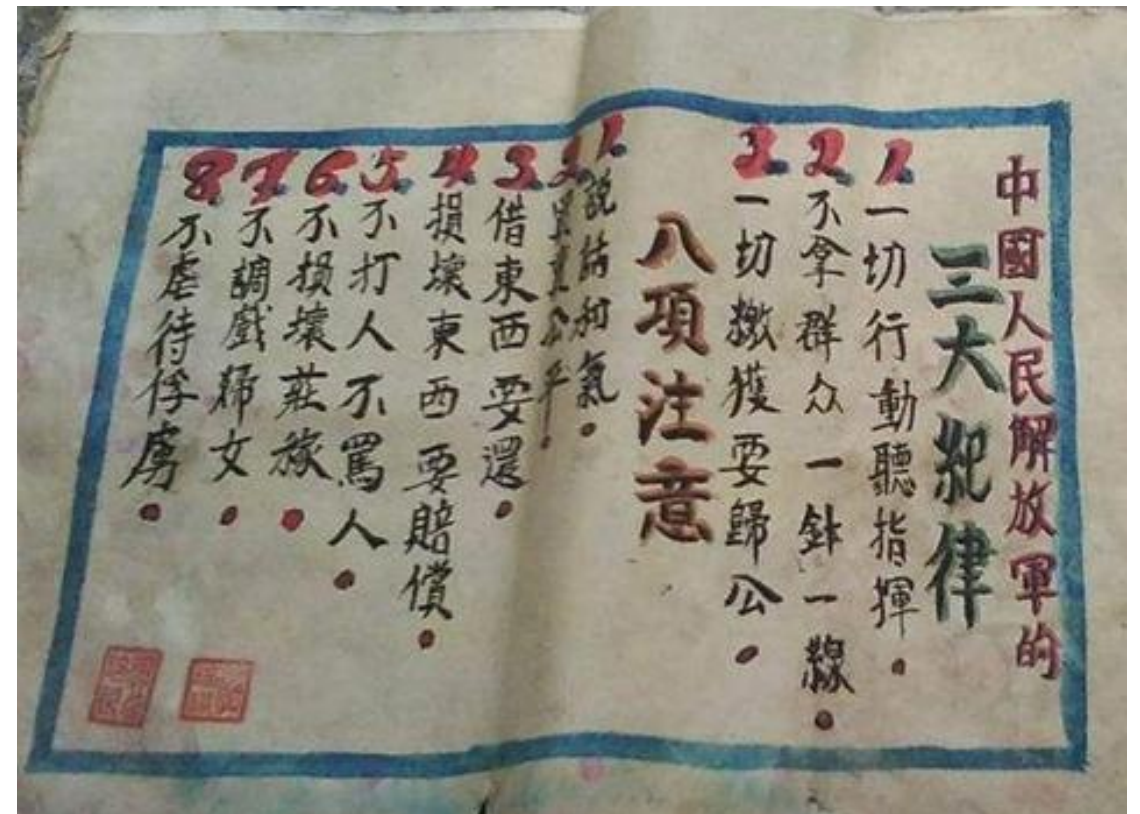


# “The Red Army’s Three Main Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention”

- (1) Obey orders in all your actions.
  - (2) Don't take a single needle or piece of thread from the masses.
  - (3) Turn in everything captured.
- 
- (1) Speak politely.
  - (2) Pay fairly for what you buy.
  - (3) Return everything you borrow.
  - (4) Pay for anything you damage.
  - (5) Don't hit or swear at people.
  - (6) Don't damage crops.
  - (7) Don't take liberties with women.
  - (8) Don't ill-treat captives.

# Red Army Manuals to Instruct Army

Pictures for illiterate soldiers (L), Text for literate soldiers (R)



A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. **A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.**

Mao Zedong, 1927

Compare to Lenin's Phrasing With Same Message

No mercy for these enemies of the people, the enemies of socialism, the enemies of the working people! War to the death against the rich and their hangers-on, the bourgeois intellectuals; war on the rogues, the idlers and the rowdies! You cannot make a revolution in white gloves.

Lenin, 1917

# Political Power Grows Out of the Barrel of a Gun

Mao Zedong, 1927



1930

- Yang Kaihui, Mao Zedong's wife and his sister captured, tortured and executed after refusing to renounce Mao.
- Mao's and Yang's two sons rescued by the Party and sent to the underground in Shanghai, then to the Soviet Union.





# Reply to Li Shu-Yi, 1957

Mao's poem in memory of Yang Kaihui

I lost my proud Poplar and you your Willow,  
Poplar and Willow soar to the Ninth Heaven.  
Wu Gang, asked what he can give,  
Serves them a laurel brew.  
Chang Er spreads her ample sleeves  
To dance for these loyal souls in infinite space.  
Earth suddenly reports the tiger subdued,  
Tears of joy pour forth falling as mighty rain.



# 1923 – 1952

Sisters of Loretto from Kentucky Established Schools for Girls  
in Wuhan and Shanghai



**Photo of First Graduates of Wen Te Middle School, Hanyang  
Dec. 9, 1949**



**Yellow Crane Tower, Wuhan**