



SMUSMUN 2023

HCC



Director's Letter:

Dear Delegates,

My name is Aidan MacKay, and it is an incredible honour to serve as your director of crisis for this year's iteration of SMUSMUN. I am greatly looking forward to an amazing conference, full of detailed strategy, rousing debate, and much more. I cannot wait to work with all of you, and help to create a truly unique and memorable crisis experience. The entire team behind this committee is excited to have you join us in exploring and rewriting the complex and tumultuous events that shaped modern China.

As someone who has been doing Model UN for a long time, I have learned so much from it. From the first time I raised my placard in grade 6, to the first time I wrote out a directive for a crisis committee in grade 8, to the spirited debates and the friendships made along the way, everything has contributed to where I am today, and Model UN has very much been a big part of my life. However, what really changed my Model UN experience was crisis committees. Crisis has allowed me to learn more about history, taught me about the intricacies of international relations, and improved my ability to think quickly. Personally, crisis committees are something that I truly feel passionate about, and I hope that through this iteration of SMUSMUN, I can help share that appreciation of crisis with all delegates.

In this conference, which I am particularly looking forward to running, you will be assuming the roles of significant figures from one of the most periods of Chinese history. You will face opponents far stronger than yourselves, and will eventually have to deal with the struggles that come with picking up the broken pieces of a nation ravaged by war. Questions of Loyalty and Ideology will arise during this committee, and it is your job to prepare for these threats and deal with them accordingly.

To everyone attending, I sincerely hope that the team can help to bring about an enjoyable experience for all of you, and that is the best iteration of SMUSMUN thus far.

祝你好运,

Aidan MacKay

HCC Director

Topic: Chinese Civil War

Timeline:

1911: The collapse of the Qing dynasty leads to the formation of the Republic of China. Sun Yat-sen becomes the first president, but his government is weak and fragmented.

1920s: The Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) gains strength under the leadership of Sun Yat-sen and later Chiang Kai-shek. Meanwhile, the Communist Party of China is also growing, led by Mao Zedong.

1927: The Chinese Civil War begins as the Nationalists, with support from the Soviet Union, move against the Communists. Mao leads the Communist forces in the "Long March" to the north and west of China.

1937: The Second Sino-Japanese War begins as Japan invades China. Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government is forced to fight both the Japanese and the Communists.

1937-1938: The Battle of Shanghai is fought as the Japanese attempt to take control of the city. Despite being outmatched, Chinese forces put up significant resistance, with the battle becoming a symbol of Chinese resistance against Japanese aggression.

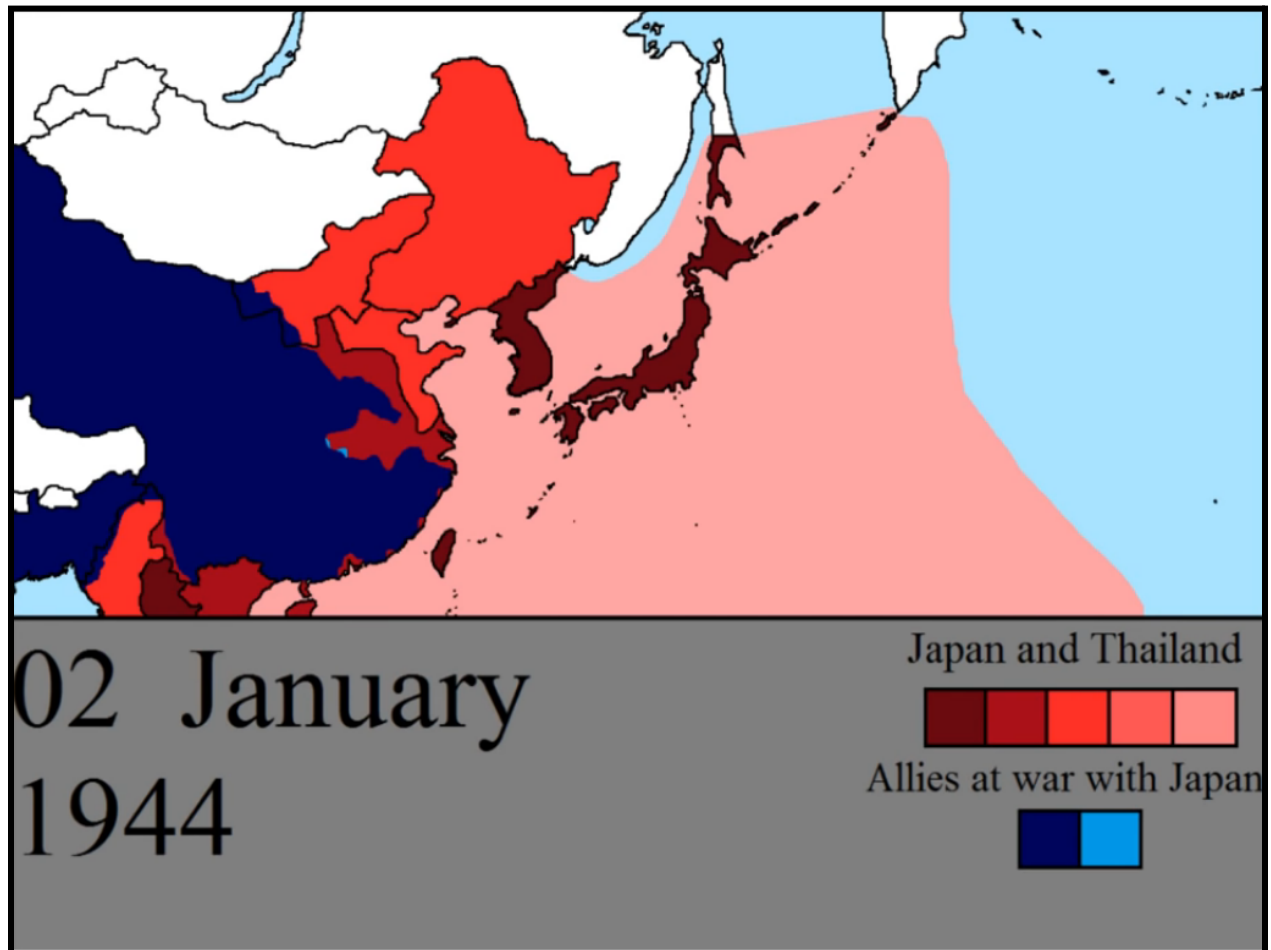
1938: The Battle of Wuhan is fought as the Japanese attempt to take control of central China. The battle is a major defeat for the Chinese forces, leading to the fall of Wuhan and the surrounding region.

1938-1939: The Nationalist government, with support from the West, launches the "New Fourth Army Incident" against the Communist forces, which results in the Communist army's defeat.

1941-1942: The Battle of Changsha is fought as the Chinese attempt to retake control of the city from the Japanese. Though the Chinese are ultimately defeated, the battle serves as an important symbol of Chinese resistance.

1944: The Nationalists and Communists agree to a temporary cease-fire in order to focus on the Japanese threat. This marks the beginning of a fragile cooperation between the two sides that lasts until the end of World War II. The crisis begins.

History



Map of East Asia, 2nd of January 1944¹

¹ "The Second Sino-Japanese War: Every Fortnight." Video, 02:29. YouTube. Posted by EmperorTigerstar, December 13, 2013. Accessed January 15, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQIZIgQ96PQ>.



Approximate Map of East Asia, 1943²

An economic powerhouse of over 1.4 billion people, China is truly a force to be reckoned with in the modern world. As *the* dominant power of the East, China wields incredible power, and is not to be taken lightly. However, it was not always this way. Over China's 4000 years of history³, it has faced periods of great success, like the Tang or Song Dynasties, in addition to periods of hardship, like the Second World War. The Second World War came towards the end of a part of Chinese history known as the Century of Humiliation, a period beginning in the early 1840s. Before the Century of Humiliation, the Qing dynasty was relatively successful. Art, specifically pottery, flourished, and the Qing's extensive civil service greatly benefitted the citizenry. Trade also boomed. Chinese goods like silk and tea were in high demand, and the West was scrambling to acquire these rare materials, all of which were sold at exorbitantly high prices. However, while the Qing were successful for some time, nothing lasts forever, and with the First Opium War, the Qing's Golden Age came to an end. The First Opium War was the beginning of the aforementioned Century of Humiliation, and marked the beginning of the Qing Dynasty's downfall. In addition to beginning the Century of Humiliation, the First Opium War also marked

² Omnias. "Asia Pacific 1943: Guadalcanal Campaign." Map. Omnias. Accessed

January 15, 2023. <https://omnias.com/maps/asia-pacific/19430209/>. (Accurate information from the time is difficult to come by, so this is just an approximation)

³ Liu, J. T. C., Dull, J. Jack L., Franke, J. Herbert, Hsu, J. Cho-yun, Elman, J. Benjamin, Lieberthal, J. Kenneth G., DeWoskin, J. Kenneth J., McKnight, J. Brian E., Lewis, J. John Wilson, Chan, J. Hoklam, Feuerwerker, J. Albert, Hucker, J. Charles O., Silbergeld, J. Jerome, Keightley, J. David N., Wilbur, J. C. Martin, Chen, J. Cheng-Siang, Young, J. Ernest P., Twitchett, J. Denis C., Zürcher, J. Erik, Rawski, J. Evelyn S., Suzuki, J. Chusei and White, J. Lynn. "China." Encyclopedia Britannica, Invalid Date. <https://www.britannica.com/place/China>.

the beginning of an era of unequal treaties. A large part of the Century of Humiliation, these unequal treaties were a series of treaties made between the Chinese government and foreign powers. The first one, the treaty of Nanking (Nanjing), was signed as a peace treaty at the end of the First Opium War. In return for peace, China gave up the island of Hong Kong, opened ports to British trade, and granted special rights to British citizens. This first “unequal treaty” set the stage for other foreign powers to take advantage of China, and unequal treaties with other countries, like France or Germany, began to emerge. As a result of these treaties, China was in a sorry state, with the rule of the Qing undermined, the citizenry suffering, and the sovereignty of the state in tatters. With these conditions met, the stage was almost set for revolution.

However, in order to discuss the fall of the Qing, the rise of the Kuomintang and Sun Yat-Sen must also be understood. Before the KMT, there was a small group of dedicated nationalists, who dreamed of a China not ruled by the Qing. The members of this group called themselves the Revive China Society, and the society was instrumental in creating the conditions for the KMT to rise to power. The society was founded in 1905 in Tokyo, by Chinese expats and intellectuals. This group included Sun Yat-Sen (who is dead by the time the crisis starts), who acted as their leader, as well as the face of the society. Prior to the society’s creation, anti-Qing sentiments most definitely existed, but lacked the organisation to actually do anything about Qing rule. Yet this would soon change. With the society gaining traction both in China and overseas, small scale revolutions were attempted, and even though they were swiftly shut down by Qing officials, the society continued to grow larger in size. As the Qing failed to deal with the domestic problems they faced, the network of Chinese revolutionaries grew, and eventually culminated in the Wuchang uprising.

The Wuchang uprising was the definitive end of the Qing dynasty. Revolutionary societies like the Revive China Society had effectively galvanised the population into taking action against their imperial leaders, and on October 10th 1911, the revolution began. It started with a group of high ranking military officials in the city of Wuchang rose up against the Qing government, declaring the establishment of a new republic. The uprising quickly spread to other cities and provinces throughout China, with cities like Hankou, Hanyang, and Nanjing soon seeing uprisings of their own. Various revolutionary groups and local militias joined the fight against the imperial forces, facing significant opposition from the Qing government. The two sides engaged in fierce battles, with the revolutionaries often being outnumbered and outgunned. Despite these challenges, the revolutionaries were able to hold their ground and ultimately emerged victorious, leading to the downfall of the Qing dynasty and the establishment of a new republic. The Wuchang uprising and its aftermath were a tumultuous and transformative period in Chinese history, setting the stage for the country's continued modernisation and development in the years to come.

Unfortunately, this would not last, as less than 30 years after the founding of the new republic, a new challenge would rear its ugly head. That challenge was Japan, and with the Marco Polo Bridge incident of 1937, the Second-Sino Japanese War began.

Second Sino-Japanese War + Current Situation

The war began with the Marco Polo Bridge incident. Japanese troops stationed in Beijing claimed that a soldier had gone missing and demanded that the Chinese military assist in finding him. When the Chinese refused, the Japanese launched a full-scale attack on the Marco Polo Bridge, which marked the beginning of a larger invasion of China.

Following the invasion, the Japanese quickly seized control of Beijing and other key cities, and by the end of the year, had captured Shanghai and Nanjing, where they committed atrocities such as the infamous Nanjing Massacre. The Chinese army was outmatched in terms of weaponry and tactics, and suffered numerous defeats in the early years of the war. In the face of the Japanese invasion, the Chinese government under Chiang Kai-shek retreated to the interior of the country, eventually settling in Chongqing. There, they continued to resist the Japanese with the help of the Chinese people, who were mobilized to join the war effort. The Communist Party also played a significant role in the resistance, as they organized guerrilla units to fight the Japanese in rural areas. The war quickly became a long and grueling conflict, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. The Chinese people endured significant hardship, with millions of civilians displaced and living in poverty, while the Japanese struggled to maintain their supply lines and morale. In 1941, the war took on a new dimension with Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and its subsequent entry into World War II. This led to increased U.S. involvement in China, with the provision of military aid and the creation of a joint command structure with Chinese forces. Despite this, the war continued to drag on, with both sides unable to make significant gains.

By 1944, the Second Sino-Japanese War had been raging for seven years, and the Chinese people had been enduring the brutalities of Japanese occupation for nearly a decade. To the people of China, this was no simple war over trivial matters, this war was a struggle for national survival against an aggressive and brutal foreign power. At this point in the war, Japan had occupied large parts of China, and the Chinese government was still operating out of Chongqing. In the East, the Japanese had established a puppet government in Nanjing, which was led by Wang Jingwei, a former member of the Chinese Nationalist Party. Japan had also set up a system of forced labor, known as the "Three Alls Policy," which called for the killing of all captives, the burning of all villages, and the destruction of all crops in areas deemed to be under Chinese control. Despite these challenges, the Chinese people remained determined to resist Japanese occupation. The Chinese Nationalist government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, had established a united front with the Chinese Communist Party in order to fight the Japanese together. The Chinese military, under the leadership of Generalissimo Chiang, had been waging a guerrilla war against the Japanese,

conducting hit-and-run attacks and sabotaging Japanese supply lines. With the Americans closing in on Japan from the East, the question at the time was whether or not the people of China could hold out until the Americans reached the Japanese mainland, and if not, what would happen to the developing Republic of China. During this crisis, it is the responsibility of both the Nationalists and Communists to drive back the Japanese, or at least hold out until the Americans can offer more aid. For the beginning of this crisis, ideology must be put to the side, for if there is no China, there can be no Chinese government.

Bloc Positions

Nationalists (KMT):

The KMT's main goal in 1944 was to win the war against Japan and secure China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. To this end, the KMT government was heavily involved in military operations, both on the front lines and in the rear areas, where it worked to mobilize and support the war effort. The KMT also cooperated with the United States and other Allied powers, receiving aid and supplies to fight the Japanese and participating in joint military operations. Another goal of the KMT was to promote unity and strength in China. It is imperative that the members of the KMT bloc work together to establish systems that will continue long after the war ends. If the KMT is able to balance fighting back the Japanese with solidifying their own rule, they will more likely than not be able to create a Republic of China in their image.

Communist Bloc (CCP):

The CCP's main goal in 1944 was to overthrow the KMT government and establish a communist regime in China. To this end, the CCP was heavily involved in military operations, both on the front lines and in the rear areas, where it worked to mobilize and support the war effort against the Japanese invaders. The CCP also cooperated with the Soviet Union, which provided military aid and assistance to the communist forces. Like the KMT, the CCP also wanted to create a unified and strong China, just with a different economic system. The CCP strived for a true communist society without class or inequality. It is up to the members of the communist bloc to gain as much support from the people as possible, in order to counteract the Nationalists in control of the central government.