



## 1 | **overview**

### 1.1 | **fall of Qing**

1.1.1 | **Manchu 12-yo boy emperor Puyi abducted in 1912**

1.1.2 | **power vacuum competed for by 'regional warlords, loose alliance of students, politicians, secret societies, Japanese, communist movement'**

1.1.3 | **internal divisions and foreign influences paved the way for the ultimate victory of Mao Zedong claim**

### 1.2 | **warlord cliques**

1.2.1 | **dominated Chinese politics for next 3 decades**

1.2.2 | **most powerful clique was in North China headed by Yuan Shikai**

1.2.3 | **Shanghai and Canton made second power center, favored politicians like Sun Yat-sen**

### 1.3 | **university students, teachers, and intellectuals**

1.3.1 | **played critical roles in civilization but were defenseless in force**

### 1.4 | **secret societies**

1.4.1 | **envisioned restoration of monarchical rule under a Chinese dynasty**

### 1.5 | **Western power intervention and Japan**

1.5.1 | **wanted to capitalize on power vacuum**

1.5.2 | **Japan from mid-1890s to 1945 (end of WWI)**

## 2 | **May Fourth Movement**

2.1 | **Sun Yat-sen headed Revolutionary Alliance—loose combo of anti-Qing political groups that started the 1911 revolt**

2.2 | **claimed mandate of heaven but warlords had true power**

2.3 | **set up a Parliament and elected cabinets but had minimal actual effect**

2.4 | **Sun Yat-sen resigned in favor of Yuan Shikai in 1912 (northern warlord)**

2.4.1 | **Yuan Shikai pretended to be democratic but built up military**

2.4.2 | **few years later, used military and assassinations to remove opposition**

### 2.5 | **Japan and WWI**

2.5.1 | **Japan took German concessions in China after WWI**

2.5.2 | **gave Yuan the 21 demands in early 1915, which would reduce China to a 'dependent protectorate'**

#### 2.5.4 | **after the war (1919), japan won german concessions**

1. this made the students upset -> protests and mass boycotts

#### 2.6 | **democracy and individualism popular in urban youth**

##### 2.6.1 | **democratic thinkers toured china**

##### 2.6.2 | **novel by Ba Jin depicts boy ignoring arranged marriage**

##### 2.6.3 | **however, elections and stuff didnt work because warlords were in control**

1. so they decided more radical action was needed

#### 2.7 | **Bolshevik victory in Russia**

##### 2.7.1 | **chinese seriously considered marxism**

##### 2.7.2 | **Li Dazhao decided to interpret marxism for china's situation**

1. he saw the pheasants as the vanguard of urban change



2.7.3 | **all chinese as proletarian, and bourgeois was the industrialized West (unification)**

2.8 | **marxist study club (including Mao Zedong)**

2.8.1 | **also believed in authoritarian state that intervened helpfully in many aspects of life**

2.9 | **summer of 1921**

2.9.1 | **a handful of marxist leaders from different parts of China met secretly in Shanghai**

2.9.2 | **Communist party of China born**

2.9.3 | **few supporters but provided new ideology over confucianism**

3 | **Seizure of Power by the Guomindang (nationalist party, Sun Yat-sen)**

3.1 | **promised international and domestic change, but only implemented international change**

3.1.1 | **pushed foreigners out but didnt implement land reform which is what the pheasants cared about**

3.2 | **slowly forged alliances with 'key social groups' and built an army in south of china**

3.3 | **nationalists used communists as major link to peasants and urban workers**

3.4 | **also asked soviets for help**

3.5 | **soviet military academy**

3.5.1 | **first headed by Chiang Kai-shek who didnt like the communists**

3.5.2 | **but he had to wait for the army to be trained**

3.6 | **after Sun yat-sen dies in 1925, Chaing kai-shek captures and bribes warlords**

3.6.1 | **becomes the head of a warlord hierarchy, essentially controlling china**

4 | **mao and the peasant option**

4.1 | **mao background**

4.1.1 | **father was a prosperous peasant, but mao rebelled early**

4.1.2 | **believed revolution was violent and peasants needed to use force to overthrow landlords**

4.2 | **after Chaing seized control, he massacred communists in Shanghai in 1927**

4.3 | **a later attack to communists in south central china caused Mao to spearhead**

2. runaway spiral of loans from the US to european countries + postwar inflation?
3. optimized exploitation of colonies to produce coffee sugar rubber production worsened the same cycle

### 5.3.2 | **poor leadership**

1. leaders were interested in their own debts being paid than facilitating balanced econ growth
2. protectionism reduced market opportunities and made it worse

### 5.3.3 | **the formal advent of the Depression (October 1929)**