

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 peasants 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**