

CP² Week 2: From Empire to Nation-State

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Welcome back

- ▶ Office hours
- ▶ Assessment
- ▶ Guest speaker (7 March 2024)
- ▶ Taiwan event (20 March 2024)

Week 2: Empire to Nation-State



Documentary series

- ▶ PBS documentaries: *China: A Century of Revolution*
 - China in Revolution, 1911–1949
 - The Mao Years, 1949–1976
 - Born Under the Red Flag, 1976–1997

China in the 20th century

▶ Republican China

- 1911-1928: Beiyang Government (北洋政府)
- 1928-1949: Nationalist Government (民国政府)

▶ Communist China

- 1950s: Land reform and the Great Leap Forward (大跃进)
- 1960s: Return of Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution (文化大革命)
- 1970s: Power transition and "Opening and Reform" (改革开放)
- 1980s: Market experiment, intra-party split and Tiananmen
- 1990s: Consolidated market reform and institutionalized political succession

Analytical highlights of the Republican Era

- ▶ Key theme: The pursuit of a "modern" China
 - Political modernization: Transforming empire to (modern) nation-state
 - Social modernization: Filling the moral vacuum and the questions against traditional ways of living (e.g., science, democracy and vernacular language and writing)
 - Economic modernization: Seeking industrial infrastructure and production
- ▶ Question: How do we define "modernity?"

Republican Era

- ▶ Beiyang period: Warlords and mass politics (urban students and intellectuals)
- ▶ Nationalist period: CCP/CPC v GMD/KMT
 - GMD (KMT): Started as a revolutionary party rallying around Sun Ya-sen ("three principles of the people"); fraught with corruption and internal fragmentation
 - CCP (CPC): Started as an urban party with the support from Comintern; relationship with GMD falling out and was forced (or struggled) to change and survive

TIME

The Weekly Newsmagazine



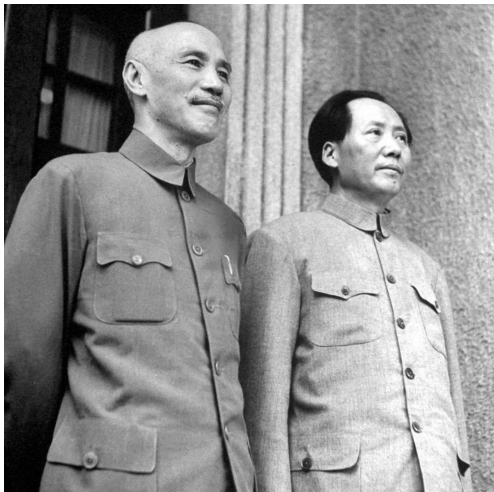
Volume XVIII

PRESIDENT OF CHINA & WIFE
*(As described in 14 English papers,
the Tribune being one)*

Number 17







The Chinese Civil War(s)

► First Chinese Civil War (1927-1936)

- As a result of the fallout of the first United Front (1924-1927) during the North Expedition; ended by the Xi'an Incident (西安事变)
- Key developments for GMD: The Nationalist Government managed to *de facto* unify the country but Chiang Kai-shek was under constant challenges; industrial development took off in the shadow of Japanese invasion
- Key developments for CPC: The experiment with in Ruijin, Jiangxi

► Second Chinese Civil War (1945-1949)

- As a result of the end of WWII or the Anti-Japanese War (1937-1945); ended with the CPC's military victory
- The GMD's defeat was the result of its separation from its political and economic base (Lieberthal 1995)

Legacies of the Republican Era

- ▶ A divided "China:" CPC and GMD managed to control the Mainland China and Taiwan, respectively
- ▶ CPC's revolutionary success against all odds
 - Grassroots mobilization and campaigns in the countryside
 - Revolutionary armed forces
 - Shared challenging experiences and collective memories
 - Rise of Mao and the distance from the Soviet Union
 - ...?

Local states in the early 20th century (Remick 2002)

- ▶ Key idea(s): The behavior and capacity of local states vary significantly in China, as these two are shaped by central policy and local social contexts (history, limitations and ideology)
- ▶ Some questions to consider:
 - What is a state and state "capacity?" How did Remick define it? Why is state-building an important question? Why did she and many scholars choose to focus on taxation and public finance?
 - Why do we need to look central and local state-building as two distinctive and yet interrelated processes?
 - She mentioned a couple of countries to put her argument in a comparative perspective. Why? Does it make sense to you? Any other cases you can think of?

Questions for comparative scholars

- ▶ Revolutions: Causes, results and implications
- ▶ Communist/Socialist revolutions and their influence
- ▶ Political elites and leadership "style"
- ▶ What else?

Recap: Key events during the Republican Era

▶ Beiyang period

- 1919: May-Fourth Movement (五四运动)
- 1926-1928: North Expedition (北伐)

▶ Republican period

- 1927-1936: 1st CCP-GMD Civil War (一次国共内战)
- 1934-1935: Long March (长征) and Zunyi Conference (遵义会议)
- 1937-1945: Anti-Japanese War (抗日战争)
- 1942-1945: Rectification Movement (整风运动)
- 1945-1949: 2nd CCP-GMD Civil War (二次国共内战)

See you next week!