

= Liu Geping =

Liu Geping (Chinese : 刘革平 ; 8 August 1904 ? 11 March 1992) was a Chinese communist revolutionary and politician of Hui Muslim heritage . He is best known as the founding Chairman of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and later for seizing power in Shanxi during the Cultural Revolution , where he made himself the top leader of the province .

Liu spent his early days as a communist agitator , leading peasant uprisings and building the party organization in rural areas . A political survivor , he was arrested several times during the Warlord Era and served two prison terms . After the founding of the People 's Republic of China in 1949 , he held important roles in the party and government but was branded a traitor in 1960 . He later returned to work , only to be purged again several years later during the Cultural Revolution . He was rehabilitated after the Cultural Revolution and spent the rest of his life in ceremonial positions .

= = Republic of China = =

= = = Warlord Era = = =

Liu Geping was born on 8 August 1904 into a large landowning family of Muslim Hui ethnicity in Dadi East Village (大底东村) , Mengcun County , Hebei Province . He also used the names Liu Zimin (刘子民) and Liu Xiangnong (刘相农) . In 1918 he joined the army of Li Chun , a warlord of the Zhili Clique , and entered its military school in Nanjing . The next year he participated in the May Fourth Movement as an activist . He joined the Chinese Socialist Youth League in 1922 , and returned home to spread revolutionary values . Instrumental in the founding of the first socialist youth cell in the area , in December 1925 he co - @ - @ led an armed peasant uprising against the Beiyang government , the first of its kind in northern China .

In July 1926 , Liu joined the Communist Party of China and then spearheaded a series of educational initiatives aimed at increasing the influence of the party in the Tianjin @ - @ Hebei region . After founding schools and party organizations in dozens of counties , he took part in the founding of a 300 @ - @ strong " Southern Tianjin Revolutionary Army " , which aimed to topple warlords and incite armed uprisings . In June 1928 he led a peasant uprising in Qingyun County , occupying the county seat and taking guns from the local police . He was arrested that year for his agitation and spent the next three years in prison . After he was released , the Communist Party sent him to Shaanxi to work for Yang Hucheng 's army .

= = = Japanese invasion and Civil War = = =

After the Mukden incident and subsequent Japanese incursions into China , Liu became a founding member of the " Hui People Against Japanese Invasion " organization . In 1932 he returned home to work on military operations and to coordinate underground party activities . He was again arrested on April 20 , 1934 , after organizing the Majia River (马家河) uprising in Qingyun . He was held in Caolanzi Prison (高兰子监狱) in Beijing , along with 61 other Communist Party leaders including Bo Yibo , An Ziwen , and Liu Lantao (no relation) . To secure their release , the Communist Party Central Committee advised them to sign an announcement denouncing communism . Most complied and were released by the Kuomintang government , but Liu Geping was among the few who refused and served his full sentence .

After his release in 1944 , Liu took on more leadership roles within the Tianjin branch of the Communist Party . He then went to Shandong to found an organization for ethnic Hui to aid soldiers on the front lines of the Chinese Civil War . In March 1949 , he went south with the People 's Liberation Army to East China and served as vice @ - @ principal of the newly established East China People 's Revolution University .

= = People 's Republic of China = =

== = Early PRC == =

In September 1949 , Liu Geping was selected as an ethnic minority representative to attend the first meeting of the Communist @-@ led Chinese People 's Political Consultative Conference ; he was ranked first among minority delegates . At the founding ceremony of the People 's Republic of China on 1 October 1949 , he was selected to speak in Tiananmen Square as the official representative of China 's minority peoples .

Liu joined the government and became deputy director of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission . In this capacity Liu frequently visited western areas with high minority populations . He was a delegate to the 1st National People 's Congress in 1954 . After the congress , Liu and the Tibetan communist Phünwang were assigned to accompany the 14th Dalai Lama , also a delegate , on his tour of Chinese cities , which had a great impact on the Dalai Lama .

In 1956 , Liu was elected a member of the 8th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China . In 1958 , Liu began heading up the party organization of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on an interim basis . He became the first Chairman of the autonomous region government in October 1958 . Because he took a moderate approach to policies toward ethnic minorities , he was branded an " ethnic splittist " in 1960 . In September he was dismissed from all of his positions and sent back to Beijing to take part in " rehabilitation " at the Central Party School .

== = Cultural Revolution == =

In December 1965 , Liu regained favour and was named Vice @-@ Governor of Shanxi province . At the beginning of the Cultural Revolution , having gained the support of leftist radicals in Beijing , Liu successfully overthrew his superior Wei Heng and became Chairman of the Shanxi Revolutionary Committee , the de facto top leader . Wei was imprisoned and committed suicide . Meanwhile , the Central Cultural Revolution Group , led by Kang Sheng and Jiang Qing , began to investigate the case of the 61 communist leaders who were instructed to denounce communism at Caolanzi Prison in the 1930s . The officials , notably Bo Yibo and An Ziwen , were branded as the " 61 Renegades Clique " and persecuted . In contrast , Liu Geping was heralded as a hero for his refusal to sign the denunciation . He was invited to make speeches all over the country and was re @-@ elected to the 9th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in April 1969 . However , Liu had also become involved in major disputes with the military leaders in Shanxi and was engaged in factional violence in the province . He was dismissed from office in July 1969 , just three months after his re @-@ election to the Central Committee . In 1970 , he was sent to perform manual labour at a pottery factory in Tangshan . He was allowed to return to Beijing in 1975 .

== = Later life == =

After the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976 and the pivotal 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China , the post @-@ Mao Communist Party cleared Liu 's name and declared that he " did not have any political problems . " In 1983 , he was named a member of the National Committee of the 6th Chinese People 's Political Consultative Conference , a ceremonial position .

Liu died in Beijing on 11 March 1992 . He was given full funeral rites at the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery . His body was taken back to his native village and buried according to Muslim Hui rituals .