

= Zhu De =

Zhu De ( Chu Teh ; Chinese : 朱德 ; pinyin : Zhū Dé ; pronounced [ ʈʂú tʰé ] ; 1 December 1886 ? 6 July 1976 ) was a Chinese general , warlord , politician , revolutionary , and one of the pioneers of the Communist Party of China . Born poor in 1886 in Sichuan , Zhu was adopted by a wealthy uncle at age nine ; this prosperity provided him a superior early education that led to his admission into a military academy . After his time at the academy , he joined a rebel army , and soon became a warlord . It was after this period that he adopted communism . He ascended through the ranks of the Red Army as it closed in on securing the nation . By the time China was under Mao 's control , Zhu was a high @-@ ranking official within the Communist Party of China . He served as Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief during the Second Sino @-@ Japanese War . In 1955 , Zhu became one of the Ten Marshals of the People 's Liberation Army , of which he is regarded as the principal founder . Zhu remained a prominent political figure until his death in 1976 . As the chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People 's Congress from 1975 to 1976 , Zhu was the head of state of the People 's Republic of China .

= = Life = =

= = = Early life = = =

Zhu was born on December 18 , 1886 to a poor tenant farmer 's family in Hung , a town in Yilong County , a hilly and isolated part of northern Sichuan province . Of the fifteen children born to the family only eight survived . His family relocated to Sichuan during the migration from Hunan province and Guangdong province . His origins are often given as Hakka , but Agnes Smedley 's biography of him says his people came from Guangdong and speaks of Hakka as merely associates of his . She also says that older generations of his family had spoken the ' Kwangtung dialect ' ( which would be close to but probably different from modern Cantonese . And that his generation also spoke the ' Szechwan dialect ' , Sichuanese Standard Chinese , a distinct regional variant that is however intelligible to other speakers of Standard Chinese ( Mandarin ) .

In spite of the family 's poverty , by pooling resources , Zhu was chosen to be sent to a regional private school in 1892 . At age nine , Zhu was adopted by his prosperous uncle , whose political influence allowed him to gain access to Yunnan Military Academy . Before the suspension of imperial examinations in 1906 , he attained the rank of Xiucan , which allowed him to qualify as a civil servant . He enrolled in a Sichuan high school around 1907 , and graduated in 1908 . Subsequently , he returned to Yilong 's primary school as a gym instructor . An advocate of modern science and political teaching , rather than the strict classical education afforded by schools , he was dismissed from his post and entered the Yunnan Military Academy in Kunming . There , he joined the Beiyang Army and the Tongmenghui secret political society ( the forerunner of the Kuomintang ) .

= = = Nationalism and Warlordism = = =

It was at the Yunnan Military Academy in Kunming , that Zhu first met Cai E ( Tsai Ao ) . He taught at the Academy after his graduation in July 1911 . Siding with the revolutionary forces after the Chinese Revolution , he joined Brigadier Cai E in the October 1911 expeditionary force that marched on Qing forces in Sichuan . He served as a regimental commander in the campaign to unseat Yuan Shikai in 1915 @-@ 16 . When Cai became governor of Sichuan after Yuan 's death in June 1916 , Zhu was made a brigade commander .

Following the death of his mentor Cai E ( November 1916 ) and of his first wife , Zhu developed a severe opium habit that afflicted him until 1922 , when he underwent treatment in Shanghai . His troops continued to support him , and so he consolidated his forces to become a warlord . In 1920 , after his troops were driven from Sichuan toward the Tibetan border , he returned to Yunnan as a public security commissioner of the provincial government . Around this time , his second wife and

child were murdered by rival warlords , which is believed to have contributed to his decision to leave China for study in Europe . He first traveled to Shanghai where he broke his opium habit and , according to historians of the Kuomintang , met Dr Sun Yat @-@ sen . He attempted to join the Chinese Communist Party in early 1922 , but was rejected due to his being a warlord .

= = = Converting to Communism = = =

In late 1922 , Zhu went to Berlin . He resided in Germany until 1925 , studying at one point at Göttingen University . Here he met Zhou Enlai and was expelled from Germany for his role in a number of student protests . Around this time he joined the Communist Party of China ; Zhou Enlai was one of his sponsors ( having sponsors being a condition of probationary membership , the stage before actual membership ) . In July 1925 , after being expelled from Germany , he traveled to the Soviet Union to study military affairs and Marxism at the Communist University of the Toilers of the East , returning to China in July 1926 to unsuccessfully persuade Sichuan warlord Yang Sen to support the Northern Expedition .

In 1927 , following the collapse of the First United Front , Kuomintang authorities ordered Zhu to lead a force against Zhou Enlai and Liu Bocheng 's Nanchang Uprising . Having helped orchestrate the uprising , Zhu and his army defected from the Kuomintang . The uprising failed to gather support , however , and Zhu was forced to flee Nanchang with his army . Under the false name of Wang Kai , Zhu managed to find shelter for his remaining forces by joining the warlord Fan Shisheng . He was soon named head of a new First United Front military institute in Nanchang .

= = = ' Zhu @-@ Mao ' = = =

Zhu 's close affiliation with Mao Zedong began in 1928 when under the assistance of Chen Yi and Lin Biao , Zhu defected from Fan Shisheng 's protection and marched his army of 10 @,@ 000 men to Jiangxi and the Jinggang Mountains . Here Mao had formed a soviet in 1927 , and Zhu began building up his army into the Red Army , consolidating and expanding the Soviet areas of control .

Zhu 's leadership made him a figure of immense prestige ; locals even credited him with supernatural abilities . During this time Mao and Zhu became so closely connected that to the local peasant farmers they were known collectively as " Zhu @-@ Mao " ( homophonic to ?? , or pig 's pelage ) .

In 1929 , Zhu and Mao were forced to flee Jinggangshan to Ruijin following Kuomintang military pressure . Here they formed the Jiangxi Soviet , which would eventually grow to cover some 30 @,@ 000 square kilometers ( 11 @,@ 584 square miles ) and include some three million people . In 1931 , Zhu was appointed leader of the Red Army in Ruijin by the CPC leadership . Zhu successfully led a conventional military force against the Kuomintang in the lead up to the Fourth Counter Encirclement Campaign ; However , he was not able to do the same during the Fifth Counter Encirclement Campaign and the CPC fled . Zhu helped form the 1934 break @-@ out that began the Long March .

= = = Red Army leader = = =

During the Long March , Zhu and Zhou Enlai organized certain battles in tandem . There were few positive effects since the real power was in the hands of Bo Gu and Otto Braun . In the Zunyi Conference , Zhu supported Mao Zedong 's criticisms of Bo and Braun . After the conference , Zhu cooperated with Mao and Zhou on military affairs . In July 1935 , Zhu and Liu Bocheng were with the Fourth Red Army while Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai with the First Red Army . When separation between the two divisions occurred , Zhu was forced by Zhang Guotao , the leader of Fourth Red Army , to go south . The Fourth Red Army barely survived the retreat through Sichuan Province . Arriving in Yan 'an , Zhu directed the reconstruction of the Red Army under the political guidance of Mao .

During the Second Sino @-@ Japanese War and the Chinese Civil War , he held the position of

Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Red Army and , in 1940 , Zhu , alongside Peng Dehuai , devised and organized the Hundred Regiments Offensive . Initially , Mao supported this offensive . While a successful campaign , Mao later attributed it as the main provocation for the devastating Japanese Three Alls Policy later and used it to criticize Peng at the Lushan Conference .

= = = Later life = = =

In 1949 Zhu was named Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the People 's Liberation Army ( PLA ) ; it is in this way posterity regards him as a principal founder of the PLA . He also served as the Vice @-@ Chairman of the Communist Party ( 1956 ? 1966 ) and Vice @-@ Chairman of the People 's Republic of China ( 1954 ? 1959 ) . Zhu oversaw the PLA during the Korean War within his authority as Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief . In 1955 , he was conferred to the rank of marshal . At the Lushan Conference , he tried to protect Peng Dehuai , by giving some mild criticisms of Peng ; rather than denouncing him , he merely gently reproached his targeted comrade , who was a target of Mao Zedong . Mao wasn 't satisfied with Zhu De 's behavior . After the conference , Zhu was dismissed from vice chairmen of Central Military Commission , not in least part due to his loyalty for the fallen Peng .

In April 1969 , during the summit of the Cultural Revolution , Zhu was dismissed from his position on the Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China , and the activity of the National People 's Congress was halted . However , due to the support of Zhou Enlai , he was not harmed or imprisoned . In August 1969 , Lin Biao issued a command that dispatched important martial figures to distant areas due to the tension between China and Soviet Union , and Zhu De was driven to Guangzhou . In 1973 Zhu was reinstated in the Standing Committee .

He continued to be a prominent elder statesman until his death on 6 July 1976 . His passing came six months after the death of Zhou Enlai , and just two months before the death of Mao Zedong . Zhu was cremated three days later , and received a funeral days afterwards . During a " Strike Hard " anti @-@ crime campaign in 1983 , one of Zhu 's grandsons , Guohua , was sentenced to death due to a rape conviction in Tianjin .

= = Personal life = =

Zhu De was married four times , according to the unfinished biography written by Agnes Smedley . His first two wives were educated women to whom he was introduced by brothers who were fellow officers in the Yunan Army . They were :

Hsiai Chu @-@ fen , married in 1912 . She died of a fever in 1916 after bearing him a son .

Chen Yu @-@ chen , married in 1916 . Killed by the Kuomintang in 1935 . Zhu 's only child , son of the first wife , vanished and is presumed also to have been killed .

Zhu viewed himself as separated from Chen Yu @-@ chen after leaving her 1922 . He felt free to marry again , though there had been no formal divorce .

Wu Yu @-@ lan , married in 1928 . A peasant leader from an educated family . Captured and killed by the Kuomintang in 1929 .

Kang Keping , also knowns as K 'ang K 'e @-@ ching or Kang Keh @-@ chin . Also a peasant leader , but not educated before she joined the Red Army . Outlived him and was famous in her own right .