

Xinhai Revolution (1912), Civil War, and the Communists Takeover (1949) Econ 43750

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Xinhai Revolution

- First Republic of China 1912-1949
- Old China out–No more arranged marriages, footbinding, queues, Son of Heaven.

Hate the foreigners:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4&t=4m22s> (4:22-6:00)

Women's status:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4&t=1h11m22s>
(1:11:57-1:13:36)

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- Why Son of Heaven was kicked out–People upset by humiliation/occupation by foreign powers, loss of China's prestige. Also, economic situation bad.
- Period characterized by, internal strife and civil war, WWII, no economic growth or progress
- Average annual GDP growth 1900-1950: 0.02% (source: Maddison)
- Population: 1900 was 415 million. 1950 was 552 million. So did per capita GDP fall?

Power vacuum

- Warlords
 - Little countries, backed by foreign interests
 - Own military, tax system, currency
- Response to warlords: Nationalists (Kuomintang).
 - Purpose: eliminate warlords, unite country.
 - Leader: Sun Yat Sen. Only Russia was interested in helping
- Northern Expedition: Campaign to wipe out warlords
 - Big problem: Sun dies
 - Succeeded by Chiang Kai-shek
 - Russian aid condition: **include communists.** They stood for (i) land reform, class warfare (ii) expunging old attitudes like Confucianism (iii) atheists
- Purge: After wiping out warlords. KMT ambushes communists in Shanghai.

Three-Way War

- KMT in power.
 - Chiang becomes fascist dictator
- Communists: A few survived and retreated to countryside.
 - Marx/Russian strategy: Revolution by urban workers
 - Mao strategy: Mobilize peasants—that's where the people are!
 - Peasants **hate** landlords
 - Set up alternative government and the Red Army.
- Japan: wants to colonize China
 - Expand the empire beyond Korea, Taiwan. Is country with large growing population, no natural resources.
 - Japan invades Manchuria (1931). Chiang says fine. Save troops to fight communists
 - Japan installs puppet government, Puyi head of state.

The Long March

- KMT winning the fight against communists. Had them surrounded. Communists doomed.
- Then, about 85,000 of the communists evaded encirclement, and were pursued by the KMT.
- Found refuge at communist base in the north. 5% or 10% made it.
- Survivors burnished credentials in the CCP.
- During LM, power struggle between Russian backed members and Mao. Mao wins, emerges as CCP leader.
- Communists regroup, redouble effort to win over peasantry.

Long March



Full-blown Japanese invasion (1937)

- Chiang refuses to fight the Japanese. His officers mutiny, kidnap him and threaten to execute him unless he commits to fighting the Japanese
- Communists and KMT joint together in the United Front, which ends quickly when the KMT turns on the communists (again).
- The Japanese seriously brutalized the Chinese people.

China and US become allies

- Attack on Pearl Harbor brings US into WWII, China and US become allies.
- Rampant corruption in the KMT. (Documentary: KMT soldiers treated like slaves).
- Chiang still won't fight Japanese. Wants troops to fight communists.
- In the USA, hate on Chinese switched to Japanese.

Japan surrenders. WWII over

Full blown civil war (KMT vs. communists). Economy is a mess. Floods, famine.

- Nationalist Government

- Steals aid sent by relief agencies
- Government is broke. Hyperinflation.
 - Silver standard abandoned in 1935
 - April 1949: Inflation is 14.1% **per day**. That's 5,070% per month
- Flees to Taiwan, (former Japanese colony). Sets up (fictitious) government in exile.
- Nearly thrown out by indigenous Taiwanese.

- Communists

- Land reform (i.e., kill the landlords, take the land, divide among peasants).
- Communists in charge: Next topic, central planning era.

- China lost every war and nearly every battle since first Opium War.

- Exception: General **Liu Fang-Wu** (Liu Institute est. in his honor). British surrounded by 10K Japanese in Burma, asked KMT for help. Liu led force of 1K, defeated the Rising Sun, saved 7K British soldiers. Honored by Britain and China

The Economy

Naughton claims 1911-1937, before Japanese invasion, was a time of relative peace (Disagree!).

- Beginnings of modernization, in the treat ports by foreigners in foreign factories (Primarily textiles)
 - Naughton calls it enclave industrialization
 - Technology transfer: Chinese entrepreneurs learned the technology and start producing from Chinese-owned firms
- Manchuria. Industrializing by Japan
 - Focused on heavy industry (railroads, steel). Supplying the Japanese war military machine
 - Becomes launch pad for Mao's heavy industry
- Bottom line: Emerging small 'modern' sector. Mass production in factories.

The Rural Economy

- Inequality. Many farmers didn't own their land. Of rural households,
 - 24% owned and farmed their land.
 - 30% were tenant farmers. Other rural households were landlords
- Life was hard for peasants. Many in debt, paying 20%-40% in interest rates. Held hard feelings toward landlords

Aggregate real GDP growth (percent per annum)

Era		
Qing	1600-1820	0.39%
	1850-1820	0.26%
	1850-1900	-0.25%
Civil War	1900-1950	0.02%
Mao	1950-1978	4.78%
GLF	1960-1961	-19%

Spelling the Nationalists

- Kuomintang (the KMT). I use this
- Guomindang (Naughton uses this)

Bound Feet



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