

THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR & THE COLD WAR

Background:

- China had been an ally of the Allied Powers during WWI
- After the war Japan was granted territories in China under the Treaty of Versailles.
- Young students in China began to resist the entry of Japan into their country
 - Led to a massive protest in the summer of 1919.
 - Out of these protests the **Nationalist Party** was born
- 1921 the teachings of Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution had found their way to the long suffering peasants of China
- Shortly after the birth of the Nationalists, the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)** was formed in 1921 as a direct challenge to the **Nationalist Party**
- The peasant class joined the **Communist Party** with the hope of more economic freedom.

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- The Communist Party and the Nationalist Party fought each other for power over China's government throughout the 1920s
- April 1927 the Nationalist Party, led by **Chiang Kai-shek**, massacred many of the Communist Party in response to their rise among the country's poor masses.
- This massacre marked the start of the Chinese Civil War between the Nationalists and the Communists.
 - By that August, the Nationalists had taken the city of Beijing and declared that China and its government were under their control.
- During WWII, both parties stopped fighting each other and worked together to defeat Japan.
- After WWII, the two parties resumed their fight against each other

NATIONALISTS VS. COMMUNISTS



Chiang Kai-shek

Chiang Kai-shek	Mao Zedong
Nationalist	Communist
United States	Soviet Union
Capitalism	Communism
Support from wealthy landowners	Support from peasants
Southern China	Northern China
Military: ineffective, corrupt, poor moral	Military: experienced, motivated, guerilla warfare



Mao Zedong

- United States supported the Nationalist Party
 - Huge loans and economic incentives
 - c. \$400 million in aid
 - Nationalist Party was crippled by corruption
 - Chiang Kai-shek could not stop the economic collapse of China
 - As a result, more and more people joined Mao Zedong's Communist Party
 - City of Beijing fell to the communists in January 1949
 - Communists easily took over more and more land in China & established the new **People's Republic of China**
 - Chiang Kai-shek and a few hundred loyal troops fled China to the nearby island of **Formosa (today Taiwan)** & set up a new government there
 - Most Western nations (UN members) recognized this as China's legitimate government
 - United States did not recognize Mao Zedong's communist government as official until the 1970s.

Taiwan was settled in the 1500s by the Chinese, explored in 1590 by the Portuguese (who named the island Formosa), and held by the Dutch in the mid-1600s before being seized by China in 1683.

