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BA (H) History)

Sem-V

History of Modern China

(1840-1960)

Topic

Communist Victory

The Chinese Revolution

1949

- China is a nation with ancient culture and heritage. Unlike many other nations, almost whole of China was under a single authority for many centuries. Several dynasties ruled China like Xia, Shang, Han, Tang etc. The last dynasty which ruled China was **Qing Dynasty (also known as Manchu Dynasty)**.
- Manchu Dynasty ruled China from the period 1644 to 1912. After that, there were intermittent times of dictatorship, a civil war between Kuomintang and the Communist Party, before Communist Party established the People Republic of China in 1949.

- The Chinese Civil War was fought between forces loyal to the Kuomintang-led government of the Republic of China, and forces loyal to the Communist Party of China (CPC). The war began in August 1927, with Chiang Kai-Shek's Northern Expedition, and essentially ended when major active battles ceased in 1950. The conflict eventually resulted in two de facto states, the **Republic of China (ROC) in Taiwan** and the **People's Republic of China (PRC) in mainland China**, both claiming to be the legitimate government of China.

- **Chinese Communist Revolution (1921-1949)**
- The Chinese Communist Revolution or The 1949 Revolution was the culmination of the Chinese Communist Party's drive to power since its founding in 1921 and the second part of Chinese Civil War (1946–1949). In the official media, this period is known as the **War of Liberation**.



- **Nationalist Collapse And The Establishment Of The People's Republic Of China (1949)**
- The two-decade struggle for China between the Nationalists and the Communists reached its conclusion in 1949. The year began with a Nationalist appeal to the “Big Four” (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and the Soviet Union) to mediate a settlement with the Communists.

- On January 14 Mao declared his willingness to negotiate on the following terms: (1) punishment of “war criminals,” (2) abrogation of the 1946 constitution, (3) abolition of the existing form of government, (4) reorganization of Nationalist armies, (5) confiscation of “bureaucratic” [capital](#) from Nationalist Party elites and functionaries, (6) [land reform](#), (7) abrogation of “treasonous” treaties, and (8) establishment of a democratic coalition government without the participation of “reactionary” (Nationalist) elements.

- Meanwhile, the Communist advance continued, and Tientsin ([Tianjin](#)) fell on January 15, 1949. Chiang announced his resignation as president of China on January 21, and Nationalist leadership passed to Gen. Li Tsung-jen (Li Zongren). On January 22, Li accepted Mao's eight conditions as a basis for peace negotiations

- In rapid succession, the Communists captured Hankow ([Hankou](#)) on May 17, Tsingtao ([Qingdao](#)) on May 25, and Shanghai on June 2. To consolidate Nationalist forces, a supreme council was created at Canton with Chiang Kai-shek as chairman, Li Tsung-jen as deputy, and Yen Hsi-shan (Yan Xishan) as premier.

- It was clear that the end was rapidly approaching for the Nationalist cause on the mainland. From his capital at Peking, Mao proclaimed the establishment of the [People's Republic of China](#) on October 1, 1949. Within days the Soviet Union and the communist bloc recognized it as the [legitimate](#) government of China

- The cost of the war was enormous. Official Communist figures counted some 1.5 million dead and wounded among the [People's Liberation Army](#). Some 600,000 Nationalists troops were killed in combat

- Nearly 7 million Nationalist troops were captured during four years of combat. Approximately 5 million civilians died as a result of combat, famine, and disease.

The Long March (October 1934 – October 1935)



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