Revolution in China

Learning Goal 2: Describe the factors that led to the spread of communism in China and describe how communism in China differed from communism in the USSR. (TEKS/SE 13B)

Crash Course World History #37: Communists, Nationalists, and China's Revolutions 12:10
In 1911, Chinese revolt against the Manchu/Qing Dynasty

- End of Dynastic Cycle

Sun Yat-sen (Sun Yixian)

- Founded Kuomintang (KMT) – Nationalist party
  - Established Republic of China
Republic of China: Weaknesses

- **Disunity**
  - Local warlords fought KMT/Nationalists for control
  - Wars raged between 1912 and 1928

- **Foreign imperialism**
  - Americans, Europeans, and Japanese

- **Lack of Industrialization/Modernization**
  - 1914 – only 6,000 miles of railroad track
    - 225,000 miles in the smaller United States

*Chinese flag, 1912-1928*
New Leadership

- KMT/Nationalist Party taken over by Chiang Kai-shek after death of Sun Yat-sen - 1925
The Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

- Nationalist Party started off as allies with the communists
- Constantly faced opposition from the newly developed Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
  - Founded in 1921
  - Grew A LOT
  - Mao Zedong
    - CCPs charismatic leader

Mao Zedong as a young revolutionary
Mao Zedong
(Tse-Tung)

- Farmer’s son who studied philosophy
- In early 1920s, Mao studied the works of Karl Marx and joined Communist Party
- Becomes first communist leader of People’s Republic of China
In 1927, Communists expelled from KMT/Nationalists Party

• Communists (CCP) flee to other parts of the country as Chiang Kai-Shek kills thousands

Chiang Kai-shek sets up an authoritarian government

Starts a civil war with the Communists
### Chinese Political Opponents, 1945

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationalists</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Communists</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jiang Jieshi</td>
<td>Mao Zedong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern China</td>
<td>Area Ruled</td>
<td>Northern China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Foreign Support</td>
<td>Soviet Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defeat of Communists</td>
<td>Domestic Policy</td>
<td>National liberation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weak due to inflation and failing economy</td>
<td>Public Support</td>
<td>Strong due to promised land reform for peasants</td>
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<td>Ineffective, corrupt leadership and poor morale</td>
<td>Military Organization</td>
<td>Experienced, motivated guerrilla army</td>
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Mao Zedong, leader of the Communists, retreated with his forces to northwestern China.
- Over 6,000 miles
- Over 80,000 started the march, fewer than 8,000 made it

Mao Zedong gained peasant support throughout the march.

After the Long March, the Communists established a base and government in Yunnan province.
- Their numbers grew
- Peasants & soldiers joined
They got support by:

- Reduced rents, taxes, and interest rates for peasants
- Taught literacy to adults
- Mobilized women for the struggle
- Encouraged peasants to fight back against their landlords
World War II

- **WWII** put a hold on the civil war as both sides joined together to fight the Japanese invasion.
- After WWII – start fighting again
1949 – **Communists** with the support of the peasants **defeat the KMT**
- **KMT flees to Taiwan** and sets up the **Republic of China**
- **KMT takes China’s gold reserves** with them
- **Communists establish People’s Republic of China** in mainland China
Why did Communists Win?
Why & how did Communists gain control in 1949?

**KMT/Nationalists/Chiang Kai-shek:**
- Wasted foreign economic aid
- Abuse of peasants
  - Soldiers left the army to join the communists

**Communists/Mao Zedong:**
- Gained the support of rural peasants then marched on cities
- Used guerilla tactics
- Use of propaganda
How did the world react?

The communist takeover over of China worried western countries such as the United States.

- They believed that communism would spread from China to the rest of Southeast Asia.
- “Domino Theory”
- Led to the US involvement in Korea & Vietnam.
Watch the following video and answer the questions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4srwSkD05ws
Life Under Mao Zedong

- Mao wanted to transform China into an industrial nation that was self-sufficient.
- Tried to equalize land owning – took land from the largest 10% of land owners and redistributed to peasants – all got equal parts.
The Great Leap Forward: 
- No more private farms
- Families worked on communal farms; ate in a dining hall with other families
- Individualism discouraged
- Production fell – peasants couldn’t meet quotas and bad harvests took place
- Mao refused to take responsibility – blamed SPARROWS! (Birds) and had them killed
- As a result of this policy 20 million died from starvation in China
China
Led by peasants
Wanted to remain isolated from the West
Industrialization was unsuccessful

Soviet Union
Led by Proletariat
Worked to coexist with Western Powers
Industrialization was more successful