China After WWII

UNIT 9: COLD WAR
CHAPTER 31 SECTION 2
“The nuclear arms race is like two sworn enemies standing waist deep in gasoline, one with three matches, the other with five.”

- Carl Sagan
Civil War in China

Prior to WWII, Republic of China (ROC) was governed by the Kuomintang (KMT) led by Chiang Kai-shek
  ◦ Kuomintang = nationalist political party
  ◦ 1927-1939, Shek busy fighting multiple opponents (Japan and Chinese communists)

In WWII, China joined the Allies

1946, Chinese Civil War began
  ◦ Chang Kai-shek and the KMT versus Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

Communists were based in northern China
  ◦ Mao’s army called People’s Liberation Army (PLA); 1 million strong
  ◦ Kai-shek’s called National Revolution Army (NRA); 4 million strong
Beginning of the War

CHIANG-KAI SHEK

**Party:** Kuomintang (KMT)

**Army:** National Revolution Army (NRA)

MAO ZEDONG

**Party:** Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

**Army:** People’s Liberation Army (PLA)

*When the Chinese Civil War began, the full name of China was the Republic of China (ROC)*

*America is to United States of America as China is to Republic of China*
Civil War in China

Peasants and middle-class flocked to the CCP
- NRA troops mistreated; many defected to CCP
- Kai-shek’s tactics often harmed civilians
- CCP propaganda very effective

US supported ROC with military supplies
- Eventually withdrew support

USSR supported CCP with supplies, training, weapons

In 1949, CCP officially won the war
- Mao renames country to People’s Republic of China (PRC)
- Kai-shek and remaining followers fled to island of Taiwan
  - Today, Taiwan = Republic of China
China Under Mao

China hadn’t yet recovered from WWII; civil war further devastated China
- 6 million deaths
- Hyperinflation
  - “In 1940, 100 yuan bought a pig. In 1943 a chicken, in 1945 a fish, in 1946 an egg, and in 1947 one third of a box of matches.”

1955, PRC launched program to rebuild China as socialist society
- Farmland collectivized to increase food production
- Industry and trade nationalized

Food production did not increase; Chinese pop. outgrew food supply (657 million in 1957)

1958, Mao launched more radical program: Great Leap Forward
全世界人民团结起来，打倒美帝！打倒苏修！打倒各国反动派！
最高指示
为了反对帝国主义的侵略
我们一定要建立强大的海军

大海航行靠舵手
The Great Leap Forward

Mao hoped the Great Leap Forward would bring China to true communism faster
- Quickly industrialize and collectivize; grow more food
- “Hard work for a few years, happiness for a thousand.”

Communes were established
- Each commune had 30,000 people living and working together
- Communal child care would allow women to work in fields with men

Mao placed high quotas on steel production

“Four Pests Campaign”
- Mao sought to increase hygiene by eradicating rats, flies, mosquitoes, and sparrows
除四害！
大家都来打麻雀
Great Leap Forward

Great Leap Forward = disaster

- Peasants hated communes
- Economy shrunk
- Four Pests Campaign caused ecological imbalance
- Lack of sparrows caused insect populations (like locusts) to explode
- Food production plummeted
- 18-50 million die of starvation
- Some executed for failing to meet unrealistic quotas
- Deforestation
The Cultural Revolution

Mao still dreamed of classless society despite Great Leap Forward’s failure

1966, Mao launched Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution

- Mao published the *Little Red Book*; used as the CCP “bible”
  - Hailed as most important source of knowledge

Paramilitary group Red Guards formed, made up of angry party members

- Instructed to cleanse China of “Four Olds”
  - Old ideas
  - Old culture
  - Old customs
  - Old habits
The Cultural Revolution

People who deviated from Mao’s teachings attacked
- Public humiliation, physical beatings, murder

Intellectuals and artists were accused of being “pro-Western”
- Imprisoned, murdered; many fled

Mao demanded complete loyalty to the state

Many CCP members disagreed with Mao
- Mao died in 1976, CCP official Deng Xiaoping took over and ended the Cultural Revolution
China and the Cold War

1950, the PRC signed friendship pact with USSR
- US feared communists desired world domination

Korean War isolated China from the West; relied entirely on USSR for aid

By late 1950s, China-Soviet relations began breaking down
- China wanted more aid than the USSR willing to provide
- China wanted the USSR to spread communism more aggressively
- China wanted USSR aid in retaking Taiwan from Chiang Kai-shek

1960s, China-Soviet disagreements nearly led to war multiple times

China feared the USSR, decided to improve relations with the US
- Deng Xiaoping restored diplomatic ties with US in late 1970s