

9. Civil War: Chiang Versus Mao

Chiang agreed to stop the war against the Communists and join with them in fighting the Japanese. But both sides continued to fight each other even as they fought the Japanese.

As the war dragged on, the Nationalists faced serious problems. They had to print paper money to pay for the war. This caused the value of money to drop and the price of goods to rise. People began to say that the Nationalist government was corrupt. Officials could be bribed to do favors for the wealthy. The government took food from the people and forced them to pay high taxes. The people became restless, confused, and unhappy under the Nationalist government.

In the meantime, the Communists were winning the support of the people by lowering land rents and helping the peasants to work the land. The Communists also gained the reputation of being fierce fighters against the Japanese.

When the war with Japan ended, people wondered how long it would be before the Nationalists and the Communists would be at each other's throats. As our story opens, Chiang and Mao are meeting in a last-minute effort to prevent a war. See if you can guess whether or not war will break out between these two and their followers.

Chungking, 1945

Chiang entered the room. He was well-groomed. His uniform was hand-tailored, and his chest was covered with medals. Next Mao entered. His uniform was simple and badly in need of a pressing. He wore no medals.

The two men glared at each other. For 19 years they had been locked in a fight to the death. Both had bitter thoughts at the moment. At last, the two began to bargain.

Chiang said, "Now that the Japanese have been defeated, there is no need for you to keep your armies. You must send your soldiers home and turn their weapons over to China's real government, the Nationalists."

Mao replied, "I will be happy to join my army with yours if you give me and some of my generals a place in your government."

Chiang spoke quickly. "This I will not do!"

"All right, then," said Mao, "don't take me into your government. But I insist that you hold free elections and give up the powers that have turned China into a dictatorship!"

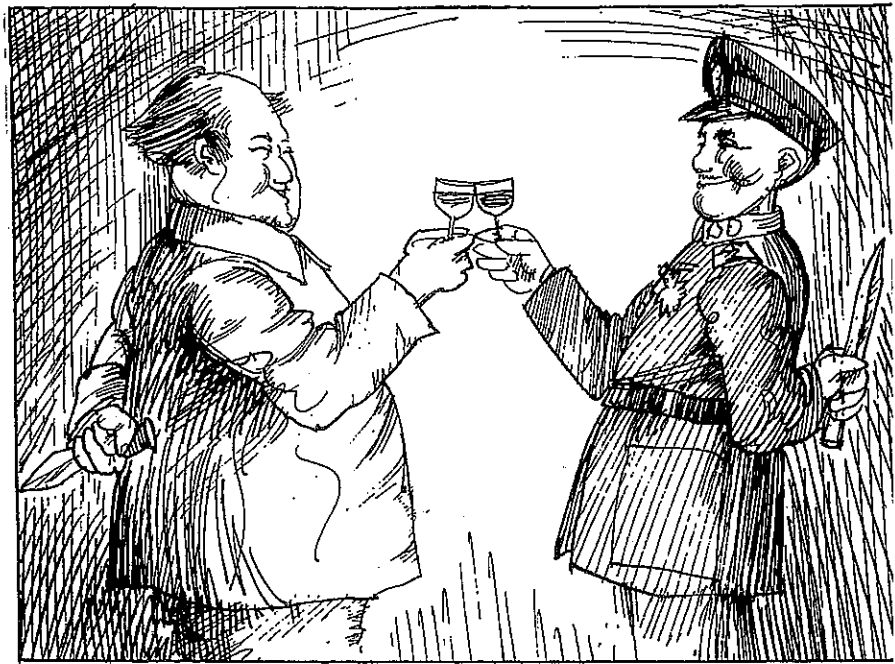
Chiang would have none of this. "My voice is the voice of the Chinese people. I govern in their name. For this reason, I consider my government to be a democratic one."

Both men were silent. Chiang thought: "Mao is a dangerous man. He kills landlords to give their lands to his followers. He encourages his people to steal from property owners. Soon no man who owns property will be safe from these jackals. If Mao has his way, those who have become rich by use of their wits and hard labor will be chased from China. The country will become a land of peasants!"

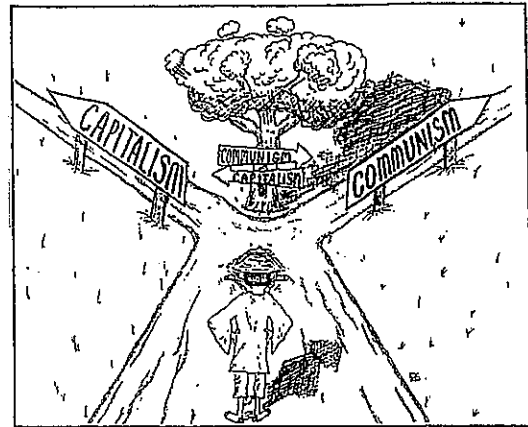
Mao stared with hatred at Chiang. Mao thought: "Look at the way he dresses. How many mouths could be fed with the money that uniform cost? While people starve, he and his wife sleep on silk sheets! How can he understand China's problems when he surrounds himself with landlords and bankers? But time is on my side. Chiang may have larger armies than I do, and, thanks to the United States, he will soon have the newest equipment. But his government is rotten. The Nationalists will be destroyed because they are their own worst enemies!"

The meeting was over. The two men faced one another. Mao filled his glass with wine. He raised the glass in Chiang's direction. With a half-smile he said, "Long live China!"

Chiang filled his glass, raised it, smiled, and said nothing. The two men drank their toasts in silence.



"Long live China!"



"But how can I ever repay you?"

AIM: THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR

What's the difference between a Nationalist and a Communist?

DIRECTIONS: Below you will find statements that refer to either a feature or characteristic of the Chinese Nationalists or that of the Chinese Communists from the 1920's through the 1940's. There are statements that are characteristic of both groups. Your job is to categorize the statements into the accompanying Venn Diagram so that you can build a profile and differentiate between the two groups.

~~Use the McDougall Littell text, World History: Patterns of Interaction, pages 792-794 AND 862-863.~~

* Use 507-511 *

- ◆ Leader was Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)
 - ◆ Leader was Mao Zedong
- ◆ Received heavy support from the United States
 - ◆ Received support from the Soviet Union
 - ◆ Kuomintang Party
 - ◆ Supported by wealthy bankers
 - ◆ Supported by business people
- ◆ Responsible for slaughter in Shanghai that is not forgotten
- ◆ Promised democracy and political rights for the people
 - ◆ Government was very corrupt and wasted money
 - ◆ Briefly fought against the warlords in the 1920's
 - ◆ Did nothing to help the lives of peasants
 - ◆ Had the support and loyalty of the peasants
 - ◆ The Red Army used guerilla warfare
 - ◆ Went on the Long-March
- ◆ By 1945 controlled large areas of north China
- ◆ Taught peasants to read and helped improve food production
- ◆ Saved its strength by not fighting too hard against the Japanese
 - ◆ Wanted his revolution to "swim in the peasant sea"
- ◆ Dominated large sections of south/southwest China by late 1940's
 - ◆ Fought against the Japanese in the 1930's
 - ◆ Gained support by promising return of land to peasants
 - ◆ Forced to flee to the island of Taiwan
 - ◆ By late 1940's had larger army by 3 to 1 margin
 - ◆ Took control of China in October 1949

Change in China

Sun Yixian, "father" of modern China, painted a grim picture of China after the end of the Qing dynasty.

“But the Chinese people have only family and clan solidarity; they do not have national spirit. Therefore, even though we have four hundred million people gathered together in one China, in reality they are just a heap of loose sand. Today we are the poorest and weakest nation in the world and occupy the lowest position in international affairs. Other men are the carving knife and serving dish, we are the fish and the meat.”

As Sun emphasized, China needed to change, but how and in what direction?

Focus Question How did China cope with internal division and foreign invasion in the early 1900s?

SECTION
4

A family of refugees (right) flee a conflict between warlords in 1926.



Chinese currency showing Jiang Jieshi, the next leader of Sun Yixian's Guomindang party.

Upheavals in China

Objectives

- Explain the key challenges faced by the Chinese republic in the early 1900s.
- Analyze the struggle between two rival parties as they fought to control China.
- Describe how invasion by Japan affected China.

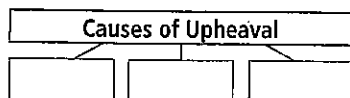
Terms, People, and Places

Twenty-One Demands Guomindang
May Fourth Movement Long March
vanguard

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes

Use a chart like the one below to record the causes of upheaval in the Chinese Republic.



As the new Chinese republic took shape, nationalists like Sun Yixian (soon yee SHYAHN) set the goal of “catching up and surpassing the powers, east and west.” But that goal would remain a distant dream as China suffered the turmoil of civil war and foreign invasion.

The Chinese Republic in Trouble

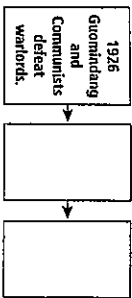
As you have read, China's Qing dynasty collapsed in 1911. The president of China's new republic, Sun Yixian (also called Sun Yat-sen) hoped to rebuild China on the Three Principles of the People—nationalism, democracy, and economic security for everyone. But he made little progress. China quickly fell into chaos in the face of the “twin evils” of warlord uprisings and foreign imperialism.

The Warlord Problem In 1912, Sun Yixian stepped down as president in favor of Yuan Shikai (yoo AHN shih KY), a powerful general. Sun hoped that Yuan would create a strong central government, but instead, the ambitious general tried to set up a new dynasty. The military, however, did not support Yuan, and opposition divided the nation. When Yuan died in 1916, China plunged into still greater disorder.

In the provinces, local warlords seized power. As rival armies battled for control, the economy collapsed and millions of peasants suffered terrible hardships. Famine and attacks by bandits added to their misery.

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Sequence Use a chart like the one below to sequence the fighting that went on among the Guomindang, the warlords, the Chinese Communists, and the Japanese from 1921 through 1937.



Vocabulary Builder

Intellectual—(in teh L2K chow ul) *adj.*
Involving the ability to reason or think clearly

Foreign Imperialism During this period of upheaval, foreign powers increased their influence over Chinese affairs. Foreign merchants, missionaries, and soldiers dominated the ports China had opened to trade.

During World War I, Japanese officials presented Yuan Shikai with the **Twenty-One Demands**, a list of demands that sought to make China a Japanese protectorate. With China too weak to resist, Yuan gave in to some of the demands. Then, in 1919, at the Paris Peace Conference the Allies gave Japan control over some former German possessions in China. That news infuriated Chinese Nationalists.

May Fourth Movement In response, student protests erupted in Beijing on May 4, 1919, and later spread to cities across China. The protests set off a cultural and intellectual ferment known as the **May Fourth Movement**. Its goal was to strengthen China. Reformers sought to improve China's position by rejecting Confucian traditions and learning from the West. As in Meiji Japan, they hoped to use their new knowledge to end foreign domination.

Women played a key role in the May Fourth Movement. They joined marches and campaigned to end a number of traditional practices, including footbinding. Their work helped open doors for women in education and the economy.

The Appeal of Marxism Some Chinese turned to the revolutionary ideas of Marx and Lenin. The Soviet Union was more than willing to train Chinese students and military officers to become the vanguard, or elite leaders, of a communist revolution. By the 1920s, a small group of Chinese Communists had formed their own political party.

Checkpoint How did warlord uprisings and foreign imperialism lead to the May Fourth movement?

Struggle for a New China

In 1921, Sun Yixian and his **Guomindang** (gwoh mean DAYNG) or Nationalist party, established a government in south China. Sun planned to raise an army, defeat the warlords, and spread his government's rule over all of China. When Western democracies refused to help, Sun accepted aid from the Soviet Union and joined forces with the small group of Chinese Communists. However, he still believed that China's future should be based on his **Three Principles of the People**.

Jiang Jieshi leads the Nationalists After Sun's death in 1925, an energetic young army officer, Jiang Jieshi (Jiang jeh shih), took over the Guomindang. Jiang Jieshi (also called Chiang Kai-shek) was determined to smash the power of the warlords and reunite China, but he had little interest in either democracy or communism.

In 1926, Jiang Jieshi began the **Northern Expedition** in cooperation with the Chinese Communists. In the Northern Expedition, Jiang led the combined forces into northern China, crushing or winning over local warlords as he advanced and capturing Beijing. Jiang would go on to take control of a new government led by the Guomindang—but with out the Communists.



COMPARING VIEWPOINTS

Who Should Lead the New China?

In 1926, Jiang Jieshi presented the views of China's strongest influential leader on the road to rebuilding the future of China. Critical thinking Write a 100- to 200-word response.

One Strong Leader

Peasant Masses

In mid-campaign, Jiang seized the chance to strike at the Chinese Communist Party, which he saw as a threat to his power. The Communists were winning converts among the small proletariat in cities like Shanghai. Early in 1927, on orders from Jiang, Guomindang troops slaughtered Communist Party members and the workers who supported them. In Shanghai and elsewhere, thousands of people were killed. This massacre marked the beginning of a bitter civil war between the Communists and the Guomindang that lasted for 22 years.

Mao Zedong and the Communists Among the Communists who escaped Jiang's attack was a young revolutionary of peasant origins, Mao Zedong (mow dzoh doong) (also called Mao Tse-tung). Unlike earlier Chinese Communists, Mao believed that the Communists should seek support not among the small urban working class but among the large peasant masses.

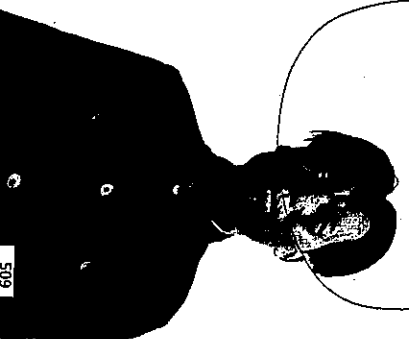
Although the Communists were pursued at every turn by Guomindang forces, Mao was optimistic about eventual success. In southeastern China, Mao and the Communists redistributed land to peasants and promised other reforms.

The Long March Jiang Jieshi, however, was determined to destroy the fled handies, as he called the Communists. He led the Guomindang in a series of "extermination campaigns" against them. The Guomindang harassed Mao's retreating army throughout the **Long March** from 1934 to 1935. Mao's forces used guerrilla, or irregular hit-and-run, tactics to fight back. At the end of the Long March, the Communists set up a new base in a remote region of northern China. There, Mao rebuilt his forces and plotted new strategies for fighting the Guomindang.

During the march, the Communists enforced strict discipline. Soldiers were told to treat peasants politely, pay for goods they wanted, and avoid damaging crops. Such behavior made Mao's forces welcome among peasants, many of whom had suffered greatly at the hands of the Guomindang.

Checkpoint How did the Communists manage to survive Jiang's "extermination campaigns"?

Mao Zedong, Leader of the Communists
Mao Zedong led the Chinese Communists through some of their darkest times, including the Long March.



Civil War in China, 1927–1936



Map Skills The Guomindang and the Communists waged a long and bitter war for control of China.

1. Locate: (a) Beijing (b) Shanghai (c) Jiangxi (d) Yan'an
2. Movement What natural features made the Long March difficult?
3. Synthesize Information Based on the map and timeline, describe the relationship between the Guomindang and the Communists.

One of the most dramatic events in the conflict between the Guomindang and the Communists was the epic retreat known as the Long March. During the Long March, Mao and about 100,000 of his followers fled the Guomindang. In the next year, they trekked more than 6,000 miles, facing daily attacks as they crossed rugged mountains and mighty rivers. Only about 8,000 marchers survived the ordeal. For decades, the Long March stood as a symbol of communist heroism and inspired new recruits to follow Mao. He claimed the great retreat as a victory. As he observed:

Primary Source

“The Long March is also a seeding-machine. It has sown many seeds in eleven provinces, which will sprout, grow leaves, blossom into flowers, bear fruit, and yield a crop.”

—Mao Zedong, “On the Tactics of Fighting Japanese Imperialism”

Japanese Invasion

While Jiang was pursuing the Communists across China, the country faced another danger. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria in northeastern China, adding it to the growing Japanese empire. As Japanese aggression increased, a faction within the Guomindang forced Jiang to form a united front with the Communists against Japan.

In 1937, the Japanese struck again, starting what became the Second Sino-Japanese War. Airplanes bombed Chinese cities, and Japanese troops overran eastern China, including Beijing and Guangzhou. Jiang Jieshi and his government retreated to the interior and set up a new capital at Chongqing (chawng CHING).

After a lengthy siege, Japanese troops marched into the city of Nanjing (nahnj jing) on December 13. Nanjing was an important cultural center and had been the Guomindang capital before Chongqing. After the city's surrender, the Japanese killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians and brutalized still more. The cruelty and destruction became known around the world as the “rape of Nanjing.”

The United Chinese fought back against the Japanese. The Soviet Union sent advisors and equipment to help. Great Britain, France, and the United States gave economic aid. The Guomindang and the Communists still clashed occasionally, but the united front stayed intact until the end of the war with Japan.

Checkpoint How did the Japanese invasion help unify the Chinese temporarily?

Looking Ahead

The bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 brought the United States into the war against Japan and into an alliance with the Chinese. By the end of World War II, Jiang and the Guomindang controlled China's central government, but Mao's Communist Party controlled much of northern and central China. The Communists had organized hundreds of thousands of Chinese peasants at the village level, spreading their political ideas. Meanwhile, corruption grew in Jiang's government. Soon, the Communists would triumph, and Mao would impose revolutionary change on China.

4 Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do many of the key terms listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes Use your completed charts to answer the Focus Question: How did China cope with internal division and foreign invasion in the early 1900s?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. Identify Central Issues Why did the new republic of China fall into chaos after 1912?
4. Identify Point of View Do you think that the retreating Communists' policy to pay for goods they wanted during the Long March was a good idea? Why or why not?
5. Predict Consequences How do you think the “rape of Nanjing” affected Japan's reputation around the world?

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: nba-2741

Writing About History

Quick Write: Answer Opposing Arguments Every persuasive essay should present arguments that support the thesis and refute arguments that oppose the thesis. Your thesis for a persuasive essay is “The Long March ultimately helped the Chinese Communists’ cause.” Think of the strongest argument against this thesis, and then write a paragraph to refute that argument.

Vocabulary Builder

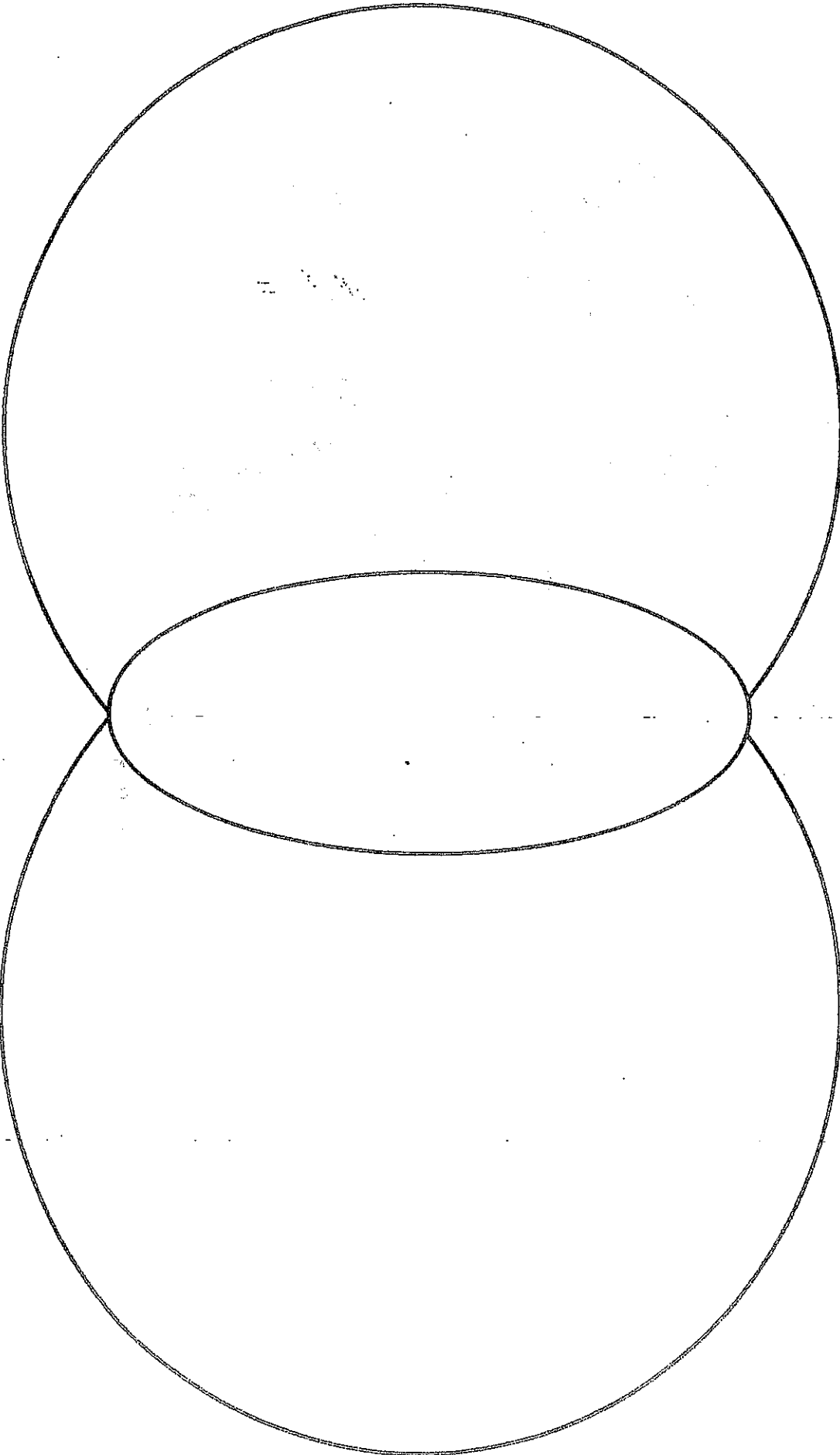
faction—(FAK shun) *n.* a group within a larger group

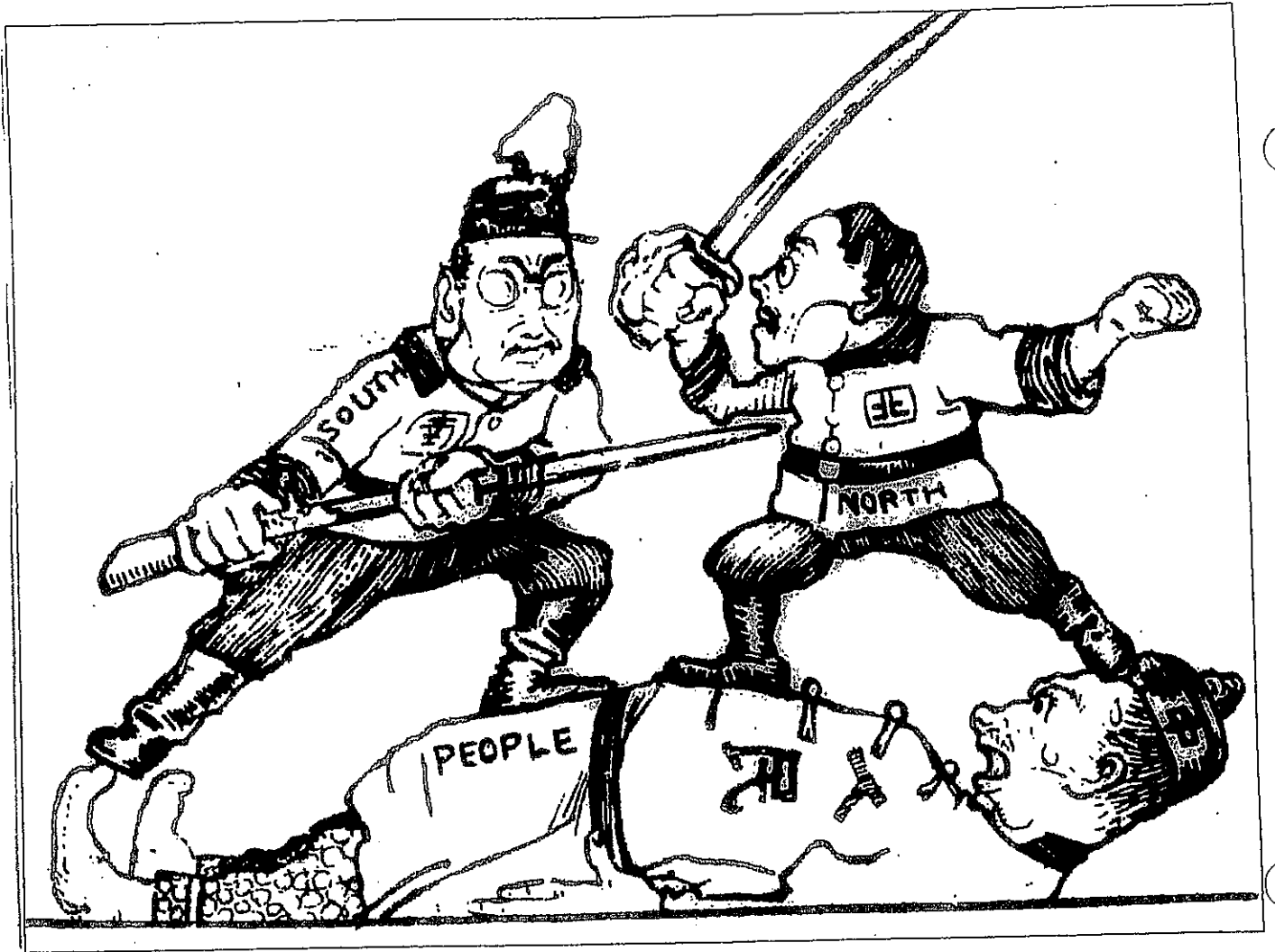
AIM: THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR

What's the difference between a Nationalist and a Communist?

NATIONALISTS

COMMUNISTS





1. By 1930, what two sides were fighting a civil war in China?
2. How does the civil war in China ultimately affect the people?
3. Why did the majority of the peasants support the Chinese Communist Party?