Chinese Revolution of 1949

CRISIS BACKGROUND GUIDE
Dear Delegates,

My name is Tyson Dennis-Sharma and I am elated to serve as the Director of the Chinese Revolution of 1949 committee at VMUN 2017. I am currently in grade 12 at West Point Grey Academy, and I have participated in Model UN since grade 9. In addition to Model UN, I am a competitive debater. Together, Model UN and Debate have opened up plenty of opportunities for me in my high school journey. I’ve met many friends and have traveled to Hong Kong, New York, San Francisco, Prague, Paris and London. I am very excited to meet all of you and spend an unforgettable weekend together!

A fascinating and multifaceted issue, the Chinese Civil War ought to foster excellent discussions. Moreover, with China ascending on the global stage and sparking tension in regions such as the South China Sea, understanding its history is as integral as ever to understanding global politics. Delegates are encouraged to thoroughly research this topic in order to develop creative solutions to its many issues.

Since the 1911 Revolution, Sun Yat Sen’s KMT has attempted to govern the new Republic of China. The KMT has had its legitimacy challenged by regional warlords. In addition, since Sun Yat Sen’s death and replacement, the KMT has dealt with opposition from Mao Zedong’s Communist Party -- a group that, under Sun Yat Sen, had been co-opted into the KMT. Meanwhile, with the rise of Adolf Hitler, the potential for global conflict threatens China. In this committee, delegates shall act as members as well as international allies of the KMT. They shall attempt to govern China while dealing with the external threat of international war and the internal threat of the communists. Their decisions will have lasting impacts on one of the world’s oldest and largest nation states.

All this information may seem overwhelming at first, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. On behalf of the dais, I would like to welcome you to Chinese Revolution of 1949!

Sincerely,

Tyson Dennis-Sharma
Chinese Revolution of 1949 Director | VMUN 2017
Chinese Revolution of 1949

Position Paper Policy

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country’s stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of your positions your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support.

At Vancouver Model United Nations, delegates should write a position paper for each of the committee’s topics. Each position paper should not exceed one page, and should all be combined into a single document per delegate.

Formatting

Position papers should:
— Include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee
— Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins
— Not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
— Include citations and a bibliography, in any format, giving due credit to the sources used in research (not included in the 1-page limit)

Due Dates and Submission Procedure

Position papers for this committee must be submitted by midnight on January 8th, 2017.

Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your last name, your first name and send it as an attachment in an email, to your committee’s email address, with the subject heading as your last name, your first name — Position Paper. Please do not add any other attachments to the email or write anything else in the body.

Both your position papers should be combined into a single PDF or Word document file; position papers submitted in another format will not be accepted.

Each position paper will be manually reviewed and considered for the Best Position Paper award.

The email address for this committee is hcc@vmun.com.
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The Chinese Revolution of 1949

Overview

With continuous clash between regional fiefdoms, a fragile ruling party and a radical socialist rebellion, China is a nation whose fate remains uncertain. To call it unstable or chaotic would be a gross understatement. Yet, China was not always this way. For years, China was ruled by powerful emperors and its economic growth, buoyed by the famed silk road, outpaced that of most other nations in the world. It was only during the 19th century that the weakened Qing Dynasty fell prey to imperialist nations—such as England, Germany, France, the United States and Japan—who carved China into “spheres of influence” for their own economic gain. This era left many Chinese resentful of the “foreign devils” whom they eventually rebelled against. A revolution in 1912 gave birth to the Chinese Republic. Western-educated Sun Yat-sen became the Republic’s first president. The new regime was supposed to be democratic, with legitimacy resting on popular government.

Regional warlords soon challenged the government and hindered the republican ideals of the new regime. Nonetheless, Mr. Sen remained determined to establish a socialist democracy. Unfortunately for him, the only country to offer aid to Sun’s Party, the Kuomintang, was the Soviet Union. Thus, the struggle outlasted Sun himself, who died in 1925. Sun was replaced by Chiang Kai-Shek. In 1924, just before Sun died, Communists had been accepted into the Kuomintang Party. Under this arrangement, a young man by the name of Mao Zedong, a Communist organizer, would for a short while be in charge of propaganda. After the Kuomintang had successfully gained control of all of China south of the Yangtze River, Chiang decided to rid China of the Communists. He even actively attempted to hunt down and murder them. The Communists, however, refused to be defeated so easily. Mao has since been able to effectively organize a resistance that has begun to seriously challenge the legitimacy of the KMT. Contrary to Leninist Marxism, Mao has built his Communist Party upon the peasantry. He also practices guerrilla warfare and is currently situated in the Northern Area of Shensi where he has formed the Yenan Soviet. It is now November 1st 1935.

The outcome of this civil war will determine the future of China, one of the world’s largest countries. Will China become a democratic nation with a mixed economy or will it follow the Soviet model of Marxism? The answer to those questions depends on the outcome of this strife. This civil war even has international dimensions to it. For one, the Soviets, who initially supported the KMT, now support Mao’s Communist Party. In addition, various other global powers have interests in China. China’s large pool of demand and its copious quantity of resources have attracted foreign intervention into the economy. Many foreign powers would hope that such intervention will be tolerated in the future. As such, they have an incentive to support particular groups taking control of China that are amenable to discourse and economic cooperation with them. Most western powers such as the United States have supported and built a relationship with the KMT, primarily due to a fear of communism and a desire to promote democracy. The one rogue nation would be Japan. As opposed to supporting one particular party, the Japanese desire China for their own. Japan has recently invaded Manchuria, an event that has created a pressing issue for both parties. Finally, with the rise of Japanese aggression and Adolf Hitler, global conflict seems imminent. Such a conflict would certainly shake up China’s civil war. For all these reasons, the decisions of delegates will have lasting and significant impacts not just for China, but for the international community as a whole.

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2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
Timeline

5000 BCE--Small villages and communities first begin to form around the Yellow River region. 5

2070 BCE--Centralized government begins with Yu the Great governing China. His decision to pass power down to his offspring begins the dynastic era of Chinese history. 6

221 BCE-The Qin state emerges as the victor of the Warring States period. Ying Zheng proclaims himself to be China's emperor and begins the Qin Dynasty. Ying Zheng (Shi Huangti) destroys the walls segregating the states and makes peace with the regional leaders, uniting China. 7

1912 -- Military revolts by reform-minded officers lead to the proclamation of the Republic of China under Sun Yat-sen and the abdication of the last Qing emperor. 8

1919 (May)--The May Fourth Movement made up primarily of students protests the government's weak response to the Treaty of Versailles, a controversial post World War 1 document which granted Japan Shandong territories that the Chinese believed to be theirs. 9

1921 (July) -- The Communist Party of China was formed. The Communists allied with the KMT in order to fight off foreigners and warlords. 10

1925 (March) -- Sun Yat Sen dies of a liver failure. Chiang Kai Shek takes over as leader of the KMT. He breaks from the Communists and declares the KMT to be Nationalist. 11

1927 (August)-The Civil War begins between the Nationalists and the Communists with the Shanghai Communist Massacre, a violent suppression of Communist Party organizers in Shanghai by hardline KMT forces. 12

1928 (July)--Following the Northern Expedition, Chiang Kai Shek takes control of Beijing. This grants him paramount leadership of China. Nonetheless, the war is far from over. 13

1931 (September)--Japan invades Manchuria. 14

1932 (January)--A Japanese attack on Shanghai prompts a minor conflict known as the Shanghai incident that ends in a ceasefire. 15

1933 (September)--The Fifth Encirclement Campaign, a series of battles between the Nationalists and the

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6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.


11 Ibid.


13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.
Soviet supported communists ends with a decisive Nationalist victory\(^{16}\).

1934 (October)--The famous Long March, a military retreat by the CCP from the south of China following their losses in the Fifth Encirclement Campaign, begins.\(^{17}\)

1935 (October)--The Long March terminates. Although they lost most of their army, the Communists were ultimately able to evade the Kuomintang over 9000km for 370 days. Mao Zedong rose to leadership as a result of this March because he led many of the troops on it successfully.\(^{18}\)

**Historical Analysis**

"China is a sleeping giant. Let her sleep, for when she wakes she will move the world"

-Napoleon Bonaparte. \(^{19}\)

The Zhou dynasty, lasting for over 800 years, was one of China’s first and longest-lasting dynasties. One of the most famous contributions of the Zhou kingdom to Chinese history was the creation of the theory of the Mandate of Heaven. The Mandate of Heaven was defined as heaven's blessing on a just ruler - in Western terms, divine right. Furthermore, an important element of the Mandate of Heaven is the stipulation that there could only ever be one legitimate ruler of China and that this ruler should be legitimized by his proper conduct as a steward of the lands entrusted to him by the heavens.

The Mandate of Heaven was not the sole significant contribution to Chinese society during the Zhou Dynasty. Under the Zhou, culture flourished and civilization spread. Writing was codified and iron metallurgy became more sophisticated. Confucius, perhaps the most influential philosopher of China and of the Sinosphere, lived during the Zhou dynasty. Confucius produced some of his most influential work during the Warring States period that occurred during the reign of the Zhou.

As the centralized authority of the Zhou royal court collapsed into decentralized feudal units, China would be plunged into several centuries of civil wars. At the end of the Warring States Period, China would be unified by the first imperial dynasty, the Qin. The Qin Dynasty was remarkably short. Yet, despite its short length, its impact on China could arguably be considered the largest out of all the dynasties.\(^{20}\) The first Chinese Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, governed with accordance to Legalism - a *realpolitik* approach to governance, harkening to ideologies found in Machiavelli’s *The Prince*. Not a believer in intellectual freedom, Shi Huangdi suppressed all philosophies, including Confucianism and Mohism. He ordered the destruction of a myriad of history and philosophy books that expressed dissident views.

The Qin Empire collapsed soon after the death of Shi Huangdi. The following Han dynasty was formed in the aftermath of the civil war between many warring generals, known as the Chu-Han contention. The first Han Emperor Gaozu (Liu Bang) united his new empire by granting each of his generals and vassals a fief in order to assure their continued support and obedience. The empire was thus split into different duchies, principalities, and kingdoms, autonomous to varying degrees. The imperial court, through assassinations and dubious moral methods, soon replaced the lords of these fiefs with members of the imperial clan, known as “Lords of the Imperial Surname.”

\(^{16}\) Ibid.
\(^{17}\) Ibid.
\(^{18}\) Ibid.
\(^{20}\) Ibid.
Throughout the reigns of early Han Emperors, economic affairs, social affairs, the principalities themselves were governed by the imperial court with more or less a laissez-faire approach. During the reign of Emperor Jing, court efforts to centralize power resulted in seven of the principalities revolting in the “Rebellion of the Seven States”. Though the rebellion was put down, the Han dynastic system and court recognized the need for reform of the Imperial system.

Emperor Jing’s son, Emperor Wu, reorganized the empire in accordance to Legalist and Confucian principles. Confucianism was to become the official state ideology, whereas harsh, Legalist approaches to governance were to be adopted in order to quell unrest from the fiefs and to consolidate power under the imperial court. However, the Han court was Legalist in practice, rather than in name. Being the successor state to the Qin dynasty, the Han dynasty possessed the Mandate of Heaven by being explicitly opposed to the Qin’s blatant and unpopular use of legalist principle.

The histories of the Qin and Han dynasties establish a strong precedent in Chinese governance. While each dynasty, and even the republican and communist (to a certain extent) regimes, ruled in accordance to Confucian principles, behind this facade lay the stirrings of authoritarian tendencies, as dictated by Legalism.

The last imperial Chinese dynasty, the Qing, was formed through the establishment of an imperial court in Beijing by the invading Manchu (non-Chinese nomads) tribes in the 17th century. Under the Qing, China’s population grew from 150 million to 450 million and its territory grew to triple its previous size. Unfortunately, in its later years, the dynasty began to crumble. Popular unrest aggravated by serious floods and famine were factors contributing to the Taiping (1850-64) and Nian (1853-68) rebellions. Efforts at modernization and westernization met opposition from conservative officials especially through the efforts of the dowager empress Cixi. Rampant corruption plagued the increasingly ineffectual Qing bureaucracy.

Ultimately though foreign intervention was the true cause of the downfall of the Qing regime. The Qing emperors fell prey to imperialist foreign powers. One of the most devastating blows to China came after the Opium Wars from 1839-42 and from 1856-60; Britain imposed unequal treaties on the defeated China and took control of Hong Kong. This demoralizing loss demonstrated that the previous hegemon China was now weak and vulnerable to foreign intrusion. China began to lose many of its peripheral regions. By the 20th century, western powers like Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Japan had established “spheres of influence” along China’s coast-- areas in which the foreign powers exerted control over trade and the military. This neocolonialism fostered resentment among Chinese citizens. Consequently, uprisings became more frequent. In the year 1900, the Chinese peasants raised a huge anti-foreigner movement called the Boxer Rebellion. The peasants initially opposed both the Qing ruling family and the foreign powers, however, the peasants and the Qing armies eventually united, only to fall short of expelling the imperialist nations. In the final days of the Qing dynasty, growing Chinese nationalist sentiment united against both Western imperialism and the foreign Manchu court. The crippled Qing clutched on for life to power for another decade before the last Qing emperor Puyi, formally abdicated the throne on February 12th, 1912. This marked the end not only of the Qing dynasty but of China’s millennia long imperial period.

Following this abdication by the boy emperor Puyi, a group of like-minded officers proclaimed the formation of the Chinese republic. Sun Yat Sen became the first leader of this Republic by being in charge of the provisional government. Initially, Sun Yat Sen handed over the presidency to military strongman Yuan Shikai, believing himself to be too weak to rule. Yuan Shikai, however, was not keen on democratic governance. He dismantled parliament, swindled state money and killed all those who opposed his autocratic rule. He even declared himself emperor. As a consequence, a revolt was organised against Yuan Shikai that included some of

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21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
his own generals. This revolt was successful and Yuan Shikai stepped down from power in March of 1916.  

After the fall of Yuan Shikai, regional warlords fought each other for control over China. The new president Li Yuanhong had little legitimacy. Then, during World War 1, the country was divided as leaders did not agree with China joining the war. Li Yuanhong did not want to join the war but another powerful figure, Duan Qirui did. Qirui ultimately defeated Yuanhong and made himself the most powerful figure in China. He dissolved parliament and joined the allies against Germany. In the Treaty of Versailles, the document that ended the war, however, the German colony of Shandong was not given to China but instead awarded to Japan. This led to several uprisings in China. Most notably, students demonstrated on May 4th against the government’s acceptance of the Treaty of Versailles. This became known as the May Fourth Movement.

During and following these events, Sun Yat Sen reemerged and had the support of southern provinces. His party, the Kuomintang (KMT), reemerged with him. Sun still faced challenges from regional warlords however. As such, he sought aid from members of the international community. He first asked for help from western nations, however, when they declined, Sun Yat Sen sought out support from the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union obliged yet also supported the newly formed Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Sun yat Sen was able to co-opt the communists and include them within the Kuomintang government. Sun passed away in March of 1925 however. His successor, Chiang Kai Shek was far less open to cooperation with the communists. He declared the Kuomintang to be strictly Nationalist.

Chiang Kai Shek began his reign by focusing on unifying China. He conquered various warlords that challenged the Kuomintang. Soon after, however, he became more focused on ridding the Kuomintang of the communists and defeating them. On April 12 of 1927, Chiang Kai Shek ordered his forces in Shanghai to violently suppress and even assassinate communist party members in Shanghai. This event, known as the Shanghai Communist Massacre, is believed to be the starting point of the civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists.

24 Ibid.  
25 Ibid.  
26 Ibid.  
27 Ibid.
Current Situation

Following the Shanghai Communist Massacre, the Chinese Civil War truly began. Initially, the Communists made attempts to capture cities such as Nanchang, Changsha, Shantou and Guangzhou. Peasants and CPC leaders in the Hunan province staged an unsuccessful armed rural rebellion known as the Autumn Harvest Uprising. The Communists were soon after expelled from their capital, Wuhan, by left wing members of the KMT who were, subsequently expelled by Chiang Kai Shek's hardline, conservative forces. The Kuomintang were very successful early in the civil war. In 1928, Chiang Kai Shek captured Beijing. After this, the Kuomintang resumed its campaign against warlords known as the Northern Expedition and was able to secure control of most of eastern China. Subsequently, the Kuomintang received international recognition from most of the international community as the legitimate government of China. Western nations like the United States supported the Kuomintang due to their fear of communism as well as their desire to promote democracy. It was, after all, at this time that the KMT officially announced their commitment to fulfilling Sun Yat Sen's vision of constitutional democracy and a mixed economy for China. Only the Soviet Union remained in support of the CPC.

The KMT received more of a challenge in the 1930s, however. The Central Plains War was an internal conflict within the KMT. It consisted of five encirclement campaigns intended to root out remaining pockets of communist activity within the KMT. The first and second campaigns failed miserably. The third was aborted. The fourth was the first to achieve some success. However, during the fourth encirclement campaign there were also immense failures; Chiang's armies were badly mauled when they tried to penetrate into the heart of CCP territory. Finally, in late 1933, the Kuomintang launched a fifth and final encirclement campaign. This one involved the systematic encirclement of Communists in the Jianxi region with fortified blockhouses. Unlike their previous campaigns, which had involved penetration through single strikes, the KMT was more patient with this campaign. Gradually, the Nationalist soldiers built blockhouses about five miles apart to cut off communist supplies and food sources. Battles occurred as the communists resisted the construction of these blockhouses but, ultimately, the Nationalists were victorious. The Fifth Encirclement Campaign was a decisive Nationalist victory against some of the most important communist forces and leaders.

Nevertheless, the Fifth Encirclement Campaign did not result in the end of the Communist Party as Chiang Kai Shek had most likely hoped. Instead, in October of the 1934 the communists were able to escape encirclement by fleeing Jiangxi out of the gaps between the blockhouses. The KMT had made the mistake of not guarding the communists themselves but instead transferring the responsibility to allied warlord armies. These armies were reluctant to put up much of a fight when the communists began their flight. As such, the communists were able to conduct a massive military retreat from the south of China. This military retreat is known as the Long March. It would last a year and cover over 9000 km. Though the CPC lost a significant portion of its army during this March, it was ultimately successful in ensuring its survival and evading Chiang Kai Shek. Notably, Mao Zedong led the majority of troops on this march and rose to leadership as a consequence of it. In addition, during the march, the Communist Army confiscated the property and weapons from local warlords and landlords. Simultaneously, they respected the peasant villages they passed through. The KMT, on the other hand, ravaged the villages for for supplies and murdered their inhabitants as they pursued the communists. As a consequence, the CPC has been able to bolster its peasant support. Mao and the CPC have now settled in the northern area of Shensi. Mao plans to rebuild his party and seriously challenge the KMT again.

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29 Ibid.
30 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
32 Ibid.
Before the civil war may be resolved, however, both parties must rid China of the Japanese. The Japanese first begun their invasion of China by invading and occupying Manchuria in September of 1931. They then began to advance further into China. In January of 1932, a Japanese attack on Shanghai resulted in a minor skirmish that ended in a ceasefire. This is known as the Shanghai incident. This Japanese aggression threatens Chinese sovereignty, a concern for both parties. Moreover, Japan’s ambitions to become a global imperial power are a concern to many of the international actors that support the KMT and the CCP. It is now November 1st 1935 and as members and allies of the Kuomintang, delegates shall act to solve all of these issues.

**International/Leagues of Nations Involvement**

Only Japan has intervened militarily into the Chinese Civil War as it has attempted to take control of much of China for itself. Other countries have intervened by lending tangible support to either the KMT or the CCP. The United States, Britain and other western powers nations have supported the the Nationalist KMT. The Soviet Union has supported the CCP, though it did initially provide aid to Sun Yat Sen.

In response to Japanese aggression in China, the League of Nations has mostly been passive. China asked the

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33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
League for help when the Japanese invaded Manchuria and set up a government there called Manchukuo.\textsuperscript{36} The League responded by sending a group of officials led by Lord Lytton to study the problem. This took over a year. In February of 1933, the League officially ordered Japan to leave Manchuria\textsuperscript{37}. Japan did not listen to the League. Instead, Japan formally exited the League of Nations. Many countries had important trading links with Japan so the League couldn’t agree on sanctions or even a ban on weapons sales, nor did the League want war. As such, no tangible action was taken to halt Japan’s encroachment into Chinese territory. The League’s response to the Manchuria incident is widely considered to be one of the League’s great failures.\textsuperscript{38}

The potential for future international involvement in this strife, however, rises with each day. With the rise of autocratic strongmen like Adolf Hitler of Germany and Mussolini of Italy who have fomented tension within the international community already, global conflict seems likely. The aggression of the Japanese in Asia and the Pacific is another factor that may bring about a large war. If a large or world war were to occur, it is likely that China will be involved and that many nations like the United States or the Soviet Union (who currently only provide support to one of the two parties) will consider intervening militarily into China. Such a war would, therefore, further complicate the situation in China and provide delegates with new issues to solve.

**Possible Solutions and Controversies**

A first solution may manifest in a truce established between the CCP and the KMT in order to fight off the Japanese, resulting in a power sharing agreement to be set up between the CCP and the KMT to govern China.

The Japanese incursion into China is a threat to Chinese sovereignty and self-determination. Thus, it is a paramount concern for both the CCP and the Nationalists. Though they differ in their aims for the future of the country, both the CCP and the KMT wish for China to be governed by the Chinese. The two parties could ally on this basis against the Japanese. Such a concerted effort would be far more efficacious than the status-quo. It is hard for either party to successfully challenge the Japanese when both parties are fighting and weakening each other. If they work together and unite China they will be far more able to defeat the Japanese. Importantly, a truce against the Japanese does not necessarily need to be followed by a power sharing agreement. It could be temporary in which case it would be followed by either solution 2 or 3.

Nevertheless, a power sharing agreement that ensured the representation of both the CCP and the KMT in China’s government would certainly ensure stability as both supporters of the Nationalists and Communists would be more or less satisfied and unlikely to revolt again. The CCP and the KMT’s visions also don’t differ that greatly. Neither party wishes for full-fledged capitalism. Both accept that government intervention is necessary in an economy in order to promote socioeconomic equality. In fact, at certain points in the civil war some of the more left leaning members of the KMT have fought with the CCP.

A power sharing agreement would not, however, ensure effective governance\textsuperscript{39}. Though the two parties have some similarities their differences are too significant to allow them to work together harmoniously. They do both support intervention in the economy. Yet the scale of intervention they support is radically different. The CCP wishes for the abolition of private property whereas the KMT is rather opposed to such socialist, communist leanings. It would be hard for the two parties to decide on policies with such a profound disagreement in ideology. If power was to alternate or if the power sharing agreement awarded some powers to the CCP and some to the KMT, contradictory policies would be passed that nullified each other.\textsuperscript{40} If both the

\textsuperscript{36} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{38} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{40} Ibid.
Communists and Nationalists were amalgamated into one ruling party under this power sharing agreement, other problems would exist. It is already the case that there is infighting in the KMT at the moment between the moderates and the hardliners. This infighting would become far worse if the governing party consisted of Communists and Nationalists. This is why the arrangement under Sun Yat Sen was bound to fail. Thus, solution 1 possesses both pros and cons.

In another solution, the KMT wins the civil war, denying the communists any role in governance.

This solution poses many benefits. For one, unlike in the case of a power sharing agreement, policy objectives would be consistent and infighting would be minimal. In addition, the KMT’s plan for a mixed economy would safeguard many of the benefits of capitalism in terms of innovation and efficiency while still enabling the state to ensure some level of socioeconomic equality. Similarly, the KMT’s democratic model will ensure effective governance as when citizens may hold their leaders to account, leaders that do not please citizens will lose their jobs and leaders that do a formidable job of catering to the needs of their citizens will be rewarded.

Perhaps the biggest issue with the KMT winning the civil war is legitimacy in the eyes of the populace. Many peasants resent the socioeconomic inequality that exists in China and more particularly, the power imbalance between them and the landowners. They see the KMT as representative of the elite class that exploits them and are more supportive of the CCP. The KMT’s barbaric practices towards peasant villages have not aided their legitimacy in the eyes of the peasants. Additionally, there are certain industrial workers who feel exploited by the bourgeoisie and thus, support the CCP. Though the KMT is willing to take certain measures to deal with the inequalities that anger these peasants and workers, most do not feel that the KMT is willing to go far enough. Finally, there are some Chinese citizens who believe that the KMT has become too beholden to foreign powers such as the United States and England and that a KMT government may simply be a puppet government. Importantly, the 1912 revolution was, for many, a rebellion against the “foreign devils” who possessed spheres of influence in China. Because the KMT may tolerate a similar arrangement, the KMT lacks the support of many Chinese citizens.

The third outcome of the civil war would be the CCP winning the civil war and China becoming a communist state.

This solution has its benefits. It avoids the infighting and contradictory policy of any power sharing scheme. In addition, unlike the KMT, the CCP may be more able to secure legitimacy in the eyes of the entire Chinese populace. The CCP already has a great deal of peasant support due to their ideals as well as their respectful treatment of peasant villages on the Long March. Furthermore, though it receives support from the Soviet Union, the CCP is seen as less beholden to foreign powers in comparison to the KMT. On another note, the CCP’s plan for a dictatorship of the proletariat would certainly avoid the inefficiencies of a democratic system. This is especially the case for a country as vast and as populated as China; conducting fair elections will be extremely difficult for the KMT. Moreover, the CCP’s plans to abolish private property would certainly take more strides towards socio-economic equality than the plans of the KMT.

However, a communist rule will also pose many great risks. For one, the abolition of private property would destroy the incentive to innovate and likely harm China’s economy. Moreover, no government may accurately predict the needs and wants of society in terms of production as well as the natural forces of supply and demand that function in a capitalistic system. China would also lack international allies besides the Soviet

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41 Ibid.
42 Ibid.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
Union as a communist nation. A communist government may not even receive recognition from many western powers. Additionally, the autocratic style of rule as well as the inflated power of the state under the communist system will likely lead to corruption and abuse.

**Bloc Positions**

**Hardliners/Conservative KMT members:**
These individuals refuse at almost all cost to cooperate with the communists. They are firmly anti-communist and believe the CCP to be a greater threat than the Japanese. They would therefore not be inclined to support a power sharing agreement nor even a military truce against Japan. Chiang Kai Shek fits loosely within this group.

**Moderates/Left Leaning KMT members:**
These individuals are pragmatic. Though they oppose the communists, they believe the Japanese to be a greater concern. They also have political views closer to those of the communists. Consequently, they would be more inclined than the Hardliners to support a power sharing agreement or a military truce against Japan.

**International Allies of the KMT:**
These primarily western nations are staunchly anti-communist as they fear the spread of communism globally (Marx did suggest that communist revolution ought to spread across the world). Furthermore, these nations wish to promote democracy. Likewise, many of these nations had previously possessed spheres of influence in China. Though these spheres no longer truly exist, these nations would like a future government in China that would tolerate a high degree of economic integration with them. Compared to the communist CCP, the KMT is in accord with the west’s desires for economic cooperation. For all of those reasons, these western nations believe the KMT is the sole legitimate government of China and would see no need for a power sharing agreement. Feeling threatened by the rise of Japan, however, many of these countries would support a temporary military truce between the KMT and the CCP in order to defeat the Japanese invaders. The United States and Britain are examples of international allies of the KMT.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Should a truce be established with the CCP in order to fight off the Japanese?
2. Should China get involved in a global war if one were to occur?
3. Should the KMT cooperate with the CCP or should the CCP be wiped out at all costs?
4. What military tactics ought to be adopted in fighting the civil war?
5. What steps may a KMT government take to establish legitimacy?
6. How shall China’s new regime function?

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46 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
49 Ibid.
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid.
Additional Sources

This is a great article on the civil war. Only pay attention to events up to November 1st 1935, as the rest will be determined at the conference.
http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Chinese_Civil_War

This is a great piece on the life of Sun Yat Sen, the founder of Republican China.
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sun-Yat-sen

This is an excellent video on the Long March.
http://www.history.com/topics/long-march/videos

This is an interesting thought experiment piece on what China would look like if the Kuomintang had won the civil war. It it very relevant to the conference as delegates have the power to make decisions that will lead to this outcome.
http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/what-if-the-kuomingtang-had-won-the-chinese-civil-war/

This is an excellent explanation of the ideas and theories of Karl Marx on idealistic communism, also known as marxism. The CCP in China bases much of its ideas off of Marx’s theories.
https://www.britannica.com/topic/Marxism

This is an excellent explanation of communism in practise in the Soviet Union, also known as leninism. The CCP in China bases many of its ideas off of Lenin’s model.
https://www.britannica.com/topic/Leninism

This is a great site on Chinese history. It also includes information on the Republican period and the civil war.
http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/culture/china-history.htm

Bibliography


<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Chinese_Civil_War>.


