

Timeline of Modern Chinese History

- 1644 The Ming dynasty collapses, and the Qing dynasty begins (the Qing dynasty was ruled by the Manchu people).

In order to establish control over the vast southern regions of China, the Han Chinese military rulers Wu Sangui, Shang Kexi, and Geng Zhongming, who had had success unifying China, each receive a fiefdom.

Wu Sangui – The Prince Who Pacifies the West

Shang Kexi – Prince Jing of Pingnan of the First Rank (Prince of Pingnan)

Geng Zhongming – The Prince of Who Pacifies the South (The Prince of Jingnan)

- 1645 The Qing dynasty is ruled by the Manchu people, but eventually assimilates the Han Chinese and Mongols as well. In order to assert Manchu dominance, a law is promulgated forcing all males to wear the queue ponytail of the Manchu people.
- 1673 The Kangxi Emperor, the fourth Emperor of the Qing dynasty, watches the suspicious movements of Wu Sangui, Shang Kexi, and Geng Zhongming, the rulers of the southern regions, and after a long battle, other areas create power bases by imitating the actions of the three clans.
- 1689 The Russian Empire proceeds with the development of Siberia, establishing a fortress in Albazin (modern day Albazino) and invades Chinese territory, plundering the Chinese residents in the area. In response, the Kangxi Emperor dispatches troops to the Amur River to fight off the Russian troops. After a long battle, a peace treaty is reached establishing the borders of each country (The Treaty of Nerchinsk).
- 1720 The reign of Qing Kangxi Emperor oversees the amalgamation of a massive Chinese Empire. Tibet is brought under Qing control, and in the north, Kangxi's empire controls the territory from the Amur River to the Mongolian Plateau. In the west, China controls the area from Tibet to Altai, and in the south, China controls Yunnan and Taiwan.
- These approximate territories are still controlled by the current People's Republic of China, but at the same time, contain many different ethnic minorities.
- 1730 The Mongolian Dzungar tribe invades and subjugates Tibet.
- 1751 The Qianglong Emperor dispatches his army to the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, making Tibet a protectorate under the shared rule of the 7th Dalai Lama and a minister dispatched by the Qing rulers.

- 1758 The Qing emperor attacks and invades East Turkestan, which is ruled by the Dzungar people south of the Tian Shan mountains. In 1759, Qing forces topple the Dzungar stronghold in Yarkant County and capture the western fortress (modern day Xinjiang).

The Qianglong Emperor, now ruling over a vast territory due to repeated military campaigns, also exerts power in domestic political affairs, and aspects of culture such as literature, calligraphy, and theater flourish. However, economic disparities in the cities and villages increase.

It is an era of prosperity for the Qing empire, as tributes from Korea, Ryukyu, Vietnam, and Burma visit to pay respects to the Qing empire (the tribute system is a relationship in which a tribute from a less powerful country periodically visits a dominant country to pay respects and offer gifts in return for being allowed to continue ruling its own country).

- 1765 The custom of smoking opium spreads.

- 1838 With the opium ban failing to have any positive effect, Viceroy Lin Zexu writes an open letter urging an end to the opium trade.

The United Kingdom demands a large amount of tea as tea drinking becomes very popular in the country.

The United Kingdom imports tea from China and decides to pay for it in silver.

However, since China has no need to buy anything from the U.K., the U.K. sends only silver to China in a one-way transaction.

The U.K. brings opium taken from its colony in India and begins to buy back its silver with opium.

Due to this, China is left with many opium addicts.

- 1839 Meanwhile Lin Zexu, who is appointed to be the minister in charge of cracking down on the opium trade, begins collecting crates of opium and disposing of them. He even goes so far as to force British merchants to write a pledge stating, "I will not protest even if I am given a death sentence for carrying in opium."

In response, the British trade inspector reports back to the U.K. about the Qing empire's strict opposition and requests military action to resolve the issue.

- 1840 In response to the trade inspector's request, the U.K. dispatches naval forces.

The First Opium War begins.

1841 The Qing empire loses the war to the U.K. and initiates peace talks, but the conditions presented by the U.K. are deemed unacceptable, and war breaks out again, resulting in a devastating defeat for the Qing empire.

1842 The Treaty of Nanjing

1. China cedes the island of Hong Kong to the United Kingdom.
2. The ports at Guangzhou, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo, and Shanghai are opened for trade.
3. As reparations, China must pay the costs of the confiscated opium and war expenses.
4. The United Kingdom is assured that British merchants can live safely and work freely at these five ports.

1844 Following the United Kingdom's example, the United States imposes the Treaty of Wanghia, and France imposes the Treaty of Whampoa, two unequal treaties for the Qing dynasty.

Both treaties refuse China's right to impose tariffs on imported goods. They also make provisions for extraterritoriality, meaning that foreigners accused of crimes in China will be tried by officials in their home country, where the Qing dynasty has no jurisdiction.

1843 Having lost the Opium War, the Qing government imposes a heavy tax on the Chinese farmers in order to pay off the reparations and enormous costs of the war. Due to this, Chinese farmers are made to face very difficult times.

Around this time, Hong Xiuquan, claiming to be Jesus Christ's younger brother and the son of God, begins spreading his religion and preaching that all humans should live in equality. His goals are to:

1. Overthrow the Qing dynasty and create a utopia ruled by the Han Chinese.
2. Create a heaven on earth called the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom.
3. Divide wealth equally amongst all the people.
4. Raise an army.
5. Cut off the queue ponytails of the Manchu people.
6. Promote gender equality.

1853 As part of the Taiping Rebellion, the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom fights battles in various areas and expands its territory. In 1853, the Heavenly Kingdom attacks and captures Wuchang, then continues on with a large army of hundreds of thousands of soldiers to capture Nanjing. Nanjing is then re-established as the capital of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, and Hong Xiuquan's forces move north to take on Beijing.

1856 The Second Opium War, during the reign of the Xianfeng Emperor, the ninth Qing emperor, is sparked by an incident on the *Arrow* ship. In this incident, Qing crew members of the *Arrow*, a British ship seized by the Chinese, take down the British flag that was raised by the British captain. In response, the British say this is an unforgivable show of disrespect towards the United Kingdom.

Hearing of this, the French consul, responding to the murder of a French missionary, forms an alliance with the U.K. and attacks and captures Guangzhou.

1858 The Qing dynasty signs the Treaty of Tientsin with the U.K., France, the U.S., and Russia. Under the conditions of the treaty:

1. China must allow foreign diplomats to be stationed in Beijing.
2. 10 ports are opened to trade, including ports in Hankou and Jiujiang, and two ports in Taiwan.
3. The Qing dynasty recognizes foreigners' rights to travel and do business within China.
4. China must pay reparations to the U.K. and France.
5. China must allow Christian missionaries in China

1859 The Qing army sets out from Tientsin to attack the invading British and French navies that are carrying diplomatic missions to fulfill the exchange of instruments of ratification under the Treaty of Tientsin. Due to this, another war breaks out.

1860 At the Convention of Peking in October, the Qing dynasty signs a treaty with the U.K. and France. The Qing dynasty signs another treaty the following month in November with Russia, ceding the Primorskaya Oblast region in Manchuria to Russia. Under the provisions of these treaties:

1. China cedes the southern part of the Kowloon Peninsula on the opposite shore of Hong Kong to the U.K.
2. China opens up another 11 ports, including Tientsin.
3. China must allow foreign diplomats to stay in Beijing.

4. China must allow Qing laborers to be sent abroad to work.
5. China cannot impose tariffs on imports.
6. China must recognize the opium trade.

1861 The Xianfeng Emperor dies at 31, and the Tongzhi Emperor accedes at only 3 years old. Empress Dowager Ci'an, the widow of the Xianfeng Emperor, and Empress Dowager Cixi, the mother of the Tongzhi Emperor, intervene in politics.

Meanwhile in China, the government orders Zeng Guofan to suppress the Taiping Rebellion trying to overthrow the (Manchu-led) Qing Dynasty. Zeng Guofan had Li Hongzhang build munition factories, aiming to modernize the military. This is called the Self-Strengthening Movement, also known as Westernization.

1862 The Taiping Rebellion invades Shanghai. The Huai Army, led by Li Hongzhang, and the Ever Victorious Army, directed and trained by the British military, suppress the Taiping Rebellion, which lasted for 14 years. The battle makes the Chinese government understand the importance of modernization of the military and the country, and they promote the Self-Strengthening Movement.

Afterwards, the Beiyang Fleet under the command of Li Hongzhang boasts the best fleet in the East. This is a relatively peaceful time when the country is stable and there is no immediate threat of invasion from the west. However, countries in East Asia are suffering from intervention and subjugation by Western powers and Japan.

Korea is pressured to open the country by Japan, the U.S., and Russia.

In Indochina, Vietnam is beginning to be occupied by France, and the Philippines are beginning to be occupied by the United States.

1870 In the 1870s, China suffers invasions by the Great Powers such as the U.K., France, Russia, Germany, and Japan.

Additionally, the U.S. sends its army and warships to Korea, while France does the same in Vietnam in Indochina.

1871 The Sino-Japanese Friendship and Trade Treaty is signed between Japan and Qing China.

1875 The Treaty of Saint Petersburg is signed between Japan and Russia

1876 The Japan–Korea Treaty of 1876 is signed between Japan and Korea.

- 1875 Empress Dowager Cixi loses her child, the Tongzhi Emperor, to smallpox in 1874. Around 1875, her sister's child becomes the 11th emperor, the Guangxu Emperor, and Empress Dowager Cixi serves as a regent, exercising ruling power herself.
- 1884 Appointed by a minister, Li Hongzhang modernizes the country and builds up a military force. The government builds munition factories and manufactures arms and ammunition. They also purchase warships and cannons from foreign countries such as the U.K. with their trade revenue and create the Beiyang Fleet. France arrives in Vietnam and begins a war with the Qing dynasty, which considers Vietnam as its tributary state. The Qing dynasty sends in the Nanyang Fleet in Fuzhou instead of the Beiyang Fleet, as it is not ready. However, France defeats them and ends up blockading Taiwan.
- 1885 The Treaty of Tientsin is signed between the Qing dynasty and France. China is forced to abandon its claims to suzerainty over Vietnam. The Qing dynasty loses Yunnan to France, Burma to the U.K., and Macau to Portugal.
- 1894 Korea, which is in a tributary relationship with the Qing dynasty, asks them for help to contain the Donghak Peasant Movement; an armed rebellion in Korea led by peasants and followers of the Donghak religion.

Japan sends their army on the grounds of protecting Japanese people.

This causes a serious political confrontation between the Qing dynasty and Japan over Korea's domestic reform. This is the start of the First Sino-Japanese War. The Japanese army seizes Pyongyang in Korea, defeats the Beiyang Fleet in Shanghai, and occupies Lüshunkou District in the Liaodong Peninsula.

- 1895 The Treaty of Shimonoseki

China recognizes definitively the full and complete independence and autonomy of Korea.

China cedes to Japan full sovereignty of the Pescadores Islands, the Liaodong Peninsula, and Taiwan.

China agrees to pay Japan the sum of 200,000,000 Kuping taels (about 300 million yen) as war reparations.

China agrees to open various ports and allow Japan to set up businesses there.

Kang Youwei and students studying for the imperial examination, furious about the humiliating Treaty of Shimonoseki, gather and try to achieve political reform known as the Hundred Days' Reform (lead by Kang Youwei). The goals include changing the government to a constitutional monarchy modeling the Meiji Restoration and modernizing the country.

The Revive China Society is funded by Sun Yat-sen in Hawaii. It is led by Sun Yat-sen who raises funds with support from overseas Chinese. They return to Hong Kong hoping to revolutionize and restore the country to Han Chinese rule. However, the night before Sun Yat-sen and other members of the Revive China Society plan to launch an uprising, their plan is leaked by an informant. He soon goes into exile in Japan for safety.

1899 The Boxer Rebellion

The Boxer Rebellion is a religious association combining white lotus (pure land buddhism), the local religion of the Shandong Peninsula, and Chinese martial arts, which at the time was referred to as Chinese Boxing. They worshiped Guan Yu from the Three Kingdoms period as their guardian deity.

With the Chinese public being frustrated by increased taxes in order to pay the reparations, poor harvest due to flooding and droughts, decline in competitiveness due to an increase in imports, and mechanization taking away their jobs, the Boxer Rebellion starts attacking Christians in various places in China with the slogan "Support the Qing government and exterminate the foreigners."

1900 Provincial Governor of Shandong, Yuan Shikai suppresses Boxers. They are exiled and move to the capital, Beijing and lay siege to the International Legations.

The Empress Dowager Cixi supports the Boxers and issues an Imperial Decree declaring war on the invading powers. An Eight-Nation Alliance of American, Austro-Hungarian, British, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Russian troops arrive in Beijing, relieving the siege of the Legations. The Boxer Rebellion suffers from many casualties and is defeated.

1901 Li Hongzhang, facing peace negotiations with the Eight-Nation Alliance, demands strict punishment for Empress Dowager Cixi, who assisted the Eight-Nation Alliance in its rebellion against the Qing empire. Li Hongzhang signs the Boxer Protocol, promising 450 million taels in reparations to the Eight-Nation Alliance and recognizing the foreign armies' right to station in Beijing.

1905 Sun Yat-sen, currently in exile in Japan, discusses and makes plans to overthrow the Manchu-ruled Qing dynasty and restore China to Han Chinese rule. He creates the Tongmenghui of China, a secret society aiming to garner revolutionary forces and establish a republican state in China. Sun Yat-sen and the Tongmenghui establish Three Principles of the People:

1. Civic Nationalism – independence from foreign rule
2. Governance Rights – establishment of a republic
3. Welfare Rights – elimination of monopolies by landlords and capitalists

- 1908 The Guangxu Emperor and the Empress Dowager Cixi die in succession, and Puyi becomes the Xuantong Emperor at just 3 years old.

The Xuantong Emperor, whose real name is Puyi, is the 12th and final emperor of the Manchu-ruled Qing dynasty.

- 1910 As a result of the Russo-Japanese War, Russia recognizes Japan's suzerainty over the Korean Empire. Moreover, with the U.K.'s approval, Japan signs the Japan–Korea Treaty of 1905, which deprives the Korean Empire of its diplomatic rights. During this time, Japan establishes a Resident General's Office in Seoul, with Ito Hirobumi appointed to be the first Resident-General of Korea. In 1907, Japan and Korea sign the Japan–Korea Treaty of 1907. With this treaty, the Imperial Korean Armed Forces are forced to dissolve, with Japan securing political and economic power in Korea.

Japan suppresses a Korean revolt in response to this treaty, and in August of 1910, Japan–Korea Treaty of 1910 is signed, and Japan formally annexes Korea.

- 1911 The Qing dynasty, facing financial difficulties, issues a Railway Nationalization Act and establishes state ownership of the private railways. Using this as collateral, the Qing dynasty tries to pay off its enormous debts to various foreign countries.

However, this stirs public unrest, leading to a large-scale revolt. Revolutionaries across the country seek supporters, and revolutionaries in the army at Wuchang in Hubei Province take up arms against the Qing dynasty.

The revolution quickly spreads throughout the country, and within one month, 12 provincial capitals declare independence from the Qing Empire.

This becomes known as the 1911 Revolution (or the Xinhai Revolution as it is known in China, the name coming from the year's name in the sexagenary cycle). The people of China cut off their Manchu queue ponytails and celebrate.

The 1911 Revolution begins on October 10, 1911, in Wuchang with the official enlistment of a revolutionary army.

In December, Sun Yat-sen returns to Shanghai.

- 1912 In January, Sun Yat-sen is appointed the provincial President of the Republic of China in Nanjing, where he proclaims the founding of a new republic.

However, there is also a government in Beijing under the Qing dynasty with Yuan Shikai as prime minister.

Around this time, Yuan Shikai sends word to Sun Yat-sen that, "If you give up your position as the President of the Republic of China, I can make the Qing emperor

peacefully abdicate.” After careful consideration, Sun Yat-sen transfers the title of President of the Republic of China to Yuan Shikai on the condition that Yuan Shikai honors and protects republicanism.

- 1913 Yuan Shikai, nominated as the provisional president of the Republic of China, breaks his promise and promotes a dictatorship. Sun Yat-sen and his followers create the Chinese National Party (known as the Kuomintang), hoping to establish a government led by political parties. Sun Yat-sen’s Kuomintang wins the national elections held this same year; however, on the night of March 20th, his fellow Kuomintang leader Song Jiaoren is assassinated. Yuan Shikai then intensifies his efforts to suppress the Kuomintang, and he eventually becomes the official President of the Republic of China.

In August, Sun Yat-sen again defects to Tokyo, where he creates the Chinese Revolutionary Party in opposition to Yuan Shikai’s administration.

- 1914 WWI begins, and Japan joins the war allied with the United Kingdom. Japan captures the German colony in Qingdao (Jiaozhou Bay) and issues the Twenty-One Demands to the Chinese government.

Twenty-One Demands

1. Germany hands over all rights to Shandong to Japan.
2. Japan extends its rights to the South Manchuria Railway, Dalian, and Lüshunkou by 99 years
3. Coal mines, as well as iron mines in places such as in Hanyang and Daye, are to be managed jointly with Japan
4. Islands and ports on the Chinese coast are not to be given up to any country other than Japan

- 1915 The Chinese Emperor Yuan Shikai accepts these demands on the condition that Japan supports his administration.

- 1916 A protest movement against Yuan Shikai spreads throughout the country in response to his acceptance of Japan’s demands. Yuan Shikai abdicates the throne and later dies in June of the same year.

After that, no single ruler emerges as the central figurehead to lead the Republic of China. This ushers in the chaotic Warlord Era in China, in which various military cliques ruled by warlords assume power by force. The Great Powers use and support these military cliques to their own advantage.

- 1917 Inspired by the success of the Russian Revolution and the birth of the world's first socialist society of workers and peasants, China also begins making moves towards socialism.
- Chen Duxiu, Li Dazhao, and Lu Xun each begin writing about their philosophies.
- 1919 A large-scale protest is held in front of Tiananmen Square on May 4th in response to China's inability to achieve its demands at the Paris Peace Accords following WWI. In these accords, the other countries ignore China's demands and Japan takes control of Chinese territory. This protest movement soon spreads throughout the country, and protests are held in over 150 cities. Since this movement began on May 4th, it is called the May Fourth Movement.
- 1921 Premier Sun Yat-sen changes the name of the Chinese Revolutionary Party to the Chinese Nationalist Party (also known as the Kuomintang) and invites special envoys from Communist International, an organization led by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In July, China holds the first national convention of the Chinese Communist Party. Chen Duxiu is chosen as the first Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of China.
- 1924 Sun Yat-sen holds the first national convention of the Kuomintang in Guangzhou. The Chinese Communist Party also attends, and this is the first collaboration between the two groups.
- 1925 Sun Yat-sen, the Father of the Chinese Revolution, dies.
- 1926 The military leader Chiang Kai-shek succeeds Sun Yat-sen.
- 1927 Led by Chiang Kai-shek, the National Revolutionary Army of 100,000 strong and supported by armed laborers and farmers, captures Wuchang and Nanjing. Chiang Kai-shek's army then closes in on Shanghai, routing the government forces and occupying the city. However, the overwhelming majority of citizens in Shanghai are drawn towards Zhou Enlai's Communist Party, rather than Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang.

However, the Chinese capitalists that are operating their businesses out of Shanghai find their efforts at odds with the goals of the Communists. These capitalists support Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang and request financial assistance.

Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Kuomintang and opposed to the Communist Party's broad appeal amongst the laborers and farmers, aligns himself with the capitalists and becomes hostile to the Communist Party, breaking Sun Yat-sen's promise of unity. Starting on April 12th and lasting for three days, 3,000 members of the Communist Party are killed, and some 5,000 members go missing in what becomes known as the Shanghai Massacre.

In the Autumn Harvest Uprising in September, Mao Zedong leads an unsuccessful armed revolt against the Kuomintang.

- 1928 In April, Chiang Kai-shek sets his sights on Beijing, hoping to defeat the military cliques and take out the warlord Zhang Zuolin. However, on the way to Beijing, Chiang Kai-shek receives the news that Zhang Zuolin has been killed by a bomb while riding on a train. So in June, the Kuomintang triumphantly enter Beijing and the Northern Expedition military campaign is complete.

With the completion of this campaign, the Republic of China is unified and the Nanjing National Government, the first nation in China, is established in Nanjing.

Around this time, Communists that have infiltrated the rural cities and farming villages begin to steadily expand their influence.

- 1931 The Japanese army occupies Manchuria, but the Nanjing National Government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, avoids confrontation with Japan and instead prioritizes suppressing the Communists at home first.

The Communist Party decides to form a temporary centralized government in Ruijin called the Chinese Soviet Republic and attacks the Japanese forces. (Declaration of War Against Japan)

- 1932 Japan establishes the puppet state of Manchukuo.

- 1933 Chiang Kai-shek carries out a large-scale assault on the Communist Party forces in Ruijin for about one year.

The Communist Party Army, led by Zhou Enlai, flees Ruijin and heads to Yan'an. (The Long March of the Red Army, also known as The Long March)

- 1935 The Communist Party Army, led by Zhou Enlai, loses many comrades in the fighting. Taking responsibility for these losses, the Party's leadership, with Zhou Enlai at its center, is dismissed. In October, Communist forces arrive in Yan'an under a newly created system headed by Mao Zedong. Yan'an is used as a base for the Communist Party to fight the Japanese.

- 1936 In Xi'an in December, General Chang Hsueh-liang of the national government army suggests first cooperating with the Communist Party to fight the Japanese army, whose forces killed his father, Zhang Zuolin, rather than fight against the Communists. However, Chiang Kai-shek disagrees with Chang Hsueh-liang, and so Hsueh-liang imprisons Chiang Kai-shek.

Chiang Kai-shek, responding to pressure from his wife, older sister, and Zhou Enlai of the Communist Party, decides to establish a united national front with the Communists to fight the Japanese army.

- 1937 On the night of July 7th, Chinese forces fire at the Japanese army during a military exercise at the Marco Polo Bridge (also known as the Lugou Bridge) near Beijing. In response, the Japanese army attacks Beijing and Tientsin, and the Second Sino-Japanese War begins.

In September, the Kuomintang and Communist Party declare a second national partnership and unify to take on the Japanese army.

In November, the national government moves the capital from Nanjing to Chongqing, and the army moves to Wuhan. In December, many of the remaining soldiers and residents in Nanjing are killed. (Massacre of Nanjing) (there are varying estimates and accounts of this incident)

- 1939 Germany starts a war against the whole world.

At this time, Japan joins the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy. China, increasingly fearing strengthening aggression from Japan, decides to ally with the Soviet Union and the United States and fight against Japan and Germany.

On May 3rd, the Japanese army carries out a massive and indiscriminate bombing campaign in the capital of Chongqing, hoping to force the Chinese Kuomintang government to surrender. Over five years, many ordinary civilians are killed by bombing strikes.

Around this time, the Communist Party's Eighth Route Army inflicts heavy casualties on the Japanese army through guerilla warfare.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government calls on China to cooperate in creating an alliance called the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere to drive out the imperialist Western powers from Asia.

- 1940 The Communist Party carries out the Hundred Regiments Offensive. At the end of August, the Communist Party's Eighth Route Army, made up of around 200,000 soldiers and hundreds of thousands of regular citizens, attacks the Japanese army in full force in areas all throughout China where the Japanese army is advancing.

In this military campaign, many railroads, roads, stations, and bridges are destroyed, and the Japanese army incurs heavy losses.

- 1941 In December, the Japanese army attacks Pearl Harbor. World War II begins.

The United Kingdom and the United States declare their support for China. The national government representing China declares war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.

- 1943 At the Cairo Conference in November, the Allied forces discuss plans for a united front to attack Japan. China and the United States cooperate to counterattack the Japanese army by both land and sea.

Also, President Theodore Roosevelt of the United States, Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom, and Chiang Kai-shek representing China, all meet together. They decide that following a Japanese surrender, they will occupy Japan and force Japan to give up and return its conquered territories.

At the Chinese Communist's Party base in Yan'an, the Party's army carries out a bombing campaign on the 30 Japanese military bases in North China and brings over some 100 Japanese POWs and 500 Kuomintang soldiers. Sanzo Nosaka (野坂参三) of the Japanese Communist Party, who came to Yan'an, and Wataru Kaji (鹿地亘), who defected to Chongqing, teach anti-war education to the Japanese POWs and try to persuade members of the Kuomintang to join the Communist Party.

- 1944 The Kuomintang Army advances into areas where the Japanese army has been defeated by the American bombing campaign, gradually gaining back Chinese territory.
- 1945 President Roosevelt of the United States, Prime Minister Churchill of the United Kingdom, and Premier Stalin of the Soviet Union meet at the Yalta Conference in February. They decide on the demilitarization of Germany following its surrender, as well as the Soviet acquisition of the Kuril Islands and Karafuto Prefecture (also known as South Sakhalin) in return for fighting in the war.

Japan accepts the conditions of the Potsdam Conference, formally surrendering to the Allied Powers on August 15th.

In post-war China, everyday commodities and food are scarce, and prices for goods have risen sharply, especially in urban areas controlled by the Kuomintang. Discontent with the Kuomintang grows, and many people shift their support to the Communist Party.

Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong hold a summit meeting in Chongqing in October. The Double Tenth Agreement is signed; however, fighting between the Kuomintang and Communists continues in various areas, with the Communists, backed by the Soviet Union, holding an advantage.

Fighting continues, and the Communist Party army, supported by farmers and using guerilla war tactics, secures victory over the Kuomintang and their modern weapons.

- 1949 October 1st marks the birth of the communist People's Republic of China.