

China and another revolution

TOWARD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – PRESENT)



- Since the fall of the Qing in 1911, the Chinese “republic” had been ruled by regional warlords and the army.



- Chiang Kai-shek (leader of the Nationalists / KMT) made efforts to unify China by getting warlords to accept a KMT government (He also had the support of some communists).

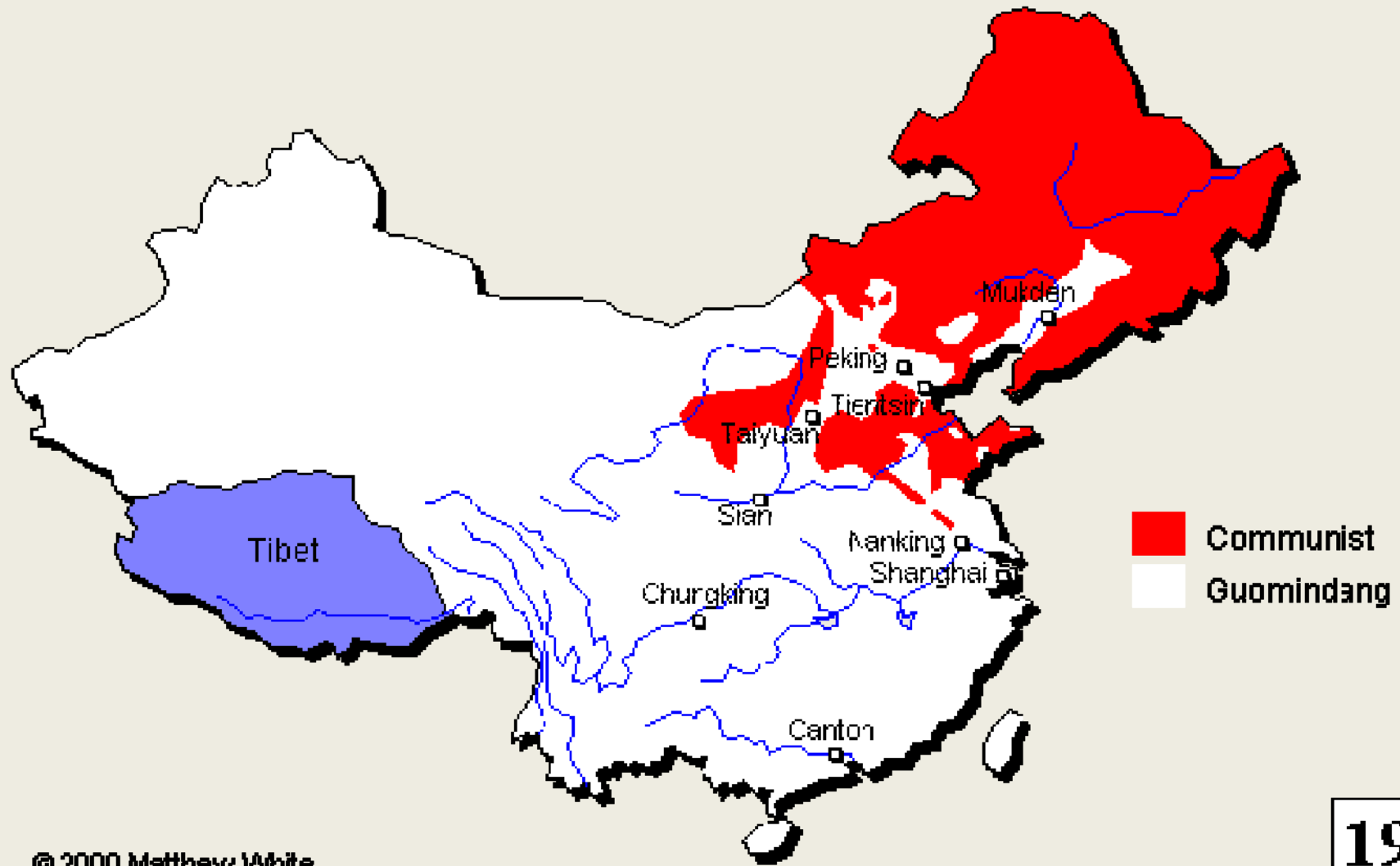
- However, in the late 1920s he used the Chinese Nationalist army to go after Communists – killing hundreds.
- **Mao Zedong** (one of the founding members of China's Communist Party) escaped this purge, but many of his more orthodox members did not.
 - This will ultimately have an effect on China's Communist future. Rather than mirroring Russia's Communist plans as some had wanted to, Mao will pursue a path that puts the “peasant” at the center of his plans.



- In addition to the quarrels between them and the Communists, the Nationalist government was also faced with an invasion from Japan (known as the Sino-Japanese War, part of the larger WWII).
- As time went on Guomindang (the Nationalists) control of China continued to deteriorate.
 - The brute nature of Japanese occupation led many Chinese peasants to believe that the Guomindang was incapable of protecting China.
 - In an effort to halt Japanese advances the government destroyed dykes, but flood waters ending up killing several hundred thousand Chinese instead.
 - An estimated 1 million people were dying each year from starvation.
 - Membership in the Communist Party grew from 40,000 in 1937 to 1.2 million by 1945.
 - Secret police units set up by the KMT / Nationalists relied on terrorizing the Chinese public.

- After Japan was defeated in WWII the Chinese government ([Guomindang](#)) moved back into the territories that had been occupied; but instead of helping the people they looted towns and taxed the very citizens they were supposedly liberating. [They also over printed money causing inflation.](#)
- In contrast, the Communists ([they in a sense were becoming de facto rulers in the north of China](#)) began carrying out land reform and addressing the concern of peasants.
 - [Mao confiscated property owned by landlords. Peasant villagers met to indict the wealthy; many landlords were beaten and tortured.](#)

- By early 1949 the Guomindang was in collapse and their Nationalist leaders (including Chiang Kai-shek) were fleeing to Taiwan.
- On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong announced the founding of the People's Republic of China.
- Significant changes took place:
 - By 1952, nearly 50% of China's cultivated land had been redistributed to 300 million peasants.
 - New laws were enacted to abolish polygamy, child marriage, and the authority of families over women.
 - In 1954, the Communists built dozens of dams and carried out a major afforestation schemes.
 - Immunization efforts took place.



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1946

Video Summary of China



Communists, Nationalists, and China's Revolutions: Crash Course World History #37

• <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUCEeC4f6t>

Skip the first five minutes, we've already seen it!