“The Sleeping Giants Awaken”: rise of Maoism and Fascism in Asia (1920 – 1949)

Inter-War World: China and Japan
Post-War Asia: China & Japan

Competing Nationalisms, Competing Ideologies:

- Post WWI: significant changes in China and Japan

- Japan: moving towards democracy, successful economy (exploiting former German colony in China ‘mandated’ to it)

- ‘dual economy’: growing modern sector based on large-scale industry/business zaibatsu dominate but other sector comprised traditional peasants, craftsmen

[textbook p. 906,7]
Post-War Asia: China & Japan

Competing Nationalisms, Competing Ideologies:

- 1920s: also saw rise of ‘ultra-nationalism’

- challenged democracy, new economy (even though it would fuel goals in 1930s), ‘Westernism ‘(including ideologies from west): focused on traditional values, role of Emperor

- Ultra-nationalism would restore honour, nobility: required foreign expansion ‘divine destiny’ “Asia for the Asians” (included China, India)
Post-War Asia: China & Japan

Competing Nationalisms, Competing Ideologies:

- China: Kuomintang -- Chinese National People’s Party - government founded 1912 (KMT)

- “democratic” in principle: betrayed by post-WWI peace treaty left former German-controlled territories in hands of Japan and British, French controlling Shanghai

- “May Fourth Movement”: 1919 – student protest spread from capital around country
Post-War Asia: China & Japan

May 4th Movement:

- Intellectually important: anti-imperialist, pro-Marxist and strongly influenced by Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin’s Communism

- reflected two ideological ‘strands’:

- revolutionary, nationalist, NOT Communist -- Sun Yatsen (KMT)

- revolutionary, nationalist AND Communist -- Mao Zedung
Kuomintang: Sun Yatsen

**Sun Yatsen and ‘Nationalists’:**
- Allied with new Chinese Communist Party [below] but more ‘nationalist’ then ‘communist’; impressed with Lenin’s revolution, not his ideology

- goal: to destroy warlords, re-unite China under strong central government (the KMT)

- at death of Sun (1925) Chiang Kai-shek took over, continued war, established new capital of Nanjing

- feared Communist partners: turned to destroy them 1927
Kuomintang:

Sun Yatsen

Chiang Kai-Shek
Communists: Mao Zedong

Mao Zedong: student of philosophy

- son of well-off agriculturalists, well educated

- He later described May 4th movement as ‘first stage in revolution’, a cultural resistance

- he was among those who went further: founded first Chinese Communist Party in 1921

- influenced by Marxism, Soviet Revolution: looked to workers for support, began as labour organizer
Mao Zedung (1893-1976)

Mao in 1927

Mao in 1931
“Maoism”: rise of Mao Zedong

Mao Zedong:

- Began by organizing women in Shanghai’s textile mills: said to be ‘the most exploited of all Chinese workers’

- saw that it was not effective

- turned attention to ‘alternative’ force: the peasantry

- Unlike Russia: peasants not yet ‘mobilized’ for labour or military
“Maoism”: rise of Mao Zedung

1927-28:

- Mao established Hunan Province: attempt to organize ‘peasant revolt’ 1927 “Autumn Harvest Uprising -- failed

- Regrouped in Jiangxi: began to build peasant army

- Worked with local peasants, supported reforms marriage, women (e.g. move away from foot binding)

[Text p. 905 ‘Ning Lao’ illustrative of ‘issues’ women faced early part 20th century]
KMT: rise of Chiang Kai-shek

Chiang Kai-shek:
- successful in war against central, northern warlords
- retaken Shanghai: all with Communist assistance
- became ‘dictator’ of regions under his control: by 1928: initiated ‘one-party’ state
- turned on labour unions, killed communist leaders [video]
- 1934: KMT army surrounded main Communist rural base
“The Long March” 1934-5

“The Long March”

- Army escaped: joined up with other sections of army

- began 9,600km march to northwest of country where there was local support

- Men and women: approximately 80-100,000

- difficult journey, attacked by Nationalists, took twelve months: only about 10,000 completed trip
Roads to War – Japan
The Long March 1934-5

Emergence of Mao as Leader:
- several ‘marches’ composed ‘Long March’
- one led by Mao brought him leadership
- consolidated power in Yan’an mountain base
- trained army

Flag: Chinese Workers and Peasants Red Army

[later known simply as ‘Red Army’]
The Long March 1934-5

Wrote essays on ‘guerilla warfare’ (which he termed ‘mobile warfare’):

- how to survive while constantly moving, building on practical knowledge and experience

- the peasantry as the base of revolutionary force remained central to organization

- essays later collected into famous “Little Red Book”
The Long March & ‘Maoism’

‘Maoism’ won over the Peasantry:

-Able to re-build strength while in mountains because of appeal to peasants

-‘behaviour’ contrasted with that of warlords, other armies: did not ‘pillage and rape’, assisted with agricultural labour, prosecuted landlords for poor treatment of peasants, set up schools, health clinics

-‘Peasants received economic and social justice’

[textbook p.909]
Japanese Imperialism: China

Japan:

- war between Communists, KMT taking place as Japan invaded Manchuria: changed situation significantly

- Japanese prosperity of 1920s collapsed with Great Depression [next lecture]

- few natural resources: imported oil, iron, steel, other commodities to support industry and military

- to import, had to export: main goods rice and silk
Japanese Imperialism: China

Depression led to Defensive Tariffs 1930s:
- nation after nation, including U.S., raised tariffs (import taxes): Japan's export market collapsed

- farmers forced to send young girls into prostitution, young men into military

- families flooded cities looking for work, food

- resentment at country’s ‘dependence’: argued that if Japan had more colonial wealth – access to raw materials and markets, like US, Britain -- economic problems solved
Japan in the Depression
Japanese Imperialism: China

Fed ultranationalist aggression

- Military (generals, admirals) worked with leading industrialists, financiers

- argued for Japanese empire that would bring "the eight corners of the world under one roof" -- ancient saying referring to bringing ‘world’ under Japanese influence

- campaigned successfully against politicians who ‘stood in the way’ of Japanese destiny -- economic failure largely discredited government
Japanese Imperialism: China

“The Manchurian Incident”: 1931

- Japan had small, coastal presence in coal, iron-rich Manchuria

- Junior army officers provoked invasion whole province

- in name of ‘liberating’ it – “Manchukuo”, took full control within a year

- within a year, Japan controlled Manchuria, pushing into China

- resisted international requests to remove troops
Japanese Imperialism: China

1931: Japanese Army Invaded Manchuria – “Manchukuo”
Japanese Imperialism: China

**Japan in 1930s:**
- became fascist, militarized state
- turned full investment to building railways, industries in Manchuria, north-east China
- rapidly rearmed: ‘home-front’ production geared to military (especially warships)
- government increasingly authoritarian
- aggressive military officers replaced moderate politicians
Japanese Fascism
Japanese Fascism

Com-Intern Pact: 1936-37

- ‘anti-communist’ pact signed by Japan and Germany in 1936; Italy signed on in 1937

- three major Fascist nations* recognized:
  “that the aim of the Communist International, known as the Comintern [ref. to Soviet Union], is to disintegrate and subdue existing States by all the means at its command [and] that the toleration of interference by the Communist International in the internal affairs of the nations not only endangers their internal peace and social well-being, but is also a menace to the peace of the world…”

- other states (including ‘Manchukuo’) joined 1941

*[lecture German, Italian Fascism next week]
Japanese Fascism

Japanese Embassy in Berlin (1940)

Flags of Germany, Japan, Italy hang from front of building
Japanese Fascism

Tri-Partite Pact Germany, Japan, Italy: signed 1940
Japanese Imperialism

China-Japan at War:
-Chiang Kai-Shek: had argued war-lords and communists needed to be eliminated before Japanese could be tackled

- He was wrong

- Manchuria/’Manchukuo’ (1931) only first step to solving Japan’s economic problems
Sino-Japanese War

China-Japan at War:
- July 1937: Japanese troops attacked Chinese (now Communist/Nationalist united army again) near Peking (now Beijing) -- successful

- war escalated: Japanese seized all main coastal cities including Shanghai

- Took many British prisoners as well

- powerful navy blockaded entire coast [map Textbook p.908]
Sino-Japanese War

‘Sino-Japanese War’: 1937-45
- considered beginning of Sino-Japanese War which paralleled conflict in Europe (WW II)

- after initial easy victories, war stalemated

- Chinese Army divided again: ‘Nationalists’ (supported by West), ‘Communists’ (under Mao Zedong)

- both engaged Japanese troops: even divided, Chinese proved more committed to resistance than anticipated
Sino-Japanese War

Cairo Conference 1943: with Franklin D Roosevelt, Winston Churchill
Sino-Japanese War

‘Sino-Japanese War’: 1937-45
- ‘techniques of war’ as horrific as Holocaust taking place in European war zone

- 1937-8: Nanking occupied—20,000 women raped, 200,000 killed/taken prisoner; city looted and burned

- finally agreement (short-lived) between communists, KMT to join against Japanese
Sino-Japanese War

- both sides using scorched earth tactics

- Japanese air force destroyed thousands peasant villages

- Nationalist government: blasted open dikes on Yellow River to stop Japanese troops

- 4000 Chinese villages destroyed, almost 900,000 killed, millions homeless

- cost: 15-20 million Chinese deaths – many of them peasants who starved to death resisting
Sino-Japanese War

- Communist peasant army offensive 1940 met with “kill all, burn all, loot all” campaign: Japanese troops destroyed hundreds of villages, destroying crops and animals

- still both Nationalist army (over 3 million men) and Mao’s Communists continued to hold-out

- But 1940 marked stalemate
Sino-Japanese War

- Western Powers, League of Nations: ‘denounced war’ but until Japan moved to attack the US in 1941, nothing was done

- it was the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 that drew the war in Asia into the one already well underway in Europe and Africa

The ‘Sino-Japanese War’ *then* became fully a part of WWII
Sino-Japanese War

Shift in favour of Chinese:

- Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbour, subsequent WWII battles [lectures ‘WWII as World War’]: drew resources from China

- Chiang Kai-Shek acknowledged as ‘victor’ by Americans at end of WWII
Sino-Japanese War

1945
Sino-Japanese War

Post 1945: an agreement in 1946 to cooperate was short-lived
Sino-Japanese War

Civil war broke out once again: Mao successful

- 1949 founded People’s Republic of China
- Chiang Kai-shek, 2 million followers fled to Taiwan

Mao’s Revolution was just beginning!