



CHINESE REVOLUTION

How did China become a Communist nation?

Quick Info About China

- Ruled by families (“**dynasties**”) for thousands of years
 - 1911: **Nationalist** group overthrew last emperor
 - Attempt at democracy **led to a dictatorship**
 - Meanwhile, **Communist ideas grew**
 - Issue with Treaty of Versailles
 - GER-controlled Chinese land given to Japan instead of back to China
 - Protests against foreign govts
 - Challenged traditional Chinese values
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Communism Takes Over

- Inspired by **Russian Revolution**
- 1927 – 1949: Chinese Civil War between **Nationalists and Communists**
 - Nationalists = Current govt., **supported by US**
 - Communists = supported by peasants, workers, **USSR**
- Communists won!
Nationalists flee to Taiwan



Life under Mao

- Leader of Communist Party during Chinese Civil War and new **People's Republic of China (PRC)**
- Took lands from land owners → gave to peasants
 - Those who resisted were killed
- **Great Leap Forward (1958)**
 - Goal = **industrialize China**
 - **Collective farms** = peasants work on large govt-controlled farms
 - Forced **steel production**
 - Huge failure! Leads to Chinese famine



- **Great Chinese Famine (1958 – 1961)**
 - Millions of farmers **forced to make steel instead of food**
 - Food shortages due to bad farming, natural disasters
 - 30 million died
 - Mao becomes unpopular in China
- **Cultural Revolution (1966 – 1976)**
 - Goal: Create society of farmers and workers where **all are equal; get Chinese people back on Mao's side**
 - Academics, artists, middle class seen as dangerous
 - Young Chinese formed **Red Guards**
 - Attacked any who questioned the revolution
 - Millions persecuted

