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





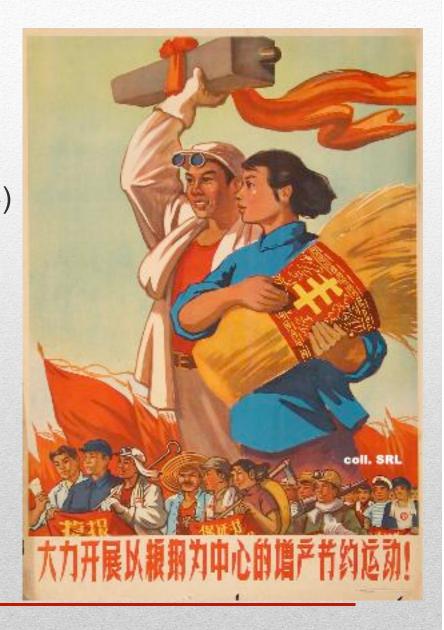
Communism Takes Over

- 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



