

## L. The Century of Humiliation, Part 3: The Failed Republic, Civil War, and World War

1. After the Chinese Revolution, an American-educated doctor named Sun Yat-sen wanted to create a *republic* (i.e. a government modeled after the American government) for China.
2. Unfortunately, Yuan Shikai hoped to make himself the emperor of a new dynasty. Strangely, both men died a few years apart, leading a great vacuum of power.
3. Two new leaders emerged: a follower of Sun Yat-sen named Chiang Kai-shek, and Mao Zedong, the leader of the communist party.
4. The civil war between these two groups began in **1927** and lasted until **1949**.
5. It was made that much worse by the invasion of China by Japan during **World War II in Asia (1937-45)**, where, at least, the two sides worked together to fight the Japanese.
6. Fortunately for China, Japan was defeated by the United States.
7. In 1949, the communists won the civil war, and Chiang Kai-Shek escaped to the island of Taiwan to establish a separate government which still exists today.
8. Mao Zedong took over the country as the leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and promised the people a modern, scientific benevolent form of despotism based on communism, which came to be known as *Maoism*.



Sun Yat-Sen (left) and Yuan Shikai (right) were the competing leaders of China in and after the *Chinese Revolution of 1911*.



Chiang Kai-Shek (left) and Mao Zedong (right) were the leaders of the two sides in China's civil war (1927-49), which resulted in the triumph of Mao Zedong.

## M. Maoism

1. Maoism was based on two earlier ideas known as Marxism and Leninism.
2. Karl Marx created "Marxism," which imagined a "perfect" society in some far distant future, where he said there would be no private property.
3. In the Russian Revolution of 1917, Vladimir Lenin decided to create that perfect society by force. When Marxism is forced on the people by the government like this, it is called *communism*.
4. Mao Zedong watched as Lenin took over Russia, and he believed that it could work in China too. Part of his reasoning was that Leninism was like a modern kind of Chinese benevolent despotism.

5. From 1958-61, Mao Zedong tried to be a communist benevolent despot. He was convinced he knew how to make China great again, so he ordered the people to do the kinds of work he was sure would produce results. The program was known as “The Great Leap Forward.”
6. A terrible famine was caused because the people were not allowed to grow the food they needed. Historians estimate that **45 million** people died.
7. To make matters worse, Mao blamed the people instead of himself. He said they needed to be “re-educated.” In the “Cultural Revolution” (1966-76) anyone who opposed communism was killed, leading to as many as **20 million more** deaths!
8. Obviously Maoism was *not* benevolent despotism. To avoid a rebellion, something would have to change!