China 1905-1930

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Sun Yat-Sen

- Revolutionary leader.
- Received western education in Honolulu and Hong Kong (medical degree).
- 1895: Plots uprising in Guangzhou. Plot is discovered. Several participants are executed. Sun seeks refuge in Japan.
- From here on he is a revolutionary.
Constitutional Reforms

• Empress Dowager Cixi accepts constitutional reforms.
  – 1905: Delegates are sent abroad to study different types of constitutional government.
  – 1906: Cixi proclaims commitment to principle of constitutionalism.
  – 1907: Court announces that China will have national assembly. Still no clear instructions.
Constitutional Reforms

• August 1908: Draft Constitution is approved.
  – Literally just the Japanese constitution with a few changes.
  – Changes strengthen the emperor and make China less democratic as compared to Japan.
    • Emperor retains all power; executive, legislative, and judicial branches serve advising roles.

• 14 November 1908: Empress Dowager Cixi dies.
Prince Chun

• Post-Cixi’s death, Pu-yi succeeds to the throne.

• Prince Chun (picture to the left) acts as Pu-yi’s regent.

• Will he continue constitutional reforms?
Yuan Shikai

- Elite military mind before Cixi’s death.
- Most top military members are his protégés.
- Helps foreigners put down Boxer rebellion.
- Supportive of Constitutional reforms.
Yuan Shikai

• Dowager Empress Cixi reportedly tells Prince Chun to execute Yuan Shikai after her death.
  – Prince Chun does not execute Shikai, instead orders him to resign from government posts and return “home.”
Constitutional Reforms

• Prince Chun decides to continue constitutional reforms amid civil unrest.

• October 1909: Provincial assemblies organized.
• Late 1909: Federation of Provincial Assemblies forms.
• October 1910: National Assembly convenes.

→ Both provincial and national assemblies demand move towards constitutional government.
Constitutional Reforms

• Prince Chun doesn’t move forward towards constitutional government:
  – Redesigns cabinet with absolutely no guidance of government’s future democratization.
  – Railways become an issue – Chinese citizens begin to see railroads as symbols of imperialism.
  – Chun makes two “mistakes” regarding railroads.
    1. Nationalizes them in 1911.
    2. Takes Western loan to pay for expansion of railways.

→Ultimately these moves are arguable good as they bring RR’s under Chinese control. Unfortunately this is a PR disaster.
Qing Dynasty Falls

- Shikai makes several demands in exchange for help:
  1. Open parliament in 1912.
  2. All revolutionaries receive amnesty.
  3. Revolutionary Alliance is recognized.
  4. Full authority to reorganize military.
  5. Military funding.

→ Manchus meet demands and Yuan is made Prime Minister.
Qing Dynasty Falls

• Numerous revolts begin to occur: April, October, 1911.

• By end of November all provinces south of Great Wall save Henan, Shili, Gansu, and Shandong are independent of Qing Dynasty.

• Manchus turn to Yuan Shikai for help.
The New Republic

- Shikai assumes power and demonstrates his ability to force all provinces to reunite.
  - Compromises with remaining revolutionary provinces.
- Compromise between Shikai and revolutionary provinces requires Qing abdication in exchange for Shikai becoming President.
- Sun Yat-Sen is elected President but concedes post to Shikai after Manchus abdicate power.
The New Republic

The transition from Qing Dynasty to Yuan Shikai is problematic:

– Sun Yat-Sen’s 3-stage method of democratization is not embraced.
  

→ Given local allegiances created during rebellions unification difficult.
The New Republic

• Before Sun Yat-Sen resigns presidency, revolutionaries implement constitution.

• Why does Sun Yat-Sen resign?
  1. Revolutionaries are militarily weak.
  2. Does not want to invite foreign intervention (civil war might give imperialists chance to take advantage of China).
The New Republic?

• Lack of mandated hierarchy makes cabinet/premier/president relationship difficult.
  – Tang Shao-yi is the first Premier. Resigns after three months.
  – Revolutionary members of cabinet resign with Tang and Shikai appoints his own members.
→ 1912/1913 cabinet elections are extremely important.
Song Jiao-ren (1882-1913)

- Organized Guomindang (nationalist party).
- Nationalist party achieves majority status in new parliament.
- Song denounces Yuan’s leadership during campaign for new parliament seats.
- March 1913: Yuan has him assassinated.
Move Towards Autocracy

• Two decisions imply autocratic rule.
  1. Provincial leaders will be members of the military.
  2. Shikai agrees to loan with foreign powers without approval of the parliament.
→ Given lack of support pro-democratic movements fail.
→ Yuan buys his way to dictatorship.
Yuan’s Fall

• Japan becomes large imperial player in China.
• Yuan restores the monarchy.
• After several provinces become independent, Yuan restores constitutional government.

• July 6, 1916: Yuan Shikai is dead.
Warlord Politics (1916-1928)
Reunification

• Chiang Kai-Shek (1887-1975)
• Leads Northern Expedition/Nationalist Party (1926-1928)
• Reunifies China
Mao & Insurgency

• What is the relationship between “people” and guerilla soldiers? Is Mao right?
• Mao says guerilla tactics must have political objectives...is this correct?
• Does the enemy have to be oppressive for guerilla warfare to succeed?
Mao & Insurgency

• Revolutionary wars need guerilla warfare.
• Guerilla warfare should not be the only means of attack – guerillas must work with conventional forces.
• Guerilla warfare is a tactic for weaker actors against stronger actors.
• Oppressive rule creates conditions under which guerilla warfare can succeed.
Mao & Insurgency

• Guerilla warfare fails if...
  1. No political objective
  2. Political goals diverge from people’s goals.
• Guerillas need leaders who are “resolute, loyal, sincere, and robust (Mao, 45).”
• Guerillas must be organized to prevent breakdown of effort.
Mao & Insurgency

• “In guerrilla warfare, select the tactic of seeming to come from the east and attacking from the west; avoid the solid, attack the hollow, attack; withdraw... When guerrillas engage a stronger enemy, they withdraw when he advances; harass him when he stops; strike him when he is weary; pursue him when he withdraws (Mao 46).”
Mao & Insurgency

• Two types of guerilla hostilities:
  1. Those with mass support.
  2. Those without mass support.

• Some say mechanized armies make guerilla warfare useless tactic – Mao disagrees says tactics simply must evolve.
Political Aspects of Guerilla Warfare – Mao

• Guerilla organizations must carry out both military and political objectives.
  – Political ideal must be ingrained in leaders/soldiers. Revolutionary wars are long affairs, there is ample opportunity for allegiances to change.
  – Political goals must be effectively communicated to civilians in fought-over territory.

• “Military action is a method used to attain a political goal. While military affairs and political affairs are not identical, it is impossible to isolate one from the other (89).”
Political Aspects of Guerilla Warfare – Mao

• Three audiences: guerilla fighters (troops), the people, the enemy.
  – Ideology is used amongst all groups to develop coherence/destroy it.

• Discipline amongst guerillas should be internally accepted, external punishment should not be necessary.