

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN CHINA

1918 - First Marxist study group formed in Peking University by Professor Ta-chao.

1918 - COMINTERN established by Lenin in Moscow.

1920 - First COMINTERN agent arrived in China.

1921, July - CCP formally established at its First Congress with Ch'en Tu-hsiu, a college professor, as Secretary General.

1922 - COMINTERN calls for a Kuomintang - Communist "united front".

1923, January - The Kuomintang leader Sun Yat-sen and Comintern agent Joffe issued the united front manifesto in Shanghai.

June - Third Congress of CCP issued manifesto resolving to cooperate with the Kuomintang.

1924, May - Whampao Military Academy established by Comintern agent BORODIN. Accompanying BORODIN from Moscow was a recently trained apprentice COMINTERN revolutionary agent whom we know today under the name of Ho Chi Minh. The Kuomintang's Chiang Kai-shek was the Academy's Commandant and the CCP's Chou En-lai was head of the Political Department.

1925, Summer - Mao Tse-tung and other Communists begin to organize the peasants in Hunan Province. Mao's report on the peasant movement stated that in China the Communist movement should be based in the beginning 70% on the peasants and 30% on industrial workers. He considered the peasants to be the main force in Chinese Communism.

1925 - Sun Yat-sen died. Sun Yat-sen University founded in Moscow with Radek as President. A number of young Chinese Communists were sent to Moscow to study.

1926 - Chiang Kai-shek and the Executive Committee of the Kuomintang issue a resolution barring Communists from top posts in the Kuomintang.

1927, April - Chiang begins anti-Communist fighting.

April - USSR Embassy in Peking is raided.

August - Ch'en Tu-hsiu whose policy is condemned as opportunist is replaced by Chu Ch'iu Pai as Secretary General of the CCP.

August - Nanchang uprising. This uprising was the first large-scale attempt to implement the new Comintern line for China, that the CCP have its own Red Army. Leaders of this army were Ho Lung, Chu Teh, Yeh T'ing and Lin Piao. The uprising, an attempt to capture Nanchang, was a failure.

The real significance of the Nanchang uprising is the fact that it marks the emergence of military power as a factor within the Chinese Communist movement.

September - Comintern sanctions CCP break with Kuomintang. CCP goes "underground".

October - First Chinese Soviets organized by P'eng Pai in Kwangtung. They last until February 23, 1928.

December - Canton Commune, a Communist led insurrection which was ordered directly by Stalin who urgently needed proof for his theory of the rising revolutionary wave in China.

The communists controlled Canton for just a few days, December 11 - 14, were not supported by the urban masses and were inevitably crushed. During its few days of existence the Canton Commune established a Soviet and issued slogans calling for workers' control of production and nationalization of large industries under the leadership of the CCP.

The failure of the Canton Commune was an event of such magnitude that it forced the Comintern to reconsider its party-line in China. It was obviously ridiculous to speak of a "revolutionary upsurge" in China.

December - By the end of 1927 Chiang Kai-shek was in control of South China.

1928 - After many military campaigns Chiang Kai-shek captured Peking and took control of all of China.

May - The Communist armed forces of Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh joined in the mountains in Chingkanshan on the border between Hunan and Kiangsi. Here the two leaders began their development of their Techniques of guerrilla warfare. (Chu Teh had been a military officer of the Kuomintang. He defected to the Reds.)

1929 - Ch'en Tu-hsiu, first Secretary General of the CCP, purged by dismissal from the party! The charge: "opportunism."

1930 - May - The Returned Students came back to China from Moscow. Called the "Twenty-eight Bolsheviks." They were imposed on the CCP leadership by the Kremlin.

December - The bitter struggle for power between Mao Tse-tung on the one hand and the leaders of the Kiangsi Soviet on the other, ends in Mao's arrest of 70 of these Kiangsi leaders and a military attack on the Fut'ien military to liberate them. After considerable bloodshed, the leaders of this revolt were liquidated by Mao. So it is clear that Mao did not achieve his position of preeminence in the CCP without a harsh and bloody struggle for power. After 1931, when his leadership was assured, Mao became more willing to compromise and absorb potential rivals into the Soviet structure rather than destroy them.

1931, June - Wang Ming named Secretary General of the CCP.

November - "The Chinese Soviet Republic" established with headquarters on the border of Kiangsi and Hunan, with Mao Tse-tung as Chairman and Chu Teh as head of the Chinese Red Army. Here we have the emergence of Mao as major leader of the CCP as a civilian leader. (He believed in civilian control over the military, of Party control over the Army.)

1932, February - "Chinese Soviet Republic" declares war on Japan and calls on all groups in China to resist Japanese aggression. (Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek considered the Chinese Communists to be a greater threat to China than the Japanese.)

Autumn - Ch'in Pang-hsien becomes Secretary General of the CCP and Wang Ming becomes China's delegate to the Comintern.

1934, October - Chiang Kai-shek launches his Fifth Extermination campaign against the Soviets in the South. By the strategy of the "closing vise" he finally dislodged the Reds from their southern stronghold. Then began the famous "Long March" from Southeast to Northwest China.

100,000 started the march
20,000 made it

Moscow had ordered the marchers to go to Sinkiang. Mao instead marched to Shensi Province and established his headquarters in Yen-an. Mao established a new Shensi Soviet but it included only the northwest section of Shensi Province.

1936 - Chiang Kai-shek kidnapped and convinced to accept a "united front" with the Communists against the Japanese invaders.

The Communists abolished their Soviet government and established a united front border region government of three provinces. The Red Army under Chu Teh was redesignated the "Eight Route Army."

1939 - The United Front broke down.

1941 - 1945. When the United States came into WW II both the Chinese Communists and the Kuomintang waited and let the United States fight the Japanese

Actually the Japanese had earlier pounded the Kuomintang to

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pieces, thus assuring (though certainly not intentionally) the ultimate control of China by the Communists. Into this vacuum the Communists flowed. The Japanese controlled nothing west of the Peking-Canton line. West of it the Communists were able to continue their training and propaganda unmolested. There was no acute distress in this area and no inflation. The communist leadership was efficient and worked for low salaries.

In the Kuomintang area there was inflation. The public was dissatisfied. Though the Kuomintang had more men under arms than the Communists had, the Kuomintang army was in very poor condition after having been pounded by the Japanese. By paper standards, the Kuomintang looked okay but it was in bad shape.

1945-1949. A terribly complicated period. Stalin believed the CCP had no chance of gaining power. Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai disagreed. They had received significant help from the Russians in the form of arms and ammunition taken from the Japanese by the Russians in Manchuria at the end of WW II.

1949 - Mao Tse-tung won the war against Chiang Kai-shek and took control of China. Chiang fled to Formosa.

For a continuation of this story read Walker, "China Under Communism: The First Five Years." Walker's well documented history of Mao's consolidation of power proves that he was a good student of Lenin and Stalin and their methods of consolidation of power but that he was even more ruthless. He proved himself to be a genuine Communist who believed in the extermination of the opposition. He shed completely his disguise as a mere "agrarian reformer."

"COMMUNISM IS NOT LOVE!" he said. "COMMUNISM IS A HAMMER WE USE TO DESTROY OUR ENEMIES."