

East Asian Studies

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China – Collapse of Chinese Imperial Rule

This lesson will cover the collapse of Chinese imperial rule, the formation of the nationalist and communist parties, and the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on China. This lesson will cover two days.

Guiding Questions

1. What were the problems facing the Republic of China after the overthrow of the Qing dynasty?
2. What factors led to the rise of the Nationalist and Communist parties in China?
3. What key events led to the civil war between the Chinese Communists and Nationalists?
4. In what ways did the Treaty of Versailles contribute to problems in China?
5. What were the effects of the Japanese invasion of China?

Procedures

1. a. Given an outline map of China students will label the map with the following countries, cities, regions, geographic features and waterways, and answer the questions:

Japan	Soviet Union	Mongolia
Tibet	Korea (north & south)	Taiwan
Nepal	Manchuria	China
Qin Mountains	Himalayan Mountains	Kunlun Mountains
Gobi Desert	Pacific Ocean	Sea of Japan
Yellow Sea	Huang He (Yellow River)	Chang Jiang (Yangtze River)
Beijing	Nanjing	Shanghai
Hong Kong	Riujan	Guangzhou
Chongqing	Yan'an	India
Mongolia		

- b. Geography questions:

What peninsula lies between the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan? *Korea*

What island country is east of the above country? *Japan*

What region is found northwest above the Kunlun Mountains? *Manchuria*

Which mountains separate India from China? *Himalayan*

What region is found north of the Himalayas? *Tibet*

What desert lies north of Yellow River? *Gobi*

What region lies north of the above desert? *Mongolia*

- c. Describe two physical factors that limited outside influence on Chinese civilization.

The high mountains surrounding China made it difficult for outsiders to enter.

The desert region contributed to the difficulty of infiltrating China.

The seas and ocean to the east made it difficult for outsiders to enter.

- d. Why were/are the Huang He and Chang Jiang Rivers so important to China's development?

These rivers provided needed water for irrigation for crops and drinking.

These rivers provided a means by which China could unify through river travel, and the trading of goods.

- e. Because Chinese civilization remained isolated for centuries, what attitudes about themselves might the Chinese have developed because of their isolation?

They might believe that outsiders are strange and barbaric.

They might believe that their way of life and culture is superior.

They might believe that there is nothing to learn from, or share with other civilizations.

2. Students will read pages 781 – 784 in their texts and complete the following activities:

Define:

Kuomintang: *groups of Chinese, who formed the Nationalist party and favored modernization and nationalism free from foreign influence. They supported building a modern army and navy, reforming education, and building modern factories.*

Sun Yixian: *He was the first leader of the Nationalist party. He was a physician and was responsible for overthrowing the Qing dynasty. He wanted to establish a modern government based upon “Three Principles of the People”: nationalism – an end to foreign control, people’s rights – democratic government, and people’s livelihood – economic gains for all Chinese. He was not successful and he ruled for six weeks. Later, after western democracies failed to aid the Kuomintang, Sun allied himself with the Communist party.*

Yuan Skikai: *He became new president after Sun. He betrayed the people and ruled as a military dictator. Yuan was not well liked and provincial warlords began taking over. Once again China fell into civil war.*

Mao Zedong: *He was a follower of Marx and Lenin, and became the leader of communist revolution in China. He was one of the greatest revolutionary leaders in China, and was called “The Great Helmsman”.*

May Fourth Movement: *A national movement against the *Treaty of Versailles in which demonstrations of workers, manufacturers, shopkeepers, and professionals spread throughout China. Because the nationalist leaders could not effectively unite the people many turned to the Communist party movement. *The Treaty of Versailles granted German held colonies in China to Japan.*

Jiang Jieshi: *In 1925 he became the new leader of Nationalist Party (Kuomintang). His followers were professionals, and they fought against the Communist party. He was raised on Confucian principles. As the leader of the Nationalists he nearly wiped out the communist party. Many turned against him because of this brutality and failure to do anything for the peasants.*

Long March: *The year long six thousand mile journey of the communist party’s escape from Jiang’s nationalist army.*

3. Make a chart comparing Mao Zedong and Jiang Jieshi in the following areas: party, supporters, reforms, and military actions:

<u>Party</u>	<u>Jiang</u> <i>Nationalist</i>	<u>Mao</u> <i>Communist</i>
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Supporters
Reforms

professionals
modernization of cities

peasants
divided land among
local farmers

Military Actions

defeated warlords

established Red Army

4. Students will complete a cause/effect worksheet on the Collapse of Imperial Rule

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Actions/Events</u>	<u>Effects</u>
<i>Belief by some that China needed to modernize and nationalize</i>	1. Sun's Revolutionary Alliance overthrows the Qing Dynasty	<i>creation of new Republic of China</i> <i>increase in nationalism</i>
<i>Sun lacked support to bring unity</i>	2. Sun turns presidency over to Yuan Shikai	<i>Yuan ruled as dictator – led Civil War</i> <i>Warlords gained revealed Chinese commitment to strengthening China; led to decline in Sun's following and loss of support which went to the new Communist Party</i>
<i>Outrage over Treaty Of Versailles that gave Japan concessions in China</i>	3. May Fourth Movement	<i>purge of Communists: recognition of Nationalists by Great Britain & USA; Civil War</i>
<i>Fear among Kuomintang that Chinese Communists would form a Socialist economy</i>	4. Nationalist forces move into Shanghai	
<i>Need for Communists to escape death by Jiang's forces</i>	5. Communists begin Long March	<i>survival of Mao and other Communists; growth of new members; continuation of Civil War</i>
<i>imperialist policy of Japan weakened China</i>	6. Japan invades Manchuria	<i>death & destruction; Nationalists & Communists joined to fight Japan; beginning of WW II in Asia</i>

5. Students will be divided into five groups of five. Each group will prepare a presentation for the class on one of the following:

Group 1 – will be given a reading on Jiang Jieshi and will prepare an info board that will include Jiang's early life, his beliefs, his challenges, successes, "New Life Movement, loss of support, fight against Japanese, and his loss to the Communists.

Group 2 – will be given a reading of Mao Zedong and will prepare an info board that will include Mao's early life, his beliefs, challenges, successes, and contributing factors to his defeating the nationalists in China.

Group 3 – will reread the text and read the insert in the text on Sun Yixian and prepare an info board that will include Sun's early life, beliefs, challenges, successes, and failure to unite the people and the effects.

Group 4 – will reread the text on the effects of The Treaty of Versailles, the May Fourth Movement, the growth of the Communist party, Lenin's influence, the clash between the Nationalists and Communists, and the peasants and Communists and prepare a time-line, and flow chart on these developments.

Group 5 - will reread the text on the Civil War in China, the Long March, and the Japanese invasion of China and prepare a time-line and flow chart on these developments.

Resources

Beck, Roger B., Linda Black, Larry S. Krieger, Phillip C. Naylor, Dahia Ibo Shabaka,
World History:Patterns of Interaction. Evanston, Illinois. McDougal Littell. 1999.