

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

## **JCC Chinese Civil War**

### **Description of the Topic:**

The beginning of this crucial chapter in Chinese history begins with the fall of the Qing Dynasty. Marked by an outdated Confucius ideology, a failure to adopt modern technology, and shameful concessions to foreign powers, the Qing government was weak and ineffective (The Chinese Revolution of 1911.). This inevitably led to a number of prominent uprisings, including the Boxer Rebellion from 1899 to 1901 (China Profile - Timeline.). These movements helped produce some of China's most prominent leaders. Perhaps the most prominent figure was Sun Yat-Sen who played a prominent role in organizing and leading the revolution against the Qing (The Chinese Revolution of 1911.). Under Sun what would become the Communist and Nationalist parties fought side by side (The Chinese Revolution of 1911.). In 1911 the Qing emperor officially abdicated his throne and in the following year the Republic of China was created with Sun as its provisional president (The Chinese Revolution of 1911.). This was a great victory for the revolutionaries but they were still a long ways away from their goals of creating a strong united China under the three principles of nationalism, democracy, and people's livelihoods (Nationalist Party.). Most of the country was still fragmented and in the hands of rival warlords (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.).

In its battle to reunite China, virtually the only foreign support the Republic of China received was that from Russia. Russia had just undergone a revolution in 1918 organized by Vladimir Lenin and was open to supporting political change in China open to Communist ideals (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). After the Kuomintang (KMT) or

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

Nationalist Party was created in 1919 by Sun Yat-Sen Russia provided them with organizational and strategic support through a political body called the Comintern (Sino-Soviet Relations.). The KMT was not a Communist party but Russia's support stemmed from the fact that many of its members had Socialist tendencies and that at its core the KMT was anti-imperialist. Stalin supported the bourgeoisie revolution led by the KMT, believing China was not yet ready for a full Communist one, but he still saw it as a vital part of the global Socialist revolution movement (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). In 1920, Russia sent representatives from the Comintern to aid in the creation of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP was created with virtually the same structure as the Bolshevik party in Russia, emulating its top down command structure (Sino-Soviet Relations.)(Chinese Communist Party.). Under orders from Lenin the CCP joined forces with the KMT in order to bolster the KMT's strength as it struggled to regain control from the warlords (Chinese Communist Party.).

This alliance originally benefited both parties however, tensions started to rise in 1925 after the death of Sun Yat-Sen (Chinese Communist Party.). Control of the KMT was passed to Chaing Kai-Shek who launched a military campaign known as the Northern Expedition to reunite to warlord regions (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). This period from 1925 to 1927 marked the peak of cooperation between the CCP and KMT, leading to a number of impressive military victories and the successful unification of half of China under Nationalist control. However, in 1927, with his triumphs secured, Chaing Kai-Shek split ties with the CCP claiming they were too radical (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). During the Northern Expedition, the CCP had organized an uprising and took

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

Shanghai from the inside. When Chaing entered the city with his troops he ordered them to slaughter the Communists in a brutal massacre that would become known as the Shanghai Massacre or the White Terror (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.).

After this horrific event the CCP fled but in 1929 Comunist forces under the command of Mao Zedong and Zhu De established a base in Ruijin, Jiangxi province. The Communists used their base in Jiangxi to establish the Hunan Soviet and carry out a strategy called the Li Lisan Line to organize uprisings in and captures urban centers (Chinese Revolution Timeline.). These uprisings were not supported by Mao because they went against his strategy of radicalizing the peasantry and they ultimately failed. To make the situation worse, Moa his wife is subjected to torture by the nationalists in November and a regiment mutinies from the red army in December, an event that would become known as the Futian Incident (Chinese Revolution Timeline.). In January of the following year, the CCP came under the control of Wang Ming, Bo Gu and the 28 Bolsheviks, but in November the CCP forces in Jinxiang created Chinese Socialist Republic with Mao Zedong as its chairman (Chinese Revolution Timeline.). From 1931 to 1933 the Nationalists carried out a number of Encirclement campaigns to defeat the Jinxiang forces. The first four were failures for the KMT but in the 5th campaign the chairman of the Nationalist government recruited a number of warlord armies and used them to push back the Comunist forces (Chinese Revolution Timeline.). It became clear that the Communists could no longer hold onto Jinxiang and information supplied by Zhou Enlai's spies in the Nationalist government revealed that the Nationalist forces were planning a massive attack on Ruijin (Chinese Revolution Timeline.).

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

In order to avoid a total defeat it was necessary for the Jinxiang forces to make the long march to Sichuan to meet up with the CCP's other contingent. Currently, the Nationalist government is far better equipped and has recognition from the majority of influential foreign powers (Chinese Revolution Timeline.). Meanwhile, a rift has opened between Moscow and the CCP (Sino-Soviet Relations.). After the Shanghai Massacre Joseph Stalin chose to ignore the atrocities rather than denounce the KMT in order to avoid criticism over his Chinese policy. This meant that the CCP was going against Moscow's orders when it split from the Nationalists (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). More prominently, however, the rift existed due to an ideological disagreement and personal feud between Stalin and Mao. Stalin believed that China was not yet ready for a Socialist revolution while Mao felt disrespected and believed it was possible through the peasantry rather than the working class (Sino-Soviet Relations.).

The situation may look bleak but this is not to say that the Communists are without hope. The Nationalists may be better equipped but the CCP inspires a far greater support among its forces and the peasantry (Chinese Communist Party.). By contrast, the KMT has shown to be corrupt and Chiang's consolidation of power have alienated a faction of his supporters who feel the National government is moving in the Direction of a fascist dictatorship (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). In 1931 Japan invaded and captured Manchuria. The burden of this invasion has so far fallen mostly on the Nationalists but Japan is still a foreign power hated by both factions and it may be necessary to even join forces with the Nationalists to defeat them (Chinese Revolution Timeline.). Meanwhile, half of China is still split among

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

feuding warlords who must be conquered if a unified China is ever to be realized (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.).

**My Position:**

As Commissar of the Eighth Route Army and a loyal member of the Chinese Communist Party, I, Deng Xioping, am fully dedicated to defeating the Kuomintang and all other hostile forces that seek to dominate China in order to unite this great nation under one glorious Communist government. I was born on August 22, 1904 in Sichuan Province (Holley). At the age of 16, I went with 90 other chines students to work and study in France. The Republic of China had been created only 9 years earlier and was still in a period of turmoil and uncertainty. My mission was to bring back the necessary skills and ideas for modernization that only a Western education could provide (Holley). While in France, I worked as a laborer in Le Creusot Iron and Steel Plant, as a fireman, amd as a kitchen helper. During this time I was exposed to and was able to understand the struggle of the working class within Europe that make up the foundations of Western Communism (Deng Xiaoping.). While still in France, I studied Marxism and helped write and distribute political propaganda under Zhou Shiyan and Zhou Enlai. These connections especially with Zhou Enlai have proved vital in my advancement through the CCP over the years (Deng Xiaoping.). In 1922, while still in France, I joined the Chinese Communist Youth League in Europe and quickly became one of the leading members. In 1923 I joined the Nationalist party on orders from Moscow and in 1924 I officially joined the Chinese Communist Party (Deng Xiaoping.). I then studied Marxism in Moscow for a year alongside other young

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

prominent Chinese revolutionist figures such as Chiang Ching-kuo before returning to southern China in 1927 (Holley).

Originally I led the political department of Feng Yuxiang, a Nationalist military leader and prominent ally of the Bolsheviks in China (Benton). After the unjust betrayal of the Communists at the hands of the KMT I fled to Shanghai where I did secretarial work in order to help organize the underground party (Benton). In 1929 I was given the title of political commissar and led an uprising in Guangxi province. This uprising ultimately failed and we were forced to retreat to the Jiangxi mountains to meet up with the larger forces of Mao Zedong (Holley). During the uprising, I attempted to utilize guerilla tactics in a similar fashion as Mao had on previous occasions, but my political rivals took the opportunity of my defeat to denounce me and my tactics. At this time I was briefly stripped of my offices, but I was able to regain power through a new relationship with Mao Zedong and my connections with Zhou Enlai from our time in France (Holley). I fought bravely alongside my fellow comrades in the defence of Jinxiang, but it became clear we could not maintain our position. Currently we are on a long march to Sichuan. Ill-equipped and undersupplied, we are at our most vulnerable state, and it is paramount that we meet up with Communist forces in the Sichuan before the Nationalists can fully exploit our situation.

The Republic of China under the KMT is a corrupt and ineffective body. The CCP must gain control and unite China if we are ever to move forward. I strongly believe that the Communist revolution is inseparable from our general Mao Zedong (Benton). He has shown himself to be a great military strategist and unparalleled champion of the party. He is an inspiring

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

reformer and I agree with his principles of New Democracy (Benton). This is not to say, however, that I support him blindly in all things. His land reforms have greatly benefited our cause by raising support among the peasant class but I also believe it is necessary to focus more on the intellectuals and working class China's cities. Many of them feel alienated by Chaing's recent moves towards a dictatorship and it makes sense both militarily and for the good of China's future to include them in the revolution (The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949.). I also believe that we must repair relations with the west. The USSR is our only major foreign ally, and we must be able to capitalize on this relationship in order to gain support and international recognition.

### **Solutions:**

At this current point in time, the most important aspect of the CCP's military strategy is to maintain the strength and number of its forces throughout the long march. It is crucial that we avoid conflict with the Nationalist forces until we can reach a more favorable position in Sichuan. In order to support our forces along the way I believe the best approach would be to radicalize the peasants when possible to petition them for food and add new members to our forces but also use violence to directly acquire supplies when that isn't sufficient.

Once we regroup with the CCP forces in it is necessary that we spend all available resources to grow our ranks and secure access to modern military technology. We need to branch out and lead peasant uprisings in the surrounding regions, particularly in western China and inner Mongolia, in order to replenish our depleted ranks. We need to stay mobile in these operations

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

and concentrate in the rural regions in order to avoid KMT forces. When possible it is crucial to make allies with local warlords for our cause but at the same time we need to establish a connection with their forces through political propaganda in order to secure their continued support even without the words themselves. While building our ranks we should avoid direct confrontation and instead pursue a strategy of guerrilla warfare in order to attack supply lines and crucial Nationalist controlled assets while minimizing our own casualties. Using my connections with Zhoé Enli and his spies within the KMT leadership I can lead strategic attacks on vulnerable industrial and military assets in order to further the revolution and build my own reputation as a competent leader within the party.

Once we have built up a sizable force to secure our position within the region, the next step is to equip them with modern technology. The Nationalists currently have far superior weapons due to their control of the majority of China's industrial centers. In order to shift this balance, I propose the organization of a series of worker uprisings within major cities. I can use my skills gained in France as an organizer and propagandist to spearhead these uprisings and radicalize both the working class and intellectuals who feel alienated by Chaing kai-Shek. I've learned from the CCPs previous attempts to take control of cities in this manner that it does not always last. I would implement this strategy by targeting cities in a way that will allow the Red Army to take control of productive regions when possible and when out of their reach simply cause economic havoc for the Nationalists in order to disrupt and destroy their supply chains and military industrial centers. I also propose carrying out a series of targeted political assassinations on prominent heads of the economy and military within the KMT to make them more



Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

disorganized and less responsive to an attack. A weakened economy will also help destroy their legitimacy and alienate the working class even more. Along with a vicious political propaganda campaign exposing corruption, ineffectiveness, and fascist tendencies within the KMT could be a great opportunity to inspire mass defections from the Nationalist forces.

The Japanese invasion of Manchuria also provides an interesting opportunity. If they launch another invasion into the heart of China, and I suspect they will, I believe it might be wise to consider proposing a truce with the Nationalists to fight the common foe. Because the Nationalists have a numerically stronger and formidable military centered closer to the coast the burden of fighting a Japanese invasion will undoubtedly fall more heavily on them. Meanwhile, the CCP would be able to use the temporary truce to consolidate its forces and branch out its presence in Nationalist controlled territories.

Another key aspect of an alliance against the Japanese would be taking back control of the industrial facilities in Manchuria. If we focus on the North and establish a strong presence in its rural regions then we can conduct guerrilla warfare against the Japanese and take advantage of damage done to Japan by the Nationalists or the US to seize important industries and cities while their forces are split on multiple fronts. If we leverage our own forces in inner Mongolia to capture the more rural west of Manchuria and then move in towards the coast once the Japanese are less equipped to supply it by sea. During this process an emphasis should also be put on capturing Japanese military tech, as they are the only Asian nation to really have industrialized, providing them with superior weapons. In addition, I could use my connections within prominent cities made through organizing uprisings to turn any military failures or atrocities at the hands of

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

the Nationalists into propaganda tools, with the focus of delegitimizing the KMT and encouraging defection.

Lastly, I think one crucial part of any Communist strategy is to repair ties with the USSR. We may have our political differences, but they are the only foreign power in opposition to support us militarily. They are an industrial powerhouse with advanced skills in military strategy and organization. We will need this support if we are ever to stand a chance at unifying China and securing international recognition. Repairing this relationship would include closer relations with the Comintern, a political agreement between Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong, and possibly the establishment of some Soviet institutions. Some may view this as a move towards the imperialist foreign control of China that marked the Qing dynasty but in the short term, it will be our only option.

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.  
Albany High School  
The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

### Work Cited

Benton, Gregor. "Assessing Deng Xiaoping." *Jacobin*,

[www.jacobinmag.com/2019/01/deng-xiaoping-china-mao-communist-party](http://www.jacobinmag.com/2019/01/deng-xiaoping-china-mao-communist-party).

"China Profile - Timeline." *BBC News*, BBC, 29 July 2019,

[www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13017882](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13017882).

"Chinese Communist Party." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 18 July

2016, [www.britannica.com/topic/Chinese-Communist-Party](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Chinese-Communist-Party).

"The Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communism to 1949." Edited by Dan Bays and Terry

Weidner, *Anna Cienciala*,

[acienciala.faculty.ku.edu/communistnationssince1917/ch9.html](http://acienciala.faculty.ku.edu/communistnationssince1917/ch9.html).

"The Chinese Revolution of 1911." *Office of the Historian*, U.S. Department of State,

[history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/chinese-rev](http://history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/chinese-rev).

"Chinese Revolution Timeline - 1928 to 1949." *Chinese Revolution*, 23 Aug. 2018,

[alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/chinese-revolution-timeline-1928-1949/](http://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/chinese-revolution-timeline-1928-1949/).

"Deng Xiaoping." *New World Encyclopedia*, . 26 Oct 2017, 18:26 UTC. 7 Nov 2019, 07:48

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/p/index.php?title=Deng\\_Xiaoping&oldid=1007408](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/p/index.php?title=Deng_Xiaoping&oldid=1007408)

.

Holley, David, et al. "Deng Never Lost Sight of Goal to Reform Chinese Economy." *Los Angeles*

*Times*, Los Angeles Times, 20 Feb. 1997,

[www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1997-02-20-mn-30650-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1997-02-20-mn-30650-story.html).

Deng Xiaoping: Commissar of the Eighth Route Army.

Albany High School

The Chinese Civil War JCC: Communists

"Nationalist Party." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 5 Feb. 2019,

[www.britannica.com/topic/Nationalist-Party-Chinese-political-party](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Nationalist-Party-Chinese-political-party).

"Sino-Soviet Relations." *Alpha History*, 26 June 2019,

[alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/sino-soviet-relations/](http://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/sino-soviet-relations/).