

The Chinese civil war was fought between the Kuomintang (KMT) lead government and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in two phases. The first phase lasted between 1927 to 1937. In 1937, Japanese forces invaded China which led to a truce between KMT and CCP to fight a common enemy. After the end of world war II in 1945, the second phase of Chinese Civil war started which continued till 1949.

The Chinese Revolution refers to the second phase of Chinese Civil War (1945-49) in which the **KMT regime of Chiang was overthrown by CCP led by Mao Zedong in 1949** and established the People's Republic of China. The prevailing political and social circumstances in China were responsible for Chinese revolution.

Since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1911 **no stable government** was formed which had the time and opportunity **to reform China and improve the lives** of people. The **Japanese attack** on Manchuria and Western China in the 1930's and 40's **further deteriorated** the quality of life and popularity of KMT. Majority of China was agrarian and the **promises** of Mao to initiate radical **agrarian reforms**, especially the end of feudalism, made the chances bleak for Chiang Kai Shek.

China was **politically unstable** because of the civil war. In 1911, the **Manchu dynasty** was overthrown and the **Kuomintang regime (KMT) of Dr. Sun Yat Sen was established**. But the new government soon lost power and provincial leaders declared themselves independent. The era between 1916 to 1928 is called the **war-lord era** when there was no political unity and provinces were fighting among themselves. **Chinese Communist Party** was established in **1921**. During the initial years KMT and CCP both got support from peasants and workers and they cooperated to end the warlord era.

KMT under Chiang Kai Shek gradually established control over most of China and became strong enough to do without CCP support and **started a purge against communists** in China. This led to the beginning of **Chinese civil war** between KMT and CCP. **Communist under Mao Zedong** reacted vigorously and embarked on the **6000-mile-long march** to establish power centre in northern China and brought many areas under communist control.

CCP got support of the people because:

1. The Chinese society was **hierarchical** and the Chinese **economy was predominantly agricultural**. Crafts were practiced with primitive and outdated techniques. Chinese **peasants** bore the **heavy burden of taxation**. Communist ideology of Mao attracted the underprivileged masses.
2. The **KMT government** was **inefficient and corrupt**. Chiang Kai Shek's policies were strongly **anti-communist, pro rich landlords and businessmen** which was disliked by working class, labourers and peasants. On the other hand, the **CCP administration was disciplined and honest**.
3. The condition of workers and peasants in areas which were **under the communist control was much better** than in areas under the KMT regime. **For example:** CCP seized the estates of rich landlords and distributed them among the poor farmers.