

1. Chinese Factions

1. Kuomintang (KMT) - Sun Yat-sen's Faction

- **Role: Sun Yat-sen (Leader)**
- **Role: KMT Military Leaders/Supporters (Delegates representing military commanders loyal to KMT)**

2. Kuomintang (KMT) - Yuan Shikai's Faction

- **Role: Yuan Shikai (Leader)**
- **Role: Yuan's Military Commanders/Political Allies**

3. Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

- **Role: Mao Zedong (Leader)**
- **Role: CCP Military Commanders/Political Allies (Delegates representing emerging CCP power)**

4. Warlord Faction - Anhui Clique

- **Role: Duan Qirui (Leader)**
- **Role: Anhui War Council Members (Military and political leadership of the Anhui clique)**

5. Warlord Faction - Zhili Clique

- **Role: Feng Yuxiang (Leader)**
- **Role: Zhili Military Commanders (Military and political leadership of the Zhili clique)**

6. Warlord Faction - Fengtian Clique

- **Role: Zhang Zuolin (Leader)**
- **Role: Fengtian Military Commanders (Military and political leadership of the Fengtian clique)**

7. Peasant Faction

- **Role: Rural Revolutionary Leaders (Representing peasant uprisings and rural interests during the civil war)**

8. Southern Regional Faction

- **Role: Local Leaders from Guangdong and other southern provinces (Aligning with Sun Yat-sen's vision for a united republic)**

9. Northern Warlord Leaders (Independently Aligned)

- **Role: Various influential regional warlords (Leading independent factions that resist both the KMT and CCP)**

2. Foreign Powers

10. United States (US)

- **Role: US Ambassador to China (Represents US political and economic interests)**
- **Role: US Military Attaché (Advising KMT and monitoring CCP and warlord activities)**

11. United Kingdom (UK)

- **Role: British Diplomat in China (Represents British colonial and trade interests in China)**
- **Role: British Military Advisor (Assisting KMT, monitoring the region for strategic interests)**

12. Japan

- **Role: Japanese Diplomat (Representing Japanese imperial interests in China, especially in Manchuria)**
- **Role: Japanese Military Commanders (Japan's military presence in Manchuria and influence in Chinese politics)**

13. Russia (Soviet Union)

- **Role: Soviet Ambassador to China (Engaged with the CCP and supporting socialist movements in China)**
- **Role: Soviet Military Advisors (Providing military support to the CCP during early stages of the civil war)**

14. Germany

- **Role: German Diplomat (Representing Germany's interests in China, especially in Manchuria)**
- **Role: German Military Advisors (Offering training and military strategy support to KMT)**

15. France

- **Role: French Diplomat (Managing French colonial interests in China, such as in Indochina)**
- **Role: French Military Advisors (Assisting KMT with military tactics and organization)**

16. Italy

- **Role: Italian Diplomat (Mediating between Western powers and China)**
- **Role: Italian Military Attaché (Assisting with military strategy, acting as a neutral third party)**

3. Additional Roles

17. Nationalist Student Movements

- **Role: Student Leaders (Representing the rising nationalist movements within universities and intellectual circles)**

18. Foreign Merchants in China

- **Role: Foreign Business Leaders (Representing the economic interests of foreign business groups in China)**

19. Intellectuals and Reformers

- **Role: Reformist Intellectuals (Supporting social, political, and economic reforms within China)**

20. International Press Corps

- **Role: Foreign Journalists (Representing the global press, reporting on the events of the civil war and Japan's growing influence)**

Topic 1: Resolving Peace and Forming a State After the Fall of the Qing Dynasty

Introduction

In 1911, after centuries of imperial rule, the **Qing Dynasty** collapsed, and China was faced with the difficult challenge of forming a new government. The overthrow of the Qing, led by revolutionary figures like **Sun Yat-sen**, was supposed to usher in a new era of peace and unity for China. However, instead of unity, the country was plunged into chaos, as powerful groups and military leaders—each with their own vision for the future—fought for control.

This period after the fall of the Qing was full of political struggles, social divisions, and the rise of different factions, each believing they had the right solution for China's problems. The new government, the **Republic of China**, was supposed to represent the people's will, but the reality was much more complicated. At the heart of this struggle were the **Kuomintang (KMT)**, the **warlords**, and the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)**, each with conflicting ideas about what the future of China should look like. Foreign powers, including **Japan** and Western nations like the **United States**, also had their own interests in China, which further complicated efforts to unify the country.

This simulation will allow delegates to take on the roles of these various factions, from the military leaders of the **warlord** factions to the political figures of the **KMT** and **CCP**, as well as representatives from **foreign nations** who had strong influence in China at the time. The challenge will be to navigate the tensions between unity and division, democracy and authoritarianism, independence and foreign control, all while trying to create a stable and unified nation.

Historical Context

The End of the Qing Dynasty

For over 200 years, the **Qing Dynasty** ruled China as an imperial monarchy, but by the early 1900s, it was clear that the country was falling behind the rest of the world. China was weak and divided, with foreign countries like **Britain**, **Germany**, and **Japan** controlling parts of its territory, or influencing its politics and economy. There were widespread calls for reform and modernization, but the Qing government, led by **Emperor Puyi**, was too weak to make the necessary changes. This created an environment where revolutionary movements, including the **Kuomintang (KMT)**, gained support.

In **1911**, a revolution broke out, led by people who wanted to replace the monarchy with a republic. The revolutionaries were inspired by **Sun Yat-sen**, a doctor who had lived abroad and was passionate about creating a modern, democratic China. He founded the **KMT** with the goal of overthrowing the Qing Dynasty and establishing a new government based on the **Three Principles of the People**: nationalism, democracy, and the livelihood of the people.

However, after the **Qing Emperor Puyi** abdicated in early **1912**, the new Republic of China was not fully stable. While Sun Yat-sen was elected as the provisional president, he lacked the military power to enforce his rule. **Yuan Shikai**, a powerful general in the Qing army, was invited to take over the presidency. Yuan, who had been a key figure in supporting the Qing Dynasty, was seen as a strong leader, but his leadership soon revealed deep flaws.

The Warlord Era

By **1916**, after **Yuan Shikai** declared himself emperor (which was met with backlash), he died. This left China in a state of political fragmentation and uncertainty, as no single faction was strong enough to control the entire country. This led to the rise of **regional warlords**—military leaders who controlled different parts of China with their own armies and resources. These warlords were more interested in maintaining their own power than uniting China under a single government, and they often fought among themselves for control of key regions. The government in Beijing, led by the **KMT** or other factions, was weak, and the warlords practically ruled their territories as independent states.

One of the most significant of these warlords was **Zhang Zuolin** of the **Fengtian Clique**, who controlled the region of **Manchuria** in the northeast. Zhang's clique often had connections with **Japan**, which had imperial ambitions in the region, making Zhang's faction crucial for understanding the complex relationships between Chinese leaders and foreign powers. Another powerful warlord, **Duan Qirui** of the **Anhui Clique**, controlled parts of northern China and was a key figure in the struggle for power after **Yuan's death**. The warlords were not unified, and each had different visions for China's future. Some were more open to working with the **KMT**, while others resisted it.

The Rise of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

Amid this chaos, another force began to emerge—the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)**. The CCP was initially weak and fragmented, but it gained strength by appealing to the rural peasants and workers who were suffering under the warlord system. The **CCP**, led by **Mao Zedong** and others, advocated for land reforms, better living conditions for peasants, and a government that would serve the common people.

While the **KMT** under **Sun Yat-sen** sought to modernize China through a republican system, the **CCP** wanted to build a communist society, inspired by **Marxist-Leninist** ideas.

In 1924, the **KMT** and the **CCP** formed an alliance known as the **First United Front**. The goal of this alliance was to **defeat the warlords** and **unify China** under a republican system. However, tensions quickly grew between the two groups due to their differing ideologies and political goals. The **CCP** wanted a socialist revolution, while the **KMT**, under **Chiang Kai-shek** (who later emerged as the leader of the KMT), was more focused on nationalism and unity, sometimes at the expense of **communist ideals**.

The Role of Foreign Powers in the Conflict

In addition to the internal struggles between the **KMT**, the **CCP**, and the **regional warlords**, **foreign powers** played a significant role in shaping the events of early 20th-century China.

Japan, in particular, had its own imperial ambitions in China. Japan had been expanding its influence in the region for years and sought to take control of strategic areas such as **Manchuria**. **Zhang Zuolin**, the leader of the **Fengtian Clique**, was one of the most powerful warlords in northern China and had strong ties to Japan. Japanese leaders saw the turmoil in China as an opportunity to extend their reach, using Zhang and other warlords as puppets to further their goals.

Britain and **France** were also heavily involved in China, particularly in regions like **Shanghai** and **Hong Kong**, where they had **economic interests**. These Western powers were focused on maintaining access to **China's markets**, which were critical to their own economic expansion. While **Britain** was less directly involved in the internal conflict, it still had significant political influence, particularly in supporting the **KMT** as the recognized government in China.

The **United States** was also interested in China as a market for American goods and a potential trading partner. American diplomats and business leaders were involved in negotiations, often acting as intermediaries between different factions. The United States' primary concern was maintaining a stable, open China where it could continue its **economic dealings**.

Russia, at this time still under the control of the **Soviet Union**, saw an opportunity to spread **communism** in Asia. The Soviets were particularly supportive of the **CCP** and its Marxist ideology, offering military support and advice to the fledgling communist movement. The **Soviet Union** viewed China as a critical battleground in the global struggle between capitalism and communism.

Key Issues for Discussion

1. How Can China Be Unified?

- The main question facing the delegates will be how to unify China, which is divided by both **internal factions** and **foreign influence**. The **warlords** are fragmented and often in conflict with each other. Some factions, such as the **KMT** and **CCP**, may share common goals, but

their **ideologies** differ significantly. How can they work together—or should they? What compromises must be made to achieve national unity?

2. What Kind of Government Should China Have?

- The **KMT** believes in creating a republic where power is centralized and the government is based on **democratic principles**, but **Sun Yat-sen's** vision was not universally accepted, especially by military leaders like **Yuan Shikai**. On the other hand, the **CCP** envisions a **communist society** that prioritizes the **peasants** and **workers**, advocating for radical land reforms. What kind of political system should be established? Should China be a democratic republic, or should it follow a more socialist model?

3. How Should Foreign Influence Be Handled?

- **Foreign powers** like **Japan**, **Britain**, and the **United States** have a significant presence in China, both politically and economically. Japan, in particular, has imperial ambitions in **Manchuria**, while the **United States** is interested in maintaining trade relations. How should China respond to these foreign powers? Should China focus on **self-reliance** and resist foreign influence, or should it seek **alliances** to stabilize its position internationally?

4. Social and Economic Reforms

- China is a deeply **divided society**, with **rich elites** in urban centers and **poor peasants** in the countryside. The **KMT** and **CCP** both promise reforms, but they differ on what should be done. The **KMT** is more focused on building a modern economy and military, while the **CCP** calls for land redistribution to **improve the lives of peasants**. How can China address the needs of both the urban elites and the rural poor?

Committee Vision

The Crisis Directors envision this committee as a space where delegates will represent the major factions vying for control of China. Each faction has its own vision for China's future, whether it be through **republican nationalism**, **communism**, or **regional power**. Delegates will need to navigate these different interests, form alliances, and make difficult decisions to move China toward a stable and unified government. The challenge will be to balance the **competing visions** of China's political future while addressing **foreign influence**, **internal conflict**, and **social reform**.

Delegates will have to think strategically about how to unite the country, how to address the challenges posed by both the **KMT** and the **CCP**, and how to navigate the political and military forces of the **warlords**. They will also need to make decisions about how to handle the **foreign powers** that have a vested interest in China's future. The ultimate goal will be to find a way to create a stable and unified China that can stand independently on the world stage.

Topic 2: The Japanese Invasion of China and the Final Stages of the Chinese Civil War

Introduction

In the 1930s, China was already embroiled in internal conflict between the **Kuomintang (KMT)**, the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)**, and a multitude of **regional warlords**. Yet, this period of internal strife would soon be overshadowed by the **Japanese invasion of China**, which dramatically altered the course of Chinese history. Starting with the **Japanese occupation of Manchuria** in 1931, Japan's aggressive expansion into Chinese territory escalated over the following years, culminating in full-scale invasion in 1937, marking the beginning of the **Second Sino-Japanese War**, which would later merge into the larger **World War II** conflict.

During this turbulent time, both the **KMT** and the **CCP** were forced to confront the Japanese threat, despite their deep internal divisions. The **KMT**, under **Chiang Kai-shek**, struggled to maintain control and national unity while fighting the external enemy, while the **CCP**, led by **Mao Zedong**, seized the opportunity to expand its influence in rural areas through **guerrilla warfare** against the Japanese occupation.

However, even as the Japanese invasion strained China's unity, the struggle between the **KMT** and **CCP** continued. The final stages of the **Chinese Civil War** were approaching, as the **KMT** and **CCP** would eventually resume their fight for dominance after the Japanese were repelled, leading to a new chapter in China's revolution.

This simulation will see delegates representing both **Chinese factions** and **foreign powers**, who will play a critical role in shaping the outcome of both the war with Japan and the ultimate resolution of the civil war. The challenge will be to navigate a complex geopolitical and domestic landscape, balancing military strategy with the need for political unity.

Historical Context

The Japanese Invasion of China (1931-1937)

Japan's aggressive expansion into China began in 1931 with the **Japanese invasion of Manchuria**, a region in the northeastern part of China rich in resources. Japan justified its actions with claims of self-defense and the need to secure its economic interests in the region. By 1932, Japan had established the puppet state of **Manchukuo**, controlled by the **Japanese Kwantung Army**. This move was condemned by China and the international community, but little action was taken to reverse it.

The invasion of Manchuria marked the beginning of a long period of **Japanese aggression** toward China. In **1937**, Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China, beginning with the **Marco Polo Bridge Incident**, which served as the pretext for the conflict. This event sparked the **Second Sino-Japanese War**, which would last until 1945 and be integrated into the larger context of **World War II**.

At the start of the war, China was not united, and the **KMT** government, led by **Chiang Kai-shek**, was in a precarious position. Chiang's **KMT**, while recognized by foreign governments as the legitimate government of China, was militarily weakened by its ongoing conflict with the **CCP** and the internal divisions among various **warlord factions**. The **CCP**, led by **Mao Zedong**, focused on a **guerrilla campaign** against the Japanese, gaining the support of many peasants who were tired of both Japanese occupation and the KMT's ineffective leadership.

The Japanese military engaged in widespread atrocities during the invasion, including the infamous **Nanking Massacre** in 1937, where tens of thousands of Chinese civilians were killed. The brutal nature of the invasion fueled **Chinese resistance** and brought some degree of cooperation between the **KMT** and the **CCP**, although the underlying ideological and political differences between the two factions remained.

The KMT and CCP's Response to the Japanese Invasion

Both the **KMT** and the **CCP** recognized the threat posed by Japan, but their responses differed. **Chiang Kai-shek** focused on maintaining control of China's major cities, including the capital, **Nanjing**, and engaged in direct military conflict with the Japanese forces. However, Chiang's forces were stretched thin, and despite receiving some military support from the **United States** and **the Soviet Union**, the KMT's ability to defend China was hampered by its weak military infrastructure and internal political divisions.

On the other hand, the **CCP**, under **Mao Zedong**, took a different approach. Mao's forces conducted **guerrilla warfare** in the countryside, engaging in smaller, more flexible military actions against the Japanese, often in collaboration with local villagers. The CCP's efforts were particularly effective in regions like **Shanxi**, where they built a strong base of support among the peasants. While the KMT struggled with conventional warfare and maintaining control over urban centers, the CCP won the hearts and minds of many Chinese who were tired of both the corruption and inefficiency of the KMT government.

For much of the war, the **First United Front**—the temporary alliance between the **KMT** and **CCP**—held, despite deep-seated tensions. This fragile cooperation was necessary for the survival of China as a nation, but both factions continued to see the other as a rival for control of the country. The KMT, despite its position as the official government, was unable to claim sole authority in many areas of the country due to the growing influence of the CCP and the ongoing threat of Japanese occupation.

The Turning Point: Japanese Defeat and the Resumption of Civil War

By 1945, Japan's defeat in World War II and the eventual surrender of the **Empire of Japan** brought an end to its occupation of China. The **KMT** had received considerable aid from the **United States** during the war, but the **KMT** was severely weakened by its long conflict with both Japan and the **CCP**. The **CCP**, meanwhile, had gained significant popularity and military strength through its resistance efforts, especially in rural areas.

Once Japan was defeated, the **KMT** and **CCP** resumed their **civil war**. The **CCP**, now significantly stronger, capitalized on the KMT's weakened position, both militarily and politically. **Mao Zedong** and his forces began to push the **KMT** out of the countryside and launched a series of successful offensives in the **north** and **east** of China. The **KMT**, under **Chiang Kai-shek**, was now forced to defend the cities and the urban elite, but they were stretched thin and had limited support from their wartime allies, especially as **the Soviet Union** began to shift its support toward the **CCP**.

The Taiwan Question After the Conflict

As the **CCP** gained power and control over mainland China, the **KMT** was forced to retreat to **Taiwan** (then called **Formosa**). By **1949**, **Mao Zedong** declared the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** on the mainland, effectively ending the **Chinese Civil War** and establishing communist rule. The **KMT**, led by **Chiang Kai-shek**, maintained that they were the legitimate government of all China and retreated to Taiwan, where they established a government-in-exile.

The question of **Taiwan's future** became a major point of tension between the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** and the **Republic of China (ROC)** on Taiwan. The **PRC** claimed Taiwan as part of its territory and insisted that it would eventually reunify Taiwan with the mainland. The **KMT**, on the other hand, continued to claim sovereignty over all of China, despite its loss of mainland control.

The **Taiwan question** remains a significant issue in international politics. Over the years, the **United States** and other countries have shifted their recognition between the **PRC** and the **ROC**. In 1971, the **United Nations** recognized the **PRC** as the legitimate representative of China, and many countries followed suit, recognizing Beijing's authority. However, Taiwan, under the **KMT** and later its own democratic governments, continued to function as a separate entity.

For China, Taiwan is seen as a vital piece of its national identity and territorial integrity. For the **KMT**, Taiwan remains the seat of their government and the symbol of their political resistance to communist rule on the mainland.

The Role of Foreign Powers in the Conflict

As with the earlier stages of the **Chinese Civil War**, foreign powers played a significant role during this period.

1. **Japan**: The **Japanese Empire** was the primary external aggressor during the **Second Sino-Japanese War**. Japan sought to expand its imperialist ambitions in **China** and beyond, and its military occupation had devastating effects on Chinese civilians. Despite Japan's defeat, its earlier support of certain warlords and regional factions created lasting tensions, particularly in **Manchuria**. After Japan's defeat in 1945, the **KMT** found itself dealing with the remnants of Japanese influence, particularly in Manchuria, where Japanese military forces had once supported warlord **Zhang Zuolin**.

2. **The United States:** Throughout the war, the **United States** supported the **KMT**, providing **military aid** and **advisors** to help combat Japanese forces. However, after the war, the **U.S.** faced increasing disillusionment with **Chiang Kai-shek's** leadership, and a shift began to favor a **more cooperative approach** between the **U.S.** and the **CCP**, which was increasingly seen as a **stronger ally** against the **Soviet Union** in the context of the Cold War.
 3. **The Soviet Union:** The **Soviets** were a major player in China's post-war struggles. Initially, the **Soviet Union** supported the **CCP**, providing both **military assistance** and **political support**. After Japan's defeat, the Soviet Union also played a critical role in the transition of **Manchuria** into CCP hands. The USSR's involvement in China became a major factor in the **Cold War** dynamic, as the CCP emerged as a communist powerhouse aligned with Soviet interests.
 4. **The British and French:** **Britain** and **France** were largely concerned with maintaining their economic interests in China and had limited direct involvement in the civil war. However, they supported the **KMT** to some extent as the recognized government of China and saw the Japanese threat as a larger concern. As the **KMT** lost power, the British and French powers began to adjust their policies, recognizing the growing strength of the **CCP**.
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Key Issues for Discussion

1. **How Can the KMT and CCP Handle Post-War Resolutions?**
 - With **Japan defeated**, the **KMT** and **CCP** are both vying for control of China. How can they address the existing political divide? Should they work together or continue their civil war?
 2. **How Can Foreign Powers Influence the Outcome of the Civil War?**
 - How do the **U.S.**, **Soviet Union**, and **other powers** influence the **KMT** and **CCP**? Should foreign powers intervene in favor of one side or remain neutral?
 3. **What Should be Done with Japan's Remaining Influence in China?**
 - How will **Manchuria** and other regions previously under **Japanese control** be dealt with, and what role will these regions play in China's future?
 4. **What Type of Government Should China Have Moving Forward?**
 - After years of war, should **China** continue as a republic under the **KMT**, or should it adopt a **communist system** led by the **CCP**? What should be done about the **legacy of Japanese occupation**?
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Committee Vision

The Crisis Directors envision this committee as a space where delegates will represent the complex and competing factions involved in both the **Japanese invasion** and the **final stages of the Chinese Civil War**. Delegates will need to navigate a delicate balance between dealing with the **Japanese threat**,

managing the internal conflict between the **KMT** and **CCP**, and addressing the changing international dynamics as foreign powers like the **United States**, **Soviet Union**, and **Japan** influence the outcome.

Delegates will need to think strategically about how to manage the political and military landscape, how to stabilize China after years of warfare, and how to shape the future of the nation in the face of shifting global power structures.