Chapter 35  
War and Revolution in China and Vietnam

Main Events

* **May Fourth Movement**
* Resistance to Japanese encroachments in China began on this date in 1919
* Spawned movement of intellectuals aimed at transforming China into a liberal democracy
* Rejected Confucianism
* **Long March**
* Communist escape from Hunan province during civil war with Guomindang in 1934
* Center of communist power moved to Shaanxi province
* Firmly established Mao Zedong as head of the Communist party in China
* **Gang of Four**
* Jiang Qing and four political allies who attempted to seize control of Communist government in China from the pragamists
* Arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1976 following Mao Zedong’s death

Key People

* **Sun Yat-sen**
* Head of Revolutionary Alliance, organization that led 1911 revolt against Qing dynasty in China
* Briefly elected president in 1911, but yielded in favor of Yuan Shikai in 1912
* Created Nationalist party of China (Guomindang) in 1919
* Died in 1925
* **Yuan Shikai**
* Warlord in northern China after fall of Qing dynasty
* Hoped to seize imperial throne
* President of China after 1912
* Resigned in the face of Japanese invasion in 1916
* **Li Dazhao**
* Chinese intellectual who gave serious attention to Marxist philosophy
* Headed study circle at the University of Beijing
* Saw peasants as vanguard of revolutionary communism in China
* **Mao Zedong**
* Communist leader in revolutionary China
* Advocated rural reform and role of peasantry in Nationalist revolution
* Influenced by Li Dazhao
* Led Communist reaction against Guomindang purges in 1920s, culminating in Long March of 1934
* Seized control of all mainland China by 1949
* Initiated Great Leap Forward in 1958
* **Jiang Qing**
* Wife of Mao Zedong
* One of Gang of Four
* Opposed pragmatists and supported Cultural Revolution of 1965
* Arrested and imprisoned for life in 1976

Important Concepts

* **Socialist Youth Corps**
* Formed in 1920 in China
* Dedicated to recruiting urban working classes to the nationalist revolution in China
* **Guomindang**
* Chinese Nationalist party founded by Sun Yat-sen in 1919
* Drew support from local warlords and Chinese criminal underworld
* Initially forged alliance with Communists in 1924
* Dominated by Chiang Kai-shek after 1925
* **Whampoa Military Academy**
* Founded in 1924
* Military wing of the Guomindang
* First head of the academy was Chiang Kai-shek
* **People’s Republic of China**
* Communist government of mainland China
* Proclaimed in 1949 following military success of Mao Zedon
* over forces of Chiang Kai-shek and the Guomindang
* **Great Leap Forward**
* Economic policy of Mao Zedong introduced in 1958
* Proposed industrialization of small-scale projects integrated into peasant communes
* Led to economic disaster
* Ended in 1960

5 AP Themes

1. Interaction
2. Change and Continuity (Staying the Same)
3. Technology and Demography (Population)
4. Social Structures and Gender Structure
5. Changes in Functions and Structures of State

Interaction

* **Economy**
* Land from landlords was taken and redistributed to peasants who had none or little land.
* Communist saw rapid industrialization as the key to successful development with the Stalin five year plan in 1953 that turned away form the peasantry towards urban workers to build up China.
* Had little foreign assistance from either the West or the Soviets so the state resorted to draw resources from the countryside to finance industrial growth.
* During the Great Leap industrialization would be pushed through small scale projects rather than huge plants. Publicity was given to efforts to produce steel that relied on labor rather than machines.
* After a few months the Great Leap Forward was leading China to an economic disaster. Drought caused famine to spread across China made China import large amounts of food to support their people.
* Population increase overwhelmed productivity agricultural and industrial sectors.

Change and Continuity (Staying the Same)

* **Changes**
* China and Vietnam have retained deeply ingrained suspicions of the commercial and entrepreneurial classes
* Both continue to stress that those who wield political power are obligated to rule in ways that promote the welfare of the mass of the people
* Both still adhere to ideological systems that stress secularism, social harmony, and life in this world rather than religious concerns and life hereafter
* **Continuities**
* Chinese and Vietnamese revolutionaries struggled to build new societies that owed much to their Confucian past
* China and Vietnam’s ideas and patterns of civilized life have been nurtured over a millennia

Technology and Demography (Population)

* **Technology**
* Weapons were brought for war
* Gunpowder and ships that would help them out in the wars
* Also had cannons
* **Demography**
* Famines and diseases in China had decreased the population
* China had a made a plan to keep the families under control so they made a plan where the parents could only have one child to keep the deaths of famine from increasing

Social Structure and Gender Structure

* **Social Structure**
* Government in 1960 launched a family plan to limit urban couples to two children to a couple.
* 1980’s only one child to couple.
* Monarchies/ Autocratic regimes were replaced with Cadres.
* Scholar gentry and land lords were eliminated from social class.
* Revolutionaries became ruling class
* Class system was set up as
  + - * Cadres ( communist party)
      * State workers
      * Peasants
* **Gender Structure**
* Mainly children and women worked in cotton mills
* Helping the women get rights was part of Mao’s plan
* Women got rid of foot-binding.
* Women served as teachers, nurses, truck drivers and spies.
* With the win of the revolution women had gained equal rights in China.
* 1949 women gain right to education and professional careers.

Changes in Functions and Structures of State

* Religion
* The May Fourth movement made Confucianism ridiculed and rejected in favor of a wholehearted acceptance of all that the western democracies had to offer
* The communist party was small but the communists at least offered a clear alternative to fill the ideological and institutional void left by the collapse of the Confucian order
* Families and parents had been instilled for millennia by Confucian teachings
* The collapse of Confucian order also ushered in decades of severe crisis and brutal conflict in which women’s survival depended on their assumption of radically new roles and their active involvement in revolutionary activities
* The Vietnamese had long molded their polity on the Confucian system of their giant neighbor to the north and had borrowed heavily from China in the social and cultural spheres, their encounter with the expansive West had much in common with of the Chinese
* As in China and Korea the failure of the Confucian elite in Vietnam to ward off the intrusions of the West led to the rejection of Confucian civilization as a whole