

Part III *War and revolution: 1937-49*

1. In rough terms, what results did the Japanese invasion of China (1937-45) produce?
 2. How did the Japanese invasion and occupation “aid” the Chinese Communist Party? How did it injure or aid the Nationalists?
15. *The War of Resistance, 1937-45*
1. What did the crushing defeat marked by the Long March mean for the CCP? What were the advantages and disadvantages of the new Communist base in the northwest?
 2. Why did Chiang Kai-shek finally decide to take a tougher stance toward Japan? Did he provoke the Japanese invasion?
 3. How did domestic and international policy considerations lead some Japanese to favor an invasion of China? What was their strategy? And what did they hope to accomplish in the long run?
 4. The Japanese invasion and occupation of China is often seen as unusually brutal and barbaric: is this fair? If so, what explains Japanese brutality?
 5. After war broke out, why did many Nationalists, not only Wang Jingwei but including men close to Chiang Kai-shek, continue to hope that some kind of compromise with the Japanese could be reached?
 6. How did the Nationalists attempt to defend China militarily? How did the Communists? Did they cooperate?
 7. Why did Japanese leaders move on from the occupation of eastern China to the attack on Western colonies in Southeast Asian and on Pearl Harbor?
 8. What was the position of the United States on the Sino-Japanese conflict in the late 1930s? What was the US strategy after it declared war on Japan in December 1941? How did Chinese political leaders react to the coming of World War II to East Asia?
 9. During the war years, most Chinese continued to live under Japanese occupation: what were their lives like? What options did they have?
 10. How did the war affect China’s economy? What were the costs not only in material resources and in human suffering to the Chinese and to the Japanese? What kind of long-term impact is such suffering likely to entail?

16. *Mao, Maoism, and the Communist Party*

1. To what extent was Maoism a logical extension of basic Marxist principles? To what extent did Mao break from Marxism or Marxism-Leninism?
2. To what extent did Mao's views on revolution, the peasantry, party organization, and so forth reflect traditional thought? In what sense were they a response to the immediate conditions of the 1930s and 1940s?
3. How did Mao use "Maoism" ("Mao Thought") to maintain or increase his power within the CCP?
4. What did Mao mean by "contradiction"? How did this concept relate to his notion of "practice"?
5. Why did top CCP leaders pursue a potentially disruptive "rectification campaign" in the middle of war with Japan and uneasy relations with the Nationalists?
6. What were the stories that defined Chinese history for the CCP? How were the opium wars, peasant movements, May Fourth, the Long March, and so on—all part of a gathering triumph?
7. How did Chinese intellectuals react to the War of Resistance and the CCP's role in it? How were intellectuals to be made into good Communists?
8. What were the psychological factors that defined a "good Communist"? What did these factors have in common with the revolutionaries in other revolutions?

17. *Revolution and Civil War*

1. To what extent was the Communist Revolution a social revolution—turning society "upside down"? What aspects of Chinese society were transformed by earlier revolutions and the war with Japan? What aspects of Chinese society survived?
2. Was the success of the Communist Revolution rooted in fundamental and unstoppable social and cultural dislocations, demands for a fairer society, and desires for a stronger state? Or was it due to the organizational genius of the CCP? Or the corruption and incompetence of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists?
3. What were the basic policies the CCP adopted toward peasants in their base areas during the war against Japan? Can these be considered "moderate"? What changes did they produce in village society and politics?
4. Given the success of CCP policies in the 1937-49 period, why did the CCP take a more radical tack during the civil war against the Nationalists? What were the benefits and costs of forced land reform.

5. Organizationally, how did the CCP maintain the loyalty and discipline of its members, cadres, and soldiers?
6. What was involved in “mobilizing” the “masses”—who mobilized whom and for what ends? How?
7. To what extent did CCP policies in the 1930s and 1940s reflect peasant demands rather than leading the peasants to accept Communist aims? Who was really in charge?