Part III (1937-1949)


For the war in various dimensions (social and political as well as military), the classic account is Lloyd Eastman, *Seeds of Destruction: Nationalist China in War and Revolution, 1937-1949* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1984); see also the essays in James Hsiung and Steven Levine, eds., *China's Bitter Victory: The War with Japan, 1937-1945* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1992), and Diana Lary and Stephen MacKinnon, eds., *Scars of War: The Impact of Warfare on Modern China* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2001). Focusing on the Nationalist’s military from the late 1920s, new research convincingly describes the limits and contingencies that the Nationalists faced and gives greater credit to Chiang Kai-shek’s strategic thinking through the anti-Japanese War (1937-1945)—though it seem to me this then implies we must give the Communists even greater credit for their military victory in the civil war (1946-1949)—see Hans J. van de Ven, *War and Nationalism in China, 1925-1945* (New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003). For workers in Chongqing, see Joshua H. Howard, *Workers at War: Labor in China's Arsenals, 1937-1953* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004).


Although “collaboration” remains a painful topic and is largely neglected by Chinese sources, the breakthrough volume is Timothy Brook, *Collaboration: Japanese Agents and Local Elites in Wartime China* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005). Brook not only reveals a


An older work still worth grappling with is Chalmers Johnson, *Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power: The Emergence of Revolutionary China, 1937-1945* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1962), where he presents his thesis that the key to the Communists’ victory was neither Russian machinations nor land reform but “peasant nationalism”—a view that appeared simplistic as early as the 1970s but managed to break out of the Cold War ideology of the day. A key work attacking the peasant nationalism thesis and emphasizing the Communists’ abilities to meet the needs of peasants was Mark Selden, *The Yenan Way in Revolutionary China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971). Some of this historiography is discussed in the introduction of the revised edition of Selden’s monograph, *China in Revolution: The Yenan Way Revisited* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1995) as well as Suzanne Pepper, “The Political Odyssey of an Intellectual Construct: Peasant Nationalism and the Study of China’s Revolutionary History,” *Journal of Asian Studies* vol. 63, no. 1 (February 2004), pp. 105-125. (See also the works listed under “civil war” below.)


**Mao and Maoism:** Of many works on Mao, especially useful are Stuart Schram, ed., *Political Thought of Mao Tse-tung* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1969), a critical edition of Mao’s early writings with Schram’s annotations. More analytical are Brantly Womack, *The Foundations of Mao Zedong’s Political Thought, 1917-1935* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1982); and
