

## Second World War and After-math in Japan

When the second World War broke out in 1939 A.D. a remarkable development was the American alignment with allied powers and Japan's alignment with axis powers ( Germany, Japan and Italy). U.S.A. condemned the Japanese invasion of China. Further, it also imposed restrictions on trade with Japan. America banned the sale of certain goods to Japan and insisted that she should leave China and Indo China. Intelligence services had warned America that Japan was planning to attack American positions in the Pacific in retaliation for the anti Japanese policies of America.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, the Japanese carried out a sudden attack on Pearl harbour sinking five ships, and destroying another three ships and about 150 aeroplanes. By this act, Japan joined the second World War and during the first three months, Japan achieved a series of incredible victories. Guam camp of the Americans, Thailand, Malayasia and Singapore were among the areas captured while the Japanese were able to sink two famous battleships of the British, Prince of Wales and Repulse, near Singapore. Next, they overran the East Indies islands which were under the British and the Dutch and threatened Australia. The uninterrupted progress of the Japanese could be arrested only with the battle of the coral sea won by the American navy.

In 1945 the British Prime Minister Clement Attlee and American President Harry S. Truman met at Potsdam and decided to drop the atomic bomb into Japan. It was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima followed by the second on Nagasaki three days later. This resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 persons and the total destruction of the two cities. On 2nd September 1945 Japan agreed to an unconditional surrender.

America took steps to implement a plan known as the 'Marshall Plan' with the intention of providing economic support for countries that had been devastated by the war. It was formulated by George Marshall. In actual fact this plan was conceived with the intention of preventing the countries that had been destroyed during the war from coming under communist influence. Even Japan received assistance under this plan. Japan was virtually destroyed in the war but the progress she has achieved in sixty years after the war is beyond imagination. The details on the subject are explained in chapter 5 of this book.

### **Student Activities**

1. Draw a map of Japan showing its geographical features.
2. Collect pictures depicting the modern development in Japan .

### **Exercises**

1. Explain the role played by Tokugawa rulers in building modern Japan.
2. What are the Constitutional Reforms implemented under Meiji Restoration.

## **China**

After studying the history of India and Japan, your attention is now directed towards the study of an important period in the history of China.

“Countries need freedom. Nations need liberation. People need revolution.” Chou-En-Lai - Former Prime Minister of China.

## **Nationalism and Communism in China**

After a prolonged period of political conflicts, the Manchu dynasty came to an end in 1911 A.D. marking an important watershed in the history of China. The traditional institutions and culture of China was undergoing a rapid change never known before . The Chinese revolution which is full of a series of continuous events can be divided into four main phases;



**Figure 3.10 Mao Tse Tung**

1. The period of Yuang Shih Kai's pseudo republic (1912-1916 A.D.)
  2. Government of the war lords and the weakening of the central government.(1916-1922 A.D.)
  3. The nationalist revolution.(1923-1949 A.D)
  4. The communist revolution.(Decade of 1930s)
1. The first president of the Chinese republic, Yuang Shih Kai attempted to re-establish a monarchy after the fall of the Manchu dynasty without success. After the death of Yuang Shih Kai in 1916 A.D., the war lords began to exercise power.
  2. Although it was possible to maintain the authority of the Chinese republic, it was no barrier to the power of the war lords. Some of these war lords were state officers who held various posts under the Manchu dynasty. Still others were commanders and soldiers of the army. They behaved like robbers. These war lords controlled certain regions in China and maintained a very cruel administration oppressing the common people, and leveied exorbitant taxes. The people of China had sunk to the very bottom of poverty.

3. The third phase of the revolutionary chain of activities begins during the period around 1912 A.D. when the program of Dr. Sun Yet Sen of the Kuo Mintang party was in operation. Parliamentary system of government was the objective sought to be achieved by the members of Dr. Sun Yet Seng's Kuo Mintang party. The Kuo Mintang which vehemently criticized the administration of the war lords was in reality a very small organisation. Although Dr. Sun Yet Sen criticized the war lords, his party really depended on the war lords. Many areas in China had got completely destroyed due to the irresponsible behaviour of the war lords.

However, the form of government of the Kuo Mintang underwent a sudden change and a period of soft government arose. This was due to the Russian support received by Sun Yet Sen's party. The Bolsheviks who captured power in the revolution of 1917 wanted the support of the big powers to establish themselves. Therefore, they desired the help of revolutionary China. However, they were rejected by the Peking Government and Russia sought the assistance of Dr. Sun-Yet-Sen who had established power in Nanking. In 1923 A.D., Russian representatives came to China and reached an agreement with Dr. Sun-Yet-Sen and agreed to extend Russian support to him. Unification of the nation and saving China from the foreign imperialists were the immediate needs of China. The Soviet government sent military and political advisors to Canton.

Between 1923-1927 A.D. when the Moscow- Canton agreement was in force, the Chinese national movement received a disciplined leadership. At the same time they got clear objectives. There was also a satisfactory popular base.

The rule of the army gangs became extremely corrupt and was resented strongly by the people. The contemptuous treatment accorded to China at the peace congress of Paris, led to an upsurge of national feelings and patriotism among the people. Realization of the truth led to the growth of patriotic and revolutionary feelings among the young intellectuals. Various kinds of movements such as workers' movements associated with the factories of the Yangtze Valley, trade union movements, peasants' movements, youth movements and women's liberation movements sprang up. Persons with mutually opposed views wanted to build a national government in China and to develop the country's economy and strength.

Soviet advisors explained to Sun Yet Sen and his followers how to build a good leadership. The Soviet advisor Michael Borodin stated that the Kuo Mintang party must be built on the model of the Soviet communist party. In its propaganda activities Kuo Mintang's attention was directed at the following matters;

- \* Removal of army control.
- \* Appointment of honest, democratic politicians.
- \* Discontinuation of the use of arms and amunitions.

Posters, drawings and agitation movements were employed to create awareness among the people.

By 1925 A.D Canton was a small but strong state government. Collection of taxes, commercial activities, establishment of a modern style army and army training under the supervision of western army leaders were in operation in Canton. In fact, the Canton government was a non communist Soviet system. Although the state of Canton showed it strength to the world, many countries in the world had not recognised the Chinese government. Although Sun-Yet-Sen did not live to see the realisation of these objectives, his philosophy remained as a heritage in the party. Writings of Dr. Sun Yet Sen were collected together and used for propaganda purposes in the party's paper. His doctrine came to be known as 'Sun Min Chu' and became the hand book of the party. Nationalism, democracy and the profession became the fundamental principles of this philosophy.

- \* Nationalism : This meant the liberation of China from foreign forces. People should be devoted to the government.
- \* Democracy : Popular sovereignty and the maintenance of representative government.
- \* Professions : When the production of goods are increased rapid changes will take place in society.

According to Dr. Sun Yet Sen, there are three stages in the revolution.

1. Stage of war : Use of force to establish the rule of law in the country.
2. Trusteeship stage : Training the people, paying respect to revolutionary leaders.
3. Constitution making stage : Preparation of a constitution based on the system of representation.

As a leader and a thinker, Dr. Sun Yet Sen was not completely free of faults. But he came to be known as the 'father of the revolution'. At the time of his death in 1924 A.D., he had gone to northern China to settle a dispute among three military leaders. By that time, his health was deteriorating and he died soon. The philosophy of Sun Yet Sen was much more powerful than expected. To his followers, he became a hero. The Chinese people throughout the world were anxiously waiting for the emergence of a new government under a republican constitution. Dr. Sun's intention was to compound the traditional ideas of China with modern scientific thought and produce a new technology.

By 1926 A.D. the Canton government was strong enough to challenge military leaders who had established themselves in the North. A young general named Chiang-Kai-Shek had been appointed to provide leadership to the Kuo Mintang forces (1888-1975) A.D. First, the military leaders of the Yangtze valley were defeated. Next, through a series of attacks power was extended into several provinces. This series of attack were known as 'punishing attacks'. After this victory the differences that existed within the party came to the forefront. The traditional elements in the Kuo Mintang party were anti communists and they always tried to chase away the communists from the party, while the communists attempted to strengthen the party on the basis of worker membership. Their objective was to expand the party still more on the guidance of Soviet advisors.

In the meantime, the forces of Chiang Kai Shek opened fire on a communist procession killing several people. After that, the Kuo Mintang became established in Shanghai. By the summer of 1927 A.D. the situation underwent a complete change and Soviet advisors including Michael Borodin were expelled. Radical trade union leaders were removed and some members fled to the Soviet Union and asked for help.

After wiping out the radical elements in the party, Chiang- Kai-Shek took all steps to spread his power throughout the country. After this he became the sole leader of the party and he recieved the support of traditionalists.

Although the Kuo Mintang was able to capture several areas, Chiang- Kai-Shek realised that maintenance of power was a far more difficult task. The task of nation building was on their shoulders. The situtation after the capture of power was completely different from the situation that existed before. Remains of military rule were still present in several places, and still, the power of the Kuo Mintang rested on the army.



The nationalists (Kuo Mintang) performed several valuable services after the establishment of power in Nanking. It was during the time of Chiang Kai Shek that it was possible to capture power in an extensive area in China and set up a unified administration (after the 18th century). The fame of China began to spread throughout the world and the nationalists won world recognition very quickly. They also established diplomatic relations with several countries. The U.S.A. decided to remove the taxes levied on trade with China. Chiang -Kai-Shek maintained a secret police for purposes of spying and it was known as the 'Bureau of Investigating and Statistics'.

After 20 years, the power of the nationalists broke down, the main reasons for this being:

1. Inability to solve the problems of the Chinese society
2. Strong opposition from the Chinese Communists
3. Invasion of China by Japan in 1937

During the time they were in power, the Kuo Mintang suppressed the communists. The communists were able to continue their work in rural and urban areas, specially in Central and Southern China. In addition, they set up a government on the Soviet model against the nationalists in the Kiangsi province. Kuo Mintang frequently attacked the communist centres and due to this reason, the communists were compelled to fight against the Kuo Mintang even at the risk of their lives.

They provided guerilla type training to the oppressed peasants. They were armed with military as well as political training. It was Mao- Tse-Tung who was behind this process.

### **The Rise of Communists under Mao-Tse-Tung**

Mao Tse Tung was born to a middle class peasant family, and from his young days he acted against the cruel rule of land owners and nobles. He was among the few persons who were there at the time of the founding of the communist party. Gradually, he became a member of the central committee.

### **The following factors were included in his plan**

1. Establishment of village level co-operative organisations
2. Frightening the cruel noble class and attacking them

Some of the ideas contained in the writings of Mao Tse Tung in relation to the background to the revolution are given below :

- ★ Revolution is not something like inviting the public for a dinner.
- ★ Rural revolution means the process through which the peasants overthrow the authority of the feudal landlord capitalist class.
- ★ When hundred thousands of people carry on the revolution, it can be a storm or a tornado.
- ★ It is the peasants who will carry out the revolution successfully in China.

The Soviet leaders did not agree with the last statement. Experience of the Soviet Union was that the revolution will be implemented by factory workers. Mao Tse Tung pointed out that unlike in Russia, there was no strong working class in China.

### **The Long March**

To solve the landlessness the communists in the North Western China divided the large areas of land into small pieces and distributed them among the farmers. The rents were reduced and a land bank was established. Irrigation systems were built and co-operatives were developed. Farming systems were improved and the management of the farms were taught to the farmers. In the meantime, China was invaded by Japan and it was evident that the common enemy of both Kuo-Min-Tangs and the communists was Japan. Yet even under this national tragic situation the two rival parties could not unite.

Because of the constant attacks made by Chiang- Kai- Shek's super army on the communists, Mao Tse Tung organised the Long March. Starting from the Kiyangchi province in October 1934, it ended at the communist head quaters in



the Yen-an province in October 1935. Distance involved was 6000 miles or 96,00 kilo metres. Although there were 90,000 participants at the start, only 20,000 remained at the end. No other proof was needed to establish that they were genuine communists. In addition, these people can be recognised as real communists with stamina, morale and dedication. Due to the Long March, Mao- Tse-Tung became the undisputed leader of the communist party. On the conclusion of the Long March, it was very clear that the communist party was going to get a massive public support. However, the major cities and economic resources were in the hands of the enemy, the Kuo Mintang. Within a very short time, the North Western State became an independent communists state.

### Student Activity

List the differences between the communists and the Kuo- Min-Tangs

### The Communist Rule in China

- ★ After the defeat of the Nationalists the Communists were active in establishing their power in the whole of China.
- ★ In October 1949 it was announced that the Chinese Republic was established and that Peking was its capital.
- ★ The Constitution of the Chinese Republic was announced in 1954.
- ★ It was more or less equal to the Constitution of Soviet Russia.
- ★ According to the Communist system of authority the power of the Republic was centralized in the “All China People’s Congress”.
- ★ Freedom of the individual, equal status for men and women, voting power to all above the 18 years of age and the right to own property was established by the constitution.

After the communist party came to power, a large number of economic, social and cultural reforms were carried out. The Chinese revolution is a watershed in world history. The leader of the communist party was Mao Tse Tung and he applied Marxist principles for the solution of problems faced by China, after comparing them with the Chinese traditions. Unwavering determination in the pursuit of objectives, innovative approach in the formulation of strategy and the pragmatism and creativity displayed in the implementation of thought are really astounding. Mao Tse Tung respected the great historical heritage of China and preserved the “Victorious revolutionary tradition”.

He valued Sun Yet Sen and presented the position of the Vice Presidency of the People’s Republic of China to the widow of Sun Yet Sen who was also a cousin sister of Chiang Kai Shek. Mao accepted the Marxist principle of the class struggle and carefully studied the unsuccessful peasant revolts such as the Tai Ping revolt of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mao Tse Tung is the first leader who launched a successful revolution of massive scale with the support of the peasants. The revolution was guided by peasant leaders who had sprung from the peasants themselves. This is not in accordance with the theories of Lenin and Stalin. The society that came into being in China is also different from that of the Soviet Union.

The Chinese communist government has got the support of the peasants, workers, small capitalists and the middle class. Obtaining the support of the small capitalist and the middle classes is a violation of the theoretical communist principles. However, Mao Tse Tung had realised that it would be difficult to bring about economic development without the economic power and the technical knowledge of those sections of the society.

Although it was possible for the businessmen and the members of the middle class who would like to work with the government to do so, they should hand over their property to the state temporarily. After that, their behaviour was carefully scrutinised. In 1956, the rights of the middle class were removed. The policies of the states were formulated by the central executive committee in which Mao-Tse-Tung was the chairman and the key to the state machinery was in the hands of Mao. Here, the principle of “People’s Democratic Dictatorship” was practised.

After 1949, the backward nature of China disappeared and signs of rapid progress came to be evident. Like India, China also gave priority status to industrial development and achieved a tremendous economic growth.

## Great Leap Forward

Along with the industrialisation programme, there were rapid changes in the field of agriculture as well. Agricultural society also underwent changes. The first stage in the field of agriculture was land reformation, due to which land owners lost their lands. There were instances when the protesting land owners were put to death. The new farmers who got land were requested to cultivate their farms on a co-operative basis. All resources were to be stored by uniting two or three villages. The next stage was the setting up of collective farms managed by party members.

During 1955-1957 A.D. this system progressed at a very surprising speed. Around 90% of the harvest was collected on this basis. Chinese farmers voluntarily joined the co-operative system.

In order to bring about a rapid growth in the field of agriculture a system known as the 'Great Leap Forward' was introduced in 1959 A.D. Under this system, collective farms were created by the amalgamation of co-operative farms. These very large farms were known by the term 'communes'. It was emphasised that the farms did not belong to a single commune but to the entire Chinese people. These communes were set up with the objective of speeding up of the country's economic growth by increasing agricultural and industrial production. However, due to several reasons, the 'Great Leap Forward' ended in failure.

Foolishness of the officials, ruthless execution of the programme, drought in the valley of the Yellow river etc. were among the many of these reasons. The harvest of 1959 was very small and it became necessary to import grain. Farmers became demoralised while the outflow of money for food imports had harmful effects on industry. Therefore, the policies were changed and priority was given to agriculture. Size of the communes was increased and land tenure and management were reformed. Accordingly, the farmers were given the right to cultivate a small piece of land as a private property.

The failure of the 'Great Leap Forward' led to the weakening of the political status of Mao to some extent. Therefore, he gave up the chairmanship retaining only a back row leadership of the party, and tried to strengthen his position within the party and secure army support. After that, he attempted to speed up the revolution through a cultural revolution with the intention of inactivating his enemies.

The background and the objectives of the cultural revolution of the Proletariat are very complex. To put it concisely, it was the struggle for power between the leader of the state, Lio-Shao-Chi who represented the moderates and Mao Tse Tung who represented the radicals.

## **The Cultural Revolution**

Before the cultural revolution of 1965, outwardly, China had the appearance of a state with an admirable consensus. With the start of the revolution, state officials began to be arrested on various charges. Some of them were demoted from the positions they held. Among the charges levelled against them as excuses for arrest were: hedonism, anti party activities, and taking the road to capitalism. The President of the People's Republic of China, Lio Pao also became a victim of the pilots of the Cultural Revolution, the Red Guard. He had been named as the successor of Mao. When the Cultural Revolution came under strong opposition, Mao turned to the youth.

“Learn the revolution. Learn the revolution by doing it” he said. All the schools in the country were closed and ‘Red Guard’ battalions were set up with them. On August 18, 1966 the first Red guards were established in Peking and a request was made to put down the enemies of the revolution with maximum strength and courage. The cultural revolution carried out by riotous youth throughout China was a remarkable phenomenon. They reprimanded their parents, destroyed ancient monuments, invaded private homes and called upon the people to accept the thoughts of Mao without reservation and to act accordingly.

Revolutionary committees were set up consisting of both communist and non-communist members and employed to run factories, local and regional government institutions and the departments of the central government. A flexible unitary government comparable to the dual control system of the Soviet union, which is a union of both the state and the party was started to grow in China.

This struggle launched with the objective of achieving radical objectives produced a state of anarchy within the country. There were strikes in the leading factories, transport became a mess, China was diplomatically isolated. Even the communist countries did not have diplomatic relations with China. ‘The Red Guards’ and ‘Revolutionary rebels’ brought about a state of civil war in certain provinces.

Therefore, it compelled Mao Tse Tung and Chou En Lai to summon the ‘People's Liberation Army’ and pacify the country. After that, the extremist elements were removed from the party. Although Lin Piao was the chief instrument

of the cultural revolution and had been named as Mao's successor, he was also accused by the cultural revolution. He died in an air crash while fleeing to the Soviet union.

### The Results of the Cultural Revolution

China, which had remained stable for centuries began to change very fast after the cultural revolution. Population control measures were encouraged and agriculture and industry expanded rapidly, while living conditions of the people were improved. Women got equal status with men, education was modernised and the cumbersome Chinese alphabet was simplified. Brining an end to the period of isolation in world politics, China established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, U.S.A. Great Britain and many other countries. With stupendous developments in all shperes, China achieved the status of a major power in the modern world.

#### Student Activities

- \* Collect pictures relating to the 'Long March'.
- \* Draw a map showing the geographical features of China.

#### Exercises

- ★ Examine the factors that led to the conflict between China and the Soviet Union.
- ★ Examine logically how China became a world power after the Chinese Revolution.