

Nature and Impact of Foreign Involvement

Basis of comparison	Spanish Civil War	Chinese Civil War
Timeframe	1936-1939	1946-1949
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Spanish Civil War of 1936-39 involved not just the opposing Right-wing Nationalists and Left-wing Republicans, but also a number of foreign major powers in Europe, which greatly prolonged and intensified the conflict This was because it reflected the ideological divisions within Europe, which drew in the intervention of foreign countries Leading historians such as E.H. Carr to describe the Spanish struggle as a “European civil war fought on Spanish territory” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the year just following the end of 8 years of Japanese hostilities in China, the outbreak of the Civil War saw the initial involvement of foreign powers such as the USA and the USSR Performed no small roles in eventual Communist victory and the establishment of the PRC
Military	<p>Topic Sentence Hitler and Mussolini’s massive support for the Nationalists was key in determining the outcome of the war, despite Stalin’s limited attempt to arm the Republicans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The involvement of foreign arms changed the very nature of the Spanish Civil War At the start of the war, both the Nationalists and Republicans lacked firepower; they were using out-dated military tactics and weapons However, the foreign involvement very quickly turned the war into one whereby supremacy on the battlefield was decided by superiority in aid Paul Preston: The availability of international credit and arms supplies were of sufficiently crucial importance to make it seem that the outcome of the war was determined in the chancelleries of Europe rather than on the battlefields of Spain <p>Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republicans received 1,000 planes from the USSR along with pilots Nationalists received 732 combat planes and 110 trainer planes from Germany, 700 aircraft from Italy However, German pilots and planes were considerably superior to their Soviet adversaries Historian Anthony Beever argued that the superiority in terms of the standard of training and quality of Germany’s air force was key to the Nationalists’ superiority in air battles Coupled with numerical advantage in the air gave the Nationalists almost total air superiority by 1937 	<p>Topic Sentence Soviet and US military aid was important, however it was not decisive in victory; Mao’s organisational strength and guerrilla tactics outclassed the GMD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both sides of the Chinese Civil War had relatively limited combat ability The GMD was badly weakened by WWII while the CCP remained a guerrilla force and was unsuited for conventional warfare The involvement of the superpowers thus served to prolong and intensify the war <p>GMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The USA aided the GMD by airlifting half a million troops during the Manchurian campaign to ensure that GMD forces would be there for the surrender of the Japanese to them US troops occupied Tianjin and Beijing to hold them until the GMD was ready This was critical in pre-empting the CCP in the countryside from taking over Manchurian cities, and ensuring that the GMD secured large areas in the north of China However, the US did not commit ground troops or close air support to GMD forces and hence did not play a direct role in combat Moreover, the Manchurian campaign was an eventual failure as CCP forces, using guerrilla tactics, were able to outmanoeuvre and encircle the GMD By late 1945, the USA used its massive WW2 military surplus in Asia to outfit 39 Nationalist army divisions Provided \$2 billion in artillery, firearms, ammunition and aircraft to the GMD from 1945-49

- Close air support combined with Blitzkrieg tactics resulted in the massive destruction of the Basque region and Republican cities such as Guernica, inflicting irreparable losses and destroying morale
- The Germans had airlifted Franco's army from Morocco to the mainland as part of Operation Magic Fire in the first stage of the war
- According to **Paul Preston**, the airlift of Franco's troops to Spain in 1936 to support a failing coup was what even allowed the Spanish war to begin in the first place

Land

- Republicans received 750 tanks and 1,555 artillery pieces from the USSR and 35,000 troops from the international brigades
- Nationalists received 10,000 troops, 200 tanks from Germany, 75,000 troops, 150 tanks from Italy and 20,000 troops from Portugal
- **Francisco Salgado** argued that superior technology contributed by rearmed Germany and Italy were crucial to allowing a Nationalist victory
- Although the Republicans had a numerical advantage in terms of armour, the weapons given by the USSR were mostly outdated
- Were no match for German tanks which were of the highest quality, such as the Panzer I light tank
- The International Brigades boosted Republican morale tremendously in late 1936, however they served to prolong the war rather than present an advantage
- Were weak and inexperienced, while German and Italian troops were a professional army
- German instructors played a major role in training the Nationalist armies where standards were high
- Most significant contribution by Germany was the elite Condor Legion, a combined air, tank and artillery unit
- Spearheaded and was involved in almost every Nationalist victory over the course of the war

Sea

- Operation Ursula saw the extensive deployment of German U-boats and Italian submarines to the Spanish coast in the Atlantic and Mediterranean on the side of the Nationalists
- The Republicans received no form of naval aid from the USSR
- The Nationalists were able to maintain a naval blockade
- Blocked Republican aid through the Mediterranean Sea by attacking shipping carrying Russian supplies, hence denying the Republicans of vital

- US advisers helped train and equip 39 divisions of GMD ground troops and 8 air groups
- However, many of the US arms supplies arrived too late, by which time the CCP's territorial control of China was almost complete
- Cut off support entirely for the GMD in 1948
- While US military advisers attempted to develop Jiang's strategy, such as emphasising controlling Chinese heartland south of the Great Wall, their advice fell on deaf ears
- Hence, US involvement did little to improve the GMD's military position

CCP

- The USSR delayed the arrival of GMD troops in Manchuria until it had stripped the region of much of its infrastructure
- This delay enabled the CCP to completely dominate the vast countryside in Manchuria
- The USSR provided the CCP with air coverage of 800 aircraft, 700,000 rifles, 18,000 machine guns and 4,000 artillery units from the Japanese military surplus
- Were essential as a successful offensive required vehicles, tanks and artillery, which could not have been conjured from rural peasants in China
- Furthermore, Soviet advisers were crucial in training CCP troops on the use of modern weapons and large scale warfare
- Established 16 military training colleges and trained CCP pilots
- Allowed for the transition of the CCP from a guerrilla force to a strong conventional one, which was crucial to its success during the last stage of the war
- However, Stalin was reluctant to support the CCP and did not provide the CCP with Soviet materiel assistance

Diplomatic Involvement

- Diplomatic involvement by the USA in the early stages of the war ironically proved vital to the CCP's strength in numbers and organisational capabilities
- The USA's attempt at negotiating a truce through Marshall in 1946 played into the hands of the CCP
- Although a tacit truce was agreed upon, both the CCP and GMD had begun preparations for the war and the delay of the truce gave the CCP a period of respite
- While its forces remained largely intact after the 2nd Sino-Japanese War, they were spread across rural China

	<p>resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the same time, having control over the sea meant that they were able to freely bring in resources via Portugal; allowed them to fight a war of attrition Had a major impact on Nationalist victory as the Republicans were faced with an acute shortage of supplies in 1939 <p>Non-Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francisco Salvado: The neutrality of Britain and France, behind a cloak of non-intervention, was probably the most decisive in the outcome of the war The formation of the Non-Intervention Committee by Britain and France led to the barring of the sale of arms to either side in the Civil War A stipulation that was upheld by Britain and France but ignored by Germany, Italy and the USSR This indirectly benefitted the Nationalists at the Republicans' expense as they had little choice but to contend with military support solely from the USSR, which were inferior to the Germans and Italians in terms of quality Thus, non-intervention severely damaged the Republican war effort but had no real effect on the Nationalist forces Was vital in influencing the results of many engagements as the Nationalists found themselves better equipped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the 4-month ceasefire, the scattered CCP was able to regroup, train its troops and organise its defences When the war resumed in October 1946, Jiang was unable to break the CCP's defences in Northern Manchuria This no doubt provided the CCP with an advantage during the earliest stages of the war Yet, there was a lack of military support during the later stages of the war <p>Impact of the 2nd Sino-Japanese War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While not involvement in itself, the historical backdrop of the 2nd Sino-Japanese War was crucial to the outcome of the war Japanese encroachment served as a distraction to ease GMD pressure off the CCP, which allowed them to grow their military and support base Formation of a 2nd United Front prevented the GMD from continuing Encirclement campaigns, which would have likely destroyed the CCP since the GMD was already making inroads into Yenan The war enabled the CCP to vastly expand its military forces through mobilizing the rural population; Red Army grew to a million strong Mao was able to gain crucial support through the use of propaganda; accused Jiang as being a puppet of Western imperialists and for appearing to be sitting back and waiting for the USA to fight the war for him Greatly weakened the GMD army, which had borne the brunt of Japanese attacks and had suffered heavy losses Lynch: The CCP had, in effect, won the Civil War by the time the 2nd Sino-Japanese War had ended
Compare and contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contributions of the foreign powers in the Spanish Civil War were much greater in extent, and consequently, much greater in their impact This was because the Chinese Civil War was less of a proxy war than in Spain 	
Domestic factor	<p>Political Disunity of the Republicans</p> <p>According to Beever, there is no doubt that German and Italian forces greatly shifted the outcome of the war in the Nationalists' favour. However, to claim that they won the war for Franco entirely would be going too far. The ability of the Nationalists to capitalise on foreign assistance to achieve victory was augmented by the disastrous leadership and political disunity of the Republicans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nationalists gained a crucial advantage due to greater unity within their faction Franco managed to combine all the differing right-wing groups under the Falange Party, which he led over the entire duration of the civil war Power was centralised under Franco; was made Supreme commander and 	<p>CCP superior military strategy and tactics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCP's superiority in military strategy and tactics vis-à-vis the poor and inept performance by the GMD proved to be decisive in determining the outcome of the civil war Mao's use of guerrilla warfare proved highly effective against the Japanese during WWII and was equally successful against the numerically superior GMD forces in Manchuria Was geographically suitable for guerrilla warfare due to its hilly terrain and large forested areas Using "wear and tear" military tactics, the CCP took advantage of their numerical weakness and was able to gradually pick off GMD units The CCP's move to conventional warfare at the last stages of the war was the knockout blow to the GMD eg. Huai Hai Campaign from 1948-49

	<p>the Head of State, promoted “one state, one country, one chief”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Lee: The continuity of his leadership was the Right’s greatest asset; was the focal point the Left lacked • Republican leaders like Azana, Caballero and Negrin found it impossible to emulate the way in which Franco held disparate groups together • The Republicans were bitterly divided among the socialists, communists and anarchists which had differing aims and were constantly in conflict with one another • Infighting occurred during the Anarchist Revolt in Barcelona in 1937, which was brutally crushed by the communists • This disunity manifested itself in the poor military tactics of the Republicans • Small militias from the various factions often fought separately without a concerted and planned military effort • Contrast to the Nationalists’ clear, professional fighting strategy • However, without the military and financial backing of Germany and Italy, the Nationalists would not have had the materiel backing needed to last a war of attrition • Foreign intervention arguably worsened the internal strife within the Republicans as Soviet aid was provided only to the communists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In contrast, GMD success was hindered by Jiang’s tactical errors • Going against US advice, Jiang committed his best troops to fight in Manchuria without first securing complete control over northern and central China, out of which he lost nearly 250,000 • Tended to focus on urban areas that could easily be cut off due to long communication lines; was exploited by the CCP’s guerrilla tactics • Dedicated a disproportionate amount of troops and resources for insignificant objectives like capturing the CCP base in Yen’an • Thus superior tactics and strategy of the CCP proved more important than the contributions of the USSR • The GMD failed to capitalise on US foreign intervention for their own advantage
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the Republic was internally divided to begin with, foreign assistance was what allowed Franco to fight in the first place, when the military coup of the Right was failing in its initial stages in 1936 • Foreign intervention was what changed the nature of the war into a lengthy war of attrition, which favoured the increasingly united Nationalists • Moreover, the overwhelming military assistance in favour of the Nationalists throughout the civil war proved to be the underlying reason why they were much more capable to fight and emerge victorious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While foreign intervention indirectly proved critical to the CCP’s organisation during the early stages of the war, the limited military support provided to both sides over the course of the war meant that it did not contribute significantly to the outcome of the war