

## Policies and Tactics during the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Front

- Following the Xian incident in 1936, the GMD and CCP united to form the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Front to counter the Japanese threat during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sino-Japanese War from 1937-1945. However, their relationship proved tenuous, and both parties undertook different policies and tactics to secure their individual aims.
- Policies: A principle or course of action of an individual or organization
- Tactics: Means by which warfare is executed

Basis of comparison	Chinese Communist Party (CCP)	Guomindang (GMD)
Policy towards the United Front	<i>(Refer to previous notes)</i>	
Ideological policy	<p><b>Difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GMD and CCP had fundamentally different ideological policies in terms of their visions for China's future</li> <li>• The CCP's ideology was firmly entrenched in Marxist-Leninist and Maoist principles, which argued for a classless society and a socialist economy</li> <li>• In particular, the CCP desired to relieve the conditions of the peasantry through policies such as land reform and rent reduction</li> <li>• Long-term aim was the revolutionary overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the confiscation of private property</li> </ul> <p><b>Similarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Mao and Jiang sought to strengthen their ideological positions within their parties and in China</li> <li>• After experimenting with policies such as moderate land reform in the Jiangxi Soviet, Mao was able to fully conceptualize his own brand of Marxism-Leninism during the Yanan Decade</li> <li>• From 1938-40, Mao wrote three key words: "On the New Stage", "The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party" and "On New Democracy"</li> <li>• In the first, Mao called for the "Sinification of Marxism", arguing that Marxism had to be imbued with Chinese particularities if it was to mean anything in China</li> <li>• In particular, changing the urban revolution to one with a rural focus</li> <li>• Mao was able to dominate the Central Committee and Politburo by 1945, with Mao Zedong Thought becoming official ideology</li> </ul> <p><b>Similarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Mao and Jiang implemented repressive policies to reinforce their ideology and further entrench their positions of power</li> </ul>	<p><b>Difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In contrast, the GMD wanted the reunification of China under a democratic nationalist government, based on Sun Yixian's Three People's Principles – nationalism, democracy and people's livelihood</li> <li>• Had close links with the wealthy elite such as businessmen and landlords, who were in favour of maintaining a capitalist, private enterprise system in China and saw the CCP's agenda as a direct threat to their interests</li> </ul> <p><b>Similarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1943, Jiang published "China's Destiny", wherein he gave his analysis of China's ills and prescriptions for treating them</li> <li>• Jiang distorted history to prove that China's political, social, and economic problems all stemmed from the effect of the unequal treaty system</li> <li>• In order to strengthen his position of power, he castigated Westernized Chinese intellectuals and advocated the revival of traditional Confucian social and political values</li> <li>• Particularly the need for the people to follow authority loyally and unquestioningly</li> </ul> <p><b>Similarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jiang often used repressive measures such as arrest, physical torture, and execution against the intellectuals to suppress all critical and liberal opinions and intimidate</li> <li>• Eliminate all real and perceived threats to his power</li> <li>• The press and media was subject to strict censorship, and Jiang used the secret police under Dai Li to accost individuals suspected of propagating dissenting views</li> <li>• Backfired as many of the intellectuals turned their bitterness against the GMD into support for the CCP</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CCP was expanding very rapidly; grew from 40,000 in 1937 to 1 million in 1945</li> <li>• Mao was deeply concerned about their loyalty and their ideological beliefs, as well as the growing gulf between educated and peasant cadres</li> <li>• The Soviets still maintain a grip on the CCP through Wang Ming and the 28 Bolsheviks; Mao wanted to exert his independence of all foreign intervention in China's revolution</li> <li>• Launched the 1942 Yen'an Rectification Campaign to cleanse the party of incorrect ideas and purge it of undesirable elements</li> <li>• Party members were forced to carry out public self-criticism and study Mao's writings</li> <li>• Over 10,000 killed and 40,000 CCP members expelled, including the 28 Bolsheviks and Wang Ming, Mao's main rival for party leadership</li> </ul>	
Economic policy	<p><b>Similarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both the CCP and GMD saw the development of a wartime economy during the war</li> <li>• Under the United Front agreement, the CCP halted land confiscation during the war with the exception of landlords who collaborated with the Japanese</li> <li>• A rent ceiling of 37.5% of the crop was strictly enforced early in the war, which was gradually relaxed as the war wound down</li> <li>• In 1943, a campaign was launched to develop a more productive economy organized on co-operative principles and mutual aid farming</li> <li>• At the same time, attempts were made to increase industrial production using primitive technology and surplus labour</li> <li>• All army units were required to participate in food and cotton production with the aim of self-sufficiency</li> </ul> <p><b>Difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CCP and GMD differed in terms of their policies toward the peasants</li> <li>• During the Yen'an Decade, the CCP was able to develop the "Yen'an spirit", which according to <b>Dreyer</b> provided a blueprint for the future development of China</li> <li>• From 1942, the CCP introduced rural reforms to alleviate the conditions of the peasantry, including land reform and rent reduction programmes</li> <li>• Mao had issued the Three Rules and 8 Points, prohibiting extortion of peasants and instructing the Red Army to be honest in all of their transactions</li> <li>• These policies during the Yen'an years were immensely popular and played a huge role in the growth of the CCP</li> </ul>	<p><b>Similarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jiang established a National Resources Commission, which took control of heavy and technical industry</li> <li>• From 1939-43, industrial output grew rapidly; coal output doubled, over 1000 miles of railway was built, and electricity production increased sevenfold</li> <li>• Built the Burma Road to bring in resources from the outside world</li> <li>• However, industrial output was insufficient to satisfy demand and the rate of growth declined sharply after 1943 when the GMD began to experience an industrial crisis</li> </ul> <p><b>Difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By contrast, the GMD's economic policies alienated peasant support</li> <li>• Did promote some agrarian reforms such as offering loans to farmers, distributing new seeds, and operating irrigation canals</li> <li>• Did not carry out land reform or equitable rents due to resistance from landlords, a crucial base of support</li> <li>• In order to gain revenue, the GMD collected taxes in grain, conducted heavy exactions to feed its troops, which worsened the plight of the rural population</li> <li>• Revealed most glaringly in the Henan famine of 1942-43, which left 5 million starving, many to death</li> <li>• Poor fiscal management left to a period of hyperinflation, which wiped out the savings of millions of Chinese left GMD areas in economic turmoil</li> </ul>

Tactics	<p><b>Difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCP military tactics during the war proved more fluid than the GMD</li> <li>• The Red Army came under military geniuses Zhu De and Peng Dehuai, who transformed it into a professional force trained in guerrilla tactics</li> <li>• A key principle of guerrilla warfare according to Mao was to retreat when the enemy concentrates a vastly superior force but to attack when he least expects it</li> <li>• The army was divided into small, lightly armed mobile bands, which could merge into the civilian population and attack the larger force at their weakest points</li> <li>• The CCP's use of guerrilla tactics tied down a large number of Japanese troops and communication lines, which Mao used as propaganda to win the CCP respect from the Chinese</li> <li>• Portray them as the true nationalists defending China despite doing less fighting than the GMD</li> <li>• Furthermore, the CCP made limited use of conventional warfare, most notably during the 1940 Hundred Regiments Offensive</li> <li>• However, it was a massive failure, resulting in 22,000 CCP losses and only 4,000 Japanese losses</li> <li>• Reverted to guerrilla warfare for the remainder of the war, while conserving its military forces and preparing for the eventual renewal of conflict with the GMD</li> </ul>	<p><b>Difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military tactics were largely static</li> <li>• The GMD was a conventional army and from 1937-38, there were pitched battles like the Battles of Shanghai and Nanjing, where 500,000 Chinese clashed with 200,000 Japanese troops</li> <li>• Used traditional tactics scorched earth tactics and advancing in a single column</li> <li>• Jiang lost Shanghai, Nanjing and Wuhan, and was forced back into the interior of China where he established a wartime capital in Chongqing</li> <li>• Jiang was essentially defensive in his military tactics, as he similarly wanted to preserve his best troops for the future struggle with the CCP</li> </ul>
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### Conclusion

- Just like the First United Front during the 1920s, their cooperation was short-lived and China descended into a civil war once the United Front collapsed