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LETTER FROM THE DAIS

Dear delegates,

We are honoured to be nominated as the chairs of the HSC in SPsMUN 2026. We both have driving passions towards MUN and International Affairs. After all, debating is what shapes the being of anyone who is fond of diplomacy. As a result, we decided to choose a topic we thought would incorporate much of statesmanship, foreign policy and, most importantly, active debating in a rather young United Nations.

The Chinese Civil War was another unsolved conflict that haunts peacekeepers until today, with big headlines of capitalism versus communism and the control over China. The real life conclusion the UN reached in the early 1950s meant a remarkable short term victory for the ROC (Taiwan), but complete disaster in the long term. As History shows, the lack of compromise during this debate was an obstacle to stability in the region and to progress in the international community. Now, you, delegates, have the chance to change it.

It is a delegate's job to secure peace in the region whilst satisfying your nation's populational-ideological perspective over China. We hope your research, studies, rhetoric and negotiation skills allow the construction of a new scenario, maybe even a better world based on cross-strait cooperation.

We, chairs, wish great luck to your campaign in our committee.

Yours Sincerely,

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL



UN Headquarters at Lake Success, circa 1947. Available at: media.un.org.

The Security Council, one of the 6 original constituent bodies of the United Nations, assembles itself at Lake Success, Long Island, the temporary headquarters of the UN. The committee is composed of 11 members — 5 permanent ones and 6 rotative seats. The permanent members, the Republic of China, France, Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, remain constantly in the council, while the rotative seats are elected, divided according to the UN's regionalisation of the world.

The 6 seats are divided into Latin America, which holds two seats, and Commonwealth, Eastern Europe & Asia, Middle East and Western Europe, holding one seat each. The 5 permanent members of this committee, also known as P5, hold a specific condition called veto power. As the victorious allied powers, these nations can veto any resolution approved by the committee, no matter how many votes in favour it got. This

power has famously been responsible for blocking negotiations and slowing down the bureaucratic process of the committee. Among the different strategies adopted by the UNSC to deal with the veto, P5 nations are constantly encouraged to abstain from voting when they are neither in favour nor totally against the document, in order to ensure that the will of the majority is respected. Abstaining from a voting procedure might be a mechanism to preserve your foreign policy and avoid halting the debate. In a small committee such as the UNSC, where some hold great power and every vote counts, abstention is no sin.

Pursuing a way to better portray the geopolitical scenario of the conference, a few changes to the original UNSC were made. Firstly, as this council is evaluating, among other matters, the very presence of the ROC in the United Nations, the country shall not hold its veto power during this committee. The P5 nations are, therefore, reduced to P4. UN member countries were added to the discussion. Those extra members were carefully chosen by the dais based on their relevance to the matter, geographical location, and political positions. Even though some of them might not be among the major blocs, each of them holds a special relationship with this affair in its own way that deserves to be thoroughly studied and explored.

TOPIC:
The Chinese Civil War



Chairman Mao Zedong/Tsé-Tung addressing sympathizers in 1944. Available at *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ever Since 1927, the **Republic of China (ROC)** has been under a Nationalist Regime: A One-party system organized by the **Kuomintang Party (KMT)** and led by General Chiang Kai-shek. The KMT's rule over **China** was marked by controversy and persistent instability. It faced massive corruption, criminal factionalism, and the inability to effectively address economic inequality that now still remains displayed in **Taiwan**. Many rural and underdeveloped communities, particularly in provinces such as Henan, Hunan, Sichuan, and Anhui, suffered from heavy taxation that ate up approximately 40–50% of trade-working households' income. As a result chaos took the spotlight as local warlords and KMT mercenaries, like Yan Xishan in Shanxi, Liu Xiang in Sichuan, and Long Yun in Yunnan, put up autocratic and violent sets of rules that breached the liberty of speech and language of individuals. Most notoriously evidenced by the brutal killing of Shi Liangcai, a communist journalist and critic of the KMT, murdered in 1934 for daring the imposed censorship. Ultimately documented cases of sexual abuse and rape especially against proletariat women, ended up intensifying peasant unrests, thus contributing to the mass displacement of millions among the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Consequently, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), founded in 1921, gradually expanded its influence, particularly among peasants and workers who saw the Communists as an attractive alternative to the “laissez-faire” rule of Chiang Kai-shek, since the CCP promoted **land reform, lower taxes for peasants, and protection from local abuses. The Long March of 1934–1935** happened to be a defining event for the Chinese Communist Party, which helped solidify Mao Zedong's leadership and establish a strong ideological reputation for the communist movement. Though this was a big milestone for the party, earlier struggles connected from the collapse of the alliance between the KMT and the CCP during the First United Front, meant the CCP had scarce resources, especially coal and oil as they were majorly assisted by the KMT. In 1927, Chiang Kai-shek turned hostile against Communist members, lighting a bitter civil conflict that forced the Communists to regroup

from their earned territories. They retreated to rural bases in Jiangxi, where they built their own organizational structures, implemented reform policies of typical communist fashion, and developed guerrilla warfare. The CCP came back from imminent Nationalist threats and asset struggle, also laying their roots for the contingent Long March, thus becoming a symbol for Chinese resilience and revolutionary strength. However The Japanese invasion in 1937, forced the KMT and the CCP to form the second united front with the aim of expelling the so-called “greasy Japanese” from Chinese territory. During the war, the KMT quite indecently lost out due to the severe casualties suffered by its army.

As a result the Second United Front between the KMT and CCP became a fragile and tense alliance, driven by necessity rather than by mutual cooperation, and whilst the two parties fought together against the Japanese, in practice the scale of war-assistance in the conflict mostly leaned to the KMT rather than to the CCP. The CCP focused on consolidating control over major rural areas and mobilizing the peasantry. They established guerrilla bases behind Japanese lines and socially implemented land reforms, literacy programs, and local governance that increased their public credit. Meanwhile, the KMT fought usual battles, suffering catastrophic casualties estimated at over **two million soldiers**, as well as heavy losses in cities and infrastructure from Japanese bombing campaigns. By the end of the war in 1945, the Japanese although expelled opened a window of opportunity for the CCP as they expanded its influence across much of northern and central China, controlling vast rural territories, recruiting tens of thousands of new warriors, and laying the foundations for their eventual victory in the resumed civil conflict against the weakened KMT.

With Japan’s surrender of the Second World War in 1945, the truce between the Nationalists (post-KMT) and Communists quickly collapsed once again. Diplomatic-illegal negotiation, assisted by the CIA, failed to influence their opposing visions for China’s future. As a result, a bloody civil war resumed in 1946. Despite initial advantages in manpower, the Nationalists ended up struggling with hyperinflation, soldiers with opposing beliefs and deteriorating public trust.

The end of 1949 marked the CCP takeover of **mainland China** as a whole. The CCP’s victories in northern China and the Yangtze River region forced the Nationalist government

to retreat first to Canton, then to Chongqing, and ultimately to Taiwan. On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong declared the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** in Beijing under his dictatorial rule, ultimately marking the end of the Chinese Civil War on the mainland, whereas the Nationalist regime, (still officially known as the Republic of China - ROC) continued to operate from Taiwan, where it received U.S. support.

A note on Chinese romanisation systems

Owning a fully different alphabet from the Western standards, Chinese must be romanised to be properly understood. Romanisation is to convert a non-Latin writing system, such as the logographic Chinese, to the Latin Alphabet, through a phonetic representation of its pronunciation. As of 1949, the Chinese language is romanised through a system called Wade-Giles, organised and published by British diplomats in the late 19th century. Later, the Wade-Giles system would be replaced by the Hanyu Pinyin system, or simply Pinyin. Developed by a committee of linguists summoned by Mao Zedong in the 1950s, Pinyin was officialised by the PRC and by the UN as the standard Chinese romanisation system. As a consequence, several names cited in this guide passed through loads of grammar changes throughout the 20th century, and one might find several different notations during research.

It is important to observe as well that several other names, such as *Canton*, *Hong Kong* or *Chiang Kai-Shek* are romanised from Chinese dialects, such as Cantonese. Those names were submitted through the Wade-Giles romanisation based on their Cantonese pronunciation and, therefore, largely differ from the standard Chinese-English Wade-Giles or the Pinyin romanisation. In those cases, the traditional spelling is identified in parenthesis as “Trad.” All in all, here are some of the most important and common examples of changes:

Wade-Giles	Pinyin
Chiang Chieh-shih (Trad. Chiang Kai-Shek)	Jiang Jieshi
Ch'ung-ch'ing	Chongqing
Hsiang-kang/Heung Kong (Trad. Hong Kong)	Xianggang
Kuang-chou (Trad. Canton)	Guangzhou

Kuomintang (KMT)	Guomindang (GMD)
Mao Tsé-Tung	Mao Zedong
P'ei-ching (Trad. Peking)	Beijing
T'ai-pei	Taipei
Tienanmen Square	Tian'anmen, Tianmen, Tian An Men

CURRENT SITUATION

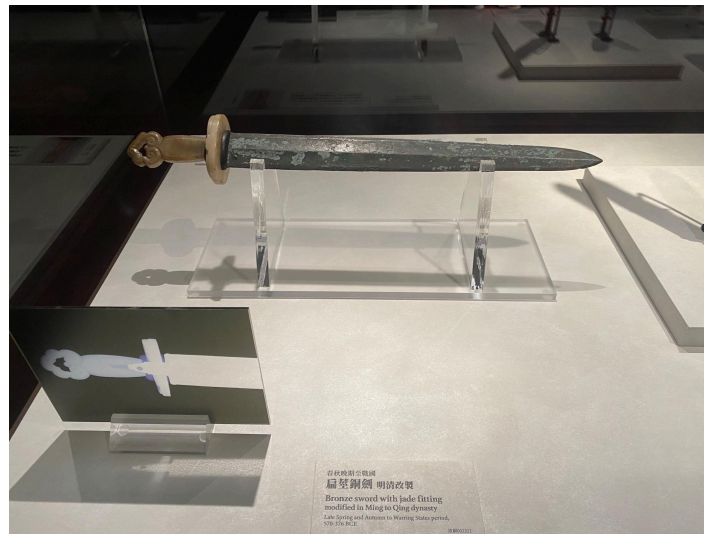
As the KMT retreated to Taiwan, the CCP seized full control of mainland China, with approximately 9.6 million square kilometers and included a population of over 540 million people in 1949. When the CCP administration settled down in Beijing, the city with a population of roughly 2.5 million at the time, Mao started his calls for the “construction of New China”. According to his rhetoric, China is starting anew, putting the house in order before inviting guests. By reviewing over 60 treaties imposed on China since 1842, including the Treaty of Nanking and the Treaty of Shimonoseki, and expelling over 50 foreign diplomats from Western nations, Mao was, according to his rhetoric, “clearing up the prerogatives and influence” the “imperialist countries” had in Old China – that is, the KMT-led ROC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs | People’s Republic of China).

Mao also established that the PRC should diplomatically lean to the socialist side, as a recognition for the over \$1 billion in military, logistical, and advisory aid provided by the Soviet Union to the CCP during the Civil War from 1945 to 1949. Accordingly, the allies of the PRC should mainly be socialist states, including the USSR, Mongolia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Albania, while the capitalist “imperialist” bloc, led by the United States, with over 12 Western-aligned nations, were to be seen as adversaries.

Accordingly, all diplomatic credentials established prior to the communist victory, representation from 58 foreign nations, were nullified, and nations were invited to open diplomatic relations with New China. The communist bloc did so without hesitating, and, as of late 1949, most communist nations recognised the PRC as the sole representative of the Chinese people. The Soviets were followed closely by Burma, while India, Indonesia, the UK, Israel, Sweden, and Denmark already had recognition processes underway. By the end of 1949, at least 10 countries had formally established diplomatic ties with the PRC, with dozens more in negotiations.

Meanwhile, back in Taiwan, the KMT officially moved their temporary capital to Taipei, a city with approximately 1.5 million inhabitants, and the island, covering 36,000 square kilometers, was submitted to Martial Law — that is, an imposition of military rule,

with the suspension of ordinary civilian law. After the February 1947 uprisings, which resulted in an estimated 18,000 to 30,000 civilian deaths, militarily repressed by the Kuomintang, the ROC started a persecution of alleged communists on the island. The ROC then started the “White Terror”, a period of violent consolidation of power by the KMT,



Bronze sword, ca. 400 BCE, one of the many artefacts brought from mainland China to the collection of the National Palace Museum. Source: Personal Archive.

during which tens of thousands of people were imprisoned, executed, or disappeared. Similarly, nationalist remnants were persecuted in mainland China, fleeing to Taiwan, Burma, Hong Kong, and other regions while trying to organise a guerrilla campaign against the CCP.

The KMT left mainland China with over 600,000 pieces of artifacts from the National Palace Museum, transferring millenary jade, bronzes, ceramics, and scrolls to the new headquarters of the institution in Taipei. Alongside museum pieces, the Nationalists also fled with over 500 metric tonnes of gold, valued at approximately \$100 million in 1949 USD, in order to restabilise the inflation in Taiwan, which had reached an estimated 80,000% by 1949. This gold was used to back the New Taiwanese Dollar, the KMT currency established in 1949 and officialised in Taiwan, which helped reduce inflation to less than 10% within two years.

Slowly, the international community is deciding how to deal with the **Chinese Representation Question**. While some, led by the USSR and 7 Eastern Bloc nations, rush to recognise and commence talks with the PRC, others remain loyal to the ROC. The US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France, and other Western countries have little to no prospect of recognising the PRC anytime soon. There have been calls by different nations for a UN Security Council meeting in early 1950 on this topic, and the USSR is working heavily on lobbying the PRC into the UN. Accepting or denying countries a seat in the UN is a heavily political procedure that usually requires deals between the USSR and the US in order to “balance capitalist and communist votes”. In addition, changing a nation’s seat is something unprecedented in the UN’s short five-year history, a fact that increases reluctance from different nations.

Having this in mind, delegates now gather on the 26th of December, 1949, in Lake Success, New York, home of the UN Headquarters at the time, to search for terms, deals, and compromises on building a better world as the Chinese Civil War comes to an end, with over 50 member states represented and more than 200 diplomats present.

PAST UN ACTIONS

The “Question of the Representation of China on the Security Council”, as the UN itself would later call this matter, is a first-of-its-kind discussion in late 1949. Past actions taken by the UN include, therefore, general “textbook” procedures on how to handle situations such as this.

In the UN's 4 year-long history, there are little to no examples of similar situations. Nevertheless, it is interesting to point out a few principles to be kept in mind as one approaches this issue:

1. The principle of self determination of people, part of the core of the UN Charter, prescribes that the peoples have the right to determine their autonomy and establish their own government. That is, they have the right of national self determination. In a situation such as that of China, shouldn't the peoples of mainland China and Taiwan have the right to choose their regimes and, most importantly, their nations?
2. The principle of sovereign equality establishes that all nations in the UN must not be submitted to another nation, as each one is sovereign. Nevertheless, all nations shall be submissive to the supranational institutions of International Law. When analysing the Chinese Civil War, as well as other conflicts in the region, how can intervention be managed without harming anyone's sovereignty?
3. The Geneva Conventions, newly adopted as of 1949, classify many of the modern War Crimes. By analysing those articles and the situations in Southeast Asia as a whole, shouldn't there be any kind of responsabilisation of local and foreign powers for all the civilian casualties and destruction?

Having these principles in mind, when it comes to consulting previous documents and guidelines over this subject, it is highly recommended that one research among the guiding principles of the United Nations. Therefore, analysing the [UN Charter](#), the [Universal](#)

[Declaration of Human Rights](#), and other founding documents of the United Nations should support research efforts.

MAJOR BLOC POSITIONS

Republic of China

ROC's policies when it comes to the question of the Chinese representation in the UNSC is simple: there is no other legit representative of China rather than themselves, and the CCP regime is irregular and legally unacceptable. ROC's veto power becomes now an asset to be protected. Yet, even though nationalist spirits are flourishing and counter strike plans are being made, the KMT knows that the loss of mainland China was an unprecedented defeat that will bring severe consequences.

Now, the ROC finds itself in the midst of a legal debate between who *de facto* and who *de jure* represents the Chinese people. Different alternatives and approaches exist to this question, from unilateral decisions to balancing a two-state system. Searching for compromise with the revolutionaries might be a valuable tool to deal with the changing reality. Whether the KMT and the West like it or not, the CCP is now a new player to be considered and dealt with on the world stage.

People's Republic of China

In the Security Council, the recently established People's Republic of China seeks to consolidate New China in the international community. By abandoning treaties, expelling diplomats, and starting foreign relations all over again, Mao's China made a big bet on its recognition. Initially, the East came to aid. Dozens of countries from the Socialist Bloc were closely followed by potential regional allies, such as Burma. Many others are on their way to start relations with the PRC, even though some who started the recognition process, such as the State of Israel, may not receive reciprocal diplomatic ties.

The PRC has the political and economical advantage of controlling virtually all of the land, labour force, natural resources from China and most of the remaining economic capital from the ROC. Nevertheless, the alliances on which the ROC is bound to are strong, and the fear of a new communist power halts friendship efforts with the West. The PRC

must be able, then, to keep itself loyal to its communist ideologies while negotiating with countries that deeply value liberal democracies, globalised investments, free markets and profit.

French Republic

The war-fatigued nation of the French Republic, with its colonial power crumbling in Southeast Asia, watched closely the outcomes of the Chinese Civil War. By the end of the Second World War, the colonies of French Indochina, officially the Indochinese Federation, rebelled against French rule. Among those revolutions, the communist Viet Minh declared the independence of Vietnam in 1945. The lack of diplomatic agreements between France and the rebels after their unilateral declaration of independence led to a bloody war in the region, still going on by late 1949. Even though a new French puppet government of the States of Vietnam was created in the South of the peninsula, the Northern portion was still under control of the Viet Minh under the revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh. The violence brought about by these colonial conflicts bittered the relationship between France and the ROC, as the Viet Minh presented itself as a new ally to the CCP. The rise of Mao in mainland China not only inspires the growing anti-colonialist and nationalist movements in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia but also supports them with technical infrastructure to continue their independence wars. France, aware of this scenario, could not support the CCP. Accordingly, the French Republic, as of 1949, does not recognise Mao's government, and has little to no prospect of doing so if no negotiation offers are made.

Even though France and the ROC are not close allies at all, the European country is worried about the growth of the PRC. Balancing those different factors, France finds itself in a midway point between the UK and the US. That is, the Fourth Republic was neither as collaborative as the British nor as radical as the Americans, similarly to many nations across the world, such as in Latin America.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Mao's victory over the KMT can easily be described as one thing to the Soviet Union: an opportunity to expand the socialist agenda. In what proved to be a military best-case-scenario for the Soviets, Nationalist forces were obliterated by the CCP that, now controlling mainland China, positioned themselves as a valuable potential ally to the USSR. Mao has repeatedly indicated his intention to "lean" his foreign policy Eastwards, something that greatly interests a growing Soviet sphere of influence.

Not coincidentally, the Soviet Union became one of the most devoted advocates for the ascension of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. This committee offers the grandstand the USSR needs so tenderly to convince the deeply excludent UN to recognise CCP's China and ensure a new victory for the communist bloc.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

By 1949, the stakes were high in Asia for the collapsing British Empire. The loss of India, the Crown's Jewel, in 1947, and the growing autonomy of Australia and New Zealand throughout the 1940s illustrate why the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cares so much about protecting its influence in the region. Among the assets to be protected, Hong Kong deserves special recognition. The city was acquired in different treaties after the Opium Wars and throughout the 19th century, receiving western infrastructure and goods, such as gas, electric lighting and a solid financial system (especially with the foundation of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the well-known HSBC). During the Second World War, the region was ruled by the Japanese with an iron fist, suffering from hyperinflation and lack of food. Freed in 1945, the city saw its population more than halved. After the war, Hong Kong became a destiny for many fleeing from the Civil War in China, flourishing into a remarkable commercial entrepôt. However, as the communists seized control over mainland China, the British feared an invasion. A city that serves as an important trading post and military position ingrown into Chinese territory, Hong Kong must be protected by Britain from all retaliation possible by the CCP.

Even though the UK held a strong relationship with the ROC, they were the first to propose that the Commonwealth as a whole should recognise the PRC. As of late 1949, recognition of Mao's China is underway, yet not finished — a process similar to that of India. Britain has always been closely observing the war, understanding as soon as 1948 that they'd have more safety and stability by dealing with the victorious CCP than by denying their authority. Yet, the UK is still far from being an ally of the PRC, rather being a reluctant observer of the conflict — a position shared by many countries, including former colonies India and Canada, even though the prospects of the latter recognising the PRC are not as tangible. Aware of the incoming seizure of British assets in mainland China by the CCP, the UK is searching for trade deals, as well as ensuring the security and stability of the remnants of its empire.

United States of America

The United States of America carefully watches the Chinese Civil War since the end of the Japanese Empire in 1945. Closely aligned with the KMT, the US aided them during the war, and, since their retreat, now plans to take part in the defence of Taiwan. During the war, the US searched for the establishment of a compromise between the CCP and the Nationalists through a diplomatic mission led by General George Marshall. The **Loss of China** presented itself as an unprecedented threat to the deeply **anticommunist** McCarthy Era USA. As the Cold War starts, old empires, such as France or the UK, collapse. The US, consolidated as the ruling power of the West, finds itself dangerously disagreeing with their Eastern counterpart, the USSR, repudiating any influence they perpetuate worldwide. Similarly, the Soviet Union distrusts America and opposes their ideology. These broad conflicts, extending from the partition of war-torn Germany to border tensions in Korea, dictated diplomacy in the 20th century, including the negotiations on China. Accordingly, admitting a country to the UN, as the Soviet Union desires to, usually happened through long and complicated **package deals**.

The US is profoundly skeptical of Mao Zedong's PCC, considering it nothing but another tool to spread communism. Consequently, America, deeply affected by

anticommunism and the **China Lobby**, stands firmly against the recognition of the PRC, defending the ROC sovereignty. Probably one of the most radical nations in the West, alongside Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines, the US is against any policy that might increase communist influence in Asia, be it through Mao's CCP or Stalin's USSR.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description
1921	<p>In July 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was officially founded in Shanghai during a small meeting of about a dozen delegates, including Mao Zedong. The party emerged in response to widespread social inequality and the failure of the Qing dynasty and the subsequent republican government to re-modernize China. Influenced by Marxist-Leninist ideology and the success of the Russian Revolution, the CCP aimed to mobilize workers and peasants to overthrow the ruling classes. At its start, the CCP was a small political movement, but it laid the foundation for a party that would radically transform China over the next three decades.</p>
1927	<p>In the 1920s, the CCP and the Kuomintang initially formed a political alliance known as the First United Front, aiming to unify China and expel foreign Status Quo imperialists. This collaboration helped the KMT consolidate control over much of China. However, in 1927, Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the KMT, launched a violent resistance against communists, most notably in the Shanghai Massacre, killing thousands of CCP members and supporters. The collapse of the United Front marked the beginning of the Chinese Civil War, as the CCP retreated to rural areas to regroup, while the KMT sought to maintain dominance over the country's mainland.</p>
1934	<p>By 1934, the CCP faced severe military pressure from the KMT's</p>

	<p>campaigns aimed at eliminating communists. In response, Mao Zedong and other leaders set up the Long March, a strategic retreat covering over 9,000 kilometers across terrible conditions and terrain in northern and western China. The march lasted more than a year and involved immense suffering, including battles, starvation, and harsh weather. The Long March was a pivotal moment in CCP history, solidifying Mao's leadership and establishing the party's reputation for resilience and determination. It also allowed the CCP to gain support among rural-proteriate populations and peasants along the route.</p>
<p>1937</p>	<p>In 1937, Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China, marking the beginning of the Second Sino-Japanese War. In the heat of the moment, the KMT and CCP temporarily set aside their civil conflict to form the Second United Front, an alliance of joint power against Japanese forces. During this period, both parties coordinated military efforts and propaganda campaigns to resist foreign occupation, slowing hostilities between the KMT and CCP yet still allowing the CCP to expand its influence in rural areas and strengthen its military, particularly the People's Liberation Army (CCP's National Military).</p>
<p>1945</p>	<p>Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers in August 1945, effectively ending World War II. With the external threat gone, the Second United Front between the CCP and KMT broke down. Tensions over territorial control, political influence, and ideological differences rose up, and the Chinese Civil War resumed in full force. Both sides pushed for dominance over main cities, rural-manipulative areas, and strategic-guerilla</p>

	regions, setting the stage for the final phase of the civil war that would determine China's future governance.
January 1949	In January 1949, the CCP's military forces, the People's Liberation Army, captured Beijing, the very traditional imperial capital and symbolic political center. This victory marked a decisive turning point in the civil war, demonstrating the CCP's growing military and political strength. The fall of Beijing also meant the weakening and volatility of the KMT, who were increasingly confined to southern China.
June 1949	By June 1949, the PLA launched a major offensive, crossing the Yangtze River, to capture the KMT's crucial cities, especially Nanjing, the former capital of the Republic of China, and Shanghai, the nation's largest city and economic hub. These victories effectively destroyed the KMT's ability to maintain centralized control over China and demonstrated the PLA's superiority in both strategy and combat-power. The fall of these cities further weakened KMT authority and accelerated the collapse of nationalism.
October 1949	On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. This historic event marked the official victory of the CCP in the civil war and the beginning of a new era in Chinese history. The PRC's cinematic founding was the triumph of communist ideology over nationalist forces and weakened the name of Capitalism in southeast Asia. Economic changes aimed at consolidating central authority, redistributing land, and modernizing China under a socialist framework were to be

	carried out.
November 1949	In November 1949, the Soviet Union and other communist-aligned countries officially recognized the PRC as the legitimate government of China, shifting diplomatic recognition away from the Republic of China in Taiwan. This move solidified the PRC's international legitimacy and weakened ROC's state sovereignty. This set of events positioned the PRC as a major player in the pressing Cold War geopolitical landscape. Many Western countries initially continued to recognize the ROC, but the PRC's recognition by the Soviet Union provided crucial political and economic support.
December 1949	Following their defeat on the mainland, the KMT retreated to Taiwan, proclaiming the capital of the Republic of China in Taipei. The relocation allowed the KMT to maintain an exiled government and continue asserting its claim as the legitimate Chinese government. Meanwhile, Taiwan became a separate political and military base, laying the groundwork for decades of tension and rivalry between the PRC and ROC, a conflict that persists in various forms to this day.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Anticommunism

Political ideology and sentiment based on the opposition of communism. Builds itself upon the concept of communist policies being a threat to social values, private property and economic prosperity. Widespread across the West, it grew exponentially in the US during the McCarthy Era — a period of fear of communist infiltration in American political institutions, triggered by the 1949 investigation and judgement of State Department official Alger Hiss and worsened with the speeches of Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s.

CCP

Chinese Communist Party, ruling party of the People's Republic of China.

China

In this document, China is a broad term. It refers to the whole of the Chinese people and territories, including KMT, CCP, Taiwan, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, the strait islands, the ROC and the PRC. When China is written, it means "both Chinas".

China Lobby

Group of Chinese enterprises and entrepreneurs with assets in America that lobbied against the recognition of the PRC in the Congress. Led by different millionaires and politicians, the China Lobby was very influential in pressing Congress to keep recognising the ROC as the sole legitimate representative of China.

Chinese Representation Question

International debate of whether the PRC or the ROC should be considered the true representative of the Chinese people.

De facto

Latin for "according to reality", a legal situation in which something happens, even though it is technically not legal. That is, one really has the power that someone else should have, eg.: the CCP consolidated *de facto* rule over China in late 1949.

De jure

Latin for “according to the right”, a legal situation in which something should happen, but for external reasons does not. That is, one does not have its rightful power, while someone else holds it, eg.: the ROC claimed *de jure* rule over China in late 1949.

KMT/GMD

Kuomintang/Guomindang, also known as the Nationalist Party, ruling entity of the Republic of China.

Loss of China

Popular concept in American politics that describes the CCP seizure of mainland China as a defeat to the US. This concept traditionally comes alongside blaming certain individuals or policies for such loss.

Mainland China

Mainland China refers to the continental part of China, where major cities, such as Shanghai, Beijing, Nanjing, etc. are located. The term is usually a generalisation to all of China except Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, and a few islands.

Taiwan

Set of islands across the Taiwan Strait. The main island, known as Formosa, held the KMT's exiled government in its capital, Taipei. The PRC claims *de jure* control over Taiwan, the ROC *de facto* controls the island.

Package Deal

Agreement between the Eastern and Western bloc politically necessary in order to add countries to the UN. Widespread throughout the early years of the organisation, it was seen as a tool to keep the UN balanced between communists and capitalists. That is, if Italy (capitalist) would be admitted, so must Mongolia (communist). When either the US or the USSR considered the “package” unfair, they would veto the admission of those new members and negotiate admitting more countries.

PRC

People's Republic of China, established by Mao Zedong in 1949. Also referred to as "Mao's China", "CCP's China", or, according to Mao's rhetoric, "New China".

ROC

Republic of China, KMT-led government, now reorganised in Taiwan. Also referred to as "Nationalist China", "KMT's China", "Taiwan", or, according to Mao's rhetoric, "Old China".

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- ❖ To what extent does your delegation support the current Chinese government under Chiang Kai-Shek?
- ❖ How does your delegation anticipate the committee debate as one that influences the dynamics of the cold war?
- ❖ How does your delegation's relationship with major Asian powers shape your stance on the topic?
- ❖ Which socio-economic ideologies does your delegation believe should be deemed as legitimate in Chinese territory, and why?
- ❖ In what ways does your delegation believe foreign intervention or even so support should influence China's political and economic development?
- ❖ How does your delegation prioritize the balance between national sovereignty and alignment with global ideological perspectives during the initial phase of the cold war?
- ❖ How does your delegation evaluate the impact of internal Communist and Nationalist conflicts on regional stability and international relations?

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