

TOPIC GUIDES

PIMUN 2018



THE HISTORICAL CRISIS

The Manchurian Crisis and Chinese Civil War - PIMUN 2018





Letter from the Directors

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the entire crisis team and the PIMUN secretariat, it is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to this year's PIMUN 2018 Historical Crisis. This year's topic is the Manchurian Crisis, Chinese Civil War and its corresponding events that dominate the East Asian Theatre during the 1930s.

The crisis is framed around three cabinets: Imperial Japan, the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), where actions and events can be infinitely defined by combinations of either cooperation or factionalism and loyalty or treachery in the arena of high politics, the harrowing fields of battle or even the diverse strata and hierarchies within society. Both domestic and foreign affairs will therefore shape the scenario and set the markers for which you can flourish.

As such, it is very much up to you what you think is best for your faction and the beliefs/ideologies that may define you, but ultimately what is also best for your nation. It is therefore key to maintain not only interpersonal relations within your cabinet, but also inter-cabinet relations to obtain your main goals.

This study guide acts as an introduction, but not sole resource, to the situation the crisis revolves around. It acts as the primary structure and system that can be constantly referred to when researching the topic. However, this does not mean you are limited to the information provided within this study guide. You should always try and think outside the box and beyond the conventional. Allow this crisis to be a playground for your historical imagination.

As delegates you are encouraged to research further afield prior to this crisis and engage with these periods of history. As such it would be wise to familiarise yourself with not only your own characters, but others too.

Whether you are a Communist vying for a socialist China, a Nationalist vying for the crushing of communists or a Japanese official yearning for war, we can only hope you will find this experience both stimulating and informative. Though most importantly, enjoyable.

Yours truly,

Sébastien Mouret and Kevin Wang

Crisis Directors, Historical Crisis
The Manchurian Crisis and Chinese Civil War
PIMUN 2018



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Introduction to Crisis - The Manchurian Crisis and Chinese Civil War

N.B. All Chinese and Japanese names are used with family name first.

The date is June the 29th, 1931 and the Chinese Civil war is reaching its 4th year of conflict and chaos. Although it is hard to tell when exactly the conflict between the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will end, current tactics and emphasis on encirclement by the KMT with the desire of exterminating CCP strongholds seem effective. In China, it can be truly seen as not only a battle of ideologies but also for the fate of a nation. However, as the two mainstream factions in China are deadlocked in a battle of destruction, it is hard to evade growing shadows that rise further in the east.

Across the Yellow Sea, Japanese politics are also going through turbulent times as, as in Europe, far right and militarist sentiment is growing throughout society. Anger from economic stagnation is fiercely resentful and directed towards the West, who claim the rights to Empire and Dreadnoughts while denying Japan the same. In recent years, ultranationalist civilian groups have worked with hardliners within the military to assassinate moderate political opponents and attempt coups. Indeed, the current PM Wakatsuki Reijirō was appointed after his predecessor was gravely wounded in an assassination attempt. Some have quipped that Japan has a “government by assassination”. Hence Japan is at a crossroads where it could curb its imperialistic ambitions or expand and push forward its imperialist gaze to lands it failed to subjugate in previous conquests. The thirst for imperial expansion might not have been completely quenched.

As such we have in many ways a cruel love triangle with many internal-cabinet divisions and factionalism. In its most simplistic description, the situation can be summarised as such.

The Imperial Japanese Cabinet is also plagued with two major factions that divide the possible fate of Japan. On one side we have the conservative and liberals of the cabinet who desire demilitarisation of Japan. The logic fueled by a fear that further aggression will spark the isolation of Japan from the great powers of the world, and even the potential of a coalition against Japan. Such an occurrence would prove fatal for Japan and its culture, way of life and people in the future. On the other side we have the military and militarists who believe it is almost Japan’s divine right to lead Asia against Western Imperialism even if that means through its own means of imperialism. This political extremism is particularly prevalent amongst the young: rising politicians and military officers of middling rank. The older generation are more conservative and nervous about their overly ambitious subordinates. However, a further division lies in rivalry between the military and the navy, who believes in cautious development and rebalancing of Imperial Forces.

The KMT proud of and believing in a united China can be divided into three groups. Those who simply want a strong united China, those who want to stamp out socialist and communist people and also that “group” of autonomous warlords who, despite have varying aims and goals, all ultimately seek to serve themselves.

The CCP, also proud of and believing in a united China, sees it more in the sense of strength and might achieved through socialism. As a whole, they are fundamentally more united than the KMT and Imperial



Japanese cabinet but are also weaker in their capabilities. The CCP of 1931 is not the CCP of 1947 or even 1949, it is kept in check by the realities of the situation. Any factionalism that does exist within the CCP is relatively informal and simply formed by minor disagreements on whether and when cooperation is needed to establish a strong China in the face of invasion or aggression from others. With a general consensus of distrust towards the KMT.

Structure of the Crisis

Delegates in all cabinets represent a character and in specific/many cases also divisions of military or ministries. You would be expected to attempt to act in either the interests of your faction—although not exclusively—, your cabinets, your country or even yourself in the duration of this crisis - at least to that which is appropriate to your situation. Do remember that you alone are responsible for meeting with people inside your cabinet, while the facilitation of meeting people outside your cabinet is the responsibility of the backroom.

IMPORTANT: Please remember that when you come up with crucial strategies and cooperative plots, whether on your own or with other delegates, please send them as directives in full detail to the backroom. This is so we can keep track and also help your strategies become a reality.

Understanding Factionalism and Utilising Titles

As a character you will be associated with a title and possibly a faction too. Each cabinet is, as a general rule of thumb, divided between two main factions. Your character bio will either explicitly state what faction you are in or your stated ideologies will make clear which faction you lean towards. Of course, as in real life, the factions are not here to restrict you into certain cliques, but to guide you in the initial steps of the crisis. As the crisis develops, your positions will change, the nature of factions will change, and you will have much more flexibility with your character.

A brief description of titles will be included within either your study guide or in your bio. In general, these descriptions of your title will show you the limitations and capabilities of your position. However, in no way do they limit what you can do. The backroom can miss things out, and within the context of the crisis we can accommodate information/capabilities/powers you think are missing from your bio/character.

Note for delegates and what the backroom is looking for.

As a rule of thumb, be logical, but also do not restrict your imagination.

As the backroom, we love to see a grasp of the historical environment, but also the use and moulding of that environment to create the outcomes you desire. Though you are not restricted by your character bios, you are rationally bound by the logics and ideologies which inform said character and the factions they identify with.

When you write directives and when you refer to other people who are taking part in the crisis, please put their character's full name and title so that the backroom can easily keep track and process your directives faster.



Good delegates are not made just by the quality of directives but also their conduct and attitude within the cabinet environment. Good delegates who imbue the true nature of their character and who use their imaginative initiatives (which you all have) are the ones we love to interact with.

Whether you are a veteran or a first-time crisis delegate, do not be afraid to ask chairs, the backroom or even the directors about any matters or questions regarding your situation during the crisis. We are all friendly people and our primary objective is to make sure you folks (the delegates) can have an enjoyable time within this historical crisis.





Timeline of Events

1869 (June) - end of the Boshin War and beginning of the Meiji Restoration in Japan.

1894 (July) - 1895 (April) - First Sino-Japanese - War (resulting in a defeat for China and the ceding of territories including Formosa and influence over Korea). These events for the first time clearly positioned Japan as the new dominant power in the East, humiliating China's former prowess.

1899 (November) - 1901 (September) - Boxer Rebellion - The crushing of the boxers split Chinese opinion on the attitudes of the Qing Dynasty. After this event, it was only a matter of time before the diminishment of the Qing.

1904 (February) - 1905 (September) - Russo-Japanese War. Japan gains control of Dalny(ru)/Dairen(jp)/Dalian(cn), Port Arthur and the railways of Southern Manchuria, as well as the southern half of Sakhalin Island.

1905 (October) - The Tongmenghui, precursor to the KMT is founded by Sun Yat-sen and Song Jiao-ren in Tokyo.

1910 (August) - Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910 - Japan's annexation and incorporation of Korea into the Japanese Empire.

1911 (August) - 1912 (February) - Xinhai Revolution, known as the Revolution of 1911, saw the overthrowing of imperial authority in China, with the replacement and creation of a provisional coalition government along with the National Assembly. However, as both institutions lacked military power, both became easily manipulated.

1912 (January) - Sun Yat-Sen becomes Provisional President of the Republic of China.

1912 (March) - Sun Yat-Sen resigns to Yuan Shikai as a promise for forcing the Qing Emperor to abdicate, officially ending the Qing. This is mainly a result of the provisional government having no real military power.

1912 (August) - The Nationalist Party (KMT) is officially established in Huguang Guild Hall in Peking, as a successor to Sun Yat-Sen's previous creation of the Tongmenghui.

1912 (September) - Song Jiaoren, founder of the Nationalist Party along with Sun Yat-Sen, becomes President of the KMT and leader of the Chinese parliament.

1913 (March) - Song Jiaoren is assassinated, most likely by Yuan Shikai, resulting in an attempted Second Revolution by the KMT to overthrow Yuan's government. It failed, and Sun Yat-Sen flees to Tokyo.

1914 - Yuan Shikai tries to dissolve the KMT. However, because most MP belong to the KMT and therefore do not show, parliament is unable to reach a quorum. Yuan responds by dissolving parliament.

1914 - World War One begins.

1915 (January) - Japan issues the Twenty-One Demands to the Republic of China, demanding both some provinces and jurisdiction over Chinese internal affairs. This would come to greatly harm Japan's prestige among its then-allies the United Kingdom and the United States.



1915 (December) - Yuan Shikai, the mad boi, proclaims himself Emperor and creates the Empire of China.

1915 (December) - 1916 (July) - Many former generals of the Qing declare the National Protection War against Yuan Shikai's Empire of China. The result being the dissolution of the Empire of China. China at this point effectively falls into a period dominated by warlords.

1916 - Would ultimately be defined as the Warlord Era, an era that was characterized by constant military conflicts between different factions.

1916 (June) - Yuan Shikai abdicates and dies of uremia.

1918 - World War One ends.

1919 (March) - The March 1st Movement in Korea would officially signify the beginning of the Korean independence movement. However within months, such protests and activities were crushed by imperial Japanese forces.

1919 (May) - May Fourth Movement and the flourishing of new ideologies and protest against the government's weakness in handling Treaty of Versailles. Sparking the first real rise in Chinese Nationalism and ideal of China within the context of a Westphalian-based nation-state.

1919 (June) - Treaty of Versailles results in the ceding of former German territories in Shandong and around Liaoning to Japanese administration.

1919 (October) - The KMT is officially refounded as not only a reorganised KMT party but more crucially as an institution and formation of government.

1921 (June) - The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is founded in Shanghai.

1921 (November) - Japanese Prime Minister Hara Takashi, a staunch liberal (though conservative by today's standards) is stabbed to death by a right-wing railroad switchman.

1923 (January) - The Sun-Joffe Manifesto, establishes an agreement between the KMT and the Soviet Union establishing non-military Soviet Aid to unifying China. This would further lead to the establishment of the First United Front, where the KMT and CCP agreed to cooperate. As part of the agreement, individual Communists would join the KMT to help combat warlordism under the banner of "Together against the warlords and imperialists". During this time all Communists are enlisted as KMT members, and many CCP generals are enlisted within the KMT's Whampoa Military Academy.

1925 (March) - Sun Yat-Sen dies and cracks begin to appear in the First United Front.

1925 (May) - KMT appoints Chiang Kai-shek to command the Nationalist army.

1926 (July) - 1928 (December) - Chiang Kai-shek launches the Northern Expedition to defeat the warlords of central and northern China and unite China under KMT control. Crucially, it also acted as a means to defeat the Beiyang government that claimed the remnants of Yuan Shikai's Empire of China. This is achieved through the newly established National Revolutionary Army (NRA).

1927 (March-April) - The Shōwa financial crisis brings down the first government of Prime Minister Wakatsuki Reijirō and led to the domination of the *zaibatsu* (conglomerates) over the Japanese banking



industry. In particular, small banks and financial institutions would collapse and be absorbed into *zaibatsu* that would continue to dominate until much later, into the 1940s.

1927 (April) - Chiang Kai-Shek orders the Shanghai massacre of 1927: KMT forces led by Chiang attack Communist allies in Shanghai, initiating a full-scale purge of Communists in regions under KMT control. KMT arrests and executes several thousand CCP leaders and left-wing KMT members during the Shanghai Massacre. Mao and other CCP members flee to Hunan province where they mount the Autumn Harvest Uprising against the KMT. The CCP responds by expelling their leader Chen Duxiu.

1927 (August) - Nanchang uprising sees a CCP response to the KMT as uprisings are stirred in Nanchang and marks the official beginning of the Chinese Civil War.

1927 (September) - Autumn Harvest Uprising led by Mao Zedong saw the establishment of the Hunan–Hubei–Jiangxi Soviet, but also the beginning of the CCP's tactic of mounted small-scale rebellions throughout rural areas of southern China.

1928 (March) - March 15 incident saw the crackdown and effective elimination of Communists in Japan for now. In addition the death penalty was brought in as punishment for disobedience to the “draconian Peace Preservation Laws”.

1928 (April) - The KMT captures Beijing and effectively unites China during the Northern Expedition.

1928 (May) - Jinan Incident, a brief conflict as the Imperial Japanese Army comes in contact with the KMT's Northern Expedition forces of the NRA. Results in a Japanese victory and realisation for Chiang of the NRA's lack in technology in comparison to the Japanese. Jinan also see the torturing and killing of many civilians and Chiang's own representatives by the Japanese General Fukuda Hikosuke under the command of Honjō Shigeru.

1928 (June) - Huanggutun incident, where Zhang Zuolin, the warlord of Manchuria, is assassinated in a train explosion planned by the Japanese Kwantung Army. His son Zhang Xueliang would take over and effectively be the ruler of North-West China. However, in Japan, this event was not disclosed to the public until much later in 1931, where even then it was not truly publicised.

1928 (June) - (July) - Chinese Communist Party's Sixth National Party Congress held in Moscow. Many old Chinese Communists and Bolsheviks alike attend this congress.

1928 (October) - Chiang Kai-Shek is made chairman of the Nationalist government of the Republic of China, President of the Executive Yuan and Premier of the Republic of China.

1928 (November) - Although technically becoming Emperor in of Japan in 1926, Hirohito was only enthroned in 1928, officially launching the Shōwa era.

1929 - The Great Depression begins to unfold in the global financial system.

1930 (May) - (November) - Central Plains War sees conflict between Chiang Kai-Shek and former allied warlords under the Northern Expedition. The result is a victory for Chiang and the resignation of many former warlords, although some like Li Zongren and Bai Chongxi retain their armies and domains. More crucially, the result of the Central Plains War significantly reduced the defences of areas such as Manchuria and Northern China, due to attrition and conflict. The Central Plains War also effectively sees the end and defeat of the Warlord Era.



1930 (October) - Musha Incident, Taiwan unsuccessfully rebels against Japanese occupation, and Japan begins to enact force conscription in Taiwan.

1930 (November) - Assassination attempt on Japanese Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi by a member of the Aikoku-sha ultranationalist secret society.

1930 (December) - The beginning of Encirclement Campaigns against the CCP by Chiang and the KMT, starting with the encirclement of the Hunan–Hubei–Jiangxi Soviet. At our current point in time the campaign is largely successful for the KMT and has resulted in the destruction of key CCP target base areas, and created thousands of CCP deaths.

1931 (March) - Although Japanese Prime Minister Hamaguchi was re-elected into office, his wounds prevented him from taking out his duties and former prime minister Wakatsuki Reijirō who managed the Shōwa financial crisis was chosen to lead.

1931 (March) - The March Incident that entailed an abortive coup d'état attempt in Japan. The radical right wing Sakurakai society within the Japanese Imperial Army “aided by ultranationalist civilian groups.” The aftermath, despite the coup being shut down, saw increasing confidence among the military to conduct affairs autonomously from the government and also rising interference and involvement in politics.



A brief history of China, the KMT and the CCP

By 1931, China has been through some turbulent times. Before the first Opium war, China under the Qing Dynasty was known as one of the most prosperous and powerful countries in the East, if not even the world. This was certainly the case throughout its four-thousand-year-long dynastical history.

However, since the defeat and ravaging of China during the First and Second Opium Wars by foreign powers, there has been a deep-rooted distrust in the Chinese mentality towards foreigners. This discontent would also eventually funnel down into the Boxer rebellion of 1899, a rebellion that fundamentally saw the clash and rise of such anti-foreign and anti-imperialist aggression. Though, arguably more crucially, the Sino-Japanese war of 1894-1895 served as the most damaging strike to the Qing empires prestige, as the effects clearly positioned the once great nation of China as only a secondary power to its neighbour the Empire of the Rising sun. The period after Second Opium War did however see a massive improvement in many sectors of society in China, in particular health care, education and the development of a bourgeois segment of society saw the flourishing not only of economic development but also ideas.

The Qing court did try to appease the domestic situation in many ways in face of foreign aggression and the diminishment of imperial power, but its inefficiency to innovate its administration and failure to bring about real reform indirectly resulted in the creation of multiple anti-monarchy groups, as educated and rising bourgeoisie factions within society began to flourish in line with China's rising development. One in particular was the Tongmenghui, the precursor to the KMT founded by Sun Yat-sen and Song Jiao-ren in Tokyo.

All issues within society eventually accumulated into the Xinhai Revolution which lasted between 1911 and 1912 and saw the effective end of imperial control and power in China. Although a national assembly and provisional government were set up after the revolution, China was still effectively controlled by various warlords and feudal lords, seeing in reality a true fragmentation of power within the country.

This was further cemented when Sun Yat-Sen resigned and yielded the position of president to local warlord of Peking Yuan Shikai. However, almost immediately after Yuan Shikai's ascension to president, Song Jiaoren (then leader of the parliament and one of the founders of the newly formed KMT party) is assassinated. As a result, many delegates and even Sun Yat-sen flee to Japan and other neighbouring countries. Yuan tries to ban the KMT, but due the fact such an action would require a vote in parliament, where most members are KMT, this fails, and Yuan just dissolves parliament. Later he then crowns himself emperor of China but immensely misjudges the support he thought that he had. Many warlords break off



and declare themselves in charge of their own regions. This point in Chinese history would be known as the Warlord era and would dominate the domestic Chinese situation until the 1930s.

Yuan's government would not last long, as he effectively lost all support in China. Additionally, as Japan furthered its expansion into places like Korea and German-occupied territories, any ruling government would be effectively undermined as long as foreign intervention continued to occur.

This also accumulated in the May 4th movement which saw a flourishing of new ideologies and disdain for the old ideals and systems in Chinese history. One of these upcoming dominant ideologies is a Chinese nationalism and development of true nation within a collective national identity. Additionally, though, the general disgust for the Treaty of Versailles is highlighted by the fact that, instead of returning German concessions to the Chinese, they are given to the Japanese. Curiously, two years later, in 1921, a certain group of men who were influenced by the works of Karl Marx formed the Chinese Communist party (CCP) in Shanghai. The CCP with its promise of land rights saw an exponential growth in its membership, and also attracted talent. Soon, the KMT and the CCP would even form a coalition, the First United Front under the tenure of Sun Yat-Sen. However, after Sun's death in 1925, cracks would appear in this relationship.

- *The CCP, the Shanghai Massacre and the 28 Bolsheviks*

Lenin and many political elites within the Soviet Union all initially agreed that an urban-based communist revolution could never truly surface within China. Additionally, the Soviet relationship was initially balanced between the CCP and the KMT due to Sun Yat-Sen's three principles including communism within its fundamental ideology.

The Chinese Communist Party itself was founded on close readings of Marxist theories, but divisions quickly arose on the basis of which group could be truly considered as an oppressed class. The founder of the CCP, Chen Duxiu, considered that the main struggle should be carried out by workers in cities - paralleling the October Revolution. However, younger members such as Mao Zedong saw the issue as primarily stemming from the oppression of the peasants. This division within the party was particularly displayed after Chen and many of the elder party members responded to one of Mao's essays written in 1925, titled "An Analysis of Classes in Chinese Society", that pinpointed the peasants as the necessary focus for the CCP.

In many ways this division also paralleled the divisions that appeared within Communist Russia between old Communist leadership around Lenin and rising ideologies that surrounded Stalin. Mao, who was also allegedly promoted by Stalin, though criticised by elders, gained immense attraction and popularity among many new recruits.

Another great influence on the CCP was the 28 Bolsheviks. This was a group of Chinese students who studied within the Soviet Union and often moved between China and the Soviet Union between the 1920s and right into the early 1930s. They are heavily educated and carry great influence within the CCP. Many of the group of 28 are included in the highest ranks of the CCP. At their core, they brought back many of



Lenin's ideologies of the vanguard and changing government from within. As such, only a year after the official creation of the CCP, all members were effectively encouraged to join the KMT's government.

By 1923 this escalated to the Sun-Joffe Manifesto that effectively established Soviet relations with the KMT but also the First United Front of cooperation between the CCP and the KMT. However, in reality the relation between the CCP and the KMT was purely upheld by Sun Yat-sen's balancing act, and after his death in 1925 the two would split.

The KMT was also split between the left who favoured cooperation with the CCP and the right, led by Chiang Kai-shek, who saw Communism and the CCP as more of a threat to a united China and desired its destruction. In 1927 during the height of the Northern Expedition, this would eventually culminate in the infamous Shanghai April massacre/incident, which still has repercussions in modern times, where Chiang Kai-shek rounded up all Communists he could find in Shanghai and had them executed.

This event drove the majority of Communists underground and the rest into establishing their own local Soviets, in many ways mimicking the warlord domains but based on the principles of communism and evasion of the KMT. Famous ones included Mao's Jiangxi Soviet and Zhang Guotao's E-Yu-Wan Soviet (Hubei, Henan, Anhui provinces). This in many ways forced a many influential communist elders and Bolsheviks into hiding, or conversely into the leaderships of such Soviets.

In turn, many elders such as Chen Duxiu were blamed for the massacre and initial cooperation and were effectively expelled from the party. Although formal party structures continue to exist, neither Mao nor Zhang sit as the General Secretary of the whole party, and genuine factions begin to surround the leaders of the most powerful local Soviets in China.

- *The KMT, Republican warlord relations and Chiang Kai-Shek*

The KMT was founded on the remnants of the Tongmenghui, an anti-monarchist society seeking to overthrow the Qing empire and establish a republic, under the principles of Sun Yat-Sen.

However, Sun Yat-Sen's revived KMT of 1919 was different from its predecessor. The goal of the new KMT was to first unify China under the KMT before reorganisation to democracy within the country. Funnily enough, in 1923 in line with the Sun-Joffe Manifesto, much of the KMT was reorganised into a system which paralleled Leninist structures, since the Soviet Union was the only foreign power who offered help after the West denied recognition of the new KMT government based in Canton. This was also the time which saw major inclusion of CCP members within the KMT.

Though crucial, the First United Front and union of the KMT and CCP was designed within the KMT's context of wanting to unite China, and therefore with the aim of combating warlordism through military means under the Northern Expeditions. However, both parties obviously had different end goals, which also festered a difference on how to achieve them.

Regardless, both parties took part in the Northern Expedition and sought to unify China by both militarily defeating and diplomatically negotiating with various warlords throughout China. As such, with many



warlords being defeated, many too were coerced into joining either the CCP or the KMT. The National Revolutionary Army (NRA) was created under Chiang Kai-Shek to achieve this goal. However, it became blatantly clear that KMT cooperation with the CCP would not last, especially after Sun died in 1925 and a succession crisis saw a reassessment of the KMT's inclusive ideology.

Although leadership of the KMT would technically come under Wang Jingwei, true authority came under Chiang Kai-Shek who, as head of the NRA, was effectively the commander of military operations in China.

Chiang admired, trusted and believed in Sun Yat-Sen's ideas of first unifying China through military means. But lacking the same diverse education as Sun's, that covered both western and eastern ideas, Chiang Kai-Shek drew more on his experiences in China and the superiority of the Han within his ideology. He was therefore very quick to draw the conclusion that the Communists were the biggest threat to China and the KMT, since they were pulling society apart from within - which to be honest they were.

Chiang Kai-Shek's often brutal but pragmatic militaristic tendencies brought him major respect among many of his peers, but also victories on the field. After the elimination of many major warlord factions, others would simply yield and pay taxes and offer their services in the republic. However, the loyalty of such warlords is always questionable, and this was something Chiang was very wary of, even after the official ending of the Northern Expedition in 1928 and the subjugation of rebel warlords.

In 1927, even before the end of the Northern Expedition, Chiang Kai-Shek's true brutality was revealed as he incurred the Shanghai massacre that resulted in the elimination of Communist factions within the cities and urban areas, forcing the CCP underground. This would ultimately harm Chiang's reputation at the national level, but also within the party. The KMT itself was also split between the right-wing side that Chiang often aligned with (capital based in Nanjing), but also the left-wing side sympathetic to the Communists role under Wang Jingwei (with its capital based in Wuhan). This split became known as the 412 Incident/Nanjing-Wuhan Split. Later, though, the KMT would reunite due to political maneuvers but also out of a common need to eliminate other KMT internal factions. The 715 Incident which actually occurred within Wang Jingwei's leftist branch of the KMT (in Wuhan) saw the dissolution of any Communist relations with the KMT in 1927. Yet, many personal relationships still persisted afterwards.

By 1931, the Chinese KMT government is a loose alliance of Nationalist politicians, generals and semi-autonomous warlords, which are often seen infighting and struggling with the rival Communists. The NRA as a military force is vast but lacking in training and equipment, especially in comparison to the Japanese.



A brief history of Japan

During and after the Meiji Restoration, when Japan stepped towards a more administrative and centralised government, the country began to flourish and rapidly develop. Though the economy undoubtedly boomed, so did ideology and a real liberalisation of ideology. Japan was seen as a rising nation that was less tainted by western imperialism and the influences of outside nations. Though this was first achieved with the defeat of the Qing in the first Sino-Japanese war, Japan's later annexation of Korea and Taiwan further proved its might as a regional power.

This idea was particularly entrenched in 1905, though, when Japan fought Russia over the control of Port Arthur in the Liaodong Peninsula, and influence over the area as a whole. Japan won the war (at great cost) but was forced to settle for the control of the port and over the railroads of Southern Manchuria. A later entry into WW1 on the side of the Allies saw the nation seize Germany's concessions in China.

This time period was particularly enlightening for all non-western nations as Japan effectively proved itself as a nation on a par with the West but rising from the East. As such, it attracted scholars and idealists from all around the world. However, such ideologies in Japan were also underlined with an increasing rise and genuine desire for its own form of imperialism, especially as Japan was undeniably the dominant power in the region, in addition to their strong troop quality and morale.

Who would stop them?

But the Great Depression and resulting American protectionism has hit the rising power hard, unleashing popular discontent. The crash is a stark reminder that Japan's Empire still lacks the natural resources of the United States and European colonial empires.

The Japanese constitution is largely based on the Prussian/Imperial German constitution, with some inspiration also drawn from the British constitutional monarchy. Civilian politicians are elected to the Diet and appointed to the Cabinet by the Prime Minister. The PM himself is appointed by the Emperor. But the constitution also reserves roles for Military leaders in the government. This militarism at the heart of government is a very Prussian feature. Furthermore, the constitution imbues the Emperor with great power, including command of the armed forces. This means hardliners within the military sometimes refuse to recognise civilian authority, claiming they obey only the Emperor.



As in Europe, far right and militarist sentiment is growing throughout society. People are angry about economic stagnation and fiercely resentful towards the West, who claim the rights to Empire and Dreadnoughts while denying Japan the same. In recent years, ultranationalist civilian groups have worked with hardliners within the military to assassinate moderate political opponents and attempt coups. Indeed, the current PM Wakatsuki was appointed after his predecessor was gravely wounded in an assassination attempt. Some have quipped that Japan has a “government by assassination”.

This political extremism is particularly prevalent amongst the young: rising politicians and military officers of middling rank. The older generation are more conservative and nervous about their overly ambitious subordinates.

The hardliners see China as a weak rival, and the resource-rich province of Manchuria as a juicy prize. The conservatives are anxious that any intervention in China will trigger an arms race Japan could not win and bring economic and diplomatic isolation. Furthermore, there are tensions between the Army and Navy, who both have very different strategic priorities, while the Navy itself is divided on the question of the Washington naval treaty. It is these tensions that you must grapple within this cabinet.

Current State of the Nation of China

It is the year 1931, and China is basically in a state of civil war between the CCP and the KMT, while simultaneously only just coming out of the end of warlord era, as the Central Plains War only occurred a year earlier. Therefore, the country is effectively split into 3 groups: KMT-controlled land, CCP-controlled Soviets in predominantly rural areas, and areas controlled by warlords who declared for the KMT.

However, as proven in the Central Plains War, a declaration of loyalty from warlords can be very questionable at most times.



Within this map, the shaded red areas display areas of CCP, while the yellow serves a mix of KMT-administered and warlord-dominated land.

In 1931, the state of China's industry and power base is relatively well-developed in cities in the southern regions but also the major ports and eastern cities near the coast. As a general description, urban areas were

defined by their industrial characteristics, whereas rural areas were composed almost purely of farms and were completely dedicated to subsistence farming.

Often rural areas were also isolated from urban areas, and integration between the two was limited to the exchange and trade of agricultural products into cities. This supply was nevertheless key to the survival of the cities. However, this loose connection also meant that although industrial cities felt the effects of the Great Depression, most rural areas have not felt any severe effect.

In terms of railways, the nation is relatively well connected in the Eastern parts of the country, although canals and rivers are still widely used and often preferred at the individual level. The western areas of China were however relatively, if not completely isolated from the nation at an infrastructure level. Most settlements and cities there were only connected by either dirt tracks or small paths that weaved between mountains and into plateaus.

Though there are many ethnic groups in China, the Han are the dominant one. However, with the memory of the Qing Empire being fresh to many, the concepts of an ethnicity as Chinese is not seen as something strange or pseudo nationalistic, but rather as rational.

Current State of the Nation of Japan

Japan in 1931 has a very different experience from China's. The country has been unified since the Meiji restoration, and has experienced fast-paced and huge development over the last 40 years.

Since the Meiji restoration, Japan's population had doubled to 65 million in 1928 and the burgeoning population is creating large social and economic problems for the Japanese. The dawning of the Great Depression further exacerbated this issue and the Japanese people have been hit hard by the collapse of the U.S. stock market, which caused mass unemployment and the collapse of multiple industries such as silk and large chunks of the agricultural sector. Exports out of Japan also collapsed as the U.S. raised tariffs on all foreign goods.

Though the economy is slowly recovering, it is far off the growth figures that the current government would desire. Additionally, the revitalisation of the economy is also incredibly slow and there is a degree of decreasing enthusiasm among the Japanese people.

At this point in Japan's history, most people live in cities, and the country is almost completely connected by railways and roads, although development remains less advanced in the North. The big issue is that Japan lacks natural resources, and therefore will always demand a flow of resources to prevent any further slowing growth.



Although mainland Japan is effectively 99% ethnically Japanese, the rest of the Empire is largely stratified in its composition. There are various enclaves and large groups of ethnic Japanese within Japanese colonies. The main ethnicities in each colony correlate with the colony, as can be expected. For example, Korea is filled with Koreans.



Mainstream Ideologies and Existing Schools of Thought

As stated previously, the main theme of this crisis is factionalism within each cabinet. Although one would often subscribe to a faction or find their loyalties crucially aligned with one faction, the reality of one's situation, ideologies and limits are a relative if not almost exclusively personal trope. For example, if one's ideology followed collectivist attitudes, they might align themselves with factions with a socialist ethic.

Similarly, a faction can also claim to be wholly of one ideology or school of thought. However, the environment and the personalities/pragmatism of people can often skew the attainment of any true ideological purity.

Additionally, as touted in real life, there can also be various and multiple limits to a person's own belief in an ideology or even the result of a clash of ideologies that forces them to reassess/choose sides or switch orientations or even factions.

The following sections therefore summarise the main ideologies that you may find within this crisis. **However, please note that ideologies are not restricted to cabinets and often transcend and overlap beyond not only individuals and factions but also often cabinets and chairs too.**

The Confucian Ethic and Sun Yat-Sen's Three Principles

Since the 5th century B.C. in China's long history, the dominant constant within society is Confucianism. Not only tradition, Confucianism can be seen as both a philosophy but also a "rationalistic religion". However, at its fundamental core, Confucianism explores the concept of the family within the collective and social harmony within social hierarchy.

Later interpretations of Confucianism, such as Neo-Confucianism in the Tang and Song dynasty, solidified the concept of the Mandate of Heaven, or the right to rule through benevolent stability, where legitimacy was derived from success and as such the ability to govern gives the right to rule.

Many of the Confucian ideals became the fundamental stratifications of ideological thought in China and still remain to this very day. However, during the May 4th movement, Confucianism and its ideas were often regarded as old and as the very reason imperialism and western powers managed to subdue China in the 19th century. And although many would constantly criticise Confucianism and pin it as a reason for China's failures to adapt and modernise, its main ideals were still incorporated within Chinese Nationalism, and also as fundamentals that Sun Yat-Sen would later put forward as the key political philosophy of China.

In fact, the Three Principles of the People, developed by Sun Yat-Sen, would incorporate many of the basic ideas of western-nationalism, but still situate them within a very rigid Confucian ethic and structure. In an interview with Soong Meiling, the First Lady of China, the Three principles are described as:

"first, Nationalism; second, the People's Rights; third, the People's Livelihood. Nationalism means that there should be equality among all peoples and races, and that all peoples and races should respect each



other and live in peace and harmony. The People's Rights means that the people should have these four rights: election, recall, initiative, and referendum. The People's Livelihood means that people are entitled to proper clothing, food, housing, and communications."

This weaved a distinctly Chinese traditional ideology within nationalism's framework. In many other interpretations, it was even considered that the Three Principles of the People, following the ideas of Confucianism philosophy of truth within the secular, could and to some extent do include the ideas of communism and socialism.

Chinese Nationalism

Chinese nationalism within the 1930s in many ways can be traced to the Three Principles of the People, however it would also be naïve to assume this was the only influence.

The ideas of the Chinese as a nation can carry multiple caveats to its definition, particularly when discussed in the context of issues such as ethnicity and entitlement. The issue itself is very complicated and stretches beyond the 20th century. A prime example can be seen in the very basis on which the Qing dynasty was based. The Qing, who were fundamentally Manchurian and not Han people, often juxtaposed the position of being Chinese and ruling China and being foreigners who are ruling China.

After the 1911 revolution, ethnicity was included in the ideals of what it meant to be Chinese and was expanded to cover all the various diverse ethnicities that existed at the time. However, though this was touted by academics and elites of kinds, fundamental divisions and also areas of cooperation existed within society.

Additionally, with the advent of democratic ideas, the notion of a ruling Han ethnic group began to be popularised purely out statistics rationalities of the Han being the dominant. This also undeniably created juxtapositions of whether one would identify with more of a inclusive China, or a more purist one led by the Han. Often their loyalties to ideologies were defined or side-lined by notions of the nation.

- *The Changing Attitudes in the KMT*

In many ways the ethnic division could be seen as one of the major splits within KMT ideology at the individual level. Chiang Kai-Shek, who had seen little of the international world in comparison to Sun Yat-Sen, would therefore advocate for more of a Han-dominated society in perceptions of power - as he did in the late 20s.

However, this also reflected the greatest boundaries and contradictions in China's and the KMT's move towards modernisation. How can the collective position itself between, on the one hand, the ideals of anti-imperialism which define their cause, and on the other, the understanding and learning from the west and other international nations? In its simplistic form, someone like Chiang could have been seen as more of an



anti-imperialist in a broader context, while Wang Shiwen could be seen more as believing that collaboration with other nations, even Japan, can be good for the Chinese.

The other grand ideological split in the KMT was the degree of collaboration required with the CCP, and indeed whether it was needed at all. The KMT, prior to its brief split in the late 20s, was itself divided among the left and the right. The left sympathised with the CCP. However, as these ideologies evolved throughout the years, they more or less reformed to a far more nuanced approach of ideology that both desired to see a united China. The difference being that those who leaned left, though not exclusively so, within the KMTs political spectrum were far more likely to seek a united China that included the CCP within its apparatus or democratic system. Whereas the right-wing KMT members - not necessarily exclusively, more just Chiang Kai-Shek and his followers - subscribed to the idea that China could only truly be united after the elimination of the CCP and its dangerous socialist ideologies. Chiang Kai-Shek specifically saw socialism as wholly incompatible with Chinese culture and as a danger to the social stability that Chinese society once possessed.

Finally, on an even grander scale, another division could be seen in the basis of whether one was more a militarist or diplomat. Especially as many of the KMT cabinet were former warlords themselves, they had been bruised by and/or reaped the benefits of war and have easily formed their own ideas on the outcome of war and the ability for it to create loyalty but also a functioning nation.

Communism in China

Communism in China at our current time point within the crisis has evolved substantially and become more complex than the party that was initially established by Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao in 1921. The fundamental ideology that initially characterized the CCP was of course Marxist ideology and Marxism with Bolshevik-oriented ideals. Therefore, substantial effort was employed to mimic the Russian Soviet structures and Lenin's vanguard model.

The Soviets themselves and various other international groups also furthered and promoted the CCP to get involved within the KMT and change the system from within. Chen Duxiu initially pressed forward this policy. The result was that the KMT's leftist factions were effectively just CCP members.

However, after Sun's death, Chiang clamped down on the CCP and the effectiveness of the ideology of changing from within was brought into question. The ideology was accused of being merely a way for the CCP to grab power. Chen was demoted and eventually expelled from the party and the strategic aspects of the ideology of the CCP was brought into question as the CCP ran to rural areas and effectively went underground.



- *Rural vs Urban and Contending Interpretations of Marx and existing Socialisms*

At the point of our crisis there are still two dominant types of split within the CCP. One concerns the debate on whether to adopt an international or nativist style of communism, whereas the other divide revolves around who should be the main focus of the coming revolution.

There are of course fundamental differences in the way China is arranged in comparison to Russia that also informs the different types of splits within CCP ideology. As many of the CCP members have studied in Russia (28 Bolsheviks), many subscribe to the idea of a more international and in many ways trotskyist socialism that stayed loyal to Leninist ideals. Additionally, they will also often more likely promote a possible replication of Russia's past experience, emphasising that the workers in industrial urban areas will make up the bulk of the masses which the CCP should represent. However, the fundamental difference also lies on the basis that China has a substantially larger rural population that Russia does. Many including Mao argued that it was the rural communities and the peasants that should truly be identified as the masses and represented by the CCP. Though his ideals were further infused with the establishment of Soviets after Chiang Kai-shek's purge, it is still hard to create the right, quick and effective forms of mobilisation to back such an ideology, compared to the currently existing communist sentiment within urban areas. The rural vs the urban ideology serves as the more pragmatically-oriented split within the CCP.

A more political and philosophical split lies within the degree of purity that exists within the CCP's communist rhetoric. Advocates, such as Mao, would argue for a more fundamental interpretation of Marxism, focusing more on the subaltern, rather than purely the concept of the worker. His ideology crucially differs from the orthodox and established sects of Soviet-style communism, because of Mao's focus on the peasants in China rather than a nuanced description of the proletariat - based on the urban worker. His politics also differed greatly due his more adaptive use of pragmatism and ability to adopt contradictory policies to achieve ultimate goals of successful revolution, meaning he often differed from Marxist-Lenin thought if need be.

On the contrary, the other members of the CCP still follow strict beliefs and to some degree the understanding of the need to stay true to the communist cause to maintain legitimacy. This faction also had very similar beliefs to Moscow and very much believed that pragmatism was also necessary but required a centralised context of state organisation. Factions were to some degree also very geographically determined, as small Soviets often developed their own leadership styles and attracted supporters from all over the country. Though ultimately, they all agreed on socialist principles, the ironic issue lay in the different interpretations of who were the masses and who the CCP truly represented. It was a fragmented party with many voices but at this point diminishing influence in the wake of KMT aggression.

Japanese Nationalism

Prior the Meiji restoration, Japan was fractured into many little feudal regions with their own lords. As such there was often little coherence in opinions across many of these lords (daimyo). Though the emperor was officially the head of state, and also literally seen as a god, true power was held within a pseudo-centralised system under the most powerful lord (the shogun).



However, after the Boshin war, true power was constitutionally returned to the emperor. Even though, with a parliament, most of its members were simply former lords and the most influential people. The result of this change was also a shift from a 300-year-old isolationist policy to an open-door one.

With the experience that the Japanese faced and in the wake of the opium wars in China, it was evident that Japan's isolationism was not beneficial to the country and that modernisation must take place. However, people were also wary of too much modernisation, therefore development had always balanced Western ideals with traditional attitudes. Therefore, a lot of Japan's philosophies and ideologies at the national level are hard to represent and often reveal blends of the traditional and modern, but also factions disagreeing on the place nationalism should have in Japan.

- *State Shintoism and Bushido*

The fundamental characteristics which were kept as the traditional where the ideals of Bushido, which would evolve into militarism, and the adaptation of Shintoism into State Shintoism. Where Bushido was more of a warrior's code that paralleled aspects of western chivalry and promoted discipline, State Shintoism was more of a mobilisation of the traditional customs, religion and even culture into the service of the state.

Though Shinto could be seen as originally a native religion with small customs and arbitrary traditions, State Shintoism, established after the Meiji Restoration, was reskinned as a means of being patriotic to the nation rather than a religion. That was due mainly to the fact that Meiji's constitution demanded religious secularism. However, this also meant that State Shintoism was taught as a philosophy rather than a religion, yet still incorporated aspects of former imagery into a centralisation around the worship of the Emperor - who was still revered as a god under State Shintoism, if not more so.

From an administrative perspective, this also brought 80,000 shrines under the direct administration of the state, in addition to allowing the state to spread doctrine at alarming rates. Other independent shrines also slowly began to adopt state distributed policies with a diffusional effect.

For many, that transition from the Shogun era to modernisation was in many ways stabilized by the constant that State Shintoism represented. However, Shinto also acted as the fundamental vehicle for which ideology, discipline and loyalty were maintained throughout Japanese society as a whole.

Imperialism and Militarism

Imperialism as its own theory is extending influence. However, Japan's imperialism in many ways takes both aspects from Western ideals but also the traditional. From a Western context, Japan's desire to expand is easily explained by the pragmatic hunger and need for resources to power its development.

In its own self-promoted image, Japan, as a non-westernation that has managed to start the path of modernisation to a great power, is a saviour and big brother in East Asia that can help everyone develop too. Though this argument was and still remains a far more liberal argument rather than a militarists notion, it is often used by militarists to promote their agenda.



At its core, ideals of Militarism within Japan can be wholly traced back to Bushido, which celebrates the strong and the disciplined. In many ways a rising militarism within Japan was born out of the belief that the nation, on its path to modernisation, is losing romanticised key aspects of traditional Japanese society. At its foremost is the ideal of morals and also the logic of war as purifying and death within duty. In many ways it serves as the precursor and parallels a similar logic in most right-wing movements in today's society - just with more military.

Liberalism and Fear of Isolationism

Contrary to what our perspectives of the past might restrict us to, Japan had a huge opposition and long liberal tradition. As stated above, these liberals felt that they could genuinely help their Asian neighbours in creating a greater community within Asia. As such, they were also very aware of the capabilities the empire had.

During the First World War and in the aftermath of the Treaty of Versailles, it was very clear that many of the Western powers, especially Japan's ally the UK and also the USA, were extremely disappointed in Japan's imperialistic tendencies. The liberals in Japan feared most of all the possibility of international isolation, which would result in the same consequences as past isolationism (see Matthew Perry).

The liberal faction was very aware that any actions that would annoy the UK and US would not only result in isolationism, but also in a huge colonial presence by Western powers, who would have an active resolve against Japan. In truth many liberal politicians saw that Japan's industry could not compete with the West's at this current point either and any direct conflict as a result of agitation would be fatal to Japan's development and modernisation process. In essence the liberals want to avoid war at all cost.



Imperial Japanese Cabinet

Power, Capabilities and Restrictions

The Japanese Cabinet comprises the Emperor, the Prime Minister and his Ministers, as well as some senior military figures. As such, it covers all power centres within the executive branch under the Meiji Constitution. Legally speaking, the military is not explicitly under the control of the Council of Ministers, but under the “supreme command” of the Emperor. Regardless of opinions the Emperor himself may hold, many high-ranking officers invoke this to bypass the civilian government entirely in decision-making regarding military action. This is possible due to the fact the Emperor never voices his opinions in public, and even within government circles he is very careful with his words.

The Meiji Constitution is somewhat ambiguous regarding the role of the Emperor, and therefore lends itself to conflicting interpretations. The Emperor and his advisers speak highly of the British system of constitutional monarchy, especially when they address Westerners. However, in practice, Hirohito had a slightly more direct involvement in policy making than a modern British monarch would, mostly as an ultimate arbiter when his advice was sought by those involved in day-to-day government.

The Emperor is supposed to “reign, but not rule.” Therefore, although sovereignty resides in the Emperor, it is the Council of Ministers who are supposed to exercise it in the Emperor’s name. The Prime Minister is appointed by the Emperor and appoints the Ministers. Laws must receive the approval of both the Emperor and the Diet (Parliament). This means that the Diet’s main power is to veto bills put forward by the government. Conversely, the Emperor can also veto a bill that was approved by the Diet. The Emperor practically always sides with his Council of Ministers.

The heads of the Army and Navy command their respective Corps, and answer ultimately to the “supreme command” of the Emperor. However, the Constitution does not explicitly specify whether the armed forces must *also* obey the Prime Minister and his government. This ambiguity leaves room for two opposite interpretations, detailed in the next section. It must be noted that the heads of the Army and Navy do not have the right to act of their own initiative: they must obey orders from above. However, in fact, they increasingly often act first, and demand imperial/governmental sanction *ex post facto*.

Japan at this point in time is a very strong international actor, it has by far the most powerful army in Northeast Asia, and since the Meiji Restoration its internal politics have been largely devoid of corruption or warlordism. However, it is not without its weaknesses: economic crisis, ideological divisions (cf next section) and a series of successful attacks on PMs and unsuccessful ones on the Emperor have shaken the country.

Cabinet Dynamics

The main divide in Japanese politics is between non-interventionists (not quite pacifist, but definitely against aggression) and militarists. This divide crystallised recently in the controversy surrounding the London Naval Treaty. The treaty was signed in 1930 by Japan, the US, Britain, France and Italy, as a follow-up and update of the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922. Among other provisions, what caused



controversy was that it reduced the number of cruisers Japan could have, relative to the US (the ratio went from 7:10 under Washington to 6:10 under London).

The Japanese government's rationale for accepting this reduction was that, in a context of economic hardship, a naval arms race would do Japan more harm than good. The Treaty also provided for a renegotiation of terms in 1936, meaning the 6:10 ratio was to be temporary. Most government ministers, including the Navy Minister, support the Treaty. The current PM, Wakatsuki Reijirō, headed the Japanese delegation in London and personally negotiated the Treaty. He is therefore very attached to it. Then-PM Hamaguchi received the Emperor's support in agreeing to the Treaty.

The Navy high command is itself divided between a minority 'treaty faction' siding with the government and a much more numerous 'fleet faction' opposing the Treaty. The fleet faction believes the Treaty to be an unacceptable weakening of Japan's key military capabilities. This thinking is inscribed within a broader current of militaristic thought in Japan's armed forces. In 1929, officers in the Kwantung Army assassinated Northern Chinese warlord Zhang Zuolin, with the hope that this would lead Tokyo to consolidate Japan's presence in Manchuria. This is an example of *gekokujo* for militarist/aggressive aims: a Japanese concept justifying disobedience on moral grounds. The militarist faction in Japan is fond of this concept, since it sees itself as acting for the sake of Japan's grandeur and power. They see the government's policy as endangering Japan by weakening it and have tried to force the civilian authorities' hand by taking unsanctioned aggressive initiatives on the ground to escalate tensions. Many of them have expansionist views for the Japanese Empire, especially in continental China which contains natural resources Japan has little of.

The Emperor is very reluctant to take sides when in the presence of Ministers or officers. He never speaks in public outside of the religious rites he performs. As a result, many militarist officers claim to be obeying the Emperor's 'supreme command' when they oppose the Council of Ministers. In such cases, the Emperor rarely chooses to respond, so as not to get embroiled in political disputes. This means that aggressive elements within the Army and Navy are increasingly taking military and even diplomatic decision-making away from the PM, who has no explicit constitutional means to stop them without imperial intervention.

Existing Positions and Titles within the Cabinet

As with all positions within society, those listed are the current ones at the beginning of the crisis. Issues can often arise, and positions and titles are passed on or even merged if not removed entirely depending on the situation within the crisis.

It is important to note that many people can carry multiple roles. For example, you'll find that several ministers are also generals and/or noblemen, or even that a minister can carry multiple ministerial positions. Most positions here, however, are self-explanatory.

- ★ *Emperor of Japan* - Head of State of Japan, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, living god.
- ★ *Prime Minister* - Head of Council of Ministers, appointed by the Emperor; not always a civilian.



- ★ *Minister of Finance*
- ★ *Minister of Foreign affairs*
- ★ *Home Minister* - Notably responsible for police, local administration, elections.
- ★ *Navy Minister* - Directly accountable to the Emperor rather than the PM.
- ★ *Army Minister* - Same as above.
- ★ *Governor-general of Korea* - Has plenipotentiary powers over Japanese Korea.
- ★ *Commander-in-chief of the Kwantung Army* - Commands the Kwantung Army, only takes orders from the highest levels in Tokyo.
- ★ *General & other military ranks* - Commands troops (at various levels depending on rank).
- ★ *Admiral* - Naval equivalent to General.





Kuomintang Cabinet

Power, Capabilities and Restrictions

The KMT at this point in history is still highly regarded and seen as the most likely faction to unite the whole of China. With the command of the NRA, arguably the most efficient fighting force in China when it comes to open battle, the KMT controls the main supply lines within the country. However, their equipment and quality of troops, though superior to the CCP, are substantially lacking in comparison to Japan - a fact that most generals including Chiang Kai-shek are very familiar with. Therefore, it would be almost impossible to fight both the CCP and the Japanese cabinet at the same time due to resource deficiency.

At an administrative level, the KMT is hampered by corruption within the cities that they occupy and govern, a key economic issue that should be addressed by its ministers and domestic administrators. As local government is horribly inefficient in major cities currently, that could provide them with the largest cut of income. Ironically, the best administered areas actually belong to governors and warlords of relatively autonomous domains that sit under the KMT through “promised” allegiances. Chiang Kai-shek is of course very wary of such loyalties, as only one year ago many of these warlords were at open war with him. All cabinet actions should therefore consider this possible source of conspiracy.

From an international perspective, as the KMT is in command of most resources, even though they are scarce, they are provided with a bargaining chip for many nations to be interested in. Although any military intervention or direct aid from any nation is near impossible right now due the recession, economic based trade for militaristic ends is not completely impossible.

Cabinet Dynamics

The main divides among the KMT are various and fall between both ideology and pragmatic difference. Though this is slightly confusing, at an ideological level most people within the KMT want to see a united China. The issues and divides arise on how to achieve that.

Chiang Kai-shek strongly believes that unity can only be a reality after the extermination of the CCP. However, Chiang is very aware his own legitimacy has to be based on Sun Yat-sen's legacy, so he must keep Sun's former allies close to bolster this ideology.

Funnily enough, many of those close to Sun before his death believed that a unified China must first be achieved before one can discuss the elimination of other parties such as the CCP. In many cases, as is with the Left-sect of the KMT, many are genuinely sympathetic to the CCP cause and find extermination brutal and occasionally even unnecessary.

On a pragmatic level, most, if not all of the warlords and governors understand that a unified China would ultimately lead to a diminishment, if not a potential end to their effective autonomous rule within their respective lands. However, ideological differences and issues of loyalty also meant that many warlords would skirt between helping the KMT extinguish the KMT flame and staying quiet and sneakily refusing



orders of all magnitudes. Too many warlords truly are individuals who can't necessarily be trusted but need to be kept on a leash or a with a close eye of observation.

Existing Positions and Titles within the Cabinet

As with all positions within society, those listed are the current ones at the beginning of the crisis. Issues can often arise, and positions and titles are passed on or even merged if not removed entirely depending on the situation within the crisis.

It is important to note that many people can carry multiple roles. For example, you'll find that most ministers are indeed generals, or even Governors/Warlords of a province, or even that a minister can carry multiple ministerial positions. Most positions here, however, are self-explanatory.

- ★ *Chairman of the National Government of China (President)* - Head of State of China
- ★ *Premier of the Republic of China* - Head of ministries in China, though this positions within modern-day Taiwan politics is merged with the President of the Executive Yuan (the equivalent of the prime minister).
- ★ *President of the Executive Yuan* - Head of Executive Yuan (the cabinet)
- ★ *Vice-President of the Executive Yuan*
- ★ *President of the Legislative Yuan (Parliament)* - Leader of the Parliament
- ★ *Minister of Finance*
- ★ *Minister of Foreign affairs*
- ★ *Minister of Interior*
- ★ *Minister of War*
- ★ *Minister of Industry and Commerce*
- ★ *Governor of a Province or Warlord of a Region* - A governor of a province or warlord is effectively the head of an autonomous region who has pledged their allegiance to the KMT but in reality, the power to spread national policies and ideologies within their regions are wholly a internal matter for them to decide.
- ★ *General* - Commands troops
- ★ *Politician* - Easier to follow ideologically from a masses and social level.



Chinese Communist Cabinet

Power, Capabilities and Restrictions

Arguably the biggest advantage that the CCP has is the support of the peasantry in rural areas. This gives them superior intelligence in the fight with the KMT, although, as previously mentioned, KMT tactics of encirclement are proving effective, with KMT forces outnumbering the communists by ratios as high as 2:1 as a result of mass losses of CCP members after the killings of 15,000 suspected Communists in May 1927. Movement is therefore limited for anyone affiliated with the Communists including in the encircled areas where death at the hands of the KMT is inevitable should contact be made. Despite this, communist annihilation may not be inevitable if the encircled CCP can make effective use of their guerrilla tactics and intelligence.

Cabinet Dynamics

Since the civil war started, the party has been organised along “democratic centralism”, a means to organise revolutionary parties (appropriate given that the CCP adopts Marxist/Leninist thinking). Democratic Centralism is defined as a method of leadership through which all political decisions reached via its elected bodies are binding on all members of the party. As a result, leadership within the party is highly centralised as is the decision making. It is worth noting that in ‘One Party Unity’, Lenin argued that democratic centralism was good for preventing factionalism from emerging within parties, causing less friendly relations among members. Following the dismissal of Chen Duxiu, Li Lisan assumed de facto control of the party organisation in the 1920s, although his leadership was a failure that left the CCP teetering close to destruction. Less than a year later his powers would be taken away by the Comintern.

Do also remember, that at this point within the CCPs history, the cabinet is split into many different Soviets that are geographically scattered around China as a result of the KMT’s brutal extermination policies. Although in theory the central committee led by the current General Secretary is in direct charge of the entire CCP and all communist Soviets, it can be completely up to an individual Soviet how policies are enacted and so forth.

Existing Positions and Titles within the Cabinet

As with all positions within society, those listed are the current ones at the beginning of the crisis. Issues can often arise, and positions and titles are passed on or even merged if not removed entirely depending on the situation within the crisis.

The list is not necessarily in order of importance, as people move around, and power is not always represented by a title, nor a position. Divisions here aim to provide you with another interpretation of how factions may align.

Central Committee Positions and various other Soviet based positions



- ★ *Acting General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CCP* (Current holder: Wang Ming) - Commander of the 28 Bolsheviks
- ★ *Director of the Central Committee Organisation Department* (Current holder: Zhou Enlai) - Controls an underground network of communist cells, specialising in espionage.
- ★ *Head of Propaganda Department* (Current holder: Zhang Wentian) - Member of the 28 Bolsheviks and also controls also media in CCP controlled regions, with underground propagandists at his command elsewhere in the country.
- ★ *Commissioner of the Central Military Committee of the CCP and Military Secretary of the CCP's Yangtze River Region* (Current holder: Liu Bochong) - A supporter of conventional warfare and assistant to Zhou Enlai in daily administration of CCP military affairs.
- ★ *Senior CCP Leader* (Current holder: Bo Gu) - In charge of communications for the CCP and assistant to Mao Zedong and member of 28 Bolsheviks.
- ★ *Upcoming commander* (Current holder: Nie Rongzhen) - Commands the Northern China Military Region
- ★ *Upcoming politician* (Current holder: Bo Yibo) - Commands northern based Communist guerrilla movements
- ★ *Upcoming commander in Jiangxi Soviet* (Current holder: Ye Jianying) - Chief of Staff to Zhang Guotao's fourth front army.

Jiangxi Soviet Leadership

- ★ *Chairman of the Council of the People's Commissars and chairman of the military committee of the Jiangxi Soviet* (Current holder: Mao Zedong) - Also party secretary for the Hunan Soviet. Governs all affairs in the Southwest Jiangxi province.
- ★ *Commander of the 1st Red Army (army of Ruijin)* (Current holder: Zhu De) - The Red Army directly answers to him.
- ★ *General of the Jiangxi Soviet* (Current holder: Peng Dehuai) - Vice Chairman of the Hunan Soviet and a highly experienced military officer. Also sits on the Central Executive Committee of the Jiangxi Soviet.
- ★ *General of the Jiangxi Soviet* (Current holder: Lin Biao) - Commands the 1st Army Group of the Red Army and a politically close ally of Mao Zedong.
- ★ *Upcoming commander and politician in the Jiangxi Soviet* (Current holder: Deng Xiaoping) - Experienced Military officer

E-Yu-Wan Soviet Region Leadership

- ★ *General Secretary and Military Secretary of the CCP's E-Yu-Wan Region* (Current holder: Zhang Guotao) - Controls all troops in this region and is particularly popular among the older CCP members.
- ★ *Military Strategist* (Current holder: Chen Changhao) - Founding member of the 28 Bolsheviks and allied with Zhang Guotao
- ★ *Commander of the 4th Front Army* (Current holder: Xu Xiangqian) - Commands an 80,000 strong unit under the leadership of Zhang Guotao



- ★ *Commander of the Hunan-Hubei border region* (Current holder: He Long) - Controls all military forces and political affairs in this region. Also has a lot of military experience.

Conclusion and Further Reading

Considering the current situation, the world is in and the influence China and Japan have on the world right now, the moment in history that the crisis seeks to simulate can be positioned as one of the most important moments in the 20th century for the Asian region, but also in modern world history.

The crisis is not only a battle between peoples, but it also serves as fundamentally a battle between ideologies at an individual level, a cabinet level and international level.

As the KMT, do you subscribe to ideological purity and wipe the CCP before they can cause more trouble? Or do you consider reuniting China first militarily before considering where the political unity lies?

As the CCP, do you stay true to Marxism as prescribed by Moscow? Do you find more truth in a revolution surrounded by the city workers or the rural peasants? Do you remain pragmatic or live a life that is dominated by ideology? To what degree do you balance ideology with surviving in times of dire need where it seems that the overbearing KMT is about to snuff you out?

As the KMT, do you follow Chiang Kai-shek's ideal of wiping out the CCP or do you believe there are greater worries beyond the borders of China? Does unity come truly from purity or does it lie somewhere else? Again, how do individuals position themselves between factions which bounce between ideology and pragmatism? Fundamentally, within the KMT, the question lies within the road to unity. Although Sun Yat-sen argued socialism was a requirement in the creation of a republic, Sun is no longer here, and his ideals were created at a time when the CCP was still a relatively small influence. Times change, but should ideology change with it? Can one truly prevail by staying true or does the world require initiative rather than purity?

While China is effectively gripped in a civil war between the KMT and the CCP, Japan is also at a historic crossroads on what could effectively determine its fate. Is there really something to worry about or are the interventionists simply afraid of ghosts? Is the military actually just trying to take over the government or is there a validity in their imperialist arguments? What will be the best path for Japan in the decades to come?

These are all the questions you have to consider within your cabinet! Do remember that it is important to understand who in other cabinets can also be coerced into helping your own cabinet, faction or even individual goals. You might find friends in the strangest of places, even beyond your own cabinet.

We genuinely hope that you will enjoy this simulation as much as we have enjoyed creating and preparing the environment for you guys. We are looking forward to meeting each and every one of you and are very excited to see how all of you will allow your imaginations to flourish within this crisis.

On a final note, we would like to thank Alfie Jenkins and Hamzah Sheikh for the timely and invaluable help that they have provided for this study guide. Additionally, we would like to thank all the backroom who have helped prepare the bios for this crisis at times of stress and time constraints.



Yours truly,

Sébastien and Kevin

Crisis Directors, Historical Crisis.
PIMUN 2018

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