



SciMUNC XVII

HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE

Second Sino-Japanese War

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Hello delegates, my name is Nicholas Anderson and I am thrilled to be your chair for this committee. I am a junior at Bronx Science, and this will be my third year as a member of our team. What initially drew me to MUN was my love for history. Ever since reading the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table when I was seven years old, my fascination with history has only grown. From fantastical tales in 5th century England to more relevant social and political events that shape our world today, history is all we have as a means of comparison, which is why I believe it is so important to explore it. That said, MUN is much more than just history. Over these past years, MUN has taught me invaluable skills such as public speaking, patience, improvisation, and, most importantly, compromise. The topic my fellow chair and I chose is one we believe to be extremely important and multifaceted. This conflict is not only a literal war but a clash between ideologies, cultures, famous leaders, and everyday members of society. Given the depth of this committee's topic, I am excited to see your gripping debates, innovative proposals, and creative solutions. I look forward to seeing you this fall at SCIMUN XVII!

My name is Edwin Tom, your vice chair for this committee. When I joined Model UN during my first year, I had no idea what I was getting into. Public speaking was never my forte, and meeting new people wasn't my strong suit either. However, MUN gave me a platform to confront these challenges. Over time, I've acquired practical skills like solving spontaneous problems from crisis updates, collaborating with others, drafting resolutions, and leading blocs. While I still have room to grow, MUN has bolstered my confidence. I remember how intimidating my first in-person committee felt, and I understand that some of you may share that sentiment. But as you become more comfortable with MUN, I hope you'll realize just how valuable an experience these conferences can be. Meeting new people, problem-solving, and having fun are all fundamental aspects of Model UN, and I advise you to embrace it fully. I promise this committee will reveal the benefits of MUN to all of you, and I look forward to seeing you at SCIMUNC XVII!

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. You can contact us at:

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Best,
Nicolas Anderson and Edwin Tom

Committee Description

The Second Sino-Japanese War Committee is a historical crisis committee that operates differently from a general assembly, demanding creative solutions and flexible planning. Given the extensive historical content related to this conflict, adaptability will be the primary skill needed for success in this committee. In addition to the wide range of discussion topics available at the start of the committee, crisis updates throughout the sessions will test your resourcefulness and encourage your creativity to flourish. This historical conference is based directly on events from the Second Sino-Japanese War, offering various perspectives from different factions within China. Each of you will represent influential Chinese politicians, warlords, and generals, each associated with either a communist faction, a nationalist faction, or a non-aligned group with hidden agendas.

This committee was set up immediately after the Xi'an Incident, where the problems afflicting the new Chinese Republic came to light, and warring factions began to recognize Japan as a common enemy. This newfound common ground was a starting point for cooperation, but the

relationship between the communists and nationalists remains highly volatile.

In this committee, you will manage the ongoing conflict between the communist and nationalist factions while addressing the imminent threat of a full-scale Japanese invasion. Delegates will confront many of the same challenges Chinese political leaders faced and must overcome numerous obstacles to achieve the ultimate goal of stability within China.

As participants in SCIMUN, we expect you to exhibit respect. While SCIMUN recognizes excellence with awards, these should not be your primary focus. Instead, prioritize cooperation, collaborate on effective and innovative solutions, and ensure the conference is an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Background Information

The First Chinese Civil War: Tensions in China

After the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in the Xinhai Revolution, a new republic was born, which focused on freedom and modernism under a democratic government. Sun Yat Sen formed the Nationalist Party of China, which began gaining influence in the government. However, fearing another civil war, Sun Yat Sen passed on his presidency to Yuan Shikai, one of the generals during the Xinhai Revolution. As the KMT gained the majority in the parliament, Yuan Shikai began to fear for his position. Shikai established a dictatorship with himself as emperor and banned the nationalist party. Sun Yat Sen escaped to Japan until Yuan Shikai died in 1916, leaving a power vacuum filled by warlords.

On the other hand, the communist party remained fragile and insignificant, as the Soviet Union did not believe it could incite a successful rebellion. The Soviet Union offered financial aid to the Guomindang if the nationalists allied with the communist party to combat the warlords.

The KMT accepted the support and formed the First United Front; Communist party members were allowed to join the nationalist party while remaining in the communist party. The Soviet Union provided combat training to Chinese troops, and the centralized government grew more powerful than the warlords. However, with the untimely death of Sun Yat Sen, Chiang Kai-shek would rise to prominence.

The White Terror

The First Chinese Civil War began after the Shanghai Massacre on April 12, 1927. Chiang Kai-shek grew more paranoid that the communist party was gaining too much influence and was planning to overthrow the nationalist party. In Shanghai, Guo Min Dang forces teamed up with Shanghai gangsters to subjugate known Communist Party officials to be tortured and executed. The nationalists targeted Communist Party buildings and safe houses, purging anyone who resisted. When students and workers protested the violence, the soldiers fired, killing over a hundred people.

The Shanghai Massacre would end

the First United Front between the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and signal the beginning of the White Terror: a period of fierce anti-communist movements by the KMT. Many communist sympathizers would flee underground to begin rebuilding and recruiting workers for their cause. Communist forces attempted to incite rebellion in prominent cities such as Nanchang, Hunan, and Canton, but the nationalists brutally suppressed their efforts. The remnants of these uprisings would eventually join together to start the Red Army and flee to the countryside to begin recruiting peasants.

The Long March

Chiang Kai-Shek ordered five campaigns to encircle and launch a siege on the Red Army. Under Mao Zedong, the Red Army successfully employed guerilla techniques to evade the first four campaigns but was surrounded during the fifth campaign. Chiang built fortifications around the Red Army after raising over 700,000 troops and began his siege. Hundreds of thousands of peasants starved to death, and most of the Red Army retreated. The rebels

attempted one last breakthrough in the weakest part of the fortifications, and the main body of the Red Army managed to escape the siege.

As a result, the communist party impeached Mao as the chairman of the communist party, and the new communist leadership was severely lacking in comparison. After many failed campaigns under new leadership, Mao quickly began regrowing his influence in the communist party, portraying himself as a charismatic and intelligent leader who cared about the people. The retreating force marched at night, crossing 24 mountain ranges, 18 mountain tops, and over 6,000 miles from southeast China to the northernmost provinces. Out of the 80,000 troops that began the long march, only 4000 would survive. The March would cement Mao Zedong as the official chairman of the communist party and would rally thousands of young men to his cause after tales of his heroism and courage spread throughout the countryside.

Xi'an Incident

With the increasingly violent civil war causing chaos and turmoil in the Chinese government, the Japanese effortlessly captured cities in the northeast. Seeing this, Mao decided to relocate his base to the northeastern province of Shaanxi following the long march to defend against the Japanese invasion. However, they found themselves outmatched by the superior firepower and numbers of the Japanese forces. The communist party called for the nationalists to work together to defend against the Japanese, but Chang Kai Shek refused to collaborate with the Communists. Many of Chiang's allies were against the president's anti-communist agenda, and some, including Chen Lifu, entered secret negotiations with the communists to plan the anti-Japanese alliance.

When Chiang Kai-shek visited Xi'an to revitalize his anti-communist campaigns, he was kidnapped and arrested by two generals, Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng. His generals demanded that Chiang give up his campaign against the communists and work together with the communists to expel the Japanese. Mass

riots and protests ensued, demanding that the generals release Chiang. He would eventually be released 13 days later after he gave a verbal agreement to aid the communists and gave in to Zhang Xueliang's demands.

Japanese Imperialism: The Rise of Japan and Pan-Asianism

During the colonization of East Asia, Japan attempted to remain an isolated and independent nation, but Matthew Perry's mission would result in the Japanese opening up as an American colony. The Japanese would then realize the importance of modernization and industrialization and enact the Meiji Restoration to become its superpower. The Japanese would establish themselves as a nation after defeating Russia in the Russo-Japanese War and creating colonies in Korea and Southeast Asia. In 1927, the Great Depression began to halt the growing global economy. The Great Depression was particularly debilitating for Japan's economy, which was just beginning to expand onto the international scene after centuries of isolationism.

To alleviate their economic woes, Japan looked to China and other nations in East Asia as a source of wealth to stimulate economic growth. As a result, Japan initiated the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, which purported to create a Pan-Asian economic and military alliance to fend off oppressive Western imperialists. This Co-Prosperity Sphere prompted the invasion of multiple dominions throughout Southeast Asia, the most notable being the invasion of Manchuria. Japan would then siphon resources from Manchuria and their other colonies to improve their economy and military infrastructure. This extraction of resources, which many Chinese considered unjust and exploitative, only added to the rising tensions between the two nations.

Invasion of Manchuria

The Japanese sought to strengthen their control over Manchuria, leading them to stage the Mukden incident. Japanese soldiers placed small explosives on a Japanese-owned railroad and blamed the Chinese. This false flag operation served as a pretext for a large-scale invasion of Manchuria, where they established the puppet state of Manchukuo in 1932. The

League of Nations immediately condemned the Japanese for the occupation, which prompted the Japanese to leave the league, further isolating the nation. After establishing control in Manchuria, the expansionist ambitions of the Japanese emperor only grew after setting his sights on mainland China. This imperialist ambition is one of the main factors that delegates in this committee will contend with.

Main Committee Topic

Communists Against Nationalists

The tumultuous history of nationalists and communists in China has had a profound and lasting impact on the nation's history. In the early 20th century, the nationalist movement led by Sun Yat Sen aimed to unify and modernize China, putting an abrupt end to centuries of imperial rule. At the same time, the communists led by Mao Zedong rejected Western influence and retained Chinese tradition by establishing an agrarian communist society. The two differing ideologies inevitably led the two groups to conflict over what form of government should rule the nation. While the two factions cooperated during the warlord period, a bitter civil war over their ideological differences ensued. However, as a result of the ceasefire, prompted by the Japanese invasion, the two sides have made their way to the negotiating table, where they have begun discussions regarding the Japanese and the future of the Republic of China. The delegates will need to plan for the aftermath of the invasion to determine whether or not the opposing factions can co-exist.

Japanese Imperialism

After the initial invasion of Manchuria, the Japanese would spread their influence throughout the rest of East China, attacking prominent cities such as Shanghai. As the Japanese continued marching towards the capital of China, many groups, such as the Communist Party, attempted to halt the invasion but failed due to the overwhelming strength of the Japanese military. The committee will need to come to a consensus on the responsibilities of all parties, the division of resources, and the best possible course of action regarding the Japanese Invasion.

Past Solutions

Unification

The First United Front of China began during the warlords' period. The central government in China was vulnerable, and local warlords controlled many territories. As a result, the Soviet Union traded supplies and weapons with the KMT in exchange for cooperation with the communist Party. Communist members were allowed to join the KMT, remain in the Communist Party, and gain high positions of power. However, the Soviet Union did not believe that the Communist Party was strong enough to incite a communist revolution, and the Soviet Union only wished to maintain its relationship with the Republic of China. Sun Yat Sen, the leader of the Kuo Ming Tang, personally organized the alliance between the communists and the nationalists. However, after Sun's death, his successor, Chiang Kai-shek, began purging the communist party, starting the second civil war.

Military Action

The first Sino-Japanese Civil War began after the Chinese broke the agreement

created in the Tientsin Convention and aided the Korean King in dispelling the Rebels. The Japanese declared war on August 1, 1894, and attained overwhelming victories over the Chinese. After the Japanese gained a foot on the Chinese mainland through the invasions of Shandong and Manchuria, the Chinese sued for peace. The resulting Treaty of Shimonoseki caused heavy losses for China. China recognized Korean Independence and ceded valuable territories such as Taiwan, The Pescadores, and the Liaodong Peninsula. China also paid a crippling sum of war reparations and gave Japan trading rights in China.

Treaties and Diplomacy

Korea was a valuable client state of China for decades, but the Japanese began eyeing the territory for its strategic location. In 1875, Japan, using its new Western technology, forced Korea to open itself to foreign trade and declare independence from China. The Japanese intervention created a divide within Korea, with Japan supporting the more radical and modern officials while the Chinese aligned with the royal family. A war between the Japanese and the Chinese almost erupted after a group of pro-Japanese

radicalists tried to overthrow the government; Chinese soldiers rescued the king and killed several Japanese guards. However, the conflict ended with the Tientsin Convention in 1885, which pulled all foreign troops from Korea and made it a co-protectorate of both China and Japan. Although the treaty only stalled the impending Sino-Japanese War, it proved that the Japanese and Chinese could negotiate.

Questions to Consider

1. How should the Chinese approach the Japanese Invasion? Can peace be negotiated between the Japanese, or is war inevitable?
2. How will the Chinese government address the dividing factions? Can the opposing sides work together for a common goal?
3. What will the division of power be after the Chinese halt the invasion?
4. How will the conquered provinces be restored?

Bloc Positions

Mao Zedong

Mao Zedong was the de facto leader of the communist party of China and was a figurehead of the revolution. Many soldiers and peasants were loyal to Mao and looked up to him as an idol. He evaded the Nationalist campaigns during the Long March and led the first attacks against the Japanese Invasion. As the Chairman of the communist party, Mao had access to most of the party's resources, such as the Red Army, the vast network of spies, and the Communist Party's finances. In addition, Mao Zedong had extensive influence within the party, having many connections with officials and control over the decisions made by the party.

Zhou Enlai

Zhou Enlai was the chief negotiator of the Communist Party tasked with securing an alliance with the nationalists. Following the Xi'an Incident, he negotiated with Zhang Xueliang and Yang Huchang for Chiang Kai-shek's release. As the Chief Negotiator,

Zhou has formed relationships of monumental importance that transcend party lines. As a result, his opinion carries a tremendous weight on both sides.

Zhu De

Zhu De was a tremendous military strategist who led the Red Army through the long march alongside prominent communist leaders such as Mao Zedong. After the Nanchang Uprising, Zhu led his troops into hiding, where they united with Mao Zedong's forces to create the Fourth Red Army. As the commander in chief of the 4th Red Army, Zhu De commanded high authority within the communist military and was revered by many as a hero alongside Mao Zedong after the Long March.

Deng Xiao Ping

Joining the Chinese communist movement in its infancy, Deng Xiao Ping rapidly rose as a political figure, ultimately allowing him to play an integral role in this particular conflict. Deng was involved in various capacities, spearheading guerilla and other partisan attacks against invading

Japanese forces. Deng also established an extensive network of local underground resistance bases, strengthening communist networks and granting himself access to invaluable information.

Liu Shaoqi

Liu Shaoqi was a prominent leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) who worked to mobilize Chinese peasants within Japanese-held territories. By uniting various Chinese forces against the Japanese, Liu Shaoqi played a crucial role in slowing the Japanese advance. He was also responsible for developing many guerilla tactics throughout the war, earning him acclaim as a military mind.

Wang Jia Xiang

Wang Jia Xiang was a prominent leader in the Second Sino-Japanese Civil War. As the Secretary of the communist North China Bureau, he was essential in organizing guerilla attacks that severed crucial Japanese supply lines. However, unlike many communist leaders, Wang Jiaxiang's motives were not purely partisan. Wang openly advocated for increased

cooperation between the Communists and Nationalists, aiming to galvanize a combined force to stop the Japanese invasion in its tracks. As a result of his bipartisanship, Wang formed strong relationships across both parties, broadening his influence.

Yang Jing Yu

Yang Jing Yu was an outspoken member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and a well-known military tactician. He joined the Communist Youth League in 1925 with many other notable leaders and worked his way up the ladder, benefiting from internal connections. Yang Jing Yu was a guerilla fighter and worked preemptively to secure disputed territory along the Chinese border, which proved integral to the defense of the mainland.

Chen Boda

Chen Boda was a prominent spy for the Chinese Communist Party and taught at Beijing College. He would then teach in communist party schools in the propaganda department. In his youth, Chen joined the northern expedition to overthrow local

warlords. As a professor and leader in Marxist theory, he held high prestige among Chinese youth and was a crucial propagandist for the communist party.

Wang Ming

Wang Ming was a leader of the 28 Bolsheviks and one of the two chief rivals to Mao. With the backing of the Soviet Union, he would quickly gain power within the party. Because he adhered to different beliefs of the central communist party, Wang was beginning to lose control of other prominent communists. However, Wang would soon return to Moscow as the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s delegate to Communist International. After the Shanghai Incident and the Long March, Wang returned to China to assist the communist forces, where he clashed with Mao Zedong over the formation of the United Front.

Zhang Guo Tao

Zhang Guo Tao was a founding member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and one of the last members to contest with Mao over leadership. As the

head of an independent communist enclave, Zhang controlled a powerful faction of the Communist Party. However, after a disastrous attempt to form a base in the barren southwest region, Zhang lost many followers. Even with a position in the Communist Political Bureau, he remained powerless regarding decisions in the Party.

Dmitry Bogomolov

Dmitry Bogomolov was the ambassador of the Soviet Union to China. As ambassador, he held great sway in the Soviet Union and the Chinese government. He represented the Soviet Union's interests in East Asia and was vital in expressing the Soviet Union's political stance during the Xi'an Incident. Bogomolov controlled and distributed the Soviet Union's financial and military aid to the Chinese government.

Peng De Huai

Peng De Huai was one of the most successful commanders of the Red Army and held a close personal relationship with Mao. Initially a mentee of Chiang Kai-shek, Peng Dehuai would flee alongside the

communists after Chiang continued to pursue the communists. Peng would soon become a senior military commander and second in command in the military hierarchy.

He Zi Zhen

He Zi Zhen was the third wife of Mao Zedong and served as his secretary. Although injured with shrapnel shortly after the Long March began and pregnant, she served in the battles as a sharpshooter and military strategist. As a women's rights advocate, she was committed to demonstrating the importance of women in the war effort, gaining the admiration of women across China.

Chiang Kai-shek

Chiang Kai-shek was the leader of the nationalist party and the President of China. As a staunch conservative, he strongly opposed the First United Front and disbanded it after assuming leadership of the nationalist party. Chiang organized many movements against the communist party, including the Shanghai Massacre, the Long March, and numerous other military

campaigns. After the Invasion of Manchuria, Chiang continued to pursue the communist forces, stating that he would handle the invasion only after defeating the communist party. This approach only caused conflict within the Nationalist Party, as many members believed an alliance was necessary to halt the Japanese. Eventually, Chiang's allies kidnapped him until he called a ceasefire. As the President of China, Chiang Kai-shek has vast resources, including the Chinese military and national finances. Chiang held amicable relations with some Western countries, but neglect of the Japanese invasion lost him the support of the public and many of his allies in the Nationalist Party.

Wang Jing Wei

Wang Jing Wei was an influential member of the Kuomintang (KMT) and sought to bridge the divide between the communists and nationalists early in his career. After this endeavor ended in political failure, he would slowly adopt a significantly more radical anti-communist agenda. In 1925, these more radical views and his dissatisfaction with the state of the Kuomintang drove him to unsuccessfully

challenge Chiang Kai Shek, the leader of the Kuomintang, for control of the party. After another political failure, he remained a member of the Kuomintang but had frequent disagreements with Chiang. He maintained connections with mainstream members of the party but led a minority group that opposed the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek.

He Ying Qin

He Ying Qin was a prominent military leader of the Kuomintang (KMT) and a top-ranking general in the nationalist government. He operated directly below Chiang Kai Shek and other top political leaders of the national government and frequently employed the military to maintain the fragile chain of command. Despite his position as a prominent nationalist official, he was not a staunch partisan but aimed to strengthen and militarize China to resist the Japanese invasion.

Chiang Ching Kuo

Chiang Ching Kuo was the only biological son of Chiang Kai-shek and a firm believer in Trotskyism. Following the Shanghai Massacre, Chiang would publish a critical editorial of his father, denouncing his actions and defending the Communist Party. Despite this, he was held as a political prisoner by the Soviet Union, and his father refused to negotiate for his release. After the Xi'an Incident, Chiang Ching-Kuo was released and returned to China. There, Chiang reunited with his father and gained various positions in the Nationalist government.

Du Yu Ming

Du Yu Ming was a renowned general of the Kuomintang (KMT). As a result of his prestige, at the onset of the Second Sino-Japanese War, he was given command of the Kuomintang's most prominent fighting force in Northeastern China, the disputed regions. As a trusted general of the nationalists, fighting on the frontline of the conflict, his actions had enormous consequences for the rest of China. Additionally, because communication was limited and the hostilities in the Northeastern regions evolved so quickly in the first couple

of years of war, Du was given almost complete discretion, making him even more essential to the resistance movement.

Chen Gong Bo

Chen Gong Bo was a founding member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). However, after becoming disillusioned with communist ideology, he left to pursue an education in the United States. Upon his return, Chen joined the Kuomintang (KMT) as the organization's Minister of Peasants and Workers. Despite his subsequent role in Chiang Kai-shek's northern expedition, he became a member of a leftist faction within the nationalists along with Wang Jingwei that strongly opposed Chiang Kai-shek.

Dr. V.K. Wellington Koo

Dr. V.K. Wellington Koo was the Chinese ambassador to the U.S. and the U.K. during the Second Sino-Japanese War. After attempting to negotiate a peace deal with the Japanese that fell through, Koo became an outspoken supporter of the Chinese War effort. As the Chinese representative to influential Western powers, he helped gain

support and recognition for China's resistance effort as a member of the Kuomintang (KMT).

Li Zongren

Li Zongren was an outstanding military mind of his time. Zongren was the Chairman of the government of Guangdong and one of Chiang Kai-shek's rivals, seeking power and influence during a phase of uncertainty in China. However, at the onset of hostilities with Japan, he joined forces with Chiang Kai Shek and the KMT, contributing men, resources, and military expertise.

Soong Mei Ling

Soong Mei Ling was the wife of Chiang Kai-shek and a prominent Chinese politician. She played a significant role in the negotiations during the Xi'an Incident. After being educated in the United States, she became immensely knowledgeable in American affairs and popular with the public for her speeches. As the head of the Song family, a powerful political family in China, Song held immense power in the KMT and

was dedicated to spreading Chiang's ideas globally.

Soong Qing Ling

Soong Qing Ling was the sister of Song Mei Ling and the wife of Sun Yat Sen. After Sun's death, Song rose as an influential figure in the Kuomintang and supported the left-wing faction. After the Shanghai Massacre, Soong denounced the KMT for its horrific acts and escaped to the Soviet Union. After the Japanese invasion, she created the China Defense League, which focused on humanitarian efforts, targeting primarily communist-controlled areas.

Soong Tzu Wen

Soong Tzu Wen was the finance minister of the KMT and made many economic reforms in China. As a wealthy banker, businessman, and politician, Soong was a valuable asset to the Chinese government. After founding the China Development Finance Corporation with Chang Kia-ngau, Chen Guangpu, and H.H. Kung, Soong secured foreign investments in China. Soong also negotiated for valuable

war loans from the US and won support for the war with Japan.

H.H. Kung

H.H. Kung was a prominent banker and statesman during the Second Sino-Japanese War, serving as the Chinese Development Finance Corporation. His position gave him significant influence regarding the Chinese economy during wartime. Additionally, he secured international loans to fund the Chinese war effort. His tactful negotiating strategies earned him a reputation as a manipulative and influential member of the Nationalist Party.

Chen Cheng

Chen Cheng was a Kuo Ming Tang military leader and anti-communist political figure. Chen is responsible for organizing the majority of the KMT's anti-communist propaganda. This messaging has helped shape the anti-Communist sentiments of citizens of nationalist-controlled China, contributing to the polarizing political climate. Additionally, his victory against the

Red Army forced them into the long march, widely viewed as a colossal nationalist victory against the Communist Party, and made him one of the most influential figures in the Nationalist government.

Guo Taiqi

Guo Taiqi was a Chinese diplomat and military leader. In his early career, he served as one of the technical delegates of China to the Paris Peace Conference (1918-19), allowing him to form international bonds. Subsequently, he became one of the Kuomintang (KMT)'s military leaders, serving directly under Chiang Kai Shek. He was also an outspoken critic of the communist party and published the book *China's Fight for Democracy* in 1920.

Zhang Zhizhong

Zhang Zhizong was the Governor of Hunan Province and an influential politician within the Kuomintang (KMT). As the

governor of a substantial province, Zhang Zhizhong contributed vast resources that helped fuel the nationalist war effort. Initially a supporter of Chiang Kai Shek, Zhang Zhizong joined the leftist faction within the KMT that opposed Chiang Kai Shek's dictatorial tendencies and supported increasing collaboration between the communists and nationalists.

Chen Lifu

Chen Lifu was a crucial member of the Kuomintang (KMT). After pursuing an education in the United States, Chen Lifu returned to China and joined the KMT as part of its youth guard. Eventually, he rose through the ranks, becoming one of Chiang Kai Shek's chief advisors. His main goal was to help the nationalists consolidate their power. He also worked to limit the influence of communism within nationalist-held territories.

Zhang Xue Liang

Zhang Xue Liang became the de facto warlord of Manchuria after the assassination of his fathers. As a result of his people's nationalist-leaning sentiments,

Zhang pledged loyalty to the Nationalist government and kept the region of Manchuria practically autonomous until the outbreak of war. Frustrated by Chiang Kai Shek's leadership, he helped orchestrate the Xian incident along with Yang Hucheng, causing a ceasefire between the two sides. Despite being partially responsible for the peace between the two factions, his actions are seen by many as misguided.

Yang Hu Cheng

As a young warlord of the Shaanxi province, Yang Hucheng aligned himself and his constituents with the nationalist party to maintain access to lucrative trading routes. Despite his early loyalty to the nationalists, he believed in the Communist proposal to unite China's fighting force at the onset of the war. As a result, he partnered with Zhang Xue Liang to orchestrate the Xian incident that initiated a ceasefire between the Communists and nationalists. His constituents applauded his bipartisan actions, but he lost the trust of many of his nationalist allies.

Yan Xi Shan

Yan Xi-Shan was a warlord of the Shanxi province. He was known for his practical approach to leadership and his shifting alliances. His main goal was to maintain the autonomy of his territory, which acted as a buffer between Nationalist and Communist-controlled land. He initially aligned with the Nationalists, but when conflict with Japan arose, he aligned with the Japanese temporarily. Despite this alliance with the Japanese, he still values Chinese sovereignty and desires to exit this alliance.

Ma Bu Fang

Ma Bu Fang was a warlord of the Qinghai Province, a region that preferred to remain autonomous. As a result, Ma remained neutral at the onset of the war for fear of retaliation by the opposing party. However, as the conflict progressed, he aligned with the nationalists and contributed men to the fight against the Japanese, thereby earning the favor of Chiang Kai Shek.

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