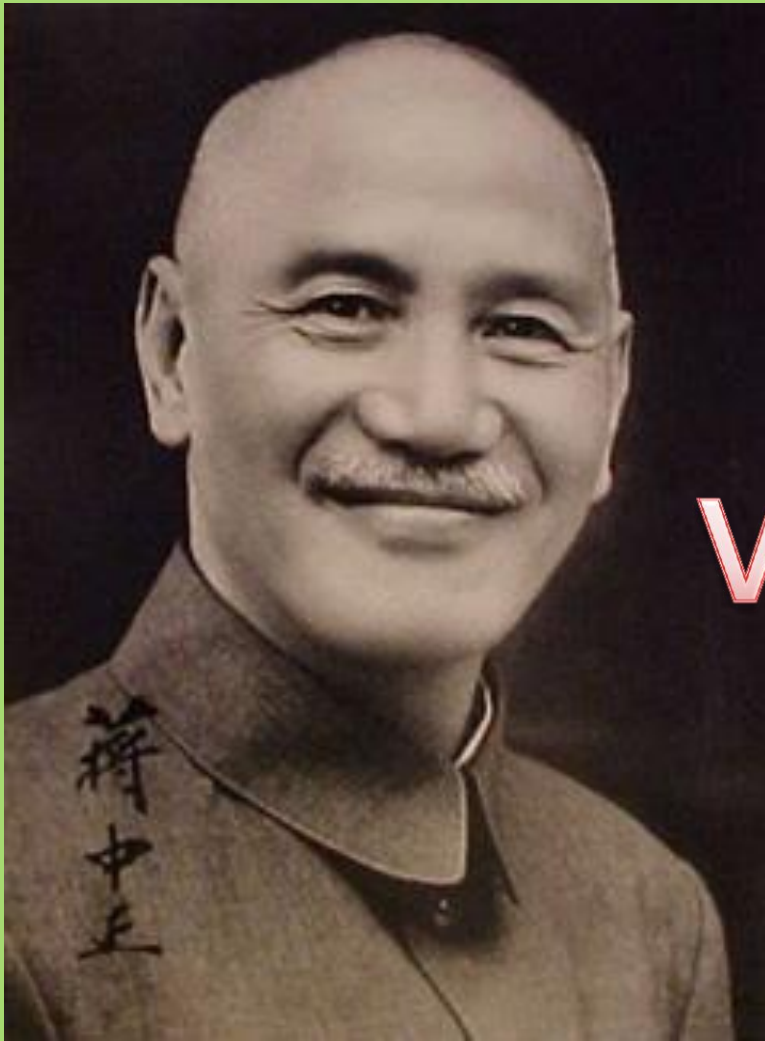


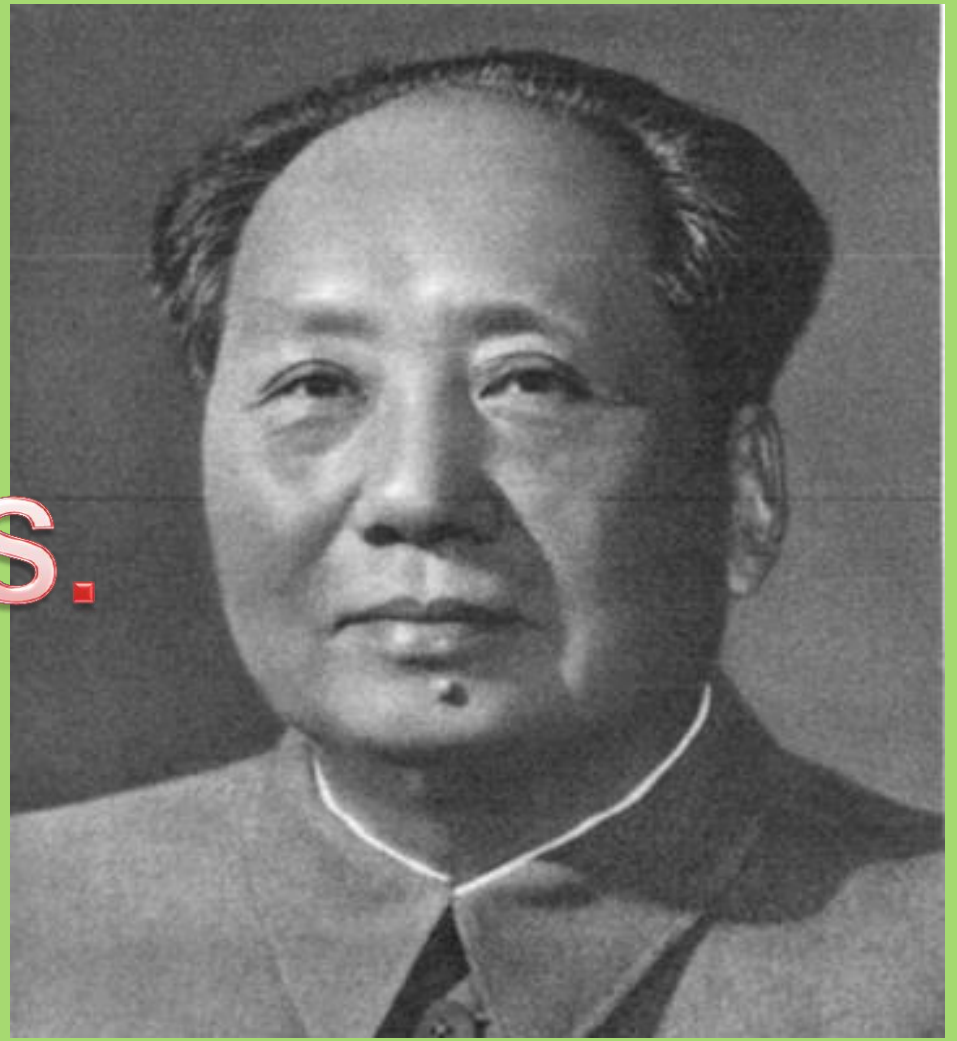
Essential Question: How did the Communists take over China?

Before WWII...

- The people of China were unhappy with imperial rule.
- Their unhappiness led to revolution and civil war.
- Power struggles existed between two groups—the **Nationalists**, led by **Chiang Kai-shek**, and the **Communists**, led by **Mao Zedong**.



VS.



Chiang Kai-shek
Nationalists

Mao Zedong
Communists

Chiang Kai-shek

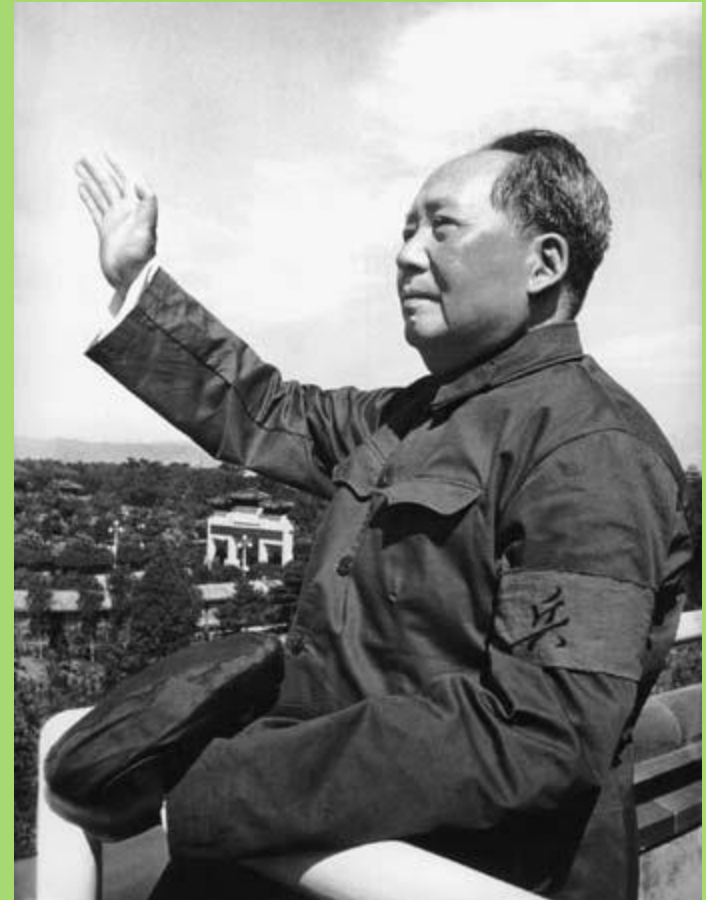


- Chiang Kai-shek was a Nationalist and unyielding Anti-Communist.
- He led the military unification of China in the 1920s and helped the Allied powers defeat the Japanese in WWII.

- As a teenager, Mao Zedong was forced to work full-time on his family's farm.

- Rebelling against his parents, Mao left home to continue his education and by 1918 was working as a librarian's assistant at Beijing University, where he was first introduced to Marxist theory.

- Mao joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1921 and soon after realized the potential power of China's rural peasants.





- Mao believed that, unlike the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, which depended on urban workers, China's hundreds of millions of peasants would be the revolutionaries.

- It was Mao's strategy of guerrilla warfare in rural China that would eventually lead to Communist victory.

Communists Take Over China

During World War II the Chinese Communists and the Nationalists put aside differences to fight Japanese invaders.

Civil War Resumes after WWII

- Once Japan was defeated, civil war resumed.
- Nationalist forces outnumbered Mao's Communists, but Communists had wide support among China's peasants.
- Rural Chinese peasants had long been oppressed by brutal landlords, high taxes, policies of corrupt government.

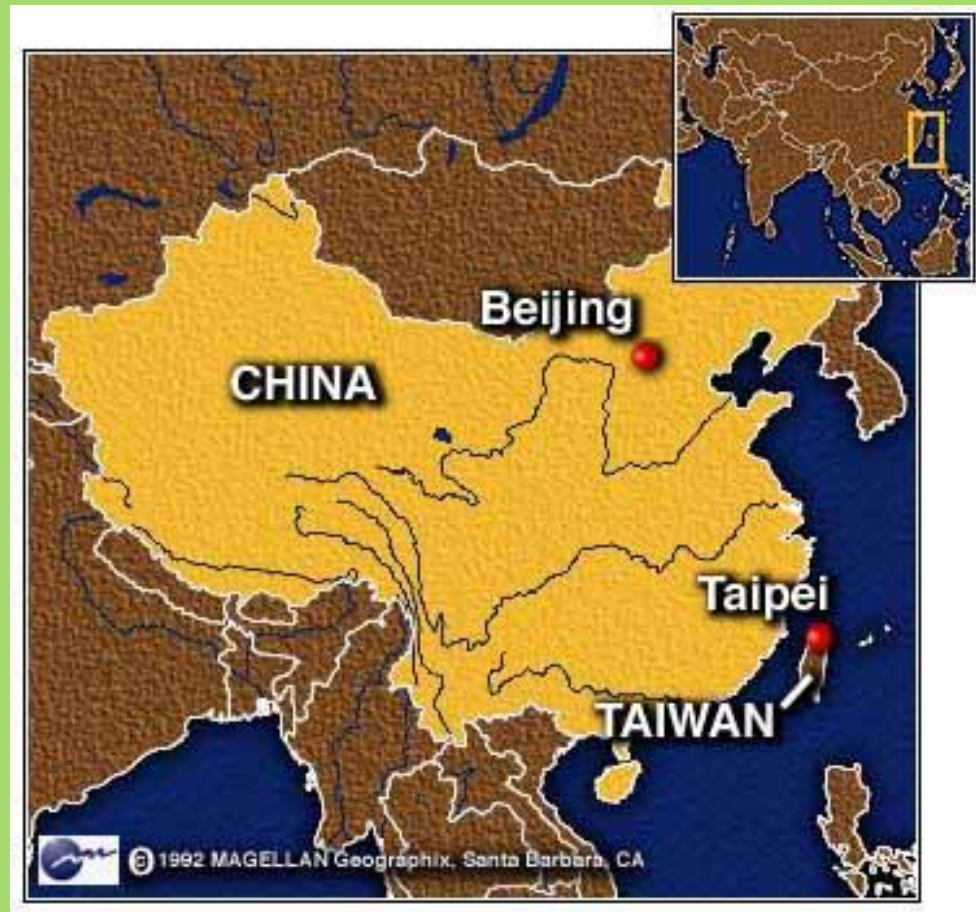
Communists Take Over China

Public Support

- Communists promised to take land from landlords and distribute it to peasants.
- By 1949, Communists had driven the Nationalists almost entirely from China
- Nationalist control was limited to small areas on the mainland, and several islands, including Taiwan.



Chiang Kai-shek



- When the Nationalists lost China to the Communists, Chiang maintained the republic by moving it to the island of Taiwan where he established economic development and political stability.

Communists Take Over China

People's Republic of China

- On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong stood before a huge crowd in Beijing.
- He announced the formation of the People's Republic of China.
- Mao's strategy of using guerrilla warfare in rural China worked.



Communists Take Over China

Opposition to Mao

- China faced many difficulties, including a crippled economy and lack of a functional government.
- Some countries opposed to communism refused to recognize Mao and his new government.
- They claimed that Chiang Kai-shek's government on Taiwan was the true Chinese government.



Play Mao Zedong Video