

## Timeline for the 'Foundation of the PRC' 人民共和国

1. 1934-35 – Long March: Due to the Nationalists' military attacks on, and encirclement of, the Jiangxi Soviet, the communists position there becomes unsustainable and they flee, undertaking the Long March from Jiangxi to Shaanxi. En route at the Zunyi Conference, Mao becomes leader of the CCP.
2. 1936 – Xi'an Incident: Nationalist military commanders fed up with Jiang's passivity towards Japan's invasion in the north, collude to kidnap him, whereupon he is handed over to Zhou Enlai of the communists and made to promise to cooperate with them against Japan if he is released.
3. 1937-1945 – War with Japan and Second United Front: Following Japan's initial invasion of Manchuria (1931) and its setting up of the puppet state Manchukuo there, it now wages war with the rest of China until it surrenders at the end of WWII. The Second United Front is formed following the Xi'an Incident, lasting for the duration of the war, although in practice the CCP and GMD rarely wage battles side by side.
4. 1937-1945 – Yan'an Period: CCP experiments with land reform; Mao develops his version of Marxism-Leninism, does some writing and teaching; democratic centralism; rectification of conduct purge and thought reform; emphasis on class struggle
5. 1945-1949 – Civil War: With Japan gone, the Nationalists and Communists turn on each other. The Communists are victorious, and on **1<sup>st</sup> October 1949** Mao declares the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC)
6. 1950-52 Land reform: property seized from landowners
7. 1950-1953 – Korean War: China supports North Korea
8. 1951 – Suppression of counter-revolutionaries; Three Antis campaign (waste, corruption, inefficiency); followed by Five Antis in 1952
9. 1953-1957 – First Five-year Plan: the plan is launched based on the Soviet 5-year plan model under Stalin, with aims being to boost the economy through carrying out industrial projects to lay foundations for industrial socialisation, and developing agricultural cooperatives aimed at helping in the socialist transformation of agriculture.
10. 1956 – Collective farms introduced: following the introduction of cooperatives in 1953, collective farms are a new step
11. 1956-1957 – Hundred Flowers campaign: Mao calls on people to criticise the government under the slogan 'Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend'.
12. 1957-1958 – Anti Rightist campaign: introduced as a reaction to the Hundred Flowers campaign. All those who had expressed views are made to retract their statements and submit to 're-education.' This affects not only intellectuals, teachers and artists, but also many party officials right up to the top, as exemplified by Mao's loyal fellow-leader Zhou Enlai, who is forced to engage in public self-criticism and admit to not implementing Mao's plans of industrialisation quickly enough.
13. 1958-1961 – Great Leap Forward: people's communes are established and China endeavours to catch up with Western nations and develop rapidly; disastrous results.

