

The Development of Maoism and the rise of the CCP had a huge impact on China between 1934-1949. It led to the CCP, winning support of the masses while dismantling the often corrupt GMD. Through Maoism the CCP was able to combine the simple nationalistic (anti-japanese) and social (communism, land redistribution) wants of the peasant masses and meet them to win majority support which led to the first real unification of China in 1949 following over 40 years of sectarian violence.

Marxist thought was that peasants were not right for revolutionary purposes as they were spread across the countryside and had only simple

desires which led towards conservatism.

While this was true the CCP saw that if they answered these simple desires in a tangible way then the peasant masses would support them.

"in order to rouse the masses to support us we first need to improve their livelihoods" - Mao Zedong.

Chinese Peasants (roughly 400 million) had suffered for centuries under oppressive taxation and the crippling hierarchy of traditional Chinese society. And their revolutionary zeal was first witnessed by Mao Zedong when he witnessed the "hunger peasant uprising." This turned to be a turning point in Chinese communism, as

Some leaders within the CCP began to see that revolution could only be achieved through a majority (and the majority of people in China were peasants). And the CMP also was traditionally strong in the urban regions.

This belief was only strengthened with the failed Nanchang uprising and other urban uprisings at the will of the 'Returned Mission Students' (RMS) who wished to follow traditional communist doctrine. However, practical experience especially during Mao Zedong's development of the Jiangxi soviets had shown that if you gave the peasant masses 'land redistribution' and treated them well through a disciplined army such as the

Red Army had become due to the '8 rules of behaviour' then the peasant masses could be used for warfare especially guerrilla warfare (which the CCP relied on as it was often outnumbered and ill equipped)

This 'fish in a friendly sea' policy although took time to establish paid off in the civil war of 1945-1949, as the CCP were able to move freely in the countryside while attacking the GMD in cities only when it suited them. This was a feature that occurred in the Japanese invasion. During the invasion the Japanese sought to control major cities and power lines, and communication points.

These in fact were the same points that were defended by the GMD, so through successful propaganda the CCP portrayed the GMD as a weak, retreating and defeated force when as it was able to engage the enemy on its own terms with the support of the peasant population in order to win decisive victories such as Zhu De's hundred Regiments campaign.

This tactic of relying on peasant support and avoiding the enemy in cities was also present in the civil war when one senior GMD commander commented

'I have traded 60 000 troops

for 16 empty cities"

This quote displays the effectiveness of Maoism, which enabled the CCP to disappear into the countryside and avoid positional warfare until they had built up the strength to do so.

One key feature of Maoism and indeed the whole CCP was its emphasis on political education and indoctrination of CCP methods and ideas. Mao always strongly believed that the army should be a servant to the political party and not the other way around. He also recognised that

"Political power grows out of the

"Barrel of the gun"

- Mao Zedong 1926

Therefore Mao made sure that the army was politicized and indoctrinated with political ideals.

Mao relied on generals such as Zhu De to transform the army into more than just soldiers, throughout the Lanan period the Red Army became a school, social justice wing, peasant helpers and political cadres. In this way the red army became more committed to its cause than the QMD or warlord armies who simply fought for money and often in bad conditions. The soldier was quoted

by agrees Smedley to have said

"Here we are treated as equal. In the white army (GMD) the soldier masses are oppressed."

~~The~~ Mao was also aware of the danger of the massive influx of new recruits during the Korean period. As soon when more conservative and did not share the same belief systems as the CCP. This is what had caused the destruction of the idealistic nature of the GMD following the Northern expedition. So as another key aspect of Marxism was education and mass line indoctrination.

Often when the CCP arrived in a certain place the whole community would be illiterate, so when the CCP began to educate them it was in communist/maoist thought. Even on the long march if the CCP stayed in a town for a single night the political cadres would teach the locals 6 Chinese characters

"Crush the land lords, divide the land"

This type of simple yet effective education was able to rouse the peasants into political activity, often retaining their communities under communist guidelines long after the communists had left.

The Zhengfeng movement came at a critical time for the CCP, as its aim was to purify political thought and stop the influx of too many conservative members, by doing such movements the CCP was ensuring ideological purity of its movement and therefore continued strength, unlike the failure of the Nationalists during the Nanjing Decade.

The movement away from the cities and the concentration on the peasant masses caused by Maoist thought helped prevent the CCP from bearing the brunt of the Japanese invasion giving them time to organise and position themselves for the

in evitable civil war (both the
GMP and CCP thought that Japanese
defeat was inevitable). It's focus
on crushing the land lord
also created a void in the
traditional Chinese social structure.
This void of leadership was ideal
for the CCP as they were the
only ones in any position to
fill this void, so while
bringing real change to peasants
lives the CCP was also able
to assume the leadership/control
role that the land lords had
vacated. This clever use of
communism to create a power
void enabled the CCP to
quickly and effectively control
vast tracts of regional
China.

Traditional Communism following
marxist lines of thought would
of been hugely impractical in
China as the urban proletariat
was so small. Maoism was developed
to suit Chinese needs and the
goals of the CCP, by its nature
it allowed the radicalism of
peasants, and the support of
the peasant population to allow
the Red Army to sweep in
a lightning sea culminating
in the Declaration of the
PRC in 1949.

~~The~~ Maoism as well as helping achieve
the Red Army's goals did in fact
improve people's livelihood in China
and achieved what no other
revolutionary party in China had

before; Sun Yat sen's third principle
of peoples livelihood.