**CHY4U China: The Republican Years**

Source: Lary, Diana. China’s Republic. , Bo, Zhiyue. The History of Modern China.

**First President**: Sun Yat-sen (for only 6 weeks) [sometimes written as Sun Zhongshan]

**First Military Leader** and Second President: Yuan Shikai. Died 1916 after trying to make himself into an emperor.

**Fate of Imperial Family**: allowed to stay in Forbidden City in Beijing until 1924.

**Fate of Manchus:** ethnic group that had ruled China in Qing dynasty - their population declined as many Han Chinese (largest ethnic group) felt resentful of Manchu rule since 1640s.

**Fate of centralization**: declined as local control took over in provinces and military rule took over from imperial administrative rule.

**WWI**: China sent 200 000 manual labourers to do backbreaking jobs such as trench digging. China sided with the allies (Triple Entente). With western powers focusing on Europe, Japan moved in to take control of German possessions in China and showed interest in resource-rich Manchuria, through railway building. At the Paris Peace Conference after the war Japan worked with Yuan Shikai to get favourable treatment for its interests in China. The May 4th Movement resulted back in China; students protested over Japan getting Chinese territory while other western peoples were getting their own countries. They didn’t like how China continued to be seen as a backward country despite its revolution.

**Warlords**: local military figures.

**Disunity**: regionalism came into being after Yuan Shikai’s death; warlords took power throughout the fractured country. While some were violent bandits, some were more moderate. All were interested in their own power, sometimes leading to stability in their regions, sometimes leading to chaos.

**Military Schools**: became very popular, often based on a Prussian (German) or Japanese model.

**Nationalism**: some people, often educated ones, thought warlordism and disunity were very bad for China and instead believed in nationalism.

**Rise of the KMT:** after 1911 Sun Yat-sen and his Kuomintang (KMT) [sometimes written as GMD, Guomindang] found strength again and received international military and economic aid from the Soviet Union and its international organization to spread Communism, the Comintern. But Sun died in 1925.

**Sun’s Successor**: Chiang Kai-shek [sometimes written as Jiang Jieshi]. Led revolutionary armies (KMT) north to try to attack warlords and unite China. In 1927 he split with the Soviet advisors and communist influences. In 1928 he and his forces reached Beijing. As national leader he was inspired by liberal, capitalist ideas from the west, but also by nationalist policies that would see to his continued power. He focused mainly on the cities, neglecting the poor peasants in the countryside.

**Chinese Communist Party**: founded in 1921. In the early years there was cooperation between CCP and KMT. In 1927 the KMT started to purge the Communists. Communist leader Mao Zedong [sometimes written as Mao Tse-tung] led communist supporters on the Long March, 1931 to 1934, to escape KMT persecution. Along the way they gained many sympathizers and built a substantial army.