**CHY4U China: The Republican Years, 1912-1949**

Sources: Lary, Diana. China’s Republic; Bo, Zhiyue. The History of Modern China; Schoppa, R. Keith. Twentieth Century China: A History in Documents.

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

**First Military Leader and Second President**: Yuan Shikai. Outlawed the Kuomintang (KMT) [sometimes written as GMD, Guomindang]. Died in 1916 after trying to make himself into an emperor.

**Fate of Manchus:** this ethnic group that had ruled China during the Qing dynasty saw their population decline 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 administrative rule. There was a national parliament but Yuan Shikai ignored it then shut it down (1914) when it tried to rise up against him.

**Warlords**: local military figures who used taxation of people under their control to get rich and gain power over a region. There were said to have been 140 wars from 1916 to 1928. Warlords often pushed farmers to grow opium.

**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 or Japanese model.

**WWI**: China sent 200 000 manual labourers to Europe do manual jobs such as trench digging. With western powers focusing on Europe, Japan moved in to take control of German possessions in China and showed interest in the north, resource-rich Manchuria through railway building. Even before the postwar Paris Peace Conference Japan had worked with Yuan Shikai to get favourable treatment for its interests. The May Fourth Movement resulted back in China; students protested 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 place despite its revolution. China did not end up signing the Treaty of Versailles.

**May Fourth Cultural Movement**: young reformers also paid attention to social issues such as individualism, vernacular language (as opposed to the formal, literary form of written Chinese),women’s rights, anti-filial piety, science.

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

**South’s Rise**: Sun Yat-sen and his KMT found strength again and received international military and economic aid from the Soviet Union and its international organization to spread Communism, the Comintern. Sun died in 1925.

**Chinese Communist Party**: founded in 1921 after Chinese reformists became interested in the success of the Bolsheviks. In the early years there was cooperation between CCP and KMT even though their goals were quite different. In 1927 the KMT started to purge the Communists. Communist leader Mao Zedong [sometimes written Tse-tung] led communist supporters on the Long March in 1934-1935, to escape KMT persecution. Along the way they gained many peasant sympathizers due to their emphasis on land reform, and built a substantial army.

**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.

**Civil War**: KMT vs. CCP. Resumed after Japan was defeated in WWII.

**Japanese Invasions**: Communists and KMT agreed to cooperate against Japan after it invaded in 1937. **Most Appropriate Description of the 1912-1949 Period in Chinese History**

1. The Slide into Chaos
2. China’s Struggle to Modernize
3. A Rocky Start to Republicanism
4. Death of the Nationalist Dream
5. Which Way Do We Go?
6. Times of Turmoil
7. Reform and Conflict
8. A New Beginning
9. Empire All Over, Again
10. Your Own Description: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**China: Continuity and Change**

1. Write summaries of the period in the appropriate categories on the China: Continuity and Change worksheet.
2. Indicate continuity, change, pace, direction, etc. using appropriate arrows and symbols.