**Lesson 5: Depth 2.1**

**Title: What were the key ideas of communism in China and how did the communists gain power in 1949?**

**Key Words: Republic:** a form of government whose head of state is not a monarch

Shape

Description automatically generated**Starter: Look at the threshold concept below. What do you think are common causes for revolution? E.g. War.**

**Challenge: What are common consequences of revolution?**

**Activity 1: Read the introduction to China below and highlight/ label**:

**\*key individuals \*key dates \*key historic events**

China had been a republic from 1911. It was no longer ruled by emperors. The country was politically unstable, and the government had little control. In 1928, the party's leader, Chiang Kai-shek, captured Beijing. He set up a new government with the support of the businessmen and landowners.

Between 1927 and 1934, Chiang waged five 'encirclement campaigns' against a rival group, China's communists. They were led by Mao Zedong. In 1934, Mao and 100,000 communists fled to Yenan in north-west China on 'the Long March'; it was a horrific 6,000-mile march. As they marched, they fought their way past ten opposing armies. Only 20,000 arrived alive in Yenan, but Mao was able to create a small communist state and build up his power.

After the [Second World War](https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z9s9q6f/revision), the communists waged a guerrilla war against Chiang Kai-shek's government. The Guomindang government was corrupt, and did nothing to improve the life of the peasants. Mao's communists were popular with the peasants, promising land reforms. In 1949, Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island of Taiwan.

Mao Zedong took control of a country of 600 million peasants, that was ruined by war and on the brink of mass-starvation. Not everyone agreed with his policies while he was in power, and they are still the subject of much debate.

**Activity 2: Read the information on how the communists gained power in China. Watch the clip and answer the questions** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zcfdrdm>

1. What did China become in 1911?
2. What was the Western political philosophy that become popular in China?
3. What key individual was at the first meeting of the Chinese Communist party in 1921?
4. What were the conditions like for Chinese peasants in the 1920s?
5. What did Mao Zedong train as?
6. What did the government under Chiang Kai-Shek decide should happen to the communists?
7. How long was the Long March in 1934?
8. Who invaded China in 1937?
9. How many people were massacred in Nanjing?
10. Who was the common enemy between the nationalists and the communists?
11. What were the two problems facing China?
12. How many civilians died in the conflict with Japan?
13. When did the Japanese surrender?
14. When was the People’s Republic of China founded?
15. “The imposition of communism in China caused (disasters/ successes)” circle as appropriate.
16. How many died in the Great Famine?

**Activity 3: Give two things you can infer from Source A about what the communists valued in society. (\_\_\_\_\_\_/4 marks)**

**Source A-** Communist propaganda poster. It reads: ‘Brave the wind and the waves, everything has remarkable abilities.’ (1958)



I can infer…

An example from the source that tells me this…

I can infer…

An example from the source that tells me this…