

Introduction

Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) was the Republic of China's longest-serving head of state, being first-through fifth-term President after the ROC Constitution went into effect. His life was tightly intertwined with the history of the Republic of China. After assuming the position of principal of the Whampoa Military Academy in 1924, he gradually took on leadership roles in the party, government, and military. He participated in important events such as the Northern Expedition, Second Sino-Japanese War, Chinese Civil War, and government's relocation to Taiwan. From his assumption of authority in Taiwan in 1950 until his death in 1975, he governed Taiwan for 25 years. Based on the policy of anti-communism and reclaiming the mainland, and to prevent communist infiltration, Chiang implemented strict control measures over Taiwan, which had a profound impact on Taiwanese society. As a result, the people of Taiwan have different evaluations of Chiang Kai-shek. This exhibition uses artifacts, files, and photos to review the major events involving Chiang Kai-shek and the Republic of China from various perspectives.

President Chiang Kai-shek's Terms in Office

- ▶ First term: May 20, 1948 - May 20, 1954
(Resigned on January 21, 1949, resumed duties on March 1, 1950)
- ▶ Second term: May 20, 1954 - May 20, 1960
- ▶ Third term: May 20, 1960 - May 20, 1966
- ▶ Fourth term: May 20, 1966 - May 20, 1972
- ▶ Fifth term: May 20, 1972 - April 5, 1975

Early Life and Revolutionary Times

Chiang Kai-shek was born in 1887 in Zhejiang, China. In 1908, Chiang trained at the Tokyo Shinbu Gakkō military school in Japan and joined the Tongmenghui (United Allegiance Society) headed by Sun Yat-sen, dedicating himself to the revolution. Following the Xinhai Revolution (aka the Wuchang Uprising) in 1911, the Republic of China Nanjing Provisional Government was established January 1, 1912, with Sun Yat-sen as first Provisional President. The Provisional Senate also passed the Provisional Constitution of the Republic of China, which became the fundamental law of the republic. In February, Sun stepped down in favor of Yuan Shikai. Yuan soon overstepped his mandate, and in 1913 a second revolution against his criminal regime began. After this failed, Yuan disbanded the Parliament and annulled the Provisional Constitution then in

effect. Sun Yat-sen fled to Japan and, in 1914, founded the Chinese Revolutionary Party (reorganized as the Kuomintang in 1919) and began planning a third revolution. In 1913, Chiang had pledged to join the Chinese Revolutionary Party while it was still being formed, as he actively opposed Yuan Shikai. In December 1915, Yuan announced the creation of a monarchy, renaming the country the Empire of China, ending the legal rule of the Republic of China. Yuan's crowning of himself as emperor led to mass protests. Cai E led the National Protection Army from Yunnan in opposition, and the Chinese Revolutionary Party followed suit. After just 83 days of nationwide protests, Yuan succumbed to pressure and dissolved the monarchy.

Whampoa Military Academy and the Northern Expedition

The death of Yuan Shikai in June 1916 ushered in the Beiyang Government period, marked by warlord fiefdoms and constant warfare. After Premier Duan Qirui defeated the effort by General Zhang Xun to restore the Manchu emperor to the throne, he did not seek to ensure the constitutional governance of the ROC. In response, Sun Yat-sen established the ROC Military Government in Guangdong in 1917 to lead the Constitutional Protection Movement. In 1922, Guangdong warlord Chen Jiong-ming revolted, and Sun fled to the gunboat Yongfeng. Chiang Kai-shek traveled to Guangdong to help direct military efforts and rescue Sun from danger. Sun believed that the failure of the revolution could be traced to the fact that the Revolutionary Party was not sufficiently well-armed or trained. In 1924, he ordered Chiang to establish the Whampoa Military Academy. Chiang served as first commandant, training the army of the Revolutionary Party to serve as the main force for the Northern Expedition, the necessity of which was already foreseen. This marked the beginning of Chiang's foray into politics. In March 1925, Sun Yat-sen passed away, and in July the Nationalist



▲ Chiang in a group photo with Sun Yat-sen and other Kuomintang figures after the opening ceremony at the Whampoa Military Academy on June 16, 1924.

Government was established in Guangzhou. Chiang took command of the National Revolutionary Army in July 1926 and launched the Northern Expedition. After this proved a success, Chiang became Chairman of the National Government, and the country entered a period of political tutelage. The Provisional Constitution of the Republic of China for the Period of Political Tutelage was drafted in May 1931. It served as the basis of law for the country prior to the passage of a full constitution, and designated Nanjing as the capital.

Maintaining Internal Stability and Repelling External Aggression during the Period of Political Tutelage

During the period of political tutelage, the Nationalist government faced internal concerns with the armed uprising of the Communist Party and external threats from Japan. On July 23, 1931, Chiang Kai-shek issued a Letter to Compatriots, calling for internal stability before external resistance and initiating military campaigns against the Communist Party. Taking advantage of the turmoil in China, Japan launched an invasion of Manchuria on September 18, 1931, with what is known as the Mukden Incident. This brought the three northeast provinces under its control. Meanwhile, in November, with the support of the Communist International, the Chinese Communist Party established the Chinese Soviet Republic in Jiangxi, challenging the authority of the Nationalist government. In March 1932, Japan established

Manchukuo or the State of Manchuria in the three northeastern provinces. A nationwide anti-Japanese wave rose, demanding that infighting end and the nation unite to battle Japan. The ROC government's policy of achieving internal cohesion before addressing foreign adversaries had failed to gain popular support. In December 1936, Chiang Kai-shek was imprisoned during the Xi'an Incident, after which he stepped down and began his wilderness period. The Xi'an Incident created conditions for cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party and caused the government to adjust its policies so that a joint fight against the Japanese could be conducted. The period 1937 to 1939 was the high point of cooperation, and showed great promise at the beginning. But as the Communists grew in strength, civil strife increased.

War with Japan and the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty

On July 7, 1937, the Japanese army attacked a Chinese position near the Marco Polo Bridge in Hebei's Wanping County, marking the start of a full-scale assault on China. In the beginning, China was no match militarily for Japan. After struggling alone for four long years, China was joined in the Pacific War by the United States and United Kingdom in December 1941 following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The Republic of China officially declared war on Japan, and Chiang was deputized as Generalissimo for the China Theater. On January 11, 1943, the ROC signed new equal treaties with the US and UK, formally overturning the many unequal treaties signed by the Qing Empire and ending the practice of extraterritoriality.

From November 22-26, 1943, National Government Chairman Chiang Kai-shek, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met in Cairo to discuss war strategy against Japan and the postwar international order. In a press communiqué released after the meeting, the so-called Cairo Declaration, it was declared that all the territories Japan had stolen from the Chinese, including Formosa and the Pescadores, would be restored to the Republic of China.



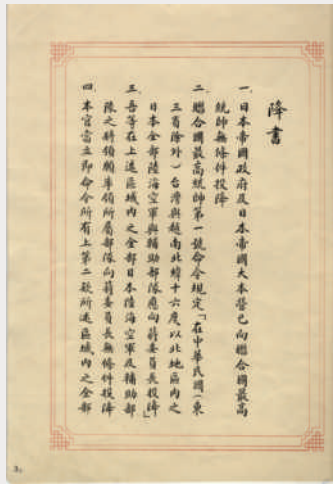
▲ Chiang Kai-shek attended the Cairo Conference from November 22 to 26, 1943.



▲ Chiang Kai-shek received the Japanese delegation headed by Plenipotentiary Isao Kawada on April 30, 1952.

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 15, Japan announced its unconditional surrender, marking the end of World War II. With the victory in the war against Japan, the Republic of China became a founding member of the United Nations and one of the permanent members of the Security Council, an important diplomatic achievement for Chiang Kai-shek.

On September 8, 1951, Japan signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty with the victorious powers. The treaty stated that Japan renounced all rights, titles, and claims to Formosa and the Pescadores, but did not name a recipient state. This is the origin of the Theory of the Undetermined Status of Taiwan. As the ROC was not permitted to attend the San Francisco Peace Conference, under the guidance of the US and in line with Article 26 of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, Japan negotiated a separate peace with the ROC. On April 28, 1952, ROC Representative George Yeh and Japanese Representative Isao Kawada signed the Treaty of Peace between the Republic of China and Japan in Taipei.



▲ On September 9, 1945, the Republic of China received the Instrument of Surrender from Japan. The document was signed by General Okamura Yasuji on behalf of Japan and was accepted by General He Ying-qin, the representative of Allied forces and the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Army in the China War Zone.

ROC Control and Early Governance of Taiwan

On August 15, 1945, following Japan's unconditional surrender, Chiang Kai-shek appointed Chen Yi as the first Provincial Governor of Taiwan, who also concurrently served as head of the Taiwan Provincial Garrison Command. On October 25, the government of the Republic of China, in accordance with General Douglas MacArthur's General Order No. 1 issued by the United Nations, assumed control of Taiwan. Chiang Kai-shek appointed Chen Yi as the representative to accept the surrender, which took place at the Taipei Guildhall (now known as Zhongshan Hall). On that day, the Taiwan Provincial Executive Office was established to handle the administration of the Taiwan Province. This established the governing apparatus as well as the political and military leaders of Taiwan for the immediate postwar period. With military and political power embodied in a single person, there were no checks and

balances. While in charge of Taiwan, Chen Yi governed poorly, with corruption rampant. The people were greatly dissatisfied.

In 1947, a woman was beaten by inspectors for selling contraband cigarettes, leading to the February 28 Incident. Chiang ordered troops to Taiwan to suppress the unrest, while also instructing against retaliatory actions. Yet after order was restored, the military continued with indiscriminate arrests and suppression tactics, including launching a village pacification campaign. This caused the deaths of countless members of the elite and innocent bystanders. No attempt was made to prosecute wrongdoers. After a time, Chiang recalled Chen Yi to China and dissolved the Taiwan Provincial Executive Office, appointing Wei Tao-ming as the first Chairman of the reformed Taiwan Provincial Government.

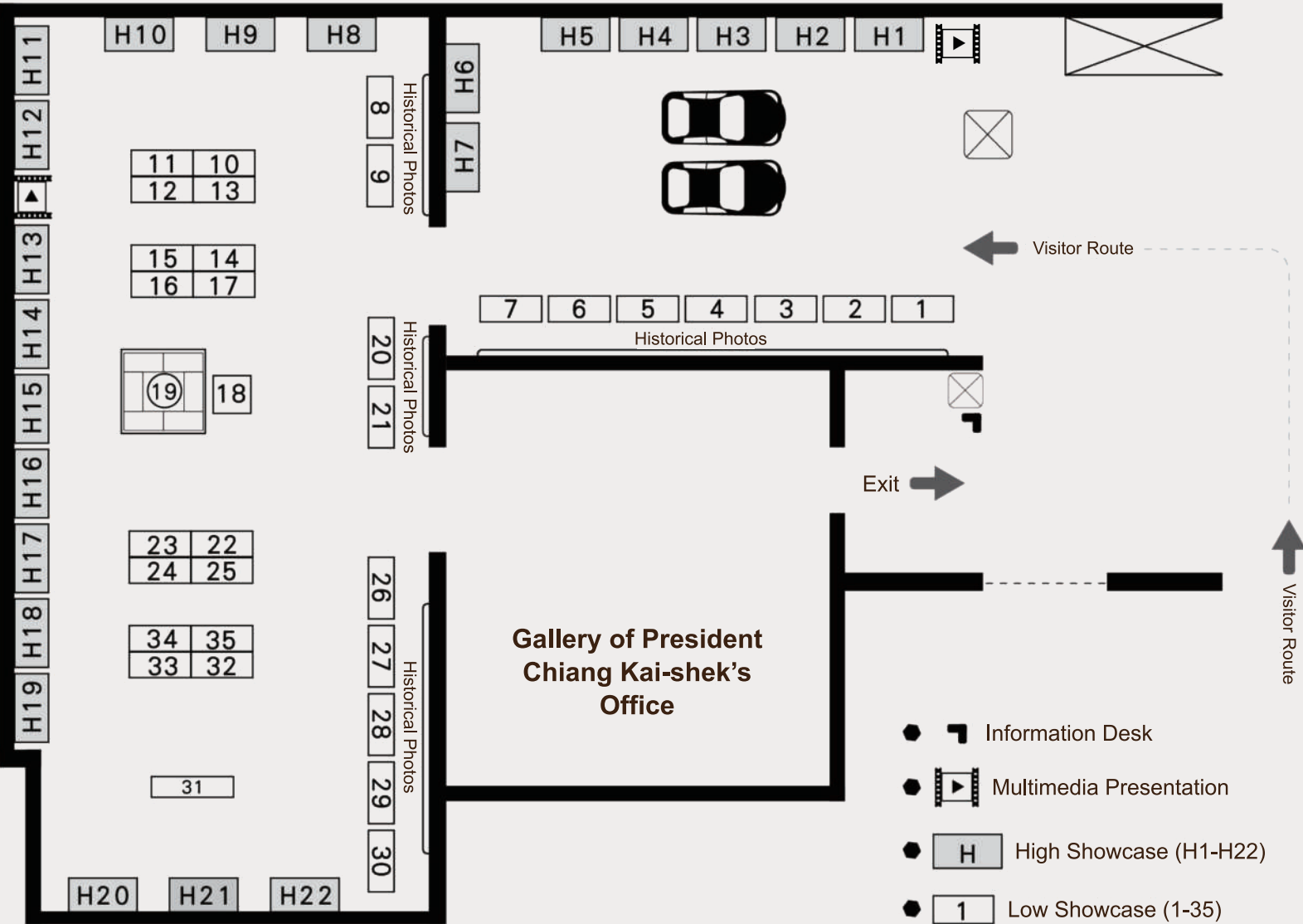


▲ On August 31, 1945, Chiang Kai-shek ordered the copying and distribution of the Regulations on the Organization of the Taiwan Provincial Executive Office.

Floor Plan

Low Showcase

- Chinese Revolutionary Party
- Whampoa Military Academy
- Leader of military
- Xi'an Incident
- Awards presented to Chiang
- Victory in World War II
- Japanese Instrument of Surrender
- Provisional Constitution for the Period of Political Tutelage of the Republic of China
- Constitution of the Republic of China
- Early postwar rule of Taiwan
- Chiang visit to Taiwan
- Chiang's inaugural speech
- Guidelines on governing Taiwan
- Dr. Hu Shih and Chiang Kai-shek
- Lei Chen Case
- Publications banned during the Period of Martial Law
- White Terror in postwar Taiwan
- Chiang's interference in political cases
- Awards presented to Chiang
- Land reform
- Economic construction
- Nine-year compulsory public education
- Treaty of Peace between the Republic of China and Japan (Treaty of Taipei)
- Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty
- Joint communiqué by Chiang and Dulles
- Awards presented to Chiang
- Loss of the right to represent China in the UN
- Chiang's diary
- Chiang's faith
- Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Chiang
- Books written by Chiang Kai-shek



High Showcase

- H1 Chiang's wedding
- H2 Whampoa Military Academy
- H3 Kuomintang Army Officer Academy
- H4 Leader of military
- H5 Military honors
- H6 Chiang's style

- H7 Sun Tzu's military strategy
- H8 Congratulations to Chiang
- H9 Objects Chiang used
- H10 Chiang's thought
- H11 Military honors
- H12 Chiang's style

- H13-H14 Awards presented to Chiang
- H15 Chiang's writing materials
- H16 Chiang's home attire
- H17 Chiang's formal attire
- H18 Objects Chiang used
- H19 International news

- H20 Madame Chiang's paintings
- H21 Awards presented to Chiang
- H22 Mourning and honors following death of Chiang

English

President Chiang Kai-shek and the Republic of China

Exhibition Introduction



Constitutional Promulgation and First-Term Presidency

Chiang played a major role in crafting the ROC Constitution, particularly in bringing modern constitutional principles into the present-day Constitution. On November 28, 1946, Chiang delivered a draft Constitution to the National Assembly. In remarks, he said: "I approve of the draft constitution put forth by the national government. I believe that the provisional constitution is unfit to meet the needs of today." This was Chiang's way of making a political pledge to other

parties about avoiding a constitution dominated by the Kuomintang. On December 25, the National Assembly at Nanjing passed a resolution adopting the Republic of China Constitution. Chairman Chiang signed the relevant implementation order on behalf of the national government. The Constitution was issued on January 1, 1947, and took effect on December 25 of that year. In 1948, Chiang was elected to serve as first-term President under the new constitution.



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▲ Chiang Kai-shek signs the Constitution of the Republic of China in December 1946.



▲ The Constitution of the Republic of China comprises 14 chapters and 175 articles in its entirety, excluding the preamble. (Exhibited version is a replica)

The Government's Relocation to Taiwan

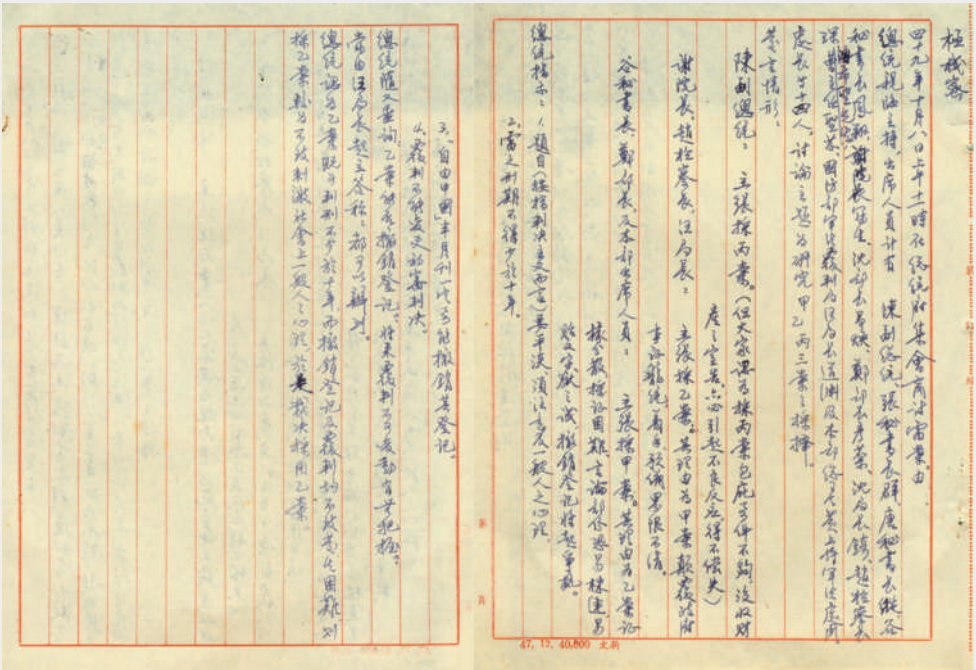
After eight years of war against Japan, tensions between the KMT and the Communists were running high, and military conflict grew more intense. In December 1945, US President Harry Truman dispatched General George Marshall to seek to reconcile the parties. But after a year of efforts, it was admitted by January 1947 that negotiations had failed. In February, full-scale civil war began anew. During the latter part of the civil war, the Nationalists were defeated in the key Liaoshen, Huaihai, and Pingjin campaigns, leading to the loss of north China. For the Nationalists, the situation was grim. With difficulties

plaguing the nation from both within and without, Chiang announced on January 21, 1949 that he was stepping down. Vice President Li Zong-ren assumed office as Acting President and began negotiating with the Communists. After talks broke down between the KMT and the Communists, and the war continued to go badly, the central government continued to spiral. Acting President Li Zong-ren left the country in November, and in December 1949 the government relocated to Taiwan. On March 1, 1950, in Taipei, Chiang declared his return, reassuming the powers of the presidency.

Martial Law and the White Terror

With tensions between the Nationalist and Communist governments as background, Taiwan came under authoritarian rule, and the human rights protections guaranteed by the Constitution were not implemented. Chen Cheng announced martial law on May 19, 1949, to come into effect the following day. While this had the effect of allowing for the stable development of Taiwan politically, economically, and socially, it severely infringed upon the freedoms and rights of Taiwan's people. During the long period of martial law, there were many instances of frame-ups and miscarriages of justice. Martial

law was used as a weapon to root out dissent, creating countless victims. Among them was General Sun Li-jen who, in 1955, was charged with conspiracy in line with a treason case against his subordinate Guo Ting-liang. Sun spent 33 years under house arrest as a result. In 1960, charges of treason were brought by the Taiwan Garrison Command against Lei Chen, founder of the Free China Review. In 1964, Peng Ming-min, Hsieh Tsung-min, and Wei Ting-chao were arrested for having written the Declaration of Formosan Self-Salvation.



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▲ On October 8, 1960, a secret meeting was held at the Presidential Office under Chiang Kai-shek to discuss the Lei Chen Case. Chiang instructed that "Lei should be sentenced to no less than ten years" and "the registration of the Free China Review must be revoked."

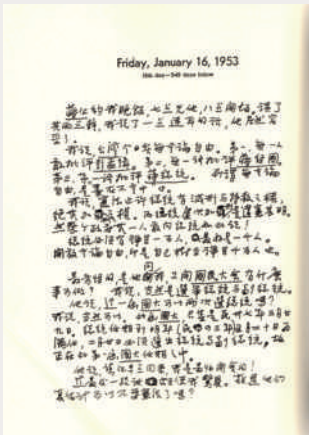
Diplomacy after Relocation

After Chiang's return to power, he faced the great challenge of obtaining foreign aid to bolster Taiwan and ensure that the Republic of China remained the only legal representative of China. The outbreak of the Korean War marked a pivot. The US sent the Seventh Fleet through the Taiwan Strait to deter the Communists. In 1954, the US and the ROC signed the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty.

Meanwhile, the Communists were overrunning remaining ROC bases along the mainland China coast and, in 1954, the First Taiwan Strait Crisis broke out. In 1958, Mao Zedong launched an assault on Kinmen, ushering in the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis. With support from the US, the ROC launched a powerful counterattack and gained air superiority, leading to the defeat of the People's Liberation Army. The security of the Taiwan Strait was assured.

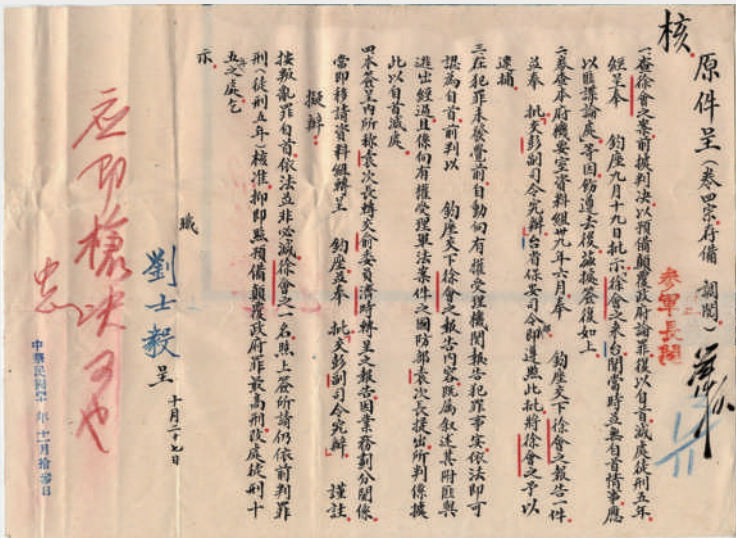
However, the ROC's international position continued to deteriorate as the People's Republic of China continued a successful diplomatic expansion. In October 1971, the United Nations passed Resolution No. 2758, giving the China seat to the People's Republic of China. Following this in a domino effect, many countries broke ties with the Republic of China, leaving the country in the lurch on the global stage.

Presidential Confirmations of Military Justice Cases



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▲ In his diary, Hu Shih wrote of his January 16, 1953 meeting with President Chiang, during which he had admonished the latter: "The Constitution only gives the President the power to commute sentences and grant pardons, but never to increase punishment. And yet, the President has repeatedly increased sentences, which is clearly unconstitutional."



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▲ Major General Xu Huizhi, who was a graduate of the Whampoa Military Academy, was accused of "preparing to subvert the government" in 1950. He was initially sentenced to five years of imprisonment, but President Chiang ordered, "He should be executed immediately."



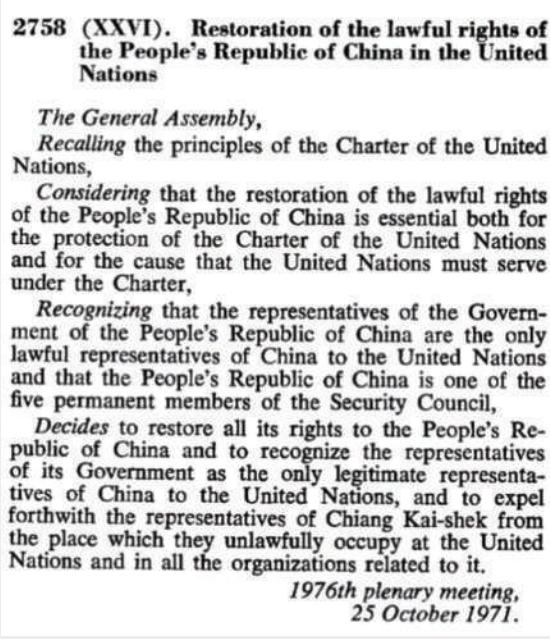
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◀ During the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis, the US sent Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to meet with Chiang Kai-shek in 1958. On October 23, the two issued a joint communiqué, which contained a key point concerning the issue of the ROC's military reconquest of the mainland: It stated that the restoration of freedom to the people on the mainland should be accomplished through the implementation of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Three Principles of the People (nationalism, democracy, and social well-being), rather than through the use of force.

◀ From June 18 to 19, 1960, US President Dwight Eisenhower visited Taiwan, releasing a joint communiqué with Chiang Kai-shek in which the two nations pledged solidarity and to help each other resist Communist influence. During President Eisenhower's visit, the People's Liberation Army of the Chinese Communist Party launched three artillery attacks on Kinmen, firing over 88,000 shells, which became known as the "June 19 Artillery Battle."



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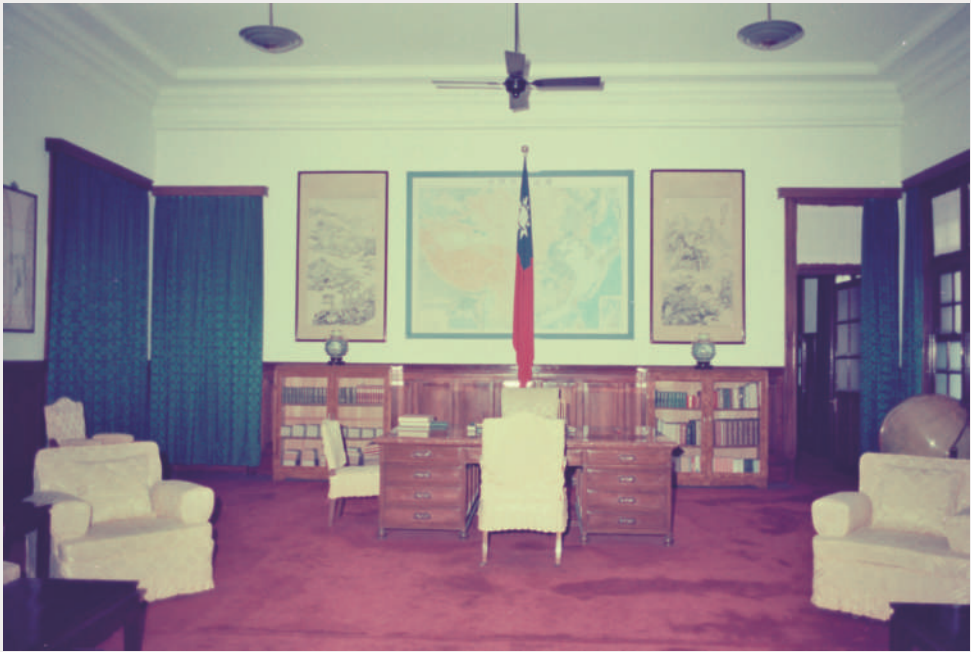
United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758

In 1971, after the failure of a series of proposed resolutions conducive to maintaining the right of the Republic of China to be represented in the United Nations, such as the "Resolution on an Important Issue" and "Proposal for the Postponement of Voting," the ROC delegation announced its "withdrawal from the United Nations." However, this move was not accepted by the UN. The UN General Assembly immediately passed Resolution 2758, so that the government of the People's Republic of China replaced the government of the Republic of China in occupying China's representative seat in the General Assembly.

Gallery of President Chiang Kai-shek's Office

The Gallery of President Chiang Kai-shek's Office is a recreation of his original office constructed in 2014 and opened to the public in January 2015. All the furnishings and decorations are in their original position in the Presidential Office. Visitors can also see an extremely lifelike wax sculpture of President Chiang Kai-shek by Lin Chien-cheng sitting behind his desk. To enhance the historical accuracy and spatial atmosphere of the display, President Chiang's original

office (currently called the Taiwan Green Hall) was measured, restoring the corridor, Reception Room, and Presidential Office in all their original glory. Moreover, the ROC flag, bookcases, Madame Chiang's paintings, maps, and other decorative items serve as background, with vases, gifts from friends, and a globe frequently appearing in images of the office. The recreation creates a scene that almost appears frozen in time.



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▲ President Chiang Kai-shek's office, photographed on November 8, 1976.

Economic Infrastructure

In 1949, at the beginning of Chen Cheng's term as Chairman of the Taiwan Provincial Government, he realized that Taiwan's financial situation was dire. Policies undervaluing the Taiwan dollar and advancing central government spending by the local government in Taiwan were crucially flawed, leading to hyperinflation. In mid-1949, the New Taiwan dollar was introduced, with the gold that had been moved by the Central Bank to Taiwan serving as reserves (and rectifying the advance payments issue). Meanwhile, remittances between Taiwan and China were stopped to prevent Taiwan's fiscal condition from deteriorating. Nevertheless, it was only with the 1950 outbreak of the Korean War and resultant massive support from the United States that the economy finally saw structural improvement. To ensure US funds were well spent, the first economic infrastructure projects were proposed in 1953. These increased import taxes and forbade some imports in order to begin the process of import substitution industrialization and, later, to produce goods for export. In line with US suggestions, a total of 19 financial

and economic reforms were implemented, including tax policy changes, implementing the Statute for Investment Encouragement, and creating export processing zones. Such moves spurred investment and created jobs.



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▲ In 1953, the Xiluo Bridge opened to vehicle traffic. Here, Chiang Kai-shek and Chiang Ching-kuo visit to inspect the full structure. With the US providing funding, construction began on May 29, 1952 and finished on December 25, with the bridge opened to vehicle traffic on January 28, 1953.

Cultural and Educational Policies

From the outset of its rule in Taiwan, the ROC government prioritized promoting Mandarin Chinese to diminish the influence of Japanese, without strictly banning local dialects. However, after the relocation, a stronger push for Mandarin and suppression of local languages ensued, with schools and public institutions urged to prioritize its usage. On the other hand, to cultivate a social well-being culture, Chiang Kai-shek ordered the establishment of the Nanhai Academy, housing various educational and cultural institutions. In response to the mainland's Cultural Revolution, Chiang advocated for a Chinese Cultural Renaissance, introducing guidelines and mandating the inclusion of Confucian-based Chinese culture in secondary school curricula, leaving a lasting impact.



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▲ Standard look of a junior high classroom under the nine-year compulsory public education system in 1970. The photo shows a classroom in Jieshou Junior High School, Taipei.

Important Collection



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Chiang's Official State Car

One of Chiang's official state cars, donated by overseas Chinese in the Philippines. The 1955 GM-manufactured Cadillac is a four-door, seven-seat limousine fitted with bulletproof glass.



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Guidance Stone for Hump Airlift

The United States Air Force presented this stone to commemorate President Chiang's centennial birthday. During World War II, the US Air Force supported the Allied and Chinese forces through the perilous Hump Airlift operation, transporting supplies over the Himalayas from India and Burma to Kunming. This polished stone, sourced from the Dalí Mountains in Yunnan, shines brightly and serves as a directional guide.



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Vase

This vase was crafted as one of a pair in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi in 1947, presented by Chiang Kai-shek as a gift to foreign guests and friendly nations. Originally part of a pair, the other vase was presented to Japanese military advisor Hiroshi Nemoto in 1952 as a token of gratitude for his aid during the Battle of Gunningtou in 1949, when he came to Taiwan to support the defense against Communist forces.



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Globe

In 1953, Chiang Wei-kuo, adopted son of Chiang Kai-shek, purchased this globe during his training in the United States and presented it to President Chiang.