

Cold War

Episode 15 - China: 1949-1972.

Following the Chinese Revolution Mao Zedong aligns China firmly with the Soviet Union. China becomes the recipient of Soviet aid, supports Communist movements worldwide and confronts the United States in Korea and in the Taiwan straits. Domestically China experienced upheaval and disaster with the post-revolution land reforms, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. A range of factors, including Khrushchev's apparent acceptance of coexistence with the capitalist West and his refusal to share Soviet nuclear technology with China, led to the Sino-Soviet split and eventual conflict. Both sides become deeply distrustful of the other, particularly after China develops nuclear weapons. Sensing an opportunity to contain the Soviet Union, in 1972 the United States suddenly and unexpectedly moves to reestablish ties with China.

QUESTIONS

1. How does the documentary describe Soviet support for the Chinese revolution?
2. Who was devastated to lose China?
3. Why did Mao first visit Moscow?
4. What was the relationship between Mao and Stalin like?
5. What did the Chinese and Soviets sign in 1950? What did this guarantee for China?

6. What did the Soviets provide to help the Chinese develop?
7. What reforms did China embark on?
8. How did the Chinese almost immediately become involved in the Cold War?
9. Who did Chinese propaganda highlight as the main enemy?
10. How long did the Korean war last?
11. What happened to Sino-Soviet relations after the death of Stalin in 1953?
12. How did the new American administration (President Eisenhower and Vice-president Nixon, 1953-61) view China?
13. How did the USA support Formosa and Taiwan to try and thwart Communism?

14. Who controlled the islands of Quemoy and Matsu? ROC or PRC? What happened to Quemoy in September 1954? What did Washington sign with Taiwan in December 1954?

15. How did the USSR view the situation between the USA and China?

16. How did Mao view Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin at the 20th Soviet Party Congress in February 1956 at a secret session that was not filmed?

17. How did Mao present himself in Moscow in 1957 on the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik (Communist) revolution?

18. What was the problem with Soviet aid?

19. What happened in 1958? How was this viewed by Mao?

20. What was the paper tiger? What was it important?

21. How did Mao view Khrushchev's visit to the USA in 1959? How did this contribute to the Sino-Soviet split?

22. What was the Great Leap Forward?

23. Characterize China's relationship with the developing world. What was the Chinese reaction to the US/USSR Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?

24. What was the Cultural Revolution?

25. Why and how did the USA seek to exploit the tensions between the USSR and China?