perplexity

when did long march begin and end?

The Long March began in mid-October 1934. For the main force (the First Front Army), it ended in October 1935. Sources disagree on the exact dates, and some count the end as October 1936.

Start

The Central Red Army, about 86,000 people, crossed the Yudu River in Jiangxi on the night of 16 October 1934. This broke out of the Nationalist encirclement. Some sources give 10 October for the decision to leave, or 15 October for the start. [1] [2] [3] [4]

End

- **Main force, October 1935:** The First Front Army reached Wuqi in northern Shaanxi on 19 October 1935. Only about 8,000 survivors arrived. That was roughly 368 days and 12,500 km after departure. History Today gives 22 October 1935 for the end. [3] [5] [1]
- **All three armies, October 1936:** The Second and Fourth Front Armies set out in 1935. All three forces joined up in northwest China on 22 October 1936. Chinese sources often use this date, which makes the march about two years long. [6] [7] [8] [3]

The most common answer is 16 October 1934 to 19 October 1935.

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did japan defend ccp diring the march?

No. Japan did not defend the CCP during the Long March, and the two were not allied. Japan was a separate enemy of both the Communists and the Nationalists. Its aggression did help the Communists indirectly.

What Japan was doing

Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931, and the Nationalist government under Chiang Kai-shek struggled to resist it. In 1935, Japan tried to detach Hebei and the Chahar region of Inner Mongolia from Nanjing's control. It was not fighting the Nationalists for the Communists' benefit. Japan also signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany in November 1936. The pact aimed at preventing communist activities. [11] [12] [13]

Indirect effects

- Chiang kept to a policy of "internal pacification before external resistance." That meant he targeted the Communists while tolerating the Japanese. [14]
- Japanese expansion had earlier forced Chiang to abort the Third Encirclement Campaign in 1931. This gave the Communists breathing room before the march. [15]
- The CCP declared war on Japan in 1932 and called for a united front with the Nationalists. Nationalist pressure continued through the march. [16]
- In autumn 1935, Chiang sent Zhang Xueliang's army to northern Shaanxi to destroy the Communists there. Zhang later grew impatient with the policy of fighting Communists instead of Japan. [17] [14]
- The Communists and Nationalists formed a nominal alliance against Japan only from 1937, after the march. [18]

Historians often argue that the later war with Japan helped save the CCP. That war came after the march, and it was not a form of Japanese protection.

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why did ccp declare war on japan in 32?

The Chinese Soviet Republic, the CCP's government in Jiangxi, declared war on Japan in April 1932. It did so in response to Japan's aggression, and it also used the declaration to attack the Nationalists. Sources date it to 15 April or 26 April. I haven't resolved the difference. [26] [27] [28]

Stated reasons

The declaration cited Japan's seizure of the three Eastern Provinces (Manchuria) on 18 September 1931 and its occupation of Shanghai and other areas. It also cited Japanese bombing and the destruction of Chinese homes. The Shanghai fighting of early 1932 had just ended. [27] [29]

Political motives

- The text accused the Nationalist government of handing Manchuria and Shanghai to imperialism. It also said the Nationalists suppressed anti-Japanese movements while attacking the Red Army. [27]
- The declaration helped the CCP claim it was the true defender of China. It was aimed mainly at people in Nationalist-held areas, and the Nationalists' conciliatory line toward Japan was its target. [26]
- The declaration had no immediate link to actual fighting. It told Soviet troops to attack "KMT troops in collusion with imperialism" first, and it encouraged anti-Japanese mobilization. [26]
- A study of the Shanghai war says the CCP was overly optimistic about seizing a whole province at the time. [30]

Contested interpretation

Some writers present it as opportunism. One cites a CCP statement that most of the party's policy aimed at self-expansion and only a little at fighting Japan. That source is a polemical book excerpt and reflects a strongly anti-CCP view, so treat it with caution.[28]

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What was the Chinese Soviet Republic in 1932

The Chinese Soviet Republic was a Communist-run state, proclaimed in November 1931. It lasted until the Long March began in 1934. By 1932 it was a rival government to the Nationalists in a small part of southeastern China.

Founding

It was proclaimed on 7 November 1931, the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. A National Soviet People's Delegates Conference met in Ruijin, Jiangxi, with Soviet Union help. The 610 delegates elected Mao Zedong chairman of the Council of People's Commissars. Ruijin was the capital. The new state could not reach all its parts. Communications between the scattered soviets were so poor that the second-largest, Eyuwan, sent no delegates.[41] [42] [43]

Structure and territory

- The constitution described a "democratic dictatorship of the workers and peasants." Supreme power belonged to a congress of soviets, with a Central Executive Committee and people's commissariat beneath it.[44]
- Its core was the Jiangxi Soviet, also called the Jiangxi-Fujian Soviet. This was the largest part of the republic and the seat of its capital.[41]
- At its peak it controlled about 27,000 square miles, roughly the size of South Carolina. Britannica says several million people lived there.[45] [46]
- It had a Party-controlled government, a Red Army, a judiciary, an education system and its own economy.[45]

Fate

Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist encirclement campaigns pressed the republic until it could no longer hold out. Ruijin fell on 10 November 1934, and the Red Army had already left on the Long March. The CCP later re-established the government in northwest China at Bao'an and Yan'an, in 1936–37.[43] [45]

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