

行政院新聞局
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE
NANKING, CHINA

A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK

- - - -

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, President of the Republic of China, was born in 1888, at Wulin, Fenghua, Chekiang, a scenic spot surrounded by lovely green hills and emerald-coloured, gurgling creeks.

From six to seventeen Chiang studied Chinese classics under private tutors. He was so profoundly inspired by the Four Books that years later they formed the main basis of his philosophy of life.

At 17, Chiang left the village for the city of Fenghua where he enrolled in a middle school. Among the new subjects he took up were mathematics and the English language. He showed a keen interest in current affairs. The decay of the Manchu regime was so advanced then that he soon made up his mind to be a revolutionary. Being an admirer of Japan, which had just emerged victorious from her war with Czarist Russia, he went to that country hoping to study in a Japanese military academy.

He was disappointed, however, in learning that admissions were limited only to cadets sent by the Manchu Government.

In 1906 Chiang entered the Paoting Military Academy in Hopei. A year later he was sent to attend the Japanese Military Cadets' Academy for two years. After his graduation he served as a private for two years in a Japanese artillery regiment.

In his first year in the Japanese Military Cadets' Academy Chiang joined the Tung Meng Hui, a predecessor of the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party), of which he is now the head.

行政院新聞局
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE
NANKING, CHINA

- 2 -

In 1911 when the Chinese revolution broke out, Chiang hurried back with his comrades to his native province Chekiang and played a leading part in seizing that province for the revolutionaries. The Revolution soon resulted in the overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty. The Republic of China came into existence with Dr. Sun Yat-sen as the first president.

Chiang became a faithful disciple of Dr. Sun. From 1911 to 1923 he shared the latter's bitter experiences in trying to unify China. In 1923 he was appointed principal of the Whampoa Military Academy, near Canton, whose graduates spearheaded the Northern Expeditionary ~~Army~~ three years later.

Dr. Sun died in 1925. The following year a new army pushed northward from Canton with Generalissimo Chiang as the Commander-in-Chief. By 1928 the unification of the country was accomplished. The same year he was elected President of the National Government.

The following years saw a remarkable progress ^{in China} under Chiang's leadership. By 1935, President Chiang had actually led China from a war-torn mess into the semblance of a modern nation. He held various posts of the Government during this period. After he resigned the post as President, he became head of the Executive Yuan. He retired in December, 1931, three months after the Mukden Incident, but returned to Nanking in January, 1932 to be Chairman of the National Military Council when the Japanese attack on Shanghai was in full swing. Between 1932 and 1937 he was concurrently Chief of the General Staff and Chairman of the National Economic Council.

In 1936 Generalissimo Chiang was kidnapped in Sian by one of his generals in a coup d'etat. However, the rebels were so moved by his personality and his devotion to national welfare that they released him on

行政院新聞局
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE
NANKING, CHINA

- 3 -

the Christmas Day.

When the war broke out between China and Japan on July 7, 1937, Generalissimo Chiang was already the undisputed leader of the nation, ~~to lead the defence war~~. Even the Communists found it necessary to pledge their allegiance to him although in reality they harbored secret designs of their own.

In 1938 Chiang was elected Tsung Tsai (Director General) of the Kuomintang, succeeding Dr. Sun as head of the Party.

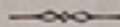
During the war China suffered tremendous losses. Thanks to the undaunted leadership of the Generalissimo, the nation fought on. He accomplished the miracle of leading an unprepared nation against a brutal military power for four and a half years before the China war became part of World War II.

In February, 1942 Generalissimo Chiang was invited to visit India, where he received the highest respect and warmest welcome from the Indian people. In October of the same year he was elected President of the National Government to succeed the late President Lin Sen.

In 1943, two years after the Pearl Harbour Incident, President Chiang met President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston C. Churchill at Cairo. ^{where a} common strategy against Japan was formulated.

Since the V-J Day President Chiang wanted to focus his attention on the rehabilitation and creation of a new China. In negotiating with the Communists for a peaceful settlement of the civil war which raged on a greater scale soon after the V-J Day, President Chiang showed the patience and generosity of a great statesman. But when the Communists decided to

行政院新聞局
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE
NANKING, CHINA



- 4 -

launch an all-out armed rebellion, the Government had no choice but to take military action to preserve unity and peace.

President Chiang led China through an international war. His remaining ambition is to lead China in peaceful reconstruction.