

# Mao and the Remaking of the Chinese Communist Party, 1927-1934: A Pivotal Transformation



## Forging Leninism in China: Mao and the Remaking of the Chinese Communist Party, 1927–1934 by Joseph Fewsmith

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), founded in 1921, underwent a profound transformation during the late 1920s and early 1930s under the leadership of Mao Zedong. This period marked a turning point in the party's history, as Mao's radical ideas and strategies reshaped its ideology, organization, and relationship with the Chinese masses.

This article delves into the pivotal events and strategies that characterized this transformative period, exploring Mao's role in leading the CCP during a time of great upheaval and change.

### **The Prelude: Suppression and Retreat**

The CCP's early years were marked by cooperation with the nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) in a joint effort to unify China. However, this alliance

collapsed in 1927 when the KMT, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, turned against the communists, launching a brutal purge known as the "White Terror."

The White Terror decimated the CCP, forcing its remnants to flee into rural areas. Mao, who had emerged as a leader during this period, argued for a radical break from the party's previous urban-based policies. He believed that the CCP needed to establish a stronghold in the countryside, mobilize the peasantry, and wage a protracted guerrilla war against the KMT.

### **The Land Revolution and the Jiangxi Soviet**

In 1927, Mao led the CCP into the mountainous region of Jiangxi, where he implemented a series of radical land reforms. These reforms, which redistributed land from wealthy landowners to poor peasants, gained widespread support among the rural population.

Under Mao's leadership, the CCP established a Soviet government in Jiangxi, known as the Jiangxi Soviet. The Soviet became a base for the party's military operations and a model for the future Chinese communist state. Mao's successful mobilization of the peasantry and his pragmatic military strategies transformed the CCP into a formidable force.

### **The Long March and the Zunyi Conference**

In 1934, the KMT launched a series of military campaigns against the Jiangxi Soviet. Faced with overwhelming odds, Mao and the CCP forces were forced to abandon their base and embark on the legendary Long March, a perilous journey that lasted over a year.

During the Long March, the CCP leadership convened the Zunyi Conference, a pivotal meeting where Mao emerged as the undisputed

leader of the party. The conference marked a decisive shift in the CCP's ideology and strategy, with Mao's ideas gaining widespread acceptance.

### **The Yan'an Era and the New Democracy**

After the Long March, the CCP established its new base in Yan'an, Shaanxi province. This period, known as the Yan'an Era, was marked by a period of relative stability and intellectual development for the party.

Mao further refined his theories on revolution and the role of the CCP in Chinese society. He proposed the concept of "New Democracy," which envisioned a united front of all anti-imperialist and anti-feudal forces in China, including the bourgeoisie and the peasantry. This strategy laid the foundation for the CCP's eventual victory in the Chinese Civil War.

The period from 1927 to 1934 was a pivotal time in the history of the Chinese Communist Party. Under Mao Zedong's leadership, the CCP underwent a profound transformation, emerging as a formidable force that would ultimately lead the Chinese Revolution to victory. Mao's radical ideas and pragmatic strategies reshaped the party's ideology, organization, and relationship with the Chinese masses.

The legacy of this period remains significant in China today. Mao's ideas on revolution, mass mobilization, and rural development continue to influence Chinese politics and society. The CCP's success in establishing a communist state in China owes a great deal to the foundations laid during this transformative era.



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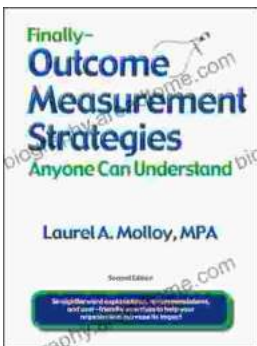
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