Civil War and the Founding of Communist China

Why did the European powers want to colonize China?
What was the Chinese Civil War?
What was the Chinese Civil War?

- Chinese Civil War was a military struggle between two (2) competing groups for control of the Chinese government
  - 1927 – 1950
  - “TIME OUT Period”
    - World War II (1935-1945)

- Also known in China as the “War for Liberation”
  - China was “liberated” by a Communist-style government
“The Father of His Nation”

Dr. Sun Yixian (1866 - 1925) was a Chinese doctor and revolutionary who helped to overthrow China’s last emperor in 1911 and served as the first president of the Republic of China.
1911: Revolution (2011)
The May Fourth Movement (Chinese Nationalists) (May 4, 1919)
Who were the major figures/groups within the Chinese Civil War?

- Two (2) major groups:
  1. Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT)
     - Nicknamed “The Nationalists”
     - Wanted a democratic gov.
     - Led by Gen. Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)
  2. Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
     - Nicknamed “The Communists”
     - Wanted a Communist gov.
     - Led by Mao Zedong
How did Mao win over the peasants of China?

- Mao was able to win over the major peasant class of China a number of ways:
  - Promised an end to the corruption of the Chinese government
  - Promised more land for the peasants’ use
  - Modernize / Industrialize China
  - Turn China into a “world power”
Mao addressing the peasants of China, 1933
Japanese Atrocities in China during World War II
Civil War “Timeout” (1935-1945)
The Rape of Nanking (1937)
The Flowers of War (2011)
American “Flying Tigers” (1941-42)
Surrender of Japan (August, 1945)

Surrender of the Japanese Imperial Army in China to Chinese forces; Sept., 1945
How did the Communists effectively defeat the Nationalists?

- At first, the Nationalists enjoyed the upper hand:
  - Large army
  - Controlled most of China
  - International aid
    - $2 billion (US)

- However, they did make some bad decisions:
  - No popular support (peasants)
  - Soldiers poorly trained (guerrilla warfare)
  - Ineffective, corrupt leadership
    - $1.5 billion wasted
Gen. Jiang Jieshi with FDR & Churchill at the Cairo Conference, 1943
The Long March (1934-1936)
Mao on the "Long March", 1936
Jiang Jieshi’s US Support, 1942-1950
Madame Jiang Jieshi with President Truman, 1948
Where did Nationalists go after they were defeated?

- The Nationalists fled mainland China for the island of Taiwan
  - Created a new democratic government w/ U.S. support

- China has never recognized Taiwan as an independent country
  - A “cold war” still exists today between the governments of China & Taiwan
Gen. George Marshall with Mao Zedong, cir 1950
Chinese Communist propaganda aimed against the US, 1946
Gen. Jiang Jieshi during his Inaugural Address as the first president of Taiwan, 1951
The National Memorial Hall
Jiang Jieshi’s Body
The Great Statue of Jiang