

***“The Road to World War Two  
(from the late 1920s to 1942)”***

**Class Discussion Questions from “China as a Divided  
Republic (1912 to 1928)” Lecture.**

1. Who was Yuan Shikai (1859 to 1916)?
2. What was (is) the Kuomintang (KMT) Party?
3. Why did Republican China’s (1912 to 1949) brief experiment with democracy fail in the years immediately after 1912?
4. What was the Age of the Warlords (1916 to 1928)?
5. Who was Chiang Kai-shek (1887 to 1975)?
6. What were the Twenty-One Demands (1915)?
7. What was the Russian Revolution (1917)? Why was it significant for countries outside the Russian Empire?

8. Briefly describe the meaning of the term “communism.” What are some of communism’s central tenets?
9. What was the May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement? What events and issues influenced it?
10. Why did the Soviet Union (also known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) (1922 to 1991)) decide to develop relations with China in the 1920s? What were the USSR’s motivations for helping China?
11. What was the Northern Expedition (1926 to 1928)?
12. What was the White Terror (1927)?
13. What did Chiang Kai-shek mean when he said “ The Japanese are a disease of the skin: it can be cured. The Communists are a disease of the soul: It affects the whole body.”
14. Briefly describe Japan’s presence and influence in China in the years prior to the early 1930s.