

# National and Communist China



A KORERO REPORT

**D**R. SUN-YAT-SEN'S party joined the revolution of 1911 with two main objects—the destruction of the Manchu Dynasty, and the establishment of democratic government modelled on those of Great Britain and the United States. The Manchu Dynasty fell, but the Nationalist movement was not powerful enough to make the 1912 Republic of China a real republic or an independent nation. The new Chinese nation was not born until the revolution of 1926-28.

Between the two revolutions, the nominal Government in Peking had little influence. The real power was in the hands of war lords in the provinces. The war lord was sometimes a man of humble origin, sometimes an ex-official of high rank, but his Forces were invariably recruited from the peasantry. Only when his crops fail and he is faced with starvation does the Chinese peasant take to soldiering or banditry. In normal times the soldier or bandit is at the bottom of the Chinese social scale, and therefore only a reflection of chaotic economic conditions. The stronghold of the Nationalists under Sun-Yat-Sen was in the south at Canton. They appealed in vain to the United States, Great Britain, Japan and other countries, for help against the war lords. Finally, they turned to Soviet Russia, which, alone among the powers, had earned the good will of the Nationalists by voluntarily giving up its special rights and privileges in China. At the invitation of Sun-Yat-Sen, Russian technical and political advisers set about the re-organization of the Kuomintang and the formation of a revolutionary Army. The Young Communist Party of China was admitted to partnership

with the Kuomintang, and helped to organize into unions the factory workers of Shanghai and Canton and the peasants of the interior provinces, who would play a large part in the ultimate revolution against the rule of the war lords.

The Army of the Nationalists developed under the leadership of a young general, Chiang-Kai-Shek. At the same time, the Western Powers were busily playing one war lord against another, and selling arms to them all. In 1926 the Nationalists judged the time opportune for the conquest of China. Preceded by an army of propagandists who roused the peasantry against the landlords and war lords whose selfishness was ruining the country, they moved north through the interior provinces to Hankow, where, after a triumphant campaign, the Nationalist Government was established. Borodin, the Russian adviser, was one of its guiding spirits.

While he lived, Sun-Yat-Sen had held the various elements of his party together, but Sun-Yat-Sen died of cancer in 1925. For a short time varying political opinions in the Nationalist party did not clash, but only until the success of the revolution was certain. With that common aim attained, there was nothing to prevent personal and political jealousy. The political rift was the more serious.

## Right and Left Wings

The Kuomintang became divided into right and left wings. The left wing included not only Communists, but students and intellectuals who sympathized with them. This wing wished to base its power on the organization of the peasants and workers of China. An organized peasantry meant a drastic