

In October 1945, China was at a pivotal but unstable moment, characterized by the formal Japanese surrender on October 10th, the signing of the limited Double Tenth Agreement between the Nationalist (KMT) and Communist (CCP) parties, and the return of Taiwan to Chinese rule. Despite the formal agreement, negotiations and trust were fragile, with the potential for renewed Chinese Civil War looming as US forces helped move Nationalist troops into Japanese-controlled territories, and the Soviet Union occupied Manchuria, which was contested by the CCP. ⓘ

Key Developments in October 1945:

Japanese Surrender:

The official surrender of Japanese forces in China occurred on October 10th, 1945, in the Forbidden City in Peking (Beijing), symbolizing the end of a devastating war and the beginning of a new, uncertain era for China. ⓘ

Double Tenth Agreement:

Also on October 10th, Nationalist and Communist leaders Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong signed an agreement for a united, democratic China. This agreement, the Double Tenth Agreement, was a short-lived truce that aimed to form a coalition government. ⓘ

Return of Taiwan:

October 25th marked the formal return of Taiwan from Japanese rule to the Republic of China, an event known as Taiwan Retrocession Day. ⓘ

Fragile Peace and Resumption of Conflict:

Despite the formal agreements, armed conflict between the KMT and CCP continued. Trust between the two parties was low, and the agreement was soon seen as a mere formality as full-scale civil war began to loom again. ⓘ

International Involvement:

The United States supported the Nationalist government by flying their troops to Japanese-controlled areas. The Soviet Union occupied Manchuria, a key region, which further complicated the political situation and fueled the potential for conflict. ⓘ

The Road to Civil War:

The initial period of peace and cooperation after the Japanese surrender proved to be short-lived. Years of mistrust between the KMT and CCP, coupled with conflicting territorial claims and ideological differences, quickly eroded any prospects for a lasting coalition. The fragile truce in October 1945 eventually broke down, and by 1946, the full-scale Chinese Civil War had resumed. ⓘ