

In October 1945, Russian (Soviet) Red Army troops were present in Northeast China (Manchuria) as the occupying force after the Soviet invasion of Manchuria from August 1945, which followed the Japanese surrender. The presence of these troops supported the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), allowing them to move into the region, claim former Japanese arms, and establish a strong presence, which significantly impacted the ongoing Chinese Civil War by hindering the Kuomintang (KMT) and giving the CCP a crucial advantage. ⓘ

Soviet Role in Northeast China

- **Military Occupation:** Following the Soviet victory over the Japanese Kwantung Army in the Soviet-Japanese War, Red Army troops occupied Manchuria and the surrounding areas. ⓘ
- **Support for the CCP:** Soviet forces actively facilitated the movement of CCP troops into the region and provided access to Japanese arms and ammunition, which were abundant due to the large-scale surrender of Japanese forces. ⓘ
- **Strategic Advantage for the CCP:** The Soviet presence effectively blocked the KMT from taking control of the strategically vital, heavily industrialized Northeast China, giving the CCP time to consolidate its forces and gain a first-mover advantage. ⓘ

Impact on the Chinese Civil War

- **Power Vacuum:** The Soviet presence created a power vacuum that the CCP was able to fill, aided by Soviet logistics and equipment. ⓘ
- **KMT Frustration:** The KMT government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, saw the Soviet actions as hostile and determined to support the "Communist bandits". ⓘ
- **Turning Point:** The ability of the CCP to establish a strong base in Northeast China with Soviet assistance was a critical factor in the CCP's eventual victory in the Chinese Civil War. ⓘ