

In October 1945, American military actions in China focused on assisting the Kuomintang (KMT) (Nationalists) in the nascent Chinese Civil War, using the U.S. Fourteenth Air Force to airlift 50,000 Nationalist troops to strategic northern cities like Beijing. Concurrently, U.S. Marines arrived in North China to secure key areas amid the civil conflict, while American forces began their eventual withdrawal from China. President Truman supported the KMT but remained hesitant to be drawn into the civil war, dispatching negotiators to mediate while also supporting the KMT's consolidation of power. ⓘ

Key U.S. Military Actions:

- **Logistics and Transport:** The U.S. Fourteenth Air Force airlifted 50,000 Chinese Nationalist troops to Beijing and other key points in North China between October 6 and October 29, 1945. U.S. Navy vessels also transported 23,000 Nationalist troops from French Indochina to North China. ⓘ
- **Marine Deployment:** The U.S. Marines, initially slated for the assault on Japan, were redirected to North China after the war's end to protect infrastructure and key terrain. ⓘ
- **Assistance to Nationalists:** These actions directly supported Chiang Kai-shek's KMT government, helping them assert control over former Japanese-occupied territories in the lead-up to the full-scale civil war. ⓘ
- **Limited Direct Intervention:** Despite supporting the Nationalists, U.S. policy aimed to avoid direct U.S. involvement in the fighting, a stance shaped by domestic anti-war sentiment and a strategic focus on Europe. ⓘ

Broader Context:

- **End of World War II:** The American mission in China occurred in the immediate aftermath of Japan's surrender, with the U.S. tasked with facilitating the transition to Chinese control and suppressing Japanese forces. ⓘ
- **Chinese Civil War:** The withdrawal of Japanese forces reignited the long-standing conflict between the KMT and the Communist Party of China (CCP). ⓘ
- **Truman Administration's Policy:** President Truman continued his predecessor's policy of supporting the KMT but sought to mediate the conflict, sending General George C. Marshall to negotiate a peace agreement, though these efforts ultimately failed. ⓘ
- **Withdrawal and Public Opinion:** The presence of U.S. forces in China became increasingly controversial, with widespread calls for demobilization and concerns about American involvement in a foreign civil war. ⓘ