

Republic of China

Key facts in 1929

Area: 11'117'193 km²^[1,2]

Population: 474.78 Million^[3]

Life expectancy: 31 Years ^[4]

Literacy rate: About 12%^[5,6]

Biggest Minorities: Manchu, Mongolians, Hui (including Uyghurs and Uzbeks), Tibetans^[7]

Select Main Cities: Nanjing, Beijing, Wuhan, Chongqing, Shanghai, Guangzhou^[1]

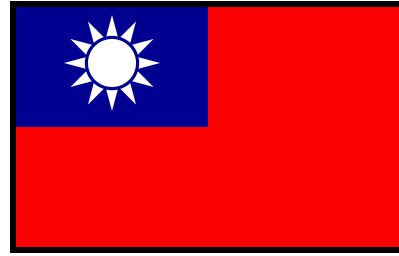
Neighboring countries: USSR, Japanese Korea, Japanese Port Arthur, British Weihawei, British Hong Kong, Portuguese Macau, French Kwangchowan, French Indochina, British Raj (India), Bhutan (British protectorate), Nepal, Afghanistan^[8,9]

Sea Access: Yes, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, Gulf of Tonkin^[10]

GDP: 35'800'000'000 \$1929^[11,12]

Recent Historical Background

Emerging from the ashes of the Qing Dynasty's collapse in 1912, the Republic of China faced a turbulent period with many geopolitical events shaping its history.^[13] In 1919, Xu Shuzheng successfully asserted control over Outer Mongolia, repelling the White Army from there and integrating it back into China despite its declaration of independence in 1911 during the collapse of the Qing Dynasty.^[2,14] Simultaneously, there was the May Fourth Movement, which were major student protests in Peking, frustrated with the geopolitical and economic actions of the government.^[15] In 1927, the Chinese Civil War between the Nationalist Kuomintang and the Communist Party got ignited, which further strained the country's resources.^[16] Parallel to being in a civil war, China was in the Sino-Soviet conflict of 1929 about the Chinese Eastern Railway. This further compromised China's territorial integrity.^[17,18] Next to that, China suffered several major epidemics, including the 1918 Influenza pandemic, killing 4-9.5 Million people, as well as the 1919 cholera pandemic, killing 300'000 people.^[19,20]



Political Situation

In 1929, the Republic of China found itself in a politically precarious position, with the nationalist ruling Kuomintang party led by President Chiang Kai-shek dominating the scene.^[21,22] The country grappled with internal conflicts, including resistance from various minority groups, including Tibetans and Muslims^[23,24], widespread poverty, and growing ideological tensions between the Kuomintang and the emerging Communist movement.^[25] Amidst this backdrop, paramilitary organizations like the Green Gang further complicated the political landscape, contributing to the overall instability of the era.^[26]

Economic Situation in 1929

In 1929, China was primarily an agrarian society with a vast array of natural resources. These resources included fertile land for agriculture, abundant water sources for irrigation, minerals such as coal, iron ore, and copper, as well as forestry and marine resources.^[27] However, despite its rich resource base, China was still largely undeveloped and characterized by widespread poverty and underdevelopment, which included famines^[28,29]. During that era, China experienced a massive trade deficit, with imports being over 50% higher than exports.^[27] Chinese economic exchanges were typical for a peripheral nation, mostly exporting raw materials and importing manufactured goods and its main trade partners were Japan, the United States and Hong Kong^[30]

Military Strength in 1929

In 1929, the Chinese army was actively fighting on many fronts, both in the chinese civil war as well as against the Soviet Union on the Chinese Eastern Railway^[16,17] Despite all of this, the Chinese military only had about 36 Renault FT tanks and 24 Carden Loyd Tankettes^[31] It boasted a whopping 1.7 million active personnel and its funding was USD 358'000'000 of 1929.^[32] It had about 60 Ships (Give or take 15) and between 360 and 450 planes^[33,34]

Key Facts about Military Strength of China ^[27,31,32,33,34]	
Active personnel	1'700'000
Tanks	60
Cavalry	Unknown
Other vehicles	Unknown
Ships	~60
Planes	360-450
Funding in 1929\$	358'800'000

Allies/Enemies/Existing territorial disputes in 1929

Allies: United States (Important trade partner)^[35]

Enemies: Japan (Territorial disputes)^[36], Soviet Union (War of 1929)^[17], Communist Party of China (Civil War)^[16]

Territorial Disputes: Manchuria (against Japan)^[37]

Some of the main goals for the 1930s

1. Achieving national unity and stability amidst internal strife, separatism and civil war. Try winning the civil war against the communists.
2. Fostering modernization and industrialization to compete with Western powers.
3. Resisting imperialism and foreign influence, asserting China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, especially against Japan.

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