Two Paths for China

Revolution, civil war, and political and economic change

MWH.C.7.4.B "Describe significant political and economic change in China, including the influence of Sun Yat-Sen and the 1911 Revolution, and examine the consequences of the Chinese Civil War..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the 1911 Revolution's political result and the civil war's political result; circle one later political development for each government, then write 1 beside a mainland economic policy and 2 beside a Taiwan economic policy.

From One Republic to Two Governments

1. In 1911, an uprising against the Qing dynasty spread across China. For more than two centuries, Qing emperors had ruled the country. Sun Yat-sen, a revolutionary leader, argued that China needed national independence, representative government, and better living conditions. He helped build support for a republic but was abroad when the uprising began. The revolution ended imperial rule, and the Republic of China was founded in 1912, with Sun as provisional president. Yet changing the name of the government did not settle who would hold power. Regional military leaders competed for control, and many farmers remained poor.

2. Rival groups later fought over China's future. The Nationalists, led for much of the conflict by Chiang Kai-shek, faced the Communists, led by Mao Zedong. Their civil war began in 1927, was interrupted by a wartime alliance against Japan, and resumed after World War II. In 1949, Communist victory brought the People's Republic of China (PRC) to power on the mainland. The Nationalist government of the Republic of China (ROC), founded decades earlier, retreated to Taiwan and continued ruling there. The two governments each claimed to represent China. Millions of people were displaced or separated from relatives.

3. The split produced different systems. On the mainland, the PRC became a one-party state under the Communist Party. Early policies placed farms and factories under state or collective control. Beginning in 1978, leaders allowed more private business and market activity, while the party kept political power. In Taiwan, the ROC government also restricted political opposition for decades, but its economy grew through private businesses, manufacturing, and exports. After martial law ended in 1987, Taiwan moved toward competitive elections and a multiparty democracy. Today, both economies use markets, but their political systems differ sharply.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1911 Revolution advance Sun Yat-sen's political goal, and what problem remained?

2. How did the outcome of the civil war change who governed the mainland and Taiwan?

3. How did the PRC and ROC governments' political paths differ after decades of restricting opposition?

4. Compare the mainland's and Taiwan's economic development. Include one change in the mainland's approach.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label for an imagined display containing a 1912 newspaper announcing a republic and a 1990s Taiwan election ballot. Explain how Sun Yat-sen's goals and the civil war connect the objects, then contrast the two governments' later political and economic paths.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.4.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the 1911 Revolution's political result and the civil war's political result; circle one later political development for each government, then write 1 beside a mainland economic policy and 2 beside a Taiwan economic policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1911 Revolution advance Sun Yat-sen's political goal, and what problem remained?	**It ended imperial rule and led to a republic, advancing his goal of representative government. Regional military leaders still competed for power.**
2	How did the outcome of the civil war change who governed the mainland and Taiwan?	**The Communists established the PRC on the mainland in 1949. The ROC government retreated to Taiwan and continued ruling there.**
3	How did the PRC and ROC governments' political paths differ after decades of restricting opposition?	**The PRC kept Communist Party rule, while Taiwan moved toward competitive elections and a multiparty democracy after 1987.**
4	Compare the mainland's and Taiwan's economic development. Include one change in the mainland's approach.	**The mainland initially put farms and factories under state or collective control, then allowed more private business and market activity after 1978. Taiwan's economy grew through private businesses, manufacturing, and exports.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This 1912 newspaper marks the end of imperial rule, but not the end of struggles over power. Sun Yat-sen wanted representative government and better living conditions; the republic he helped create soon faced rival leaders. After the civil war, Communists governed the mainland while the ROC government retreated to Taiwan. The ballot shows Taiwan's later move toward competitive elections. Mainland leaders kept one-party rule while expanding market activity after early state control. Taiwan's economy grew through private businesses and exports.

Accept labels that accurately link the 1912 republic to Sun's goals, explain the postwar split, and distinguish Taiwan's later elections from mainland one-party rule. Economic comparisons should identify mainland state control followed by market reforms and Taiwan's growth through private business and exports.