Compare & Contrast the Russian & Chinese Revolutions

WHAP - CH 21 – World Communism

4 out of 5 Communist leaders agree: Facial hair is cool.

Communism
It’s literally a party
Compare Russian & Chinese Revolution - Similarities:

★ Ousted old ruling classes & dispossessed landed aristocracies
★ Involved vast peasant upheavals in countryside
★ Found vision of good society in modernizing future, not in an idealized past
★ Inspiration from: Karl Marx
★ Pursued both economic & political equality
★ Sought the abolition of private property
Compare Russian & Chinese Revolution - differences:

Unlike in Russia:

★ Revolutionary struggle in China lasted decades; not 1 year.

★ Ideas of Karl Marx were previously barely known in China. Unlike Russia, where intellectuals had been discussing socialism for 50 years or more before revolution.

★ Chinese communists faced far more formidable political foe than weak Provisional
Compare Russian & Chinese Revolution - differences:

★ Bolsheviks found their primary audience among workers in Russia’s major cities, Chinese communists increasingly looked to the country’s peasant villages for support.

★ Chinese peasants did not rise up spontaneously against their landlords, as Russians had.

★ Chinese communists ultimately put down deep roots among the peasantry in a way that the Bolsheviks never
Compare Russian & Chinese Revolution - differences:

Whereas the **Bolsheviks** gained support by urging Russian withdrawal from the highly unpopular World War I, the **Chinese communists** won support by aggressively pursuing the struggle against Japanese invaders during World War II.
Second Sino-Japanese War (July 7, 1937 – September 9, 1945)
Between: Republic of China & Empire of Japan

China fought Japan with some economic help from Germany, Soviet Union & the U.S.

After Pearl Harbor in 1941, the war became “Global”, but the Second Sino-Japanese War was the largest Asian war in the 20th century. It also made up more than 50% of the casualties in the Pacific War if the 1937–1941 period is taken into account.

Chiang Kai-shek, Franklin D. Roosevelt, & Winston Churchill met at the Cairo Conference in 1943 during World War II.

Help from Nazi Germany: Chinese industry & its military were improved prior to war against Japan.

Mao Zedong & Chiang Kai-shek toasted each other, 1946.
Chinese Civil War (1946-1950)

Ideological split (Left vs. Right) between Communist CPC, & the KMT's brand of Nationalism

Civil war continued until late 1937, when the 2 parties formed a Second United Front to counter a Japanese invasion. (WWII)

China's full-scale civil war resumed in 1946, a year after the end of hostilities with Japan.

After 4 more years, 1950 saw the cessation of major military hostilities:

- Newly founded People's Republic of China controlling mainland China (including Hainan)
- Republic of China's jurisdiction being restricted to Taiwan, Penghu, Quemoy, Matsu and several outlying islands.