

The Kuomintang - Dying, Dead! But Chiang Still Commands The Masses' Respect

By Henry Bough
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China's 450 million people are today witnessing the disintegration of the Kuomintang Party, which has ruled for nearly a quarter of a century.

The Party is fast disintegrating from major wounds inflicted by its former associates, Mao Tse-tung, Chou En-lai and Chu Teh, and minor stabs from its rank and file.

The Kuomintang is on its death bed in Canton city from where it set out to unify China by overcoming warlordism in North China.

Ironically, the same Party which almost unified China for the first time in its long history with the aid of Soviet Russian military and political advisers, is today facing eclipse through the military strength of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chiang Kai-shek, the hero of China's hundreds of million for more than a decade, is today a virtual refugee on Taiwan Island with only a faint hope that a third World War in the near future may restore the fortunes of the Nationalists.

Whatever extremely slender hopes the Nationalists may have of withstanding the Chinese Communists, the Kuomintang Party cannot survive, according to well-informed non-partisan Chinese sources in Hongkong. They said that the party, as represented by Chiang Kai-shek, T. V. Soong, Chen Li-fu and H. H. Kung, who have directed its destiny and policies since the death of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1925, cannot be revived. There is still some degree of loyalty amongst the Chinese people for Chiang Kai-shek, whom the people believed led Chi-



Treaty of PI-Chinese Amity, with President Quirino, left, and Chinese Legation Secretary Pichi Sun.

na to victory, with Allied help, against the Japanese.

But for other leaders of the Kuomintang, there is very little sympathy among the masses.

However, there is a noticeable change in the attitude of the masses towards the Chinese Communist Party. Before their conquest of cities like Peiping, Tientsin and Shanghai, Mao Tse-tung and his associates were acclaimed as possible saviours of the country. But many Chinese having lived under Communist regimes in North and

Central China are now disillusioned.

Among the merchants, if a straight vote were taken today to choose between Nationalism and Communism, the ballot would very likely be in favor of the former, though the Kuomintang is still remembered for its corruption and misrule. It is a question of the lesser evil.

The Kuomintang was founded by Dr. Sun Yat-sen (regarded as "Father of the Republic) in Macao in 1892 and was then known as "Regenerate China Society." In

1905 the name was changed to "China Brotherhood Society" when Sun Yat-sen was in political exile in Japan. It was first known by its present name in 1912, a year after the overthrow of the Manchus and a Republic was declared in China.

Dr. Sun's dreams of a unified and strong Republican China soon faded and for years a struggle raged among the various warlords for supremacy in North and Central China. The Kuomintang moved down south, setting up headquarters in Canton and formed an independent government. An army was built up in Canton under the guidance of Galen, a well-known Soviet Russian general at that time, while Borodin took charge of the political machinery.

When Sun Yat-sen died in Peiping in 1925, there came on the scene a young officer—Chiang Kai-shek, who was until then virtually unknown among the older Kuomintang members.

In 1926 as Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Expedition, Chiang, with the Russian aides, Galen and Borodin, swept all before him and emerged victorious in Nanking, where a National Government was proclaimed.

From then on the struggle inside the Kuomintang began. Chiang turned to the Right, dismissed his Russian advisers and the leftwing groups were gradually eliminated from the Party.

With Chiang firmly entrenched as the successor of Sun Yat-sen and his Government recognized by the world powers, the "Soong Dynasty" was founded and ruled China for 20 years until the Generalissimo's retire-

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WHAT DO . . .

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was asked by the then furious professor whose face already had become flush lobstered, apparently disappointed for the failure of the other students to give a correct answer, all managed to say was: "Sorry, Professor, but I did not finish reading all the books you have assigned us to read." But after breathing deeply to regain my composure, I added: "All I know is that women had always wanted to be superior to men."

The sneezing professor standing against his desk quickly interposed: "There you are class. Superiority of women over men, the man from the Philippines says, is what the former likes most in the latter. It's correct." After a moment, the professor asked me, "Mr. Cruz, are you married?"

I said no.

"Why?" he asked again.

"I like to be in circulation for a while, I replied meekly." The class chuckled.

If you think the way my professor did at that time the riddle for you about men-women relationship is already solved. If you don't, then, all I can say is that women do what they do because they figure that because they are more or less responsible for bringing us up, men, in this world the right to guide our lives — even our destinies — is also theirs. So, the eternal conflict!

Which brings us now to that famous question again, which came first: the egg or the hen? Or this: who is higher the crowned king or the man who crowned him?

But the truth of the matter is that men still refuse to give up their superiority complex idea over women either because there will be more war than we can handle or the (wome) are not quite ripe — or maybe have not enough spare time — to handle the affairs of the nation.

YOU TOO . . .

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their college papers, receive A's.

Don't let your tenses worry you. Let it be just as you think it right. Damon Rymyon's tenses and style are quite unusual yet he makes millions and turns out best sellers. Who knows that you too might turn out a new literary style as DR did? Or you may be a part of that force who, by continually doing what is wrong, produces good.

Young man (the old's are not excluded), **YOU TOO CAN WRITE.** You can if you will, you can if you try. Anybody, who has patience and tries hard enough, can write. Anybody can learn how to write in a practical way, just as anybody can learn how to swim. Nor can anybody learn how to swim without trying how. Therefore, try. You may not be just "dashing things off" or your ideas may not come out "like a flash," so to say. You may not duplicate Rouget de L'Isle who composed "Marseilles" at one sitting with words and all, or Bret Harte with his marvellous story "Marvelous Blossom" at one single sitting too, or do what Beckford did. You may not be familiar with the Shakespearean classics, with the long rolling sentences of Gibbons and Macaulay that sweep along like the waves on the channel beaches, or the short sentences of Scripture that tick like the clock of time. Nevertheless, write down your thoughts and put aside that cloak of shyness. You cannot write if you do not and will not write. When you feel like it or you are in the mood (not for love or calypso this time).

For the present, however, men the world over are for allowing their womenfolk as their equals. But for women to be superior to men, that's different. It's no wonder, then, that women will forever nag and nag until the end of this world and long after we have crossed the Great Divide.

make a beeline for the nearest typewriter and keep the keys busy. Damn the literary rules! Just write in your usual way, in your natural style. Just write what you think as the ideas come up your head. You cannot copy somebody's style because yours is a part of your character. You cannot be what you are not. Who knows that what you have written which you think as trash would turn out later to be a masterpiece? Yes, who knows? Schubert never had the faintest idea that his "Moonlight Serenade" would be for eternity. He did not even attend the occasion for which he was supposed to personally play the original piece on the piano.

Go ahead, write. Even if it is not blood in your veins and air in your lungs. Write something about everything and about something. The world is strewn with all sorts of literary subjects from needle to anchor, from foot-wear to headgear, from new look to don't look, from bullet to atom bombs, from down-swept to up-swept hair-do's, from pin up to pin down girls, from pepsi-cola to apalachicola, from backpay to payback, and now that election is ensuing, from promises to compromises, etc. Never mind the rejection slips from the "hard-boiled" editors. That's a part of the game. A famous crime story writer had written more than enough crime stories to fill up the penitentiaries before he had a single story published. A Canadian writer had enough rejection slips to paper a room before he ever saw his by line. Just write down your thoughts minus the idea of being an author. At least, sooner or later, you will hit the mark, even you may call it luck or not. If it turns out that what you have written appears interesting, after enough practice, the selling comes as a matter of course. If you are a sentimentalist, perhaps, like Charles Dickens, your tears would roll down your cheeks the first moment in your

lifetime you can see your name in print. As Dickens wrote, "I walked down to Westminster Hall and turned into it for half an hour, because my eyes were so dimmed with joy and pride they could not bear the street." Don't give up your hopes. Joseph Conrad and RLS were sailors, Lincoln was not a college man, our Stevan Javelana did not specially study journalism. Yet, they were able to write of the immediate things around them.

Whatever your career is, you still can write. Go to it.

THE KUOMINTANG . . .

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ment from the Presidency early this year, Madame Chiang's departure for the United States nearly ten months ago and finally Dr. T. V. Soong's exit from the Chinese political scene.

The Soongs are regarded as one of the most remarkable families in China. The oldest of the three Soong Sisters, Ai-ling, married H. H. Kung, Ching-ling married Sun Yat-sen the youngest and the best known internationally, Mei-ling, became the wife of Chiang Kai-shek.

The key posts in the Chinese Government from then on, except for brief periods, were in the hands of Chiang, T. V. Soong and Kung. The struggle within the Kuomintang is still on — this time between the "Kwangsi Clique," represented by Acting President Li Tsung-jen and General Fai Chung-hsi, and the rightwing faction headed by Chiang.

Many Chinese predict that the struggle will end in the Kwangsi Clique seeking compromise with Mao Tse-tung and that Chiang and his associates will take political refuge abroad.

The leftwing faction within the Kuomintang, represented by Madame Sun Yat-sen, has already gone over to the Communist cause, according to Communist announcements from Peiping.