

CHINA AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OF 1954

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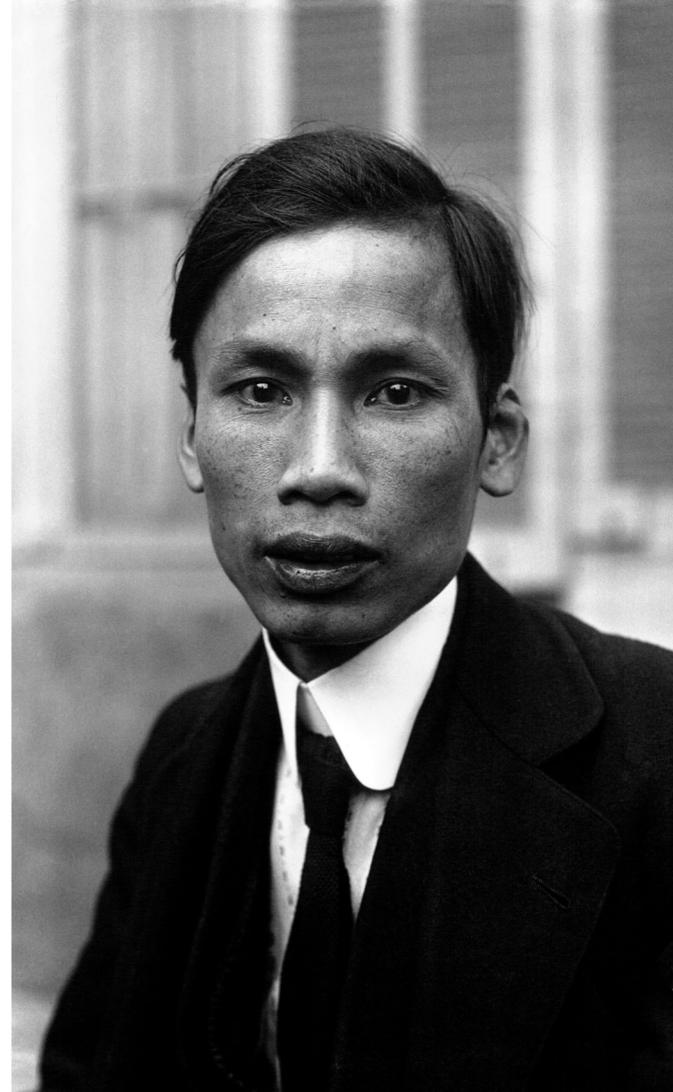


ABOUT THE ARTICLE...

- This article was written in 1992 by Zhai Qiang for the Chinese Quarterly.
- Shines light on PRC'S (**People's Republic of China**) very active role during the 1954 Geneva conference. More specifically the importance Zhou Enlai played in the conference.
- Author notes how much material has been found shining Beijing's role in the conference.
- Examines the PRC's preparation for and performance during the conference and discusses China's relations with the major powers.

VIETNAM WAR

- Vietnam was a french colony.
- Within Vietnam a movement of independence begins under communist revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh.
- Independence movement supported by: China & The Soviet Union.



PREPARATION FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE & OBJECTIVES

- The **Geneva Conference of 1954** was an international meeting held in Switzerland involving the Soviet Union, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, China and the Vietminh. The powers involved attempted to negotiate a settlement to end the conflict in Indochina and reunify Vietnam. The conference also dealt unsuccessfully with the problem of divided Korea. The author focused **primarily** on the role China played during Geneva Conference **and** during the **Vietnam War**.

GOALS AND RESULTS OF ZHOU ENLAI'S POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC ACTION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

- Zhou proved himself a skillfull diplomat
- What were his objectives?
- China needing to stabalize its' internal economy
- What were Zhou Enlai's 3 contributions?

FUNDAMENTAL POINTS OF THE G.C AND ITS PARTIAL FAILURE

- Vietnam was to be divided at the 17th parallel (splitting both sides) to allow the regrouping of military forces from both sides.
- Country was to be neutralized, **neither were to enter into military alliances.**
- Elections were to be held two years after conference
- Disappointment of all 3 communist countries when Diem (Saigon) refused to participate stating that free elections were impossible in North Vietnam.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES PARTY TO THE CONFERENCE

- Soviet Union had an influence on China...
- Soviet Union wished to keep the French close, to stop them from joining the EDC (**European Defence Community**)
- Soviets wished to keep the French allied in order to stop them from joining EDC
- Soviets fostered better relations between the Chinese and the British

US POSITION IN THE CONFLICT...

- They were afraid of a “Domino-Effect” through the rest of the region.
- UK did not share the same belief.
- Dulles (US Secretary of state) refused to accept China as a member of the big 5.



CONCLUSION

- The Geneva conference of 1954 represented an important event in the development of China's foreign policy.
- 1st time that Beijing's diplomacy becomes the main focus in an international meeting.
 - Despite American opposition and delaying tactics.
- This is the first time China is represented as one of the Big Powers.

PERSONAL TAKE AWAY

- Author might have been too critical towards the USA's role.
- Should be taken into consideration that that area of the world was of strategic importance & thus one can partly justify the attitude of distrust toward China and its' allies.
- On the other hand, seemed clear that the point that free elections would be held in 1956 was unlikely to occur since pluralist democracy & communism were not concepts that were easily reconcilable.