

Reconstruction China: Japanese  
technicians and industrialization in the early  
years of the People's Republic of China  
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1949-1953

Reconstructing China  
by Chinese Communist  
Party

# The existence of the expertise of Japanese technicians are the technological and industrial basis of national power of China

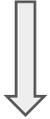
## THE SITUATION OF CHINA (1949-1953)

- 8year War of Resistance against Japan
- the plundering of Northeast China's industrial basis by the Russian army
- Civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists

## The beginning of a long-term reconceptualization of national power, and the role of technology and industrial capability

# The existence of the expertise of Japanese technicians are the technological and industrial basis of national power of China

- 1) rehabilitated Japan by US
- 2) Korean War in 1950



**Rapid technological and industrial development was a necessary first step for the economic development and strengthening China**

Before China could be turned into 'a great socialist state', the Chinese Communist Party must first 'transform China from an agrarian country into an industrial state'.

(Mao Zedong, Mar 1949)

# The existence of the expertise of Japanese technicians are the technological and industrial basis of national power of China

Soviet Union is the ideal model

BUT - China was too industrially backward to begin Soviet model

- China's extreme lack of indigenous technology and industrial skills
- Not enough assistance from Soviet Union until 1951



- the foundations of Japanese factories
- Importing Japanese industrial goods and materials ← embargo
- 2400 Japanese technicians

## The dilemma to draw on the Japanese expertise

- 1) Chinese had negative images against Japanese by propaganda
- 2) During the Korean War, Japanese were regarded as enemies  
→ CCP tried to change the image of Japanese as common victims by American occupation
- 3) the exist of Soviet Union in China from 1952  
→ Japanese didn't welcome them and their inferior technology  
+ Soviets thought Japanese might leak their industrial secrets to Japan or US

# dependence on Soviet Union and Socialist bloc countries from 1950s



the rate of the GDP, PPP Source: Bert Hofman (2019), World Bank

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/china-economic-growth-history/>