



Chen Jiang

Bridging Revolution and Decolonization

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The “Bandung Discourse” in
China's Early Cold War
Experience

Alexandra Mityakina

**China's foreign
policy changed in
1954-1955**

**Beijing's intention
and action moved
to a more moderate
to expand China's
activities on the
international scene**

COMMON IDEA



**AUTHOR'S
ARGUMENT**

**“Bandung
discourse” did not
represent a
“retreat” by the
Chinese
Communists from a
revolutionary
foreign policy**

TIMELINE BEFORE BANDUNG

1920s

CCP EARLY YEARS

Heavily reliant on Comintern, yet careful of both connections and distinctions between the 'world revolution' and China's 'national revolution'

1946

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

US imperialists cannot attack USSR before they take over Asia, Africa, and Europe

1949

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Revolutionary PRC: 'new China' to destroy the 'old world'.

1950s

"Division of Labor"; KOREA AND INDOCHINA

lean to one side; strategic alliance; decolonization + revolution
East Asia - Cold War battlefield → China-US confrontation; US

1954

GENEVA CONFERENCE & ZHOU ENLAI

How to expand influence: Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

- Jiang Jieshi's bloody anti-Communist coup in April 1927
- Mao and a group of his comrades moved to the countryside, where they organized the Red Army and, by mobilizing the revolutionary peasantry, waged a violent "Land Revolution."

**Mao's Rural-centered
pattern of Communist
revolution**

**Supporting this idea in
Mao's conceptual
realm were both
pragmatism and
romanticism.**



The Long March

The Long March solidified Mao's status as the undisputed leader of the CCP, though he did not officially become party chairman until 1943. The outbreak of China's war against Japan that provided the CCP with unprecedented space for development



Key terms

- Not class-struggle: “semi-colonial and semi-feudal” country and the struggles for national liberation by the oppressed peoples in the colonies of Western powers
- Victim mentality

- **Liberate China, then - the world: Liu Shaoqi leads delegation to Moscow to explain 'lean-to-one-side' strategy for the world revolution**
- **This resulted in 1949 Beijing-Moscow division of Labor agreement, which affirmed China's Influence over certain regions**

At home such formal confirmation of China's importance in the world revolution helped to mobilize people. This, in turn, flowed into China's support of revolutions in Vietminh and Military intervention in Korea



- **China was economically drained after military engagement**
- **It lead to more tensions with the US and exclusion from the UN**
- **Still the war meant more communist propaganda at home and therefore greater legitimacy and influence, also internationally**
- **The influence was amplified after Stalin's death**



GENEVA CONFERENCE & x ZHOU ENLAI'S DIPLOMACY



Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister U Nu in Myanmar, June 1954



(From left) Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Chinese Premier Zhou and Indian President Dr Rajendra Prasad in this 1954 photograph clicked during the signing of a joint declaration by China and India.



Zhou Enlai and Anthony Eden at the Geneva Conference

The Five Principles

- Mutual respect for each other's' territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- Mutual non-aggression.
- Mutual non-interference in each others internal affairs.
- Equality and cooperation for mutual benefit.
- Peaceful co-existence

SUCCESS AT GENEVA

PRC acquired more international weight. China confirmed its position as one of the five powers

01

TAIWAN STRAIT CRISIS

1954: Communist leaders visit China. 'Chinese people have stood up' The five principle did not apply: for China it was a domestic issue

02



03

NEW INTERMEDIATE ZONE

- Nationalist governments in Asia and africa - participate
- Capitalist Britain and Japan - neutralize

WORLD REVOLUTION

04

China thus gained more and more confidence in its central role

How to spread the influence- takeaways

- **China would gain legitimacy with diplomacy: first in Moscow, then Berlin and Geneva to then trade it off in the pursuit of national goals, always connected to the Chinese understanding of the world revolution and China's place in it.**
- **The language and the conduct used at the Bandung Conference were specifically chosen to fit the occasion. It may have been an omission of certain points, yet never a drift from the overall track of China's international policies**
- **Even the decolonization was initiated in a way that would accommodate CCP's strategies**

