

## B. The Cold War in Asia

1. Former colonies demanded and received freedom in Asia.
2. In China, there was a civil war between Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the Nationalist government and Mao Tse-Tung, leader of the communist forces.
  - a. Stalin did not trust the Chinese Communists.
  - b. The major cause of the civil war was the oppression by a landlord class of millions of peasant farmers.
  - c. The Nationalists promised to institute **land reform** - redistribution of property to land-hungry peasants.
  - d. Once in power, they ignored the needs of the people.
  - e. In 1937, Nationalists and Communists joined forces to fight the invading Japanese.
  - f. The Japanese crushed Nationalist forces and Communists took advantage by gaining control in the countryside.
  - g. People felt the Communists protected and took care of them.
3. Late in 1945, Truman sent more than \$3 billion to help Chiang, but Chiang ignored the problems of the people.
4. In May 1949, Mao took most of the country and declared it the People's Republic of China.
5. Chiang fled to offshore Taiwan.
6. This was seen as a failure of containment.
7. Due to events in Berlin and China, the National Security Council Report NSC-68, suggested a massive build-up of weapons to stay ahead of the USSR.
8. The competition between the US and USSR for greater military strength became known as the **arms race**.
  - a. This would require more than three times the \$13 billion dollar defense budget.