

Marxism in Asia - Quick Notes

The development and propagation of communism in Asia is not as simple as mentioned here, so some notes for future editing:

1. Many anti-colonial movements arose in the 19th century due to Western Imperialism
 - Here I focus on these developments in Confucian countries (China, Vietnam, Korea, Japan)
 - Laos and Cambodia are also important to study, but their cases are unique.
 - I wanted to introduce the conflict between Marxism and Confucianism, which is thematically relevant in this article for both historical Asia and the modern WAD.
2. Broadly, the anti-colonial response could be grouped into nationalist and Marxist-Leninist revolutionary movements although there was not necessary a strict division between the two movements, nationalism is technically not compatible with Marxism.
3. Nationalism is a given. The main element of surprise is that China, Korea, and Vietnam had all started civil wars between communists and nationalists, which is a detail I gloss over in this description.
4. The point being made is that it would be expected for these countries to have become more like Japan in a Meiji style change, rather than dealing with civil wars between Communists and nationalists even after Western powers had been formally expelled.
5. 5. In other words *why* was there still conflict even after the Western powers left? The only explanation is that materialist Marxism was incompatible with the nationalist movements and traditional (Confucian) cultures.
6. The reason the WAD are in the West is because of the Civil Wars that occurred as proxy wars between the USSR and America within Asia.

7. The visual symbol of this difference is that in this time period, China, Vietnam, and Korea all ended the existence of their respective dynasties, while Japan still maintains its own.

There is no mystery that these countries are no longer technically faithful Marxist-Leninist. The reason is because it didn't work: all of them have switched to limited market economies with overall centralized control of an authoritarian government. Communist regimes maintain their power justified by their revolutionary ideas, but have ironically transformed their countries into corrupt oligarchies. Not only have they not solved any class warfare, communist countries perpetuate a class system through hypocritical application of Marxist control, and leave themselves culturally impoverished.