WARLORDS, NORTHERN EXPEDITION & RISE OF THE KMT



ASIA BOOKROOM

In the 1920s and 1930s China was a chaotic war-torn country. Although the political and military influence of the Kuomintang (KMT) and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) were on the rise, before the Northern Expedition (1926 - 1928), many parts of the country were still under the control of pro-imperialism warlords. Asia Bookroom proudly presents this collection of 14 rare KMT political propaganda posters which were issued by right-wing KMT departments mainly in the last half of the 1920s.

This collection attests to the large scale propaganda campaign against the warlords; the rise of Chiang Kai-shek within the Party; the deteriorating relationships between KMT and CCP after the April 12th Incident; and the political struggle between Chiang Kai-shek and the Reorganisation Clique led by Wang Jingwei. The combination of catchy headlines with striking images indicate the posters were targeted at a wide range of audiences.

These posters are rare. Although we have searched carefully we have not been able to find any holdings of these posters or others similar, either in an institution or private hands. Of course, many copies must have been printed and therefore one would think they must be "out there" somewhere, but how many survived? Neither the times they were published in, nor the subject matter made them very conducive to survival.

We bought this collection from a collector in the United States who bought them at an auction some time ago as a "job lot", they had been consigned to the auction by a dealer who specialised in another field. Unfortunately before that the trail goes cold and we will probably never know when they arrived in the United States. We can be very sure though, these important posters are not common.

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[Commemorate the 3rd Anniversary of the Death of Premier Sun Yat-sen.]

[Wan, Zhang]. (Illustrator). 萬章

KMT propaganda poster printed in blue and white. Sun Yat-sen is shown seated in an almost God-like pose with the KMT party emblem "Blue Sky with a White Sun" extending like a halo behind him. Three symbolic figures of 共產黨 "communists", 軍閥 "warlords" and 帝國主義 "imperialists" (left to right) lie trapped at his feet under three symbolic rocks labelled (left to right): 民生 "Welfare Rights", 民權 "Governance Rights" and 民族 "Civic Nationalism". Illustrator's name 萬章 [Wan Zhang] and creation date March 12th Minguo 17 [1928] lower right corner. Text in traditional Chinese.

Minor signs of wear including light creasing, a tiny hole and a neatly repaired closed tear. Overall very good. Sheet measures 55.1 x 39.4cm.

首都各界總理逝世三周年紀念籌備會. [Nanjing]. [1928].

In 1923, the KMT formed the 联俄容共 "First United Front" with the Chinese Communist Party to fight against imperialism and to end warlordism in China. However, during the Northern Expedition (1926 - 1928), Chiang Kai-shek broke the First United Front and after establishing the Nanjing Nationalist government, Chiang organised a political campaign, commonly known as the Shanghai massacre. The campaign, which took place in April 1927, used arrests and executions to remove the Communist members and marginalise the leftist KMT members within the party.

AU\$4000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170241]



國民革命軍總司令部告誡將士歌.

[Code of Conduct Song for National Revolutionary Army Soldiers].

[Chiang, Kai-shek]. 蔣中正.

Large KMT colour poster. Issued by National Revolutionary Army (NRA) Headquarters this poster which gives the words of The Code of Conduct Song bears the printed signature of the commander-in-chief of the NRA Chiang Kai-shek in Minguo 16 [1927]. An official chop in red ink has been stamped over the date. Prominently featured is a black and white head and shoulders portrait of Chiang with the flags of the KMT and the Republic of China on either side of his image.

The Code of Conduct Song for NRA Soldiers, was written in the style of a seven-syllable poem, has 336 characters in total and divided into three equal length sections. Section One and Two introduces the NRA, giving examples of the Dos and Don'ts of the Army, and the NRA soldiers' benefits and punishments. Section Three focuses on condemning the enemies - the Chinese Communist Party, imperialism and warlords.

Three small holes have been neatly repaired with archival tape, include a small area in Section One where a 1.5 x 1cm hole has caused the loss to part of one character. Poster shows creasing and some general wear including a few closed tears, pin holes upper corners and some neat archival tape repairs on reverse particularly along folds. Still a handsome and important poster. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 63.2 x 93.6cm. Very scarce.

國民革命軍總司令部. [China]. 民國 16 [1927].

This Code of Conduct Song uses plain, rhyming and easy to understand language to teach NRA soldiers their roles and responsibilities, and to warn them of the severe consequences if the codes are broken. It also served as propaganda material to show the general public that the NRA was composed of well disciplined troops not like the warlords. The song demonises the enemies, for example the Communist Party (fox spirit), imperialism (tiger spirit) and warlords (rat spirit).

> Following Dr. Sun Yat-sen's guidance to overthrow imperialism and warlordism the Nationalist Government in Canton formed teh NRA in August 1925. The NRA comprised of two sources: one was from Whampoa Military Academy, the other major source came from the converted army of the south-western warlords.

國民革 共産 寧可 中華民國十六年 亡 要同不我 寧可 國 兵 國月完走同一余代 以是民 民例 黑 們 國 人役時 義員 民餉生命胞死財要 守令練营 老粉三為寄保要四對不大二連守要宿 「黨員 主要 萬 要精 恶 對 義做做是 粮 往 飢 民 是大好軍關 E 打同 挑 總司令部告誠將士 萬同貪功 男 重 何 爱 妖一 份 精心魂雄兒們 精 己 法紀劳 外担敬子 家 體進 總司令將中正 共忠只 本不不觉 不不 在青天白日旗 了用了 背要領可可民母合 心有 家伙民了 民 門 甘 活 可 高強拉就兄國 ~浪荡壞 國家 努力 共保奮 拍不革不打錢強 家 命信 苦 令仰了在夫是弟 民來革 國 怕命平仗財權 勇 待保打 大老壞 為打扮就相選 下人百敵 死先上房 百 家 功雙品前 國 功不本乾性逃欺騙 刑生陣停姓人民 赢分净命生法人

AU\$4000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170268]

歡迎蕩平孫軍的凱旋之將.

[Welcome the Returning Triumphant Troops Who Crushed Sun's Army].

[Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government].

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部.

Chinese KMT propaganda poster screen print in blue. Issued by the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission, party emblem "Blue Sky with a White Sun" of the KMT at upper edge, text in Traditional Chinese. Some light creasing, a little offsetting of ink at margins, very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78.6 x 27.3cm.

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. (Circa 1926 - 1928).

The reference to Sun's Army in the title of this poster refers to the army of Chinese warlord 孙传芳 [Sun Chuanfang] whose strong military presence was felt in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Fujian and Jiangxi in the years between 1922 and 1926. Sun, together with other major warlords 冯国璋 [Feng Guozhang], 曹锟 [Cao Kun], 吴佩孚 [Wu Peifu] and 齐燮元 [Qi Xieyuan] were part of the Zhili Clique. Sun had been Chiang Kai-shek's second military target when the NRA took over Hunan from Wu Peifu's control. The official confrontation between the NRA and Sun's army began in August 1926 in Jiangxi Province, later another battlefield opened between them in Fujian Province in September of the same year. The wars between Sun's Army and NRA lasted until April 1928 when Sun faced complete defeat.

The text on this poster reads "Welcome the Returning Triumphant Troops Who Crushed Sun's Army." The text suggests that the poster was probably issued after Sun's defeat in 1928. However, 國民政府軍 事委員會政治訓練部 "Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government" only existed for three months between March - June 1926. Possible explanations for the contradictory dates are that the slogans were published prior to the defeat in an effort to wish military success against Sun; or possibly given the chaotic situation in China at the time the publication details were not updated to reflect the new agency in charge.

AU\$3000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170205]

打倒共産黨就是實行三民主義.

[Down with the Chinese Communist Party Who Are Implementing the Three People's Principles].

[General Political Department of National Revolutionary Army].

國民黨革命軍總政治部.

KMT coloured propaganda poster issued by the General Political Department of National Revolutionary Army. Poster features a head portrait of Dr. Sun-Yatsen within a border of flowers and the crossed flags of the KMT, the slogan of the Republic of China beneath. Folds, light creasing, overall very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78 x 26cm.

國民黨革命軍總政治部. [China]. (Circa 1927).

Slogan reads "Down with the Chinese Communist Party Who Are Implementing the Three People's Principles".

AU\$3000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170255]





共産黨是篡窃國民黨的盜賊.

[Communist Party of China are a Bunch of Thieves who Steal from Kuomintang].

[Office of Politics of the National Revolutionary Army Headquarters].

國民革命軍總司令部政治部.

Chinese KMT lithograph, propaganda poster, folded, symbolic image upper section features trees, sky, land and sea in bold colours at the head of the poster. Some light staining visible on reverse and in a few small places on the margins, some light creasing and light signs of wear, good condition. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 79 x 26.6cm.

國民革命軍總司令部政治部. [Nanjing?]. (Circa 1927 - 1937).

AU\$3000.00

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170198]

革命軍是三民主義的忠實信徒.

[The National Revolutionary Army is the Faithful Disciple of the Three Principles of the People].

[Political Training Department of the National Revolutionary Army Headquarters].

國民革命軍總司令部政治訓練部.

Colour KMT propaganda poster. Decoration at the top of the poster features four Chinese traditional weapons above the message below in traditional Chinese. Name which appears to be that of the artist, 青 騎 [Qingqi], lower right corner. Some folds and creasing, overall very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78.5 x 26.9cm.

國民革命軍總司令部政治訓練部. [Nanjing?]. (Circa 1928 - 1931).

After establishing the Nanjing Nationalist government, Chiang organised a political campaign in April 1927, commonly known as the Shanghai massacre. The aim of this campaign was to purge the Communist members and marginalise the leftist KMT members within the party through arrests and executions. In 1928 KMT leftist leaders 汪精衛 [Wang Jingwei] and 陳公博 [Chen Gongbo] organised a "Reorganisation Faction" aiming to restore the spirit of Three Principles of the People and to reorganise the party. The Nanjing Nationalist government, in its defence, issued many propaganda posters at that time, targeting the young party members and telling them not to believe the distorted version of the "Three Principles of the People" advocated by Wang and Chen. The "Reorganisation Faction" was dissolved by Wang Jingwei in January 1931.

The three colour combination of the weapons shown at the top of this poster derive from the "Blue Sky, White Sun, and a Wholly Red Earth" symbol of the KMT and Republic of China, was made the national flag in 1928.

AU\$3000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170203]





[Chiang Kai-shek].

[Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government].

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部.

Chinese KMT propaganda poster printed in blue on white paper, folded. Issued by the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission, a head portrait of Chiang Kai-shek in military uniform is featured at the top of the poster. A large blank section in main body of the poster has been left for the addition of text or images. Traditional Chinese lower section.

Some light creasing mainly upper section, light wear edges, some staining upper and lower sections of sheet but overall very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 77.1 x 27.3cm.

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. [1926].

軍事委員會政治訓練部 "The Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission", a very short-lived yet powerful department, was established in March 1926 by 2nd Central Executive Committee of the KMT. In the meantime, the《军事委员会政治训练部组织大纲》"Organisation Outline for the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission" stated that the department was not only in charge of overseeing the party, political and cultural affairs within the NRA but also responsible for political appointments. In order to improve the military development and to prepare for the Northern Expedition, the Political Training Department was replaced by the Office of Politics of NRA Headquarters on 18 June 1926.

AU\$2750

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170200]

要鏟除惡化腐化和投機分子,必須整理黨務.

[In Order to Eliminate the Evil and Corrupted Forces and Speculators within the Party, We Must Rectify the Party Affairs].

[Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government].

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部.

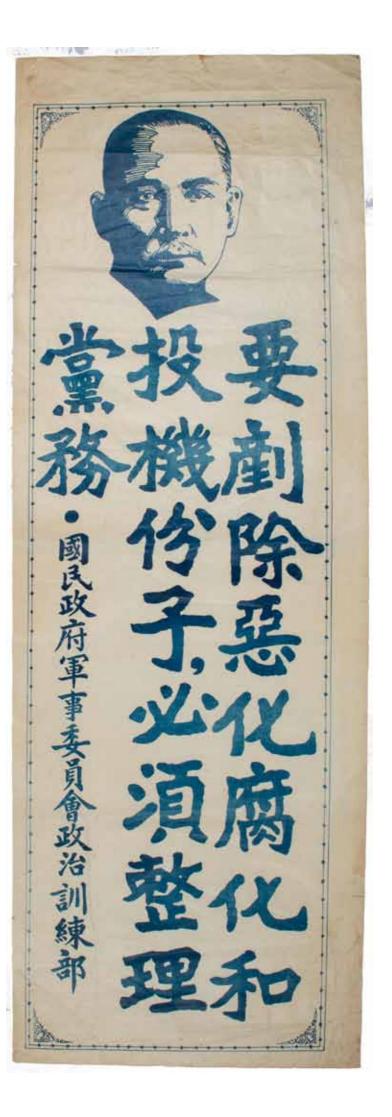
Chinese KMT propaganda poster printed in blue, folded. Issued by the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission, a head portrait of Sun Yat-sen is featured at the top of the poster. Creasing, some minor tears along margins have been neatly repaired with archival tape. A little light staining at margins. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78.6 x 27.3cm.

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. [1926].

The text reads "In order to eliminate the evil and corrupt force and speculators within the party, we must rectify the party affairs." Chiang Kai-shek, 谭廷闿 [Tan Yankai] and 7 other KMT party leaders presented "Resolutions on the Rectification of Party Affairs" to the 2nd KMT National Congress in May 1926 with the aim of purging communists and pro-communist left wing members from the KMT.

AU\$3000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170202]



事委員會政治訓練

慶祝國民革命軍發軔的雙十節.

[Celebrating the Double Tenth Day of the National Revolutionary Army].

[Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government].

軍事委員會政治訓練部.

Chinese KMT propaganda poster printed in red, issued by the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission. Text in traditional Chinese. Chinese character for "one" at lower left apparently indicates more posters in this series. Small mark right edge, some light creases, very good. Sheet measures 78.6 x 26.8cm.

軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. [1926].

The Double Tenth Day celebrates the Wuchang Uprising on October 10th 1911. The uprising took place in what is today the Wuchang district within Wuhan and brought about the end of the Qing Dynasty. This uprising was the first of a series of uprisings across China and by the end of 1911 there was really no doubt that the Qing Dynasty would fall. On February 12th, 1912 Empress Dowager Longyu formally abdicated the throne on behalf of Puyi.

The KMT party emblem, blue sky with a white sun symbol (here reproduced in red along the top of the poster), represents the twelve months and the twelve traditional Chinese hours.

AU\$2500

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170199]

雙十國慶是爲全國民衆謀幸福的紀念日.

[The Double Tenth Day is the Anniversary of Seeking Happiness for People].

[Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government].

軍事委員會政治訓練部.

Chinese KMT propaganda poster in purple on white paper, lithograph, folded. Issued by the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission, the party emblem of KMT features at upper edge, text in traditional Chinese, Chinese character for "five" left margin apparently indicating more posters in this series, a little light occasional creasing, very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78.6 x 26.6cm.

軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. [1926].

The Double Tenth Day celebrates the Wuchang Uprising on October 10th 1911 which marks the end of the reign of Chinas last imperial dynasty. The party emblem, normally blue sky with a white sun symbol, represents the twelve months and the twelve traditional Chinese hours.

AU\$3500

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170250]





討伐買國求榮的張作霖.

[Military Campaign Against Zhang Zuolin Who Sold His Country for Money]. [Publicity Department, Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang]. 中國國民黨中央執行委員會宣傳部.

Colour KMT poster featuring five angry people at the top of the poster, one with a sharp knife at the ready, gazing down at the warlord 張作霖 [Zhang Zuolin] (lower edge). Some creasing, two small spots on reverse one of which is visible on the left margin, very minor light soiling and wear, good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 79 x 27.2cm.

中國國民黨中央執行委員會宣傳部. [China]. (Circa 1926 - 1928).

Zhang Zuolin (1875 - 1928), the founder of the Fengtian Clique of the Beiyang Army opposed all other warlord military factions. In the years between 1916 and 1928 his Fengtian Army controlled Manchuria (now Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning Provinces). In November 1926 an alliance between the Fengtian and Zhili factions was formed to counter the advances of the National Revolutionary Army's Northern Expedition. Zhang was appointed as the Generalissimo of the last Beiyang (Peiyang) government in 1927. During the Northern Expedition, the KMT publicly accused Zhang as a national traitor in league with Japan. Ironically, Zhang was assassinated by the Japanese army in 皇姑屯 [Huanggutun] on 4 June 1928.

AU\$3500

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170239]

國民革命軍画報. 第七號.

[National Revolutionary Army Pictorial. Issue no. 7].

[Political Training Department, Military Affairs Commission of the Nationalist Government].

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部.

Arresting Chinese KMT propaganda poster printed in blue and red. Issued by the Nationalist Government and featuring the warlords 張作霖 [Zhang Zuolin] and 張宗昌 [Zhang Zongchang] pushing a grindstone, on top of which is a bust of a tortured person who represents the people. A demon like figure at the bottom left eagerly licks the blood dripping from the grindstone. The Chinese characters, which translated read, "taxes, levies and military coupons" are visible on the side of the grindstone.

A portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the party emblem of KMT feature along the upper margin. Text at the foot of the poster urges the people to fight back against the blood sucking warlords.

A 9.6 cm vertical tear running from the left edge has been carefully mended by archival tape on reverse and is now barely visible, some mild signs of useage but overall very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 39.1 x 27.9cm. Issue no 7.

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. [1926].

Zhang Zuolin (1875 - 1928), the founder of the Fengtian Clique of the Beiyang Army controlled Manchuria (now Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning Provinces) in the years between 1916 and 1928. In November 1926 an alliance was formed between the Fengtian and Zhili factions in an attempt to counter the advances of the National Revolutionary Army's Northern Expedition. The following year Zhang was appointed as the Generalissimo of the last Beiyang government. During the Northern Expedition, KMT publicly accused Zhang of being a national traitor who worked on behalf of Japan. Ironically, Zhang was assassinated by the Japanese army in 皇姑屯 [Huanggutun] on 4 June 1928.

Particularly hated and feared, Chinese warlord Zhang Zongchang (1881 – 1932), pictured here with Zhang Zuolin extorting every last drop of blood from the people, was Zhang Zuolin's main follower within the Fengtian Clique. Due to his superior military capability, he was appointed as 山東軍務督辦 "military governor" of Shandong Province in April 1925. During his reign of fear in Shandong (1925-1928), Zhang Zongchang issued more than 50 different taxes and levies on local residents and was the by-word for the cruel, grasping warlord. In 1932, he was assassinated in Shandong.

AU\$4000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170258]





我們要切切實實的對日經濟絕交.

[We Need to Pose A Total Economic Sanction on Japan].

[Xiutang]. (Illustrator). 秀堂.

Chinese KMT propaganda stencilled poster in blue and red, appears to have been issued folded with 4 neat horizontal folds visible, some other creasing, very small closed tear from margin, small stain lower corner. Issued by the Peasants' Association of Nanking Special Municipality, the party emblem of KMT is centrally placed at the top of the poster with skulls and crossbones just below, calligraphic text takes up the majority of the poster with the characters for "five" and "three" highlighted, lower edge dripping blood, overall very good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78 x 26cm.

南京特別市農民協會. [南京]. [Nanking]. [1928].

In the final stage of the Northern Expedition, Chang Kai-shek's NRA entered Jinan, the capital city of Shandong Province, in April 1928. The two characters "five" and "three" so graphically depicted on this poster refer to the Jinan Incident, also known as the May 3rd Tragedy, a battle between Chang's NRA and Japanese troops in May 1928 which, sparked by the killing of 17 Chinese diplomats, resulted in the death of more than six thousand people.

AU\$3500

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170251]

國民革命軍画報清黨特刊.

[National Revolutionary Army Pictorial. April 12 Purge Special Edition].

[Zigu]. (editor). 子谷 編.

This poster was printed as a Special Issue about the first party purge within the KMT. Issued by the Political Training Department of the Military Affairs Commission it features 10 political cartoons attacking the Chinese Communist Party by the editor and illustrator 子谷 [Zigu] and other cartoonists. Printed in brown ink. Each cartoon is numbered and accompanied with propaganda text. Poster is creased with some horizontal folds, very light browning on reverse, overall good. Text in traditional Chinese. Sheet measures 78 x 54.7 cm. Very rare.

國民政府軍事委員會政治訓練部. [China]. 民國 16 [1927].

In 1924, the KMT formed the 联俄容共 "First United Front" with the Chinese Communist Party to fight against imperialism and to end warlordism in China. However by May 1926, Chiang Kai-shek, 谭 延闿 [Tan Yankai] and seven other KMT party leaders presented "Resolutions on the Rectification of Party Affairs" to the 2nd KMT National Congress. Their aim was to purge the communists and procommunist left wing KMT members within the party.

KMT's 改組派 "Reorganization Faction" was the main opposition faction within the Republic of China in the early days of the Nanjing Nationalist Government which was founded in Shanghai during the second half of 1928. The primary founders were 汪精衛 [Wang, Jingwei], 陳公博 [Chen Gongbo] and 顧孟余 [Gu Mengyu]. They proposed that there needed to be a strengthening of the authority and dictatorship within the Party, the Party to become more democratic, Party discipline be tightened and so on. The Nanjing Nationalist government in defence issued many propaganda posters exhorting the young party members not to believe Wang and Chen's distorted advocacy of the "Three Principles of the People". In January 1931 the "Reorganisation Faction" was dissolved by Wang Jingwei.

The ten cartoons on this poster are an extraordinary encapsulation of the KMT's situation and views at that time.

AU\$4000

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 170267]



Cartoon 1 (Upper Right of poster): The slogan reads "The true colours of the Chinese Communist Party". It shows a Chinese woman wearing a scarf saying "Chinese Communist" as she poses in front of a mirror that reveals a demon. The magic mirror shows this Communist woman to be in actual fact a fox spirit that always lies.

Cartoon 3 The two images illustrate the deceitful nature of the Communist Party - a party who forgets favours and violates justice.. In the first image the Communist Party is shown as an egg that was under the protection of the hen (KMT) in the past, but it has now turned into an ungrateful wolf who attacks the KMT.





Cartoon 4 shows a greedy communist dreaming about how to become rich.

Cartoon 2 (Upper Left of poster): In this cartoon the slogan urges fellow citizens not to believe the Chinese Communist Party as they often use KMT's name to plot conspiracy.





Cartoon 5 In this cartoon the Russian Communist advisor Borodin stands on the skeletons of the victims who were killed by Borodin's followers such as 徐謙 [Xu Qian] and 鄧演達 [Deng Yanda]. Xu and Deng are portrayed as running dogs who are eager for Borodin's Russian Rouble.

御田共産堂史虚を

Cartoon 6 Here a peasant (the Russian Communist Party) is shown pushing Turkey into the swamp which represents poverty. It asks the viewer to take serious note of what happened to Turkey after they accepted help from the Russian Communist Party!

Cartoon 7 shows a naked woman (the Communist Party) who leads a team of animal-headed soldiers (Wang Jingwei's Wuhan Nationalist Government) down a street in Wuhan.



Cartoon 8 shows two Chinese Communists secretly assassinating KMT members outside of Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. It claims the image was drawn based on the survivors' accounts.





Cartoon 9 (Lower Right of poster). In this image the Chinese Communists are boiling in the saucepan (Wuhan) on the stove (KMT). The slogan reads "Doomsday for the Communist Party is coming!"



Cartoon 10 (Lower Left of poster) corner features the falling of Wang Jingwei, Xuqian and Deng Yanda. The slogan reads "the last scene of the Communist Party".

