

**CHINA'S PARTIAL REAPPRAISAL OF
KUOMINTANG HISTORY AND
ITS IMPACT**

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EAI Background Brief No.1355

Date of Publication: 23 May 2018

Executive Summary

1. After decades of political and military confrontation, the party-to-party relationship between the KMT (Kuomintang) in Taiwan and the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) in the Chinese mainland has warmed significantly. Since 2005, a significant number of high-level meetings between the top leadership of both parties and many other low-level party-party interactions have taken place.
2. Before the 1980s, KMT's history was demonised by the CCP. In CCP's narratives, the KMT was portrayed as an enemy of the Chinese people and a collaborator of the United States, a view which was enforced in China for most of the Cold War period. After the 1980s, CCP took steps to partially rehabilitate certain aspects of KMT history, particularly KMT's wartime history with Japan.
3. This development was taken a step further when Presidents Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping assumed office. At the 2005 Victory Day celebrations in China, Hu publicly confirmed KMT's vital role in the war against Japan. This was the first official recognition of KMT's war effort by the CCP since World War II.
4. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping further announced that KMT veterans of the war would be eligible to collect pensions. In 2015, KMT veterans were invited to attend the China Victory Day Parade.
5. As the KMT and the CCP have very diverse views of China's modern history, especially during the wartime period, the positive reappraisal of KMT's wartime history in China has provided a positive climate for the two sides to engage in talks and for the CCP to promote cross-strait unification.
6. This has led to the strengthening of party-to-party relations and speculation of a third United Front to meet the challenge of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party in Taiwan.

7. The reappraisal of KMT's wartime history in China has also led to increasing public and academic interest in China about the KMT and to a public phenomenon known as *Guofen* (国粉), which refers to increasing public interest and support for Republican China especially during the KMT period (1927-1949).
8. In academia, there has also been a flurry of scholarly works on KMT history in recent times. According to Wang Chaoguang of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2008, the KMT period (1927-1949) had been the most dynamic and productive field in Chinese history studies.