

Document 12.5: Excerpts from a survey sponsored by the North American Chinese Students Christian Association, 1948

In March and April of 1948, the North American Chinese Students Christian Association sent out 2,300 surveys to Chinese students who were enrolled in U.S. universities, soliciting their opinion about various issues—social and political—taking place in their homeland. They got responses from 714 students. The following is a tabulation of their responses to five of the eight questions that were posed to them.

QUESTION 1: *What sort of changes do you feel should be made in the land system of China?*

	<i>(% of those responding)</i>
no answer	2.4
land to the tiller	33.0
organize cooperative farms	46.5
organize collective farms	9.8
no change	6.6
other	2.1

QUESTION 2: *What is the best way to achieve industrialization in China?*

	<i>(% of those responding)</i>
no answer	1.4
nationalization of light and heavy industry and of public utilities	6.8
nationalization of heavy industry and public utilities	51.5
private operation of light and	4.1

heavy industry and public utilities	
joint public and private operation of light and heavy industry and public utilities	14.2
a cooperative system and nationaliza-0.9 tion of heavy industry and public utilities	
a cooperative system	9.5

QUESTION 3: *I feel that peace in China must be sought by:*
(% of those responding)

no answer	1.8
the Nationalist Government should eliminate the Communist Party ¹	18.0
the organization of a coalition govern- ment to include the CCP, the Democratic League, other parties and Independent elements	51.1
the adoption of a federal system	17.9
the division of the country into independent areas	3.2

¹ The Nationalists is another name for the Guomindang.

national rule by the CCP	2.7
let the United Nations arbitrate	1.1
other	4.2

QUESTION 4: *What should the Chinese liberals do at the present time?*

(% of those responding)

no answer	3.9
participate in the Nationalist Government as individuals	15.3
cooperate with the Communist Party as individuals	3.0
form a new party and cooperate with the Government	19.5
form a new party and cooperate with the Communist Party	4.4
form a new party and adopt an independent party line	39.7
take no political action	9.9
other	4.5

QUESTION 5: *Do you feel the recent elections held in China and the promulgation of a Constitution indicate that the country is truly moving in the direction of democratic government?*

(% of those responding)

no answer	1.7
yes	18.9
no	49.0
not necessarily	31.0

Source: *Kuan-ch'a (The Observer)*, July 17, 1948: 8–9. Reprinted in Pepper, Suzanne. *Civil War in China: The Political Struggle, 1945–1949*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978. 90–92.