
Partial Inventory of the Bai Chongxi papers

Hoover Institution Archives Staff

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URL: <http://www.hoover.org/library-and-archives>

Title: Bai Chongxi papers

Date (inclusive): 1893-2017

Collection Number: 2018C4

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives

Language of Material: Chinese .

Physical Description: 9 manuscript boxes, 18 oversize boxes, 1 videotape reel, 1 oversize folder(24.3 Linear Feet)

Abstract: Diaries, writings, correspondence, notes, DVDs, photographs, and videotape relating to the Sino-Japanese War and the Chinese Civil War.

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Access

Boxes 10-26 may not be used without permission of the Archivist. The remainder of the collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Bai Chongxi papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Materials were acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2017.

Biographical Note

Bai Chongxi (Pai Chung-hsi) was born in Guilin, Guangxi Province, into a Chinese Muslim family of Hui nationality. In 1921, after graduating from Baoding Military Academy, Bai joined Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary movement. During the Northern Expedition of 1926 to 1928, which aimed at annihilating regional warlords and reunifying the whole of China, Bai served as the chief of staff of the Nationalist Revolutionary Army under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, moving and fighting in several provinces. For his battlefield exploits during the Northern Expedition, Bai was known as one of the great military strategists in Chinese history. From 1930 to 1936, with Li Zongren and several other prominent military and political leaders from Guangxi, Bai engaged in the program of building his home province into a model area in terms of economic development and administrative efficiency. During the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), Bai was made deputy chief of staff of the Nationalist army, responsible for military training and operations. During the war, Bai assisted Li Zongren in defeating the Japanese in Tai'erzhuang in Shandong Province. He also commanded the Battle of Wuhan and defeated the Japanese in Guangxi Province.

In 1946, Bai was appointed minister of national defense and assisted Chiang Kai-shek in waging war against the Chinese Communists. Shortly after the riot broke out in Taiwan in February 1947, Bai was sent as Chiang's personal representative on a fact finding mission and to help pacify the populace on the island. By late 1948, the civil war went disastrously for the Chinese Nationalists and the Communist victory was only a matter of time. In January 1949, after Chiang resigned from presidency and Li Zongren became the acting President, Bai was responsible for building a solid Nationalist defense line along the Yangtse River. As the Nationalist governance in most of China was quickly disintegrating, Bai fought against the Chinese Communists in Central and Southwest China. In October 1949, Bai planned to make a last anti-Communist stand in Southern China and his home province of Guangxi. It went nowhere; at the end of the year he fled to Taiwan, where he spent the rest of his life.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Bai Chongxi papers include official files from different stage of his military and political careers; correspondence between Bai and important Nationalist Chinese government officials; family letters and correspondence; personal diaries; notes and writings; decorations and certificates; and documentaries recording his family activities, an inspection tour he took to Taiwan in the spring of 1947, and his funeral. The papers also include over a thousand photographs, which document the Muslim general's military and political careers at different stages of his life, and 19 DVDs relating to TV documentaries about General Bai and his son, Professor Kenneth Pai.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at <http://searchworks.stanford.edu/> . Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

Incremental Materials

box 27

白崇禧先生翰墨 (Bai Chongxi Writings) 1926-1948

Scope and Contents

Handwritten records and personal notes pertaining to Republic of China political and military committee meetings.