

# THE HOUSE OF YAN

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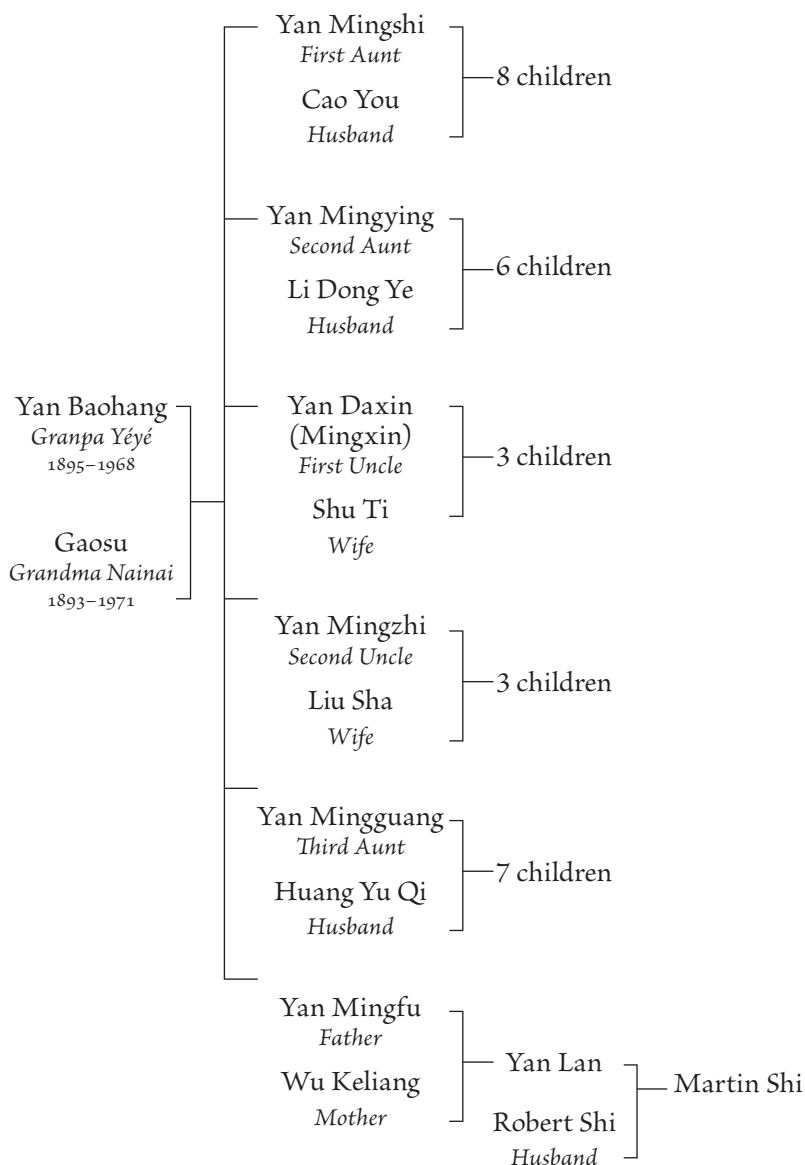
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# The Yan Family Tree



# History of China

- **1893:** Birth of Mao Zedong.
- **1898:** Birth of Zhou Enlai.
- **1901:** Birth of Zhang Xueliang, warlord and son of the fearsome Zhang Zuolin.
- **1904:** Birth of Deng Xiaoping.
- **1911:** Revolution and fall of the Qing dynasty, which had ruled the Empire since 1644.
- **1912:** Proclamation of the Republic of China, which had its capital in Nanjing. Sun Yat-sen, the co-founder (with Chiang Kai-shek) of the Kuomintang nationalist party, becomes the country's first president.
- **1915:** Japan increases its control over China with the Twenty-One Demands, the aim being to establish a protectorate in a country weakened by the revolution and the fall of the Empire.
- **1917:** Revolution in Russia.
- **1919:** Paris Peace Conference, organized by the victors of the First World War. The Treaty of Versailles restores Shandong to Japan and triggers the Chinese nationalist movement in Beijing known as the May Fourth Movement, led by young, intellectual progressives.

# History of the Yans

- **1895:** Birth of Yan Baohang.
- **1907:** Yan Baohang, 12, is admitted into the village school in Liaoning, in northeast China.
- **1909:** Baohang, 14, marries Gaosu, 16.
- **1910:** Baohang, 15, goes to school in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning.
- **1913:** Baohang, 18, enters university. Joins the YMCA in Shenyang. Becomes friends with Zhang Xueliang.
- **1916:** Baohang, 21, converts to Protestantism. Birth of his first daughter, Mingshi.
- **1918:** Baohang, 23, completes his education in China. Appointed secretary-general of the Shenyang YMCA. Becomes interested in socialism and communism. Opens the first school for poor children.
- **1919:** Baohang, 24, becomes father to a second daughter, Mingying.

- **1921, July:** First secret congress of the Communist Party of China in the French concession of Shanghai. Mao Zedong is among the thirteen founding members. At the start of its existence, the CPC is supported by the Communist International (Comintern) and allied with Sun Yat-sen's Kuomintang.
- **1923:** Sun Yat-sen's government is recognized by the Soviet Union, which encourages CPC members to join the Kuomintang in a united front against the Japanese and the warlords.
- **1924:** First cooperation between the CPC and the Kuomintang.
- **1925:** Death of Sun Yat-sen. Chiang Kai-shek, the new leader of Kuomintang, turns against his communist allies. Start of the Chinese civil war.
- **1927:** With the Shanghai Massacre of communists in April, Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang attempts to prevent the CPC from overthrowing his government. Marriage of Chiang Kai-shek to Soong May-ling.
- **1928:** Following a second offensive against the warlords in an attempt to unify China under the Kuomintang, Chiang Kai-shek takes control of the Republic. Zhang Xueliang rallies to the nationalist cause.
- **1931:** Japan invades Manchuria.
- **1934:** Start of the Long March, led by the Red Army and part of the CPC, to escape the Kuomintang forces during the civil war.
- **1935:** At the end of the Long March, surviving communists set up base in Shaanxi and establish their capital in Yan'an.
- **1936:** Xi'an Incident, provoked by Zhang Xueliang's arrest of Chiang Kai-shek. As soon as he is released, Chiang sentences Zhang to life imprisonment. Japan occupies Manchuria.

- **1922:** Baohang, 27, has his first son, Daxin.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **1924:** Birth of Mingzhi, Baohang's second son.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **1927:** Baohang goes to London, then to Edinburgh University, to complete his education.
  - Birth of his third daughter, Mingguang.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **1929:** Yan Baohang interrupts his studies to return to China via Copenhagen and Moscow.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **1931:** Birth of Baohang's third son, Mingfu (father of Lan). Baohang organizes the defense of his homeland: from Beijing to Shanghai, passing through Nanjing, he coordinates the anti-Japanese struggle.
  - Birth of Wu Keliang, Lan's mother.

- **1937:** Second Sino-Japanese War. The Kuomintang government takes refuge in Chongqing.
- **1939, August 23:** Ribbentrop and Molotov sign the Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact in Moscow.
- **1941, June 22:** The Third Reich invades the Soviet Union.
  - **December 7:** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, causing the United States to enter the Second World War.
- **1945, August 9:** The Soviet Red Army destroys the Japanese army in Guangdong.
  - China's Red Army takes the name the People's Liberation Army.
- **1949, October 1:** Proclamation of the People's Republic of China by the communist government.
  - **December:** Mao's first trip to Moscow.
- **1953:** Death of Stalin.



- **1937:** Zhou Enlai invites Yan Baohang to secretly join the CPC. Baohang starts to work as a secret agent within the nationalist government, in close proximity to Chiang Kai-shek and his wife.
- **1941:** Yan Baohang sets up a spy cell in Chongqing. Obtains the exact date of the German attack on the USSR and immediately transmits it to Moscow.
- **November:** Obtains information on Japan's plan to attack Pearl Harbor.
- **1944:** Interception of complete data about Japanese army stationed in Manchuria.
- **1946:** Yan Baohang is named governor of Liaobei as soon as the territory is liberated by the communists.
- **1949, October 1:** Yan Baohang becomes a permanent member of the Standing Committee of Chinese People's Consultative Conference. He helps Zhou Enlai prepare work on the Chinese Senate. His eldest son, Daxin, is fighting the nationalists in the south. His youngest son, Mingfu, 18, begins a career as a Russian translator and interpreter.
- **1952:** Wu Keliang, a student at Peking University, begins working as an interpreter.
- **1953:** Mingzhi, Yan Baohang's second son, is a diplomat posted to Moscow. Gaosu, 60, joins the CPC. Mingfu meets Wu Keliang.
- **1954:** Wu Keliang joins the Department of International Liaisons.
- **1955:** Mingfu, 24, becomes Mao's personal Russian interpreter. Mingfu and Keliang are married.

- **1957:** Start of campaign against “rightists.”
- Hundred Flowers Campaign.
- Mao’s second and final trip to Moscow.
- Sino-Soviet relations grow cold.
  
- **1958:** Launch of the Great Leap Forward.
- **1959:** First of three years of natural disasters, causing the Great Famine that kills thirty million people.
  
- **1966:** Start of the Cultural Revolution. Mao’s cult orchestrated by Lin Biao. Epidemic of “suicides,” including those of Lao She and Fu Lei. Creation of the Red Guards. Jiang Qing, Mao’s wife, leads the group in charge of the Cultural Revolution.
- **1967:** The chairman, Liu Shaoqi, and his wife, Wang Guangmei, are arrested.
  
- **1968, May 22:** Deng Pufang, son of Deng Xiaoping, is tortured by Red Guards and throws himself out of a window. His parents are placed under house arrest.
- **October:** Deng Xiaoping stripped of all his duties.
- **1969:** Deng and his wife work in a tractor factory.
- Lin Biao is designated Mao’s successor.
- **1971, September 13:** Death of Lin Biao in a plane crash in Mongolia.
- **1973:** The Gang of Four, the ringleaders of the Cultural Revolution (including Mao’s wife, Jiang Qing), are promoted to positions of greater power.
  
- **1976:** Zhou Enlai’s death, in January, provokes protests against the Gang of Four. Mao dies in September. The Gang of Four are arrested. End of the Cultural Revolution.

- **1957:** Birth of Lan.
- Mingshi, an editor, is criticized and condemned as a rightist, and exiled for more than twenty years to Liaoning with her eight children.
- Mingfu is in the delegation that goes to Moscow.
- **1959:** At the request of Zhou Enlai, Yan Baohang joins the Archive Research Committee of the Standing Committee of Chinese People's Consultative Conference.
- **1962, Summer:** Lan, 5, stays with her parents in Deng Xiaoping's house in Beidaihe.
- **1966:** Mingfu placed under house arrest in his ministry.
- **1967, November 6:** Arrest of Yan Baohang, 72.
- **November 17:** Arrest of Yan Mingfu, 36.
- **December:** Keliang placed under house arrest in her ministry.
- **1968, May 22:** Death of Yan Baohang, 73, seven months after his arrest.
- **Summer:** Keliang exiled to a labor camp in Heilongjiang, close to the Soviet border.
- **1969:** Keliang sent to a labor camp in Henan, where Lan, 12, is authorized to join her.
- **1971:** Death of Gaosu, 78.
- **1974:** Keliang is allowed to visit her husband, Mingfu, in prison, after seven years of incarceration.
- **1975:** Mingfu is released. Only then does the family learn about the deaths of Baohang and his second son, Mingzhi, 51.

- **1977:** Deng Xiaoping reintroduces university entrance exams after an eleven-year hiatus.
- **1978, December:** New policy of liberal openness led by Deng Xiaoping.
- **1980:** A special court is established to judge the Gang of Four. Jiang Qing is sentenced to death. Three years later, her sentence is commuted to life imprisonment.
  
- **1989:** Tiananmen Square massacre.
- **1991:** “Suicide” of Mao’s widow, Jiang Qing.
  
- **1997:** Death of Deng Xiaoping.  
— Hong Kong handed over to China: “one country, two systems.”
- **2001:** China enters the World Trade Organization.
- **2010:** China becomes the world’s second greatest economic power.

- **1977:** Lan, 20, passes the national exam and is accepted by the Peking Foreign Languages Institute.
- **1978:** January: Rehabilitation of Yan Baohang.
- **1981:** Lan enters the law school of Peking University.
- **1984:** Lan joins the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.
- **1985:** Mingfu becomes the leader of the United Front Work Department.
- **1987:** Lan becomes a research associate at Harvard.
- Mingfu named as secretary to the CPC's Central Committee.
- **1988:** Mingfu named vice president of the Political Consultative Conference.
- **1989:** Mingfu stripped of his duties.
- **1991:** Lan joins the law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel in Paris.
- Mingfu named vice-minister of civil affairs.
- **1995, May 9:** Yan Baohang posthumously decorated by Boris Yeltsin during the fiftieth anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.
- **1997:** Birth in Paris of Martin Shi, Lan's son.
- **1998:** Lan returns to China as the head of Gide's law office in Beijing.
- **2000:** Death of Mingshi, Lan's first aunt,
- **2004:** Death of Daxin, Lan's first uncle.
- **2007:** Death of Mingying, Lan's second aunt.
- **2011:** Lan named head of Greater China for Lazard.
- **2015, January:** Death of Wu Keliang.
- The Yan family is awarded a commemorative medal for Yan Baohang's actions as part of the seventieth anniversary of the victory over Japan.