

## **The Last True American Friend of the Kuomintang -- General Albert C. Wedemeyer and Sino-American Relations**

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### **Abstract**

General Albert C. Wedemeyer (1897-1989) was a well-trained strategist with a gentle character. While serving as Chiang Kai-shek's chief of staff during the Second World War, Wedemeyer, unlike his predecessor General Joseph W. Stilwell, treated Chiang and his Nationalist Government with sympathy and understanding.

Wedemeyer did his best to obtain support for Chiang and his government. But, at the same time he frankly pointed out their problems and weaknesses, such as corruption and inefficiency. He earnestly urged Chiang to take the necessary measures to reform his government.

In July 1947, President Harry S. Truman ordered Wedemeyer to lead a fact-finding mission to China. The findings dismayed Wedemeyer. Not only had Chiang failed to reform his government, but the conditions in China were further deteriorating.

However, Wedemeyer, despite his disappointment, recommended that military and economic assistance be extended to the Nationalist government. Unfortunately, Wedemeyer's report to Truman, as well as his recommendations, were rejected by the secretary of state and the Nationalists were routed by the Communists in the Chinese civil war.

**Key Words:** Albert C. Wedemeyer, Chiang Kai-shek, Sino-American Relations, "Wedemeyer Report" (1947), Chinese civil war

