The Greek civil war was Europe's bloodiest conflict between 1945 and the breakup of Yugoslavia, and a turning point in the Cold War (Mazower 2001: 7). The war ended in a victory for royalist and anti-communist forces and determined the balance of power in the Aegean for the rest of the Cold War. View. The Second KKE Central Committee Plenum which met on 12 February 1946 is a central episode in the history of the Greek Civil War and a fortiori in the history of the Greek Communist Party. The question of whether the Central Committee of the KKE decided at this Plenum to initiate a rebellion against the legal government and whether the attack on the village of Litochoron six weeks later was in fact the signal for an armed rising is indeed a crucial one. The Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union lasted for decades and resulted in anti-communist suspicions and international incidents that led the two superpowers to the brink of nuclear disaster. Postwar Soviet expansionism in Eastern Europe fueled many Americans' fears of a Russian plan to control the world. Meanwhile, the USSR came to resent what they perceived as American bellicose rhetoric, arms buildup and interventionist approach to international relations. As a result, the stakes of the Cold War were perilously high. The first H-bomb test, in the Eniwetok atoll in the Marshall Islands, showed just how fearsome the nuclear age could be. Based on recently declassified Chinese and American government material, this study reveals how the onset of American-Soviet rivalry shaped the outcome of the Chinese Civil War. It offers an original and controversial interpretation of the Chinese Revolution of the 1940s.