




袁世凱

早年駐守朝鮮，甲午戰爭後，負責訓練「新軍」，成績斐然。1901年起先後出任直隸總督、北洋大臣和軍機大臣。載灃攝政時稱疾辭官。武昌起義後，為清廷再次起用，先後出任湖廣總督、內閣總理大臣，並負責與革命軍議和，最終促成南北和議。民國成立後成為臨時大總統和首任正式大總統。然而，袁世凱破壞《臨時約

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法》，拒絕到南京就職，更解散國民黨，導致「二次革命」；之後又解散國會，改責任內閣制為總統制，以擴大總統的權力。此外，又接受日本提出的〈二十一條〉，以換取其支持，為日後稱帝鋪路。至 1915 年底，袁順從由他本人所製造的「民意」，定出在次年 3 月登基，改中華民國為中華帝國，年號「洪憲」。可是，各地反對聲音不絕，袁無奈取消帝制，並於 6 月 6 日病死。

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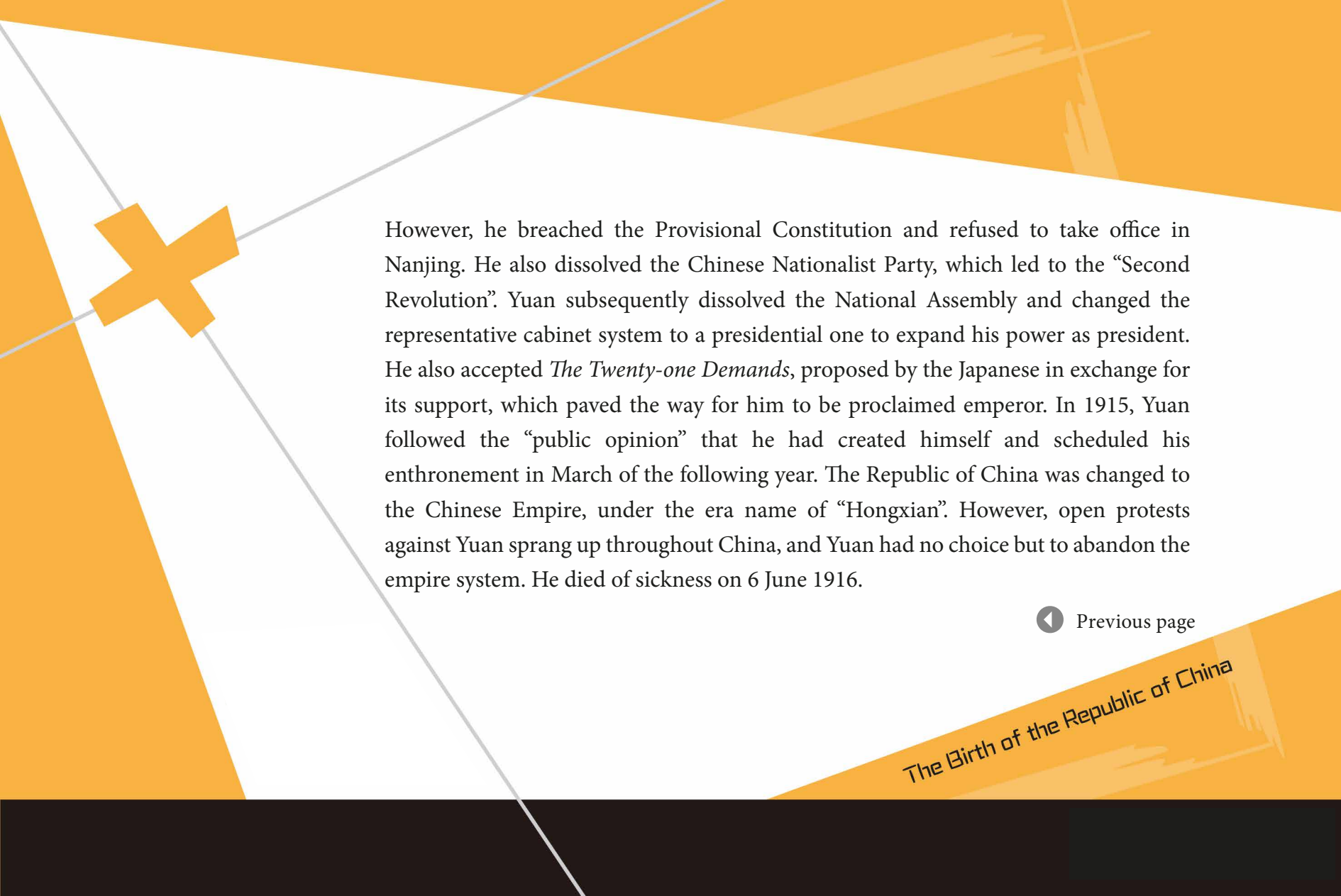


Yuan Shikai

Yuan Shikai was stationed in Korea in his early career. He was in charge of training the “New Army” after the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) and performed outstandingly. He held the posts of Viceroy of Zhili, Minister of Beiyang and Grand Minister of State in 1901. He resigned from his official duties when Prince Chun became Regent. The Qing court requested Yuan’s return as Viceroy of Huguang and then as Prime Minister of the cabinet after the Wuchang Uprising. Yuan also oversaw peace negotiations with the revolutionary army and facilitated the Agreements between the revolutionary and the Qing government. After the Republic was established, Yuan became Provisional President and the first official President.

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However, he breached the Provisional Constitution and refused to take office in Nanjing. He also dissolved the Chinese Nationalist Party, which led to the “Second Revolution”. Yuan subsequently dissolved the National Assembly and changed the representative cabinet system to a presidential one to expand his power as president. He also accepted *The Twenty-one Demands*, proposed by the Japanese in exchange for its support, which paved the way for him to be proclaimed emperor. In 1915, Yuan followed the “public opinion” that he had created himself and scheduled his enthronement in March of the following year. The Republic of China was changed to the Chinese Empire, under the era name of “Hongxian”. However, open protests against Yuan sprang up throughout China, and Yuan had no choice but to abandon the empire system. He died of sickness on 6 June 1916.

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