

China Gets a New Terror: **Famine**

Reliable Hong Kong reports indicated North-east China was in the grip of one of its worst famines in decades. Millions faced starvation in an area where more than a third of China's 450 million live (map, r.). The famine was spreading south and west.

Background: *Victims blamed both Nationalists and Communists for the famine. Causes: conscription of troops, requisitioning of food by both armies, summer drought, fall floods. Next danger: a Red campaign to cut rice supplies to British Hong Kong, now swollen with refugees, and to Malaya, already plagued by revolts.*



CHINA'S FAMINE AREA (IN RED)

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March 13, 1950

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