China: Historical Foundations
1911-12

**From Empire to Republic**

- Manchu dynasty overthrown: end of imperial rule in China
- Republic established – it was threatened by pressures from warlords

Sun Yat-sen
Leader of short-lived republic
Chinese Civil War: Nationalists v. Communists

- **Nationalists**
  - Led by Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the Kuomintang (Nationalist) Party
  - Sought to destroy Communists

- **Communists**
  - Led by Mao Zedong, leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
  - Pledged to support interests of peasants (promised land reform) and workers;
  - goal: overthrow Nationalists and establish a communist society

- **Key event: Long March (1934)**
1937-1945

Japanese Invasion of China and World War II

- Temporarily suspended Chinese Civil War
- Japan inflicted heavy damage on Chinese people and land (Ex., Rape of Nanking)
1949

**Chinese Communist Revolution**
- Civil war resumed after World War II
- Mao Zedong and CCP won civil war
  - Supported by peasants and workers
  - CCP received aid from Soviet Union
- Results
  - People’s Republic of China (PRC) proclaimed; Mao dictator
  - Chiang Kai-shek and Nationalists fled to Taiwan

Mao Zedong
Historic Highlights 1911-1978

1949-1956

Mao’s National Reconstruction

• Mao sought to build an idealistic socialist state in China

• Economic and social reform: the “iron rice bowl”
  – established universal primary education
  – instituted basic health care
  – promoted industrialization: Soviet-style Five-year Plans introduced
  – instituted agricultural land reform (popular among peasants)
1957

**Hundred Flowers Campaign**

- Mao issued “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People”
  - urged those who disagreed with his policies to come forward and offer constructive criticism
  - slogan: “Let a 100 flowers bloom and a 100 schools contend.”

- Results
  - thousands criticized Mao, especially intellectuals
  - Mao responded to criticism by cracking down on “poisonous weeds”—many sent to countryside for “reform through labor”
1958

**Great Leap Forward: Command Economy Comes to China**

- Mao’s attempt to quickly industrialize and modernize China
  - hoped to make China a greater industrial power than Great Britain
  - encouraged people to make steel in backyard furnaces
  - communes introduced in agriculture so that surplus labor could be transferred to industrial production

- **Catastrophic failure**
  - Lack of equipment and spare parts, food shortages, loss of public support
  - Few dared criticize Mao
1966-1976

**Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution**

- Mao’s attempt to return China to his vision of socialism
  - Purged CCP party and society of those thought to be anti-revolutionary (so-called rightists, capitalists, imperialists, revisionists, counter-revolutionaries, capitalist roaders, intellectuals)
  - Utilized mass movement, class struggle and military
    - Red Guards and the Little Red Book
    - People’s Liberation Army (PLA)
- Results: terrorized China’s society (500,000 killed) and destroyed China’s economy
Historic Highlights 1911-1978

1966-1976

Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Red Guard, Little Red Book & Chairman Mao
Power Struggle after the death of Chairman Mao (1976)

- Between radical followers of Mao’s vision and moderate leaders like Deng Xiaoping
- Radicals arrested (1977)
- Moderates, led by Deng, eventually assumed control of PRC
Background and Philosophy

- **Early history**
  - Follower of Mao since the 1930s
  - Purged by Mao in the 1960s

- **Invoked major changes upon assuming power**
  - Criticized Mao and the damaging effects of the Cultural Revolution
  - Purged the CCP of extremists
  - Addressed China’s population problem
  - Stressed the importance of economic development, but did **not** embrace political liberalization
Deng Xiaoping, 1978-1997

Background and Philosophy

• Issued “Four Cardinal Principles”: Chinese people were not permitted to question:
  – socialism
  – the Dictatorship of the Proletariat
  – the Communist Party’s leadership
  – Marxism-Leninism

• Closed the “Democracy Wall” (1979)
  – Wall in Beijing on which the police had allowed citizens to criticize the government by displaying large posters (starting in 1978)
  – Deng viewed it as a threat to the authority of the CCP
Promoted economic reform: market socialism

- Goal: reform and modernize China’s economy
- Supported “Four Modernizations” program which had been developed by Zhou Enlai (Agriculture, Industry, Science and Defense)
  - disbanded agricultural communes; allowed individual families to manage farm production (“household responsibility system”)
  - allowed elements of free-market capitalism into economy (reduced state controlled command economy)
  - China opened to new levels of foreign investment and international trade: China’s so-called new “Open-Door Policy”
- Established “one-child policy” population control (not popular)
- Results of Deng’s economic reforms
  - huge success—made China a world economic power
  - economic growth put pressure for political reform (but it was rejected)
Tiananmen Square Massacre 1989: Rejection of Political Reform

- **Causes**
  - student demonstrations in Beijing
    - began after the death of popular moderate Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang (a liberal who earlier had been forced to resign from Politburo)
    - students wanted to be legally allowed to criticize government (a legal opposition)
    - some students demanded greater individual freedom and democracy
    - students wanted an end to corruption and nepotism within the CCP
    - students erected “Goddess of Democracy” statue
  - government’s unwillingness to make political reforms
Tiananmen Square Massacre 1989: Rejection of Political Reform

- **Event**
  - demonstrations culminated in June 1989
  - government ordered military to crush demonstrations
  - 800 protesters eventually killed (many of the protesters were not actually in the Square); thousands wounded
  - Thousands of protesters were given mock trials and executed

- **Results**
  - Deng purged communist party leadership of student protest sympathizers and replaced them with faithful Deng supporters. (Ex., replaced Communist Party Secretary Zhao Ziyang with relatively-unknown Jiang Zemin)
  - political reforms did **not** happen alongside economic reforms: China would continue to grow as a wealthy authoritarian state
Foreign Policy

- Visited the United States (1979)
- Deng had the PLA invade Vietnam to show support for Kampuchea (Cambodia), which was under attack from Vietnam. PLA failed to accomplish goals.
- Negotiated with Britain for the return of Hong Kong (1984)
  - “one country, two systems” principle: Deng assured China would basically leave Hong Kong alone “for fifty years”
  - Hong Kong set to be returned to China in 1997
- Deng suggested a Hong Kong-like arrangement could be made with Taiwan. Taiwan remained skeptical.
- China and Russia officially restore relations (1992)
Deng Xiaoping, 1978-1997

Transfer to Jiang Zemin

- Jiang Zemin was given control of the three most important positions in PRC
  - General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)--1989
  - President of the People’s Republic of China (PRC)--1993
  - Chairman of the Military Affairs Commission--1989

- Deng’s health declined until his death in 1997

- Violence and rioting erupts in Xinjiang, a region that demanded separation and self-determination.
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