

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Fall Semester 1988

History 341: History of Modern China, 1800-1949

Meisner
Office: 5117 Humanities
Office Hours:
Tuesday 3:45-5:15
Wednesday 2:00-3:00
or by appointment
263-1848

This course, in part, is a survey of the major social, intellectual and political developments in China in the century and a half prior to the Chinese Communist victory of 1949. In part, it is an inquiry into the historical origins and the social nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution. Part I of the course examines the decay of the traditional Chinese imperial order and the nature of the Taiping Rebellion. Part II is concerned with the impact of 19th century Western imperialism on traditional Chinese society and the emergence of modern revolutionary movements, culminating in the Revolution of 1911. Parts III and IV focus on the history of Marxism and Communism in China from the May Fourth era to the founding of The People's Republic in 1949. No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

Requirements:

1. A final take-home examination based on the lectures and required readings listed below. Exam questions will be distributed on December 15 and your essays are due on or before December 20.
2. Three short essays (about 5 pages each) based on the books listed under "Readings" in Parts I, III and IV, as indicated below. The three essays, the form and nature of which will be discussed in class, are due on October 6, November 22 and December 15.

Grading: 50% for the final exam; 50% for the three essays.

History 341 (Fall, 1988): Lectures and Readings

Part I: The Decay of the Old Order, 1800-1865

- Sept. 6: Introduction to Modern Chinese History
- Sept. 9: Feudalism and Capitalism in Chinese History
- Sept. 13: State and Society in Traditional China: The Gentry as a Ruling Class
- Sept. 15: Confucianism as a Conservative Ideology
- Sept. 20: Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars
- Sept. 22: Traditional Peasant Rebellions and the Taiping Rebellion
- Sept. 27: The Revolutionary Character of Taiping Christianity

Readings:

1. Frederic Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 1-8 (pp. 1-162)
2. Franz Michael, The Taiping Rebellion

Essay #1 on Michael, Taiping Rebellion due Oct. 2

Part II: Reaction and Revolution, 1865-1911

- Sept. 29: The Failure of Conservative Modernization
- Oct. 4: The Defection of the Intellectuals and the Hundred Days Reform
- Oct. 6: Nationalism versus Anti-Foreignism: The Case of The Boxer Rebellion
(Essay #1 Due)
- Oct. 11: Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Kuomintang
- Oct. 13: Socialism and Anarchism in the Early Revolutionary Movement
- Oct. 18: Imperialism and Capitalism in Modern China
- Oct. 20: The Revolution of 1911

Readings:

1. Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 9-11 (pp. 163-256)
2. Mary C. Wright, China in Revolution: The First Phase, pp. 1-63, 229-295.
(on library reserve)

History 341 (Fall, 1988): Lectures and Readings (2)

Part III: The Origins of Marxism and Communism in China, 1915-1927

- Oct. 25: The New Culture Movement (1915-1919)
- Oct. 27: The May Fourth Movement and the Politicization of the Intellectuals
- Nov. 1: Nationalism and Iconoclasm in the May Fourth Era
- Nov. 3: The Introduction of Marxism
- Nov. 8: The Birth and Early Years of the Chinese Communist Party
- Nov. 10: The Soviet Union and the Kuomintang-Communist Alliance
- Nov. 15: The Kuomintang and The National Revolution
- Nov. 17: Nationalism and Social Revolution, 1925-27

Readings:

1. Lucien Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-1949, Chs. 1-3 (pp. 1-81)
2. Either Harold Isaacs, The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution
or Maurice Meisner, Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism
or Andre Malraux, Man's Fate
Essay #2 due November 22

Part IV: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1927-1949

- Nov. 22: The Significance of 1927
- Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Recess
- Nov. 29: The Emergence of Maoism
- Dec. 1: The Kiangsi Soviet and the Long March
- Dec. 6: Yen-an Communism (1935-45)
- Dec. 8: On the Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution; the theory of "peasant nationalism"
- Dec. 13: The Chinese Communist Victory, 1945-49
- Dec. 15: A Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Revolutions

Readings:

1. Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, Chs. 4-7 and Conclusion (pp. 82-208)
2. Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China or William Hinton, Fanshen
Essay #3 due December 15

Suggested Supplementary Readings

1. The Nature of the Gentry Class

Fei Hsiao-t'ung, China's Gentry
E. Wakeman, Fall of Imperial China, ch. 2
Chang Chung-li, The Chinese Gentry

2. The Taiping Revolution

Franz Michael, The Taiping Rebellion
Vincent Shih, The Taiping Ideology
Philip Kuhn, Rebellion and Its Enemies in Late Imperial China

3. Traditional Society and the Failure of Modernization

Mary C. Wright, The Last Stand of Chinese Conservatism
Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, ch. 4

4. The Decay of Confucianism

Joseph Levenson, Confucian China and Its Modern Fate
Benjamin Schwartz, In Search of Wealth and Power: Yen Fu and the West
Joseph Levenson, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao and the Mind of Modern China

5. The Early Revolutionary Movement

Edward Friedman, Backward Toward Revolution
Mary Rankin, Early Chinese Revolutionaries
Michael Gasster, Chinese Intellectuals and the Revolution of 1911
Harold Schiffrin, Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Chinese Revolution

6. The May Fourth Movement

Lin Yu-sheng, The Crisis of Chinese Consciousness: Radical Anti-Traditionalism in the May Fourth Era
Chow Tse-tsung, The May Fourth Movement
Jerome Grieder, Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance

7. The Origins of Marxism and Communism in China

Lee Feigon, Chen Duxiu: Founder of the Chinese Communist Party
Maurice Meisner, Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism
Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao

8. The Urban Working Class

Jean Chesneaux, The Chinese Labor Movement, 1919-27
Lynda Shaffer, Mao and the Workers

9. The Revolution of the 1920s as Reflected in Western Literature

Andre Malraux, Man's Fate
Andre Malraux, The Conquerers
Richard McKenna, The Sand Pebbles

10. The Kuomintang in Power

Lloyd Eastman, The Abortive Revolution
Sterling Seagrave, The Soong Dynasty
James Sheridan, China in Disintegration

11. Marxism in China: Theories of History and Literature

Arif Dirlik, Revolution and History: Origins of Marxist Historiography in China
Paul Pickowicz, Ch'u Chiu-pai and the Origins of Chinese Marxist Literary Criticism

12. Chinese Women in an Era of Revolutionary Change

Marilyn Young (ed.), Women in China
Helen F. Snow, Women in Modern China
Elisabeth Croll (ed.), The Women's Movement in China
Agnes Smedley, Portraits of Chinese Women in Revolution
Ida Pruitt, A Daughter of Han: The Autobiography of a Chinese Working Woman

13. Mao Tse-tung

Mao's autobiography in Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China
Stuart Schram, Mao Tse-tung
Jerome Chen, Mao and the Chinese Revolution

14. Maoism as a Variant of Marxism-Leninism

Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao
Stuart Schram, Mao Tse-tung
Maurice Meisner, Marxism, Maoism and Utopianism
Raymond Wylie, The Emergence of Maoism

15. Social and Economic Origins of Rural Revolution

R.H. Tawney, Land and Labour in China
Fei Hsiao-tung, Peasant Life in China
Robert Marks, Rural Revolution in South China: Peasants and the Making of History in Haifeng County, 1570-1930

16. The Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution: Nationalism and Social Revolution

Chalmers Johnson, Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power
Mark Selden, The Yen-an Way in Revolutionary China

17. The Kuomintang-Communist Struggle; the Last Phase

Suzanne Pepper, Civil War in China: The Political Struggle, 1945-49
Jack Belden, China Shakes the World

18. Other Aspects of the History of Chinese Communism

Angus McDonald, Urban Origins of Rural Revolution
Dick Wilson, The Long March
Agnes Smedley, The Great Road: The Life and Times of Chu Teh
William Hinton, Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village

Periodization of the History of China

Ancient China

Hsia (?) 2200-1750 BC
Shang 1750-1100
Chou 1100-221 BC
 Western Chou, 1100-770
 Eastern Chou, 770-221
 (Spring and Autumn period, 722-481)
 (Warring States period, 403-221)

Imperial (traditional) China

Ch'in 221-207 BC
Former Han 206 BC-8 AD
Later Han 25-220
Period of Disunity 221-589
 (Three Kingdoms 221-264)
Sui 589-617
T'ang 618-906
Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms 907-959
Northern Sung 960-1126
Southern Sung 1127-1275
Yuan (Mongol) 1276-1367
Ming 1368-1644
Ch'ing (Manchu) 1645-1911

Republican China, 1912-1949
 Kuomintang era, 1928-49

People's Republic of China, 1949 --
 Maoist era, 1949-76
 Post-Mao period, 1976 --

Conventional Chinese Marxist Characterizations:

Shang and early Chou -- slave society
Late Chou -- transition from slavery to feudalism
221 B.C. - 1842 AD -- feudalism (or "feudal-bureaucratic")
1842 - 1949 -- semi-colonial and semi-feudal (i.e., partly capitalist)
1949 - 1955 -- "new democratic"
1956 -- -- socialist