

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History

HISTORY 342: HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,
1949 TO THE PRESENT

Spring 1993
Tuesday and Thursday
2:30-3:45

Meisner
Office: 5117 Humanities
Office Hours:
Tuesday 4:00-5:00
Thursday 4:00-5:30
or by appointment
263-1848

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Chinese Communist Party organized tens of millions of peasants into what was certainly the most massive social revolution in world history. The Chinese revolution took the historically unique form of harnessing the forces of peasant revolt in the rural areas to surround and overwhelm the cities. The political result was the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. This course is an inquiry into the post-revolutionary history of Chinese Communism, from the formal establishment of the Communist state in 1949 to the current post-Maoist era of market reform. The inquiry will focus on the successes and failures of Chinese Communists in power, particularly with respect to their proclaimed aim of building a socialist society in the world's most populous land.

No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed. The first three weeks of the semester will be devoted to a survey of the history of Marxism and Communism in China from the time of the May Fourth Movement in 1919 to the victory of the Maoist revolution in 1949. This will serve as a review for those who have some familiarity with modern Chinese history, and, for those who do not, as a brief historical introduction to the origins of the People's Republic.

The course is divided into four parts. Part I, as noted above, will be a brief survey of the Chinese Communist Revolution (1919-1949). Part II will be concerned with the consolidation of Communist state power (1949-52) and the period of the First Five Year Plan (1953-57), focusing on the social and political consequences of Soviet-style industrialization. Part III will examine one of the great utopian episodes in world history, the Great Leap Forward campaign of 1958-60, and also reassess the Cultural Revolution and the closing years of the Maoist era (1966-1976). Part IV will consider the deradicalization of the Chinese revolution in the years since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976 and the social implications of the market reforms carried out by the Deng Xiaoping regime.

The main texts for the course are Carl Riskin, China's Political Economy (Oxford, 1987) and Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (The Free Press, 1986). These books are available for purchase in paperback editions. You should also purchase Anita Chan, Richard Madsen and Jonathan Unger, Chen Village (California, 1984, paperback).

Course Requirements:

1. A final take-home examination based on the lectures and readings listed below. You will be asked to write two essays, selected from six questions or topics. The exam questions will be distributed on May 6 and your essays will be due on May 11.
2. A paper (about 15 typewritten pages) selected from one of the topics suggested on the appended pages. Other topics may be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Papers are due on Thursday April 29.

Grading:

Final take-home exam: 60%

Paper: 40%

Lectures and Required Readings:Part I: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1919-1949 (Jan. 19-Feb. 4)

Problems in the Study of Contemporary Chinese History

The Making of a Revolutionary Situation, China 1839-1919

Marxism and Communism in China, 1920-1949

Maoism

The Theory of "Peasant Nationalism": its implications for understanding post-1949 Chinese history

Capitalist and Socialist Aspects of the Chinese Communist Revolution

Readings:

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (The Free Press, 1986), chapters 1-4 (pp. 3-51).

Carl Riskin, China's Political Economy (Oxford, 1987), chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-37).

Part II: The Maoist Regime, 1949-1957 (Feb. 9-Feb. 25)

State and Class in the People's Republic of China

Repression, Terror and the Korean War

The Bourgeois Revolution: Land Reform and National Capitalism

The First Five Year Plan: Economic Results and Social Consequences

Agricultural Collectivization: Social Results and Political Implications

Socialism and Democracy: The Hundred Flowers Campaign and the Anti-Rightist Witchhunt (1956-58)

Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China and After, chs. 5-11 (pp. 55-203).

Riskin, China's Political Economy, chs. 3-5 (pp. 38-113).

Part III: Late Maoism: The Great Leap and the Cultural Revolution (1958-76) (March 2-April 1)

Maoist Utopianism and the Theory of Permanent Revolution

The Great Leap Forward Campaign, 1958-60

Economic and Political Consequences of the Great Leap

The Concept of "Cultural Revolution"

Class Struggles and Political Conflict, 1966-69

Results and Consequences of the Cultural Revolution

Maoism and Stalinism

Successes and Failures of the Maoist Era

Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China and After, chs. 12-21 (pp. 204-432)

Riskin, China's Political Economy, chs. 6-10 (pp. 114-256)

Anita Chan et al, Chen Village, chs. 1-9

Part IV: Post-Mao China (April 6-May 6)

The Third Plenum and the Ascendancy of Deng Xiaoping

The Promise and the Fate of Socialist Democracy: the case of the Democracy Movement of 1978-81

The Ideology of Reform and the Mystique of the Market

The Decollectivization of Agriculture

The Capitalist Restructuring of Industry and the Urban Working Class

Social and Political Conservatism

Chinese Marxism in the Post-Maoist Era

Bureaucratic Capitalism and Market Stalinsim

Beijing Massacre: the Origins of the Democracy Movement of 1989

The Future of Chinese Socialism

Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China and After, chs. 22-23 (pp. 435-489)

Riskin, China's Political Economy, chs. 11-15 (pp. 257-379)

Anita Chan et al, Chen Village, pp. 265-84

Suggested Paper Topics and Readings

Papers should be about 15 pages in length and based on the reading of at least two of the books listed below (or other books comparable in quality). The books should be used as sources for a specific topic or question you should formulate on your own and to support whatever argument or thesis you wish to pursue with respect to that topic or question. In most cases, it would be well to supplement the two books with other sources (e.g., periodical articles or newspaper reports). Paper topics should be decided on by the end of the 6th week in consultation with the instructor. I will attempt to help you formulate a viable paper topic, if necessary, and suggest appropriate sources. What are listed below are only a few samples of possible areas of inquiry for your papers. There are many other possibilities which you might want to pursue.

1. The Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution; a nationalist or a social revolution? The significance of the answer to that question for understanding post-1949 Chinese history. What is "the Yanan legacy" and what is its post-1949 relevance?

Chalmers Johnson, Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power (Stanford, 1962)

Mark Selden, The Yanan Way in Revolutionary China (Harvard, 1971)

2. Maoism as a Variant of Marxism-Leninism. What is the relationship of Maoism to the Marxian intellectual and theoretical tradition? What are its implications for political and social practice? What are the Western and Chinese philosophic influences on Mao? Is the doctrine of "permanent" or "continuous" revolution inherent in Maoism or a departure from "true" Maoism?

Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao (harvard, 1951)

Benjamin Schwartz, Communism and China: Ideology in Flux (Harvard 1968)

Stuart Schram, The Political Thought of Mao Tse-tung (Praeger, 1969)

Maurice Meisner, Marxism, Maoism, and Utopianism (Wisconsin, 1982)

John B. Starr, Continuing the Revolution: The Political Thought of Mao Tse-tung (Princeton, 1979)

Frederic Wakeman, History and Will: Philosophic Perspectives of Mao Tse-tung's Thought (California, 1973)

3. China and the Korean War.

Bruce Cummings, The Origins of the Korean War, Vol. II (Princeton, 1991)

Allen Whiting, China Crosses the Yalu: The Decision to Enter the Korean War (NY, 1960)

John Gittings, The Role of the Chinese Army (Oxford, 1967)

Callum MacDonald, Korea: The War before Vietnam (1986)

4. State, Class and Society in the People's Republic.

Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolution

V. Nee and D. Mozingo (eds.), State and Society in Contemporary China (Cornell, 1983)

Vivienne Shue, The Reach of the State (Stanford, 1988)

Richard Kraus, Class Conflict in Chinese Socialism (Columbia, 1981)

5. Industrialization during the Mao Era.

Alexander Eckstein, China's Economic Revolution (NY, 1977)

Stephen Andors, China's Industrial Revolution (Pantheon, 1977)

Barry Richman, Industrial Society in Communist China (NY 1969)

Thomas Rawski, China's Transition to Industrialism (NY, 1980)

Andrew Walder,

Dwight Perkins, Market Control and Planning in Communist China (Harvard, 1966)

Audrey Donnithorne, China's Economic System (NY, 1966)

Dwight Perkins (ed.), Rural Small-Scale Industry in the People's Republic of China (California, 1977)

Jon Sigurdson, Rural Industrialization in China (Harvard, 1977)

6. Land Reform and Agricultural Collectivization.

William Hinton, Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village (NY, 1966)

William Hinton, Shenfan: The Continuing Revolution in a Chinese Village (NY, 1983)

John Wong, Land Reform in China (NY, 1973)

C.K. Yang, A Chinese Village in Early Communist Transition (MIT, 1959)

Vivienne Shue, Peasant China in Transition (California, 1980)

Edward Friedman, Paul Pickowicz, Mark Selden and Kay Ann Johnson, Chinese Village, Socialist State (Yale, 1991)

7. Intellectuals.

Jerome Grieder, Intellectuals and the State in Modern China (The Free Press, 1981)

Merle Goldman, China's Intellectuals: Advise and Dissent (Harvard, 1981)

James McGough (ed.), Fei Hsiao-tung: The Dilemma of a Chinese Intellectual (M.E. Sharpe, 1979)

Anne Thurston, Enemies of the People: The Ordeal of Intellectuals in China's Great Cultural Revolution (NY, 1987)

Roderick MacFarquhar (ed.), The Hundred Flowers Campaign and the Chinese Intellectuals (NY, 1960)

8. Women: Chinese Communism and Sexual Inequality.

Delia Davin, Woman-Work: Women and the Party in Revolutionary China (London, 1976)

Marilyn Young (ed.), Women in China (Ann Arbor, 1973)

Elisabeth Croll, Feminism and Socialism in China (London, 1978)

- Elisabeth Croll, The Politics of Marriage in Contemporary China (Cambridge, 1981)
- Kay Ann Johnson, Woman, The Family and Peasant Revolution in China (Chicago, 1983)
- Judith Stacey, Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China (California, 1983)
- Phyllis Andors, Unfinished Liberation of Chinese Women, 1949-80 (Indiana, 1983)
- Margery Wolf, Revolution Postponed: Women in Contemporary China

9. The Chinese Army (PLA).

- John Gittings, The Role of the Chinese Army
- William Whitsom, The Chinese High Command (NY, 1972)
- Livio Maitan, Party, Army and Masses in China (London, 1976)
- Ellis Joffe, Party and Army: Professionalism and Political Control in the Chinese Officer Corps (Harvard, 1965)
- Michael Y.M. Kao, The PLA and China's Nation Building (NY, 1973)
- Ellis Joffe, The Chinese Army After Mao

10. The Cultural Revolution: Leaders and Masses.

- Hung Yung Lee, The Politics of the Chinese Cultural Revolution (California, 1978)
- Byung-joon Ahn, Chinese Politics and the Cultural Revolution (Washington, 1976)
- Lynn White, Policies of Chaos (Princeton, 1989)
- Bill Brugger (ed.), China: The Impact of the Cultural Revolution (London, 1978)
- Neale Hunter, Shanghai Journal (Beacon, 1971)
- David and Nancy Dall Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China, 1964-69 (Pantheon, 1976)
- Gao Yuan, Born Red: A Chronicle of the Cultural Revolution (Stanford, 1987)
- Liang Heng, Son of Revolution (NY, 1983)
- Anne Thurston, Enemies of the People
- G. Barne (transl.), The Wounded: New Stories of the Cultural Revolution (Hong Kong, 1979)
- Anita Chan, Children of Mao: Personality Development and Political Activism in the Red Guard Generation (Washington, 1985)
- Andrew Walder, Chang Ch'un-ch'iao and Shanghai's January Revolution (Ann Arbor, 1977)
- Lowell Dittmer, Liu Shao-ch'i and the Chinese Cultural Revolution: The Politics of Mass Criticism (California, 1974)
- Stanley Rosen, Red Guard Factionalism and the Cultural Revolution in Guangzhou [Canton] (Boulder, 1982)
- Stanley Rosen, The Role of Sent-Down Youth in the Chinese Cultural Revolution (California, 1981)

11. Education.

- Jonathan Unger, Education Under Mao: Class and Competition in Canton Schools, 1960-1980 (Columbia, 1982)
- Stewart Fraser (ed.), Education and Communism in China (Hong Kong, 1969)
- Suzanne Pepper, "Chinese Education After Bao: Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back and Begin Again?", China Quarterly, pp. 1-65
- Suzanne Pepper, China's Universities