

History 658: History of the People's Republic of China, 1949 to the present

342

Meisner  
Spring 1982  
Tuesday and Thursday evenings,  
7-8:15

It is one of the great ironies of modern history that Marxist-led socialist revolutions have taken place not in the industrialized capitalist countries, as Karl Marx predicted would be the case, but rather in economically backward and largely agrarian lands lacking the Marxian-defined material and social prerequisites for socialism (i.e., Russia, China, Cuba, Vietnam etc.). This course is concerned with the fate of 20th-century socialist revolutions and the nature of the societies they have produced. The concern will find expression through an examination of the political, social and intellectual history of China over the more than three decades since the Chinese Communist victory of 1949.

No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed. The first 3-4 weeks of the semester will be devoted to a brief survey of the modern Chinese historical situation and the history of the Chinese Communist Revolution (1921-1949). Part II of the course will be concerned with the Communist consolidation of state power (1949-52) and the nature of the Chinese Communist state. Part III will deal with the period of the First Five Year Plan (1953-57), focusing on the social consequences of Soviet-style industrialization, agricultural collectivization, the Hundred Flowers campaign, and the emergence of the Maoist strategy of development. Part IV will examine one of the great utopian episodes in world history -- the Great Leap Forward campaign (1958-60) and its aftermath. Part V will be concerned with the Cultural Revolution and the end of the Maoist era (1966-76), the years condemned by Mao's successors as "feudal-fascist." Part VI will examine the changes which have taken place in the People's Republic since the death of Mao Tse-tung (1977-81). Throughout, comparisons between China and the histories of other post-revolutionary societies will be suggested.

Lectures generally will be confined to about 50 minutes, followed by a half-hour or so of informal discussion.

Requirements:

1. A term-paper (about 15-20 typewritten pages) on a relevant topic of your choice.
2. A final take-home examination based on the lectures, readings and discussions listed below.

The following books are available for purchase at local bookstores (they and other readings will also be on library reserve):

Stuart Schram, Mao Tse-tung (Penguin)

Mark Selden (ed.), The People's Republic of China: A Documentary History (Monthly Review)

Stuart Schram (ed.), Authority, Participation and Cultural Change in China (Cambridge)

David and Nancy Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China 1964-69 (Pantheon)

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China: A History of the People's Republic (Free Press)

Franz Schurmann, Ideology and Organization in Communist China (California)

## Hist. 658: Lectures and Readings

### Part I: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1921-49 (Jan. 26-Feb. 16)

January 26: Problems in the Study of Contemporary Chinese History

January 28: The Making of a Revolutionary Situation, China 1839-1919

February 2: The Introduction of Marxism and the Origins of the Chinese Communist Party

February 4: The Revolution of 1925-27

February 9: Marxism, Maoism and the Peasantry

February 11: Yen-an Communism and the Yen-an Legacy

February 16: A Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Revolutions

#### Required Readings:

Stuart Schram, Mao Tse-tung (Penguin), chapters 1-8

Mark Selden, The Yen-an Way in Revolutionary China (Harvard), ch. 6

G. Benton, "The Yen-an Opposition," New Left Review, No. 92, pp. 93-106

#### Supplementary Readings:

Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (Beacon), pp. 162-227.

William Rosenberg and Marilyn Young, Transforming Russia and China (Oxford), chapters 1-6.

Part-II: The Consolidation of Power: the People's Republic, 1949-52 (Feb. 18-March 2)

February 18: Revolutionaries Turned Rulers: the new state and its ideology

February 23: Repression, Terror, and the Korean War

February 25: The Era of National Capitalism

March 2: The Land Reform Campaign

Required Readings:

Mark Selden (ed.), The People's Republic of China: A Documentary History (Monthly Review), pp. 169-277.

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China: A History of the People's Republic (The Free Press), chapters 5-8.

Franz Schurmann, Ideology and Organization in Communist China (California), pp. 365-380, 405-441.

Supplementary Readings:

Rosenberg and Young, chapter 7

Vivien Shue, Peasant China in Transition (California), chapters 1-6

Part III: The Era of the First Five Year Plan, 1953-57 (March 4-18)

March 4: Socialism and Economic Backwardness

March 9: The First Five Year Plan

March 11: The Social Consequences of Industrialization

March 16: Agricultural Collectivization

March 18: The Hundred Flowers Campaign: intellectuals and the state

Required Readings:

Selden, People's Republic of China, pp. 281-377

Schurmann, Ideology and Organization, pp. 220-93, 442-63.

Meisner, Mao's China, chs. 9-11

Supplementary Readings:

Shue, Peasant China, chs. 7-8

Stephen Andors, China's Industrial Revolution (Pantheon), chapters 1-3

Spring recess, March 20-28

Part IV: The Great Leap Forward and Its Aftermath, 1958-65 (March 30-April 8)

March 30: The Maoist Strategy of Development and the Theory of Permanent Revolution

April 1: The Great Leap Forward Campaign (1958-60)

April 6: Economic and Political Consequences of the Great Leap

April 8: The Liuist Regime (1961-65)

Required Readings:

Jack Gray, "The Two Roads" in Stuart Schram (ed.), Authority, Participation and Cultural Change in China (Cambridge), pp. 109-158.

Selden, People's Republic of China, pp. 381-541.

Supplementary Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China, chs. 12-17.

Schurman, Ideology and Organization, pp. 442-500, 380-403.

Andors, China's Industrial Revolution, chs. 4-6.

~~R~~x Rosenberg and Young, ch. 8.

Part V: The Cultural Revolution and the End of the Maoist Era, 1966-76 (April 13-22)

- April 13: The Concept of Cultural Revolution in Russian and Chinese Marxist Thought
- April 15: Class Struggles and Political Struggles during the Cultural Revolution, 1966-69
- April 20: Social and Political Results of the Cultural Revolution
- April 22: The Last Years of Mao; Radical Jacobinism and "Feudal-Fascism" (1969-76)

Required Readings:

David and Nancy Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China, 1964-1969 (Pantheon)

Stuart Schram (ed.), Introduction to Authority, Participation and Cultural Change in China, pp. 1-108.

Schram (ed.), Authority, Participation and Cultural Change in China, articles by Marianne Bastid, Jon Sigurdson, C. Howe, J. Gardner & W. Idema, and A. Watson, pp. 159-330.

Supplementary Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China, chs. 18-20

Selden, People's Republic of China, pp. 545-648.

Rosenberg and Young, ch. 9.

Part VI: Post-Maoist China, 1976-81 (April 27-May 13)

April 27: Teng Hsiao-p'ing and the Four Modernizations

April 29: Modernization and Socialism

May 4: Chinese Marxism in the Post-Mao Era

May 6: The Rise and Fall of the Democracy Movement

May 11: Social Relations of the People's Republic

May 13: China and the Fate of Socialist Revolutions

Required Readings:

Selden, People's Republic of China, pp. 651-715.

Supplementary Readings:

Central Comm. of the Communist Party of China, "Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China," Beijing Review, 1981, No. 27 (July 6, 1981), pp. 10-39.

Charles Bettelheim, "The Great Leap Backward," Monthly Review (July-Aug. 1978), pp. 37-130.

Richard Baum (ed.), The Four Modernizations

Rosenberg and Young, Ch. 10.

Term papers due on or before May 13

Final Exam essays due on May 18