

Chronology for Modern China

Qing Dynasty

- 1644 The fall of the Ming and the **establishment of the Qing** dynasty
- 1793 Macartney Mission from Great Britain. The emperor snubs Macartney and demands that he kowtow and Macartney refuses.
- 1839-1842 **Opium War** between Britain and China (China loses and must establish foreign access to Treaty Ports.)
- 1850-1864 **Taiping Rebellion** (The Qing emperor is nearly toppled by a peasant rebellion).
- 1895 China defeated by Japan (Treaty of Shimonoseki)

Early Twentieth Century: Revolution

- 1900-1901 Boxer Rebellion (The emperor is nearly toppled again by a popular uprising and European powers step in to prop it up).
- 1905 Abolition of the Civil Service Exam
- 1911 **The Chinese Revolution** overthrows the Qing Dynasty and establishes a republic but fragments into warlord-ruled regions.
- 1915-1920 New Culture Movement (intellectual critiques of Chinese tradition call for "all-out" Westernization, Mao Zedong becomes a cultural reformer as a youthful student and young adult).
- 1919 **May Fourth Incident** (Popular protests led by students and intellectuals over the granting of concessions to Japan over parts of China by the League of Nations)
- 1921 Chinese Communist Party established
- 1926 Northern Expedition under Chiang Kai-shek unifies China under KMT rule
- 1927 Chiang Kai-shek attacks Communists. (**Mao writes his "Peasant Report"**)
- 1930-4 Jiangxi Soviet
- 1934-5 **The Long March**
- 1937 Japanese occupation of East China
- 1945 End of World War II
- 1945-49 **Civil War, Land Reform and Class Struggle in N. China**

The People's Republic: Socialism

- 1949 **"The Liberation."** PRC established
- 1956 Socialist High Tide, People's Cooperatives established (the collectivization of agriculture and industry), the abolishment of "free markets."
- 1957 The Hundred Flowers Movement in which intellectuals were urged to contribute criticism, followed by the Anti-Rightist Campaign (the opening of *Hibiscus Town*)
- 1958 The **Great Leap Forward** (GLF) and the Formation of the People's Communes
- 1959-61 The Three Lean Years (Famine ensues from the ill-fated GLF, China further isolated from the world with the Sino-Soviet split in 1960).

- 1966 The **Cultural Revolution** (CR) begins (Mao revives class struggle as a way of keeping to the socialist road by recruiting young people as Red Guards).
- 1968 The military ends CR violence (Red Guards disbanded, youth sent down to build socialism in the countryside)
- 1972 Nixon in China (China's isolation from the Western world begins to end).
- 1976 Mao Dies and Deng Xiaoping rises to power.

The Post-Mao Period: Reform

- 1978 The **economic reforms** begin (the ending of *Hibiscus Town*)
- 1979 Normalization of relations with U.S.
- 1981 Responsibility System reorganizes agriculture around the household (the decollectivization of agriculture), the one-child family policy initiated on a national scale
- 1989 **Tiananmen Crackdown** (Chinese troops fire on student protesters in Beijing).
- 1990s Broadening economic reforms under conditions of tight political control. China enters the global economy on a large scale. Migrant laborers on the march. The rise of a middle class. (*The Story of Qiu Ju*, *Ermo*, *Return to Phoenix Bridge*, *Precious Children*)

Political map of the PRC: <http://ce.cei.gov.cn/region/Chinamap.htm> (see online for links to data on each province).

