HISTORY 657: History of Revolution in Modern China

The course is an inquiry into the socio-historical origins and nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution. The first half of the semester will focus on the impact of imperialism on the traditional Chinese order and examine the reasons for the failure of various revolutionary and reformist movements to resolve the plight of China in the modern world, beginning with the great Taiping Rebellion of the mid-19th century and concluding with the making of a modern revolutionary situation in the early decades of the 20th century. The latter half of the course will be concerned with the history of the Chinese Communist movement from 1921 to 1949. No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

Requirements:

1. A final take-home examination (based on lectures, readings, and discussions) will be distributed on December 12 and is due on December 19.

2. A paper of about 15 typewritten pages on a relevant topic of your choice is due on or before December 14.

Grading: 50% for the final take-home exam
50% for the paper

History 657: Tentative Lecture Schedule (Fall, 1977)

Sept. 7: Introduction: Revolution in China
Sept. 9: State and Society in Traditional China
Sept. 12: The Role of Imperialism in Modern Chinese History
Sept. 14: Social Classes and Political Power in Modern China
Sept. 16: Traditional Chinese Peasant Rebellions and Rebel Ideologies
Sept. 19: The Taiping, Rebellion, 1850-65
Sept. 21: The Revolutionary Character of Taiping Christianity
Sept. 23: The Revolutionary Consequences of the Taiping Failure
Sept. 26: Counterrevolution: The T'ung-chih Restoration
Sept. 28: Conservative Modernization, 1865-1895

Sept. 30: The Revolutionary Consequences of the Failure of Conservative Modernization

Oct. 3: The Desertion of the Intellectuals

Oct. 5: The Origins and Revolutionary Potential of Modern Chinese Nationalism

Oct. 7: The Hundred Days Reform

Oct. 10: The Boxer Rebellion: the anti-revolutionary implications of anti-foreignism

Oct. 12: Imperialism and the Disintegration of the Confucian Order

Oct. 14: Capitalism in China and the Nature of the Modern Chinese Bourgeoisie

Oct. 17: Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Kuomintang

Oct. 19: Socialism, Anarchism and Populism in the Early Revolutionary Movement

Oct. 21: The Revolution of 1911 and the Failure of Bourgeois Revolution

Oct. 24: The Emergence of the Modern Chinese Intelligentsia


Oct. 28: The May Fourth Movement and the Politicization of the Intellectuals

Oct. 31: The Introduction of Marxism

Nov. 2: The Birth of the Chinese Communist Party

Nov. 4: The Kuomintang-Communist Alliance

Nov. 7: The Revolutionary Upsurge of 1925-27

Nov. 9: Nationalism and Social Revolution

Nov. 11: The Consequences of the Failure of Proletarian Revolution

Nov. 14: Marxism-Leninism and the Peasantry

Nov. 16: The Emergence of Maoism

Nov. 18: The Kiangsi Soviet, 1931-34
Nov. 21: The Social Basis of the Kuomintang, 1928-37

Nov. 23: Fascism and Kuomintang Ideology

Nov. 28: The History of the Yenan Era, 1935-45

Nov. 30: " " " " " " " "

Dec. 2: The Yenan Legacy

Dec. 5: The Theory of "Peasant Nationalism"

Dec. 7: Maoism and Nationalism

Dec. 9: Maoism, Leninism, and Populism

Dec. 12: Maoism and the Marxist-Leninist Tradition

Dec. 14: A Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Revolutions

Required Readings

I. Sept. 7-30

1. Frederic Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 1-9 (pp. 1-198).

2. Franz Michael, The Taiping Rebellion

II. Oct. 3-21

1. Wakeman, Fall of Imperial China, chapters 10-11 (pp. 199-256)

2. Edward Friedman, Backward Toward Revolution

III. Oct. 24-Nov. 11

1. Lucien Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-49, chs. 1-3 (pp. 1-81)

2. One of the following:

   Harold Isaacs, The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution
   Jean Chesnais, The Chinese Labor Movement, 1919-1927
   Maurice Meisner, Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism
   Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao

Strongly recommended: Andre Malraux, Man's Fate
1. Bianco, chapters 4-7 (pp. 82-208)

2. One of the following:
   - Mark Selden, *The Yenan Way in Revolutionary China*
   - Chalmers Johnson, *Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power*
   - Edgar Snow, *Red Star Over China*
   - William Hinton, *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*
