

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1989-1990

History 341: History of Modern China, 1800-1949

Meisner  
Office: 5117 Humanities  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday, 2:30-4:30  
or by appointment  
263-1848

The 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 (circa, 1919) to the founding of The People's Republic in 1949. No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

In addition to lectures (Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-2:15), there will be one 50 minute discussion section each week (beginning with the third week) to discuss readings and essays.

Requirements:

1. A final take-home examination based on the lectures and required readings listed below. Exam questions will be distributed on December 12 and your essays are due on or before Monday, December 18.
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 5, November 21, and December 12.

Grading: 40% for the final exam;  
40% for the three essays;  
20% for work in discussion sections.

## History 341 (Fall 1989: Lectures and Readings)

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

- Sept. 5: Introduction to Modern Chinese History
- Sept. 7: Feudalism and Capitalism in Chinese History
- Sept. 12: State and Society in Traditional China: The Gentry as a Ruling Class
- Sept. 14: Confucianism as a Conservative Ideology
- Sept. 19: Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars
- Sept. 20: 7:30pm, William Hinton "Tiananmen Square 1989: The Social and Economic Background of the Bloodbath."
- Sept. 21: Traditional Peasant Rebellions and the Taiping Rebellion
- Sept. 26: The Revolutionary Character of Taiping Christianity
- Sept. 28: 7:00pm, Bruce Cumings, "Who Started the Korean War", Wisconsin Center.

#### 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. 5.

### Part II: Reaction and Revolution, 1865-1911

- Sept. 29: The Failure of Conservative Modernization
- Oct. 3: The Defection of the Intellectuals and the Hundred Days Reform
- Oct. 5: Nationalism versus Anti-Foreignism: The Case of the Boxer Rebellion (Essay #1 due)
- Oct. 10: Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Kuomintang
- Oct. 12: Socialism and Anarchism in the Early Revolutionary Movement
- Oct. 17: Imperialism and Capitalism in Modern Chinese History
- Oct. 19: The Revolution of 1911: the failure of bourgeois revolution

#### 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, 1989): Lectures and Readings (2)

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

- Oct. 24: The New Culture Movement (1915-1919)
- Oct. 26: The May Fourth Movement and the Politicization of the Intellectuals
- Oct. 31: Nationalism and Iconoclasm in the May Fourth Era
- Nov. 2: The Introduction of Marxism
- Nov. 7: The Birth and Early Years of the Chinese Communist Party
- Nov. 9: The Soviet Union and the Kuomintang-Communist Alliance
- Nov. 14: The Kuomintang and The National Revolution
- Nov. 16: 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  
or Arif Dirlik, The Origins of Chinese Communism

Essay #2 due November 21

Part IV: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1927-1949

- Nov. 21: The Significance of 1927
- Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Recess
- Nov. 28: The Emergence of Maoism and its relationship to Marxism & Leninism
- Nov. 30: The Kiangsi Soviet and the Long March
- Dec. 5: Yen'an Communism (1935-45)
- Dec. 7: On the Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution; the theory of "peasant nationalism"
- Dec. 12: The Guomindang-Communist Civil War: The Last Phase: 1945-49
- Dec. 14: 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 12

Suggested Supplementary Readings

1. The Nature of the Gentry Class

Fei Hsiao-t'ung, China's Gentry  
F. Wakeman, Fall of Imperial China, ch.2  
Chang Chung-li, The Chinese Gentry  
Ho Ping-ti, The Ladder of Success in Imperial China

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  
Vera Schwarz, The Chinese Enlightenment

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  
Arif Dirlik, The Origins of Chinese Communism

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 Conquerors  
Richard McKenna, The Sand Pebbles

10. The Kuomintang in Power

Lyoyd Eastman, The Abortive Revolution  
Sterling Seagrave, The Soong Dynasty  
James Sheridan, China in Disintegration  
Parks Coble, The Shanghai Capitalists and the Nationalist Government, 1927-37

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 Zedong)

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  
Stuart Schram (ed.), The Political Thought of Mao Tse-tung

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 & 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  
Conrad Brandt, Stalin's Failure in China, 1924-27  
Allen Whiting, Soviet Policies in China, 1917-24

## 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, 1928-1949

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

### Conventional Chinese Marxist Characterizations:

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