

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1991-92

Meisner
History 341
Office: 5117 Humanities
Office Hours: Mon. 2-3:15/Thur. 4-5
263-1848

TA: Kim Soo-young

History 341 is a survey of the major social, political and intellectual developments in China from the time of the Opium War until the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Its main (but not sole) aim is to understand the historical conditions that yielded the Chinese Communist Revolution and to understand the nature of that revolution. The course is divided into three parts. Part I examines the decay of the old Chinese imperial order in the 19th century and the impact of Western imperialism on traditional Chinese society. Part II, dealing with the period 1895-1927, is concerned with the emergence of modern revolutionary movements, especially the Guomindang (Kuomintang) of Sun Yat-sen and the Chinese Communist Party, which culminate in the great revolutionary upsurge of 1925-27. Part III examines Republican China in the Chiang Kai-shek era and especially the origins and history of the Maoist phase of the Chinese Communist revolution, 1927-49. You are required to read six books over the course of the semester. Three books will serve as texts to be read in conjunction with the lectures and discussions. These are:

Frederic Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China (Free Press)
Lucien Bianco, The Origins of the Chinese Revolution (Stanford)
Ono Kazuko, Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution, 1850-1950
(Stanford)

Assignments in the Wakeman and Bianco books are listed below. Assignments for the Ono Kazuko volume will be announced in the discussion sections. All three volumes are available for purchase in local bookstores.

You are required to read one additional book (more if you wish) for each of the three parts of the course. At the conclusion of Parts I, II, and III, you will be asked to write a short interpretive essay (about 5 double-spaced typewritten pages) based upon the volume you have selected from those listed below under section "B" of "Required Readings" for each of the three parts into which the course is divided. The three essays, the form and nature of which will be discussed in class, are due (respectively) on Tuesday October 15, Tuesday November 19, and Tuesday December 10. To satisfy particular interests which you may have or acquire, you may substitute books other than those listed below with the consent of the TA.

There will be a final take-home examination based on lectures, required readings, and work in the discussion sections. Exam questions will be distributed on December 12 and your exam is due on or before December 20.

No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

Grading:

The three short essays -- 40%

The final exam -- 40%

Participation in discussion section -- 20%

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Part I: The Decay of the old Regime, 1800-1895 (Sept. 3 -- Oct. 3)

Feudalism and Capitalism in Chinese History

State and Society in Traditional China: The Gentry as a Ruling Class

Confucianism as a Conservative Ideology

Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars

Traditional Peasant Rebellions and the Taiping Rebellion

The Revolutionary Character of Taiping Christianity

"Self-Strengthening": The Failure of Conservative Modernization

The Sino-Japanese War, 1894-95

Imperialism in Modern Chinese History

The Origins and Nature of Modern Chinese Capitalism

Required Readings for Part I

Frederic Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 1-10.

Franz Michael, The Taiping Rebellion OR

Mary C. Wright, The Last Stand of Chinese Conservatism

Essay #1 due Oct. 15

Part II: The Rise of the Modern Revolutionary Movement, 1895-1927 (Oct. 8-Nov. 7)

The Defection of the Intellectuals

The Hundred Days Reform

The Transition from Culturalism to Nationalism: Yen Fu and Liang Qichao

Nationalism versus Anti-Foreignism: The Case of the Boxer Rebellion

Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Guomindang

The Revolution of 1911 and the Failure of Bourgeois Democracy

Socialism and Anarchism in the Early Revolutionary Movement, 1900-1919
The Modern Chinese Intelligentsia and the New Culture Movement, 1915-1919
The Modern Women's Liberation Movement
The May Fourth Movement and the Politicization of the Intelligentsia
The Tension between Nationalism and Cultural Iconoclasm
The Introduction of Marxism
The Chinese Labor Movement
The Birth and Early Years of the Chinese Communist Party
The Soviet Union and the Guomindang-Communist Alliance
Nationalism and Social Revolution, 1925-1927

Required Readings for Part II

Wakeman, chapter 11.

Lucien Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-1949, chapters 1-3.

Harold Isaacs, The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution OR

Andre Malraux, Man's Fate

Maurice Meisner, Lita-chao and The Origins of Chinese Marxism

Essay #2 due Nov. 19.

Part III: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1927-1949 (Nov. 12 - Dec. 12).

The Significance of 1927

Maoism as a Variant of Marxism

The Kiangsi Soviet and the Long March

Guomindang China, 1927-37

Bureaucratic Capitalism in Traditional & Modern China.

Yenan Communism, 1935-45

On Interpreting the Chinese Communist Revolution: the theory of "peasant nationalism"

The Civil War, 1945-49

A Comparison of Chinese and Russian Revolutions

Required Readings for Part III

Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, chs. 4-7 and Conclusion

Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China OR

William Hinton, Fanshen: Documentary of Revolution in A Chinese Village OR

Mark Selden, The Yen-an Way in Revolutionary China.

Essay #3 due Dec. 10

The questions for the final take-home exam will be distributed on the last class day, Thursday, December 12. You will be asked to write two essays, of which one must discuss specifically a topic relevant to Part III of the course dealing with the 1927-49 period. Your essays are due no later than high noon on Friday Dec. 20.

Suggested Supplementary Readings

1. The Nature of the Gentry Class

Fei Hsiao-t'ung, China's Gentry
E. Wakeman, Fall of Imperial China, ch. 2
Chang Chung-li, The Chinese Gentry

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 Movement.
Chow Tse-tsung, The May Fourth Movement
Jerome Grieder, Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance

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

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 Conquerers
 - 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

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'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

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 and 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

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, 1928-49

People's Republic of China, 1949 --
 Maoist era, 1949-76
 Post-Mao period, 1976 --

Conventional Chinese Marxist Characterizations:

Shang and early Chou -- slave society

Late Chou -- transition from slavery to feudalism

221 B.C. - 1842 AD -- feudalism (or "feudal-bureaucratic")

1842 - 1949 -- semi-colonial and semi-feudal (i.e., partly capitalist)

1949 - 1955 -- "new democratic"

1956 -- -- socialist