

The purposes of the course are (1) to examine in some depth the major political, economic, social, and intellectual developments in China since 1949 and (2) to consider some of the broader theoretical and historical problems posed by the unique pattern of "post-revolutionary" evolution in the People's Republic in the comparative perspective of other modern revolutions. Special emphasis will be placed on the relationship between Maoist theory and socio-historical development and the problem of attempting to bring about a socialist reorganization of state and society in conditions of economic scarcity. China's foreign relations will be considered only to the extent that they have impinged directly on internal developments. No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

The first three or four weeks of the semester will be devoted to gaining (or reinforcing) a general knowledge of the history of the Chinese Communist Revolution (1921-1949), with particular attention to the "Yenan model" of revolutionary organization and the development of the Maoist variant of Marxism-Leninism.

We then will proceed to consider the following topics:

1. The Dilemmas of Victory: Revolutionaries turned rulers
2. The Nature of the New State
3. Control of the Cities: the problem of the relationship between town and countryside
4. The Land Reform campaign (1950-52)
5. Political Power and Social Classes
6. Industrialization and its Social Consequences: the First Five Year Plan (1953-57)
7. Cooperativization and Collectivization in the Countryside (1953-57)
8. Maoism and the Dilemma of Means and Ends
9. The Era of the Hundred Flowers, 1956-57
10. Maoism, Socialism, and Freedom
11. The Proletariat and "the Dictatorship of the Proletariat"
12. The Ideology of the Great Leap Forward: the Maoist doctrine of "Permanent Revolution"
13. Economics of the Great Leap
14. The Rural People's Communes
15. Maoism, Marxism, and Utopianism
16. Deradicalization and the Natural History of Revolutions
17. The Bureaucratic Restoration (1960-65)
18. The New Economic Policy
19. Maoism and the Socialist Education Campaign
20. The Political History of the Cultural Revolution
21. Cultural Aspects of the Cultural Revolution
22. Social Results of the Cultural Revolution
23. The Cult of Mao
24. Maoism and Ideological Determinism
25. The Place of Communist China in Chinese History
26. The Place of the Chinese Revolution in Modern Revolutionary History
27. Maoism and the Marxist-Leninist Tradition

(next)

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Readings will be drawn from the following:

1. S. Schram, Mao Tse-tung
2. F. Schurmann, Ideology and Organization in Communist China
3. E. Vogel, Canton Under Communism
4. B. Schwartz, Communism and China: Ideology in Flux
5. E. Wheelwright and B. McFarlane, The Chinese Road to Socialism
6. S. Schram (ed), Authority, Participation and Cultural Change in China
7. P. Sweezy and C. Bettelheim, On the Transition to Socialism
8. S. Schram (ed), Mao Unrehearsed (American ed: Chairman Mao Talks to the People)
9. N. Hunter, Shanghai Journal
10. Selections from The Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung and post-1949 writings
11. Selected periodical literature
12. C. Bettelheim, Cultural Revolution and Industrial Organization in China
13. J. Esmein, A History of the Chinese Cultural Revolution
14. D. & N. Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China, 1964-69

Course grades will be determined by a final "take-home" examination based on lectures, readings and discussions -- and by a paper. The latter requirement can be met by either a research-type paper, several short interpretive essays, a series of brief critical expositions of books on the People's Republic, or by other forms best suited to individual interests and needs.