

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Department of History

Fall 1987

History 573 PROBLEMS OF POST-1949 CHINA

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Fri., 12:00-1:20

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Course Description

It has been said that revolutions die just at the time they attain victory. Whether this assumption is true or not, this course will apply it to the case of the Chinese revolution. In doing so, we will examine the problems facing China in light of the internal goals of a socialist society set by the leadership itself. Some questions that will be asked in this regard are: What is the role of the state in a socialist society? What is the relationship between the requirements of modernization specifically bureaucracy and the revolutionary aspirations of an egalitarian society? What role do the intellectuals play in a society where the wisdom of the people as a whole are valued? What role does the Leninist Party play in a Maoist vision?

Apart from evaluating the record on the basis of internal goals, we may also consider external standards of evaluation applicable to any society. What are different models of modernization and how does China compare? How does China stand with respect to human rights issues and the role of women? It is not expected that a consensus of opinion will be reached on these broad issues, but in the process of discussion and debate, the class may reach a deeper understanding of the dilemmas facing a socialist society in the modern world.

Format

As a seminar course, class participation and preparation are essential. Readings should be prepared for each class discussion. Each week, one student will take responsibility for being discussion leader, preparing a short presentation (10-20 min.) outlining the main issues (not a summary of facts). Another student will be designated as a discussant, responding to the main presentation with additional material or insights and or arguing for a different position on the subject. The discussion will then be open to the rest of the class.

Six short papers (2-3) pages will be required for the course. Every two weeks, the class will hand in a paper, examining the main arguments presented in the preceding

Jack Gray, "The Two Roads: Alternative Strategies of Social Change and Economic Growth in China," in Stuart Schram ed. Authority, Participation and Cultural Change in China

- Oct. 16 Problem of the Intellectuals
 Readings: Merle Goldman, Literary Dissent in Communist China, cp. 5-7
- Robert Jay Lifton, Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism
- Oct. 23 Problem of the Intellectuals -- Hundred Flowers
 Readings: Vogel, cp. 5
 Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People"
Chairman Mao Talks to the People, 84-90
- Oct. 30 Great Leap Forward
 Readings: Vogel, cp. 6
- Schurmann, Ideology, pp 464-500
- Chairman Mao Talks to the People, 91-157
- Nov. 6 The Leninist Party and the Theory of Totalitarianism:
 Readings: Alfred Meyer, Leninism , Part I (19-103)
- Schurmann, Ideology, cp. 2 (105-172)
- Maurice Meisner, "Leninism and Maoism: Some Populist Perspectives on Marxism-Leninism in China,"
- Carl Friedrich and Zbigniew Brezinski, Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy, cp. 2 (31-84)
- Nov. 13 Women and the Family in China
 Readings: Kay Ann Johnson, "Women in China: Problems of Sexual Inequality and Socioeconomic Change," in Joan Roberts, Beyond Intellectual Sexism
- Andrew J. Watson, "A Revolution to Touch men's souls: the family, interpersonal relations and daily life," in Schram, Authority, Participation

Nov, 20 Cultural Revolution

Readings: Esmein, The Chinese Cultural Revolution

Chairman Mao Talks, 91-157

Schurmann, Ideology and Organization, 464-500

(week of Thanksgiving?) Cultural Revolution

Schram, Introduction: The Cultural Revolution in
Historical Perspective

Schwartz, "Upheaval in China" in Communism and China

David and Nancy Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside

Dec. 4 Post-Cultural Revolution -- Modernization and Socialism

Readings: Schwartz, "Modernization and Maoist
Vision: Some Reflections on Chinese
Communist Goals" in Ideology

Dean Tipps, "Modernization Theory and
the Comparative Study of Societies,"
pp. 199-226.

Dec. 11 Post-Cultural Revolution -- Human Rights and Democracy

Readings: Human Rights in Contemporary China
ed. Randal Edward, Louis Henkin,
Andrew Nathan

James D. seymour, The Fifth Modernization:
Human Rights Movements, 1978-1979