

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester I 1977-78

HISTORY 657: History of Revolution in Modern China

Meisner

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. 26: The New Culture Movement, 1915-1919: China's first "cultural revolution"
- 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 Yen-an Era, 1935-45
- Nov. 30: " " " " " " " "
- Dec. 2: The Yen-an 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 Chesneaux, 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

IV, Nov. 14-Dec. 14

1. Bianco, chapters 4-7 (pp. 82-208)

2. One of the following:

Mark Selden, The Yen-an 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

3. Mao Tse-tung, "Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan" "The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party"

4. Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, chapter 4 (pp. 162-227)