China: The Historical Context
(Reading: Chapter 3)

Questions to ponder

☐ What are the most significant events in Chinese history? How have they shaped China’s mentality and development?

☐ How do we evaluate some important people and dynasties/eras?
- E.g. Qin dynasty, 1st emperor; the socialist era, Chairman Mao; the reform era, Deng Xiaoping

Outline

☐ The Neolithic China
☐ The imperial era: dynastic cycles
☐ The Republic era
☐ The Socialist era
☐ The Reform era

Neolithic China
12,000 B.C. - 2,000 B.C.

China today
Yangshao Culture (5000-3000 B.C.)
- Middle Yellow River and Wei He basin
- Considered as source of Chinese civilization
- Hand-made painted pottery
- Sedentary farming, main crop is foxtail millet; supplemented by hunting and gathering
- Village settlement in river valleys

Longshan Culture (3000-2000 B.C.)
- Lower reaches of the Yellow river, Yangtze river, and Huai He
- "Black pottery" with thin walls and lack of decoration; use of potter's wheel;
- ding, dou, gui

The Xia Dynasty (2100 B.C. - 1600 B.C.)
- Capital: Anyang

Shang Dynasty (1600 B.C. - 1027 B.C.)
- Capital: Anyang
- Advanced bronze casting

Recorded history began
- Chinese writings on oracle bones
Zhou Dynasty (Chinese classics, feudalism, Confucius)
1027 B.C. - 221 B.C. Capital: Xi'an

Different States in late Zhou Dynasty:
Spring and Autumn Period

Qin Dynasty (Emperor: Qin Shi Huang)
221 B.C. - 207 B.C. (first dynasty to unify China)

Consolidated the Great Wall
Standardized the Language/writing
Terracotta Army
Evaluating Qin Shi Huang

- Unified the nation
- Consolidated the Great Wall to protect the country from invasion
- Expanded the national canal network
- Extended the national trunk-road network
- Standardized Chinese writing, currency, measures and even the axle-lengths of carts
- Established a national civil administration (nation-commanderies- prefectures)
- Built magnificent palaces, terracotta army

But he was very unpopular

- He ruled with brutality
  - Legalist vs. Confucian governance
  - Strict legal codes and regulations on every aspect of life
- Mega-projects required labor and money
- He concentrated all power in his own hand
- He banned all books that advocated different forms of government, burned classic writings, and executed opponents

The Han Dynasty
206 B.C. - 220 A.D.
Capital: Xi'an

The Three Kingdoms
220 A.D. - 265 A.D.
Han people moving south
Buddhism into China
"The Romance of the Three Kingdoms"

Tang Dynasty, the “Golden” Dynasty
618 A.D. - 907 A.D.
The “Golden” Tang Dynasty

- Capital Chang’an (Xi’an)
  - 2 M+ population, largest city in the world
  - Walled city (6 X 5 miles), with different wards for different functions
  - Many different ethnic and foreigners (25000+)
- Re-opened Silk Road to allow trade and travel
- Established a tax system and conducted a census (50 M population)
- Selected officials through imperial examinations
- Ceramics, poetry, music, architecture, arts and religions all flourished

YouTube: China’s Most Honourable City (Ancient Xi’an)

The Song Dynasty

- Northern Song (960 - 1125)
- Southern Song (1127 - 1279)

- China’s “medieval economic revolution”
  - A time of remarkable advances in technology, culture, and economics
  - Agricultural technology, rice
  - Shipbuilding, steel production, glass making, and gunpowder
  - Book printing
  - …

The Song Dynasty

- Five-stringed Pipa
- Tri-color glaze
- Calligraphy of Emperor Taizong

Ancient City Wall in Xi’an
The Song Dynasty

- Shift of economic policy and foreign diplomacy
  - From a reliance on domestic trade and silk roads to a dependency on Pacific orientation
  - Rise of maritime trade in the southeast Asia → emergence of ports such as Guangzhou, Quanzhou, Xiamen, Fuzhou, and Hangzhou

- Yet, the boom in technology, innovation, and economy did not lead to long-term efforts at combining maritime trade with colonial expansion

The Yuan Dynasty, a part of the Mongol Empire
1279 A.D. - 1368 A.D.

- Foreign control of the south
- Government of occupation:
  - Language: Mongolian
  - Non-Chinese officials

“The Travels of Marco Polo”

He lived and serviced in China for 17 years

Ming Dynasty
1368 A.D. - 1644 A.D.

- Admiral Zheng He’s Seven Expeditions (1405-1430)

Admiral Zheng He’s Seven Expeditions (1405-1430)
Who Really Discovered America?

1421: the Year China Discovered America

Qing (Manchu) Dynasty (international trade)
1644 A.D. - 1911 A.D. Britain is the largest trader

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- The Republic era
- The Socialist era
- The Reform era

The Opium Wars
- 1st war between Britain and China (1839-42)
  - State-sponsored drug trade
  - 1842: Treaty of Nanjing
    - Hong Kong ceded to U.K.
    - Paid a huge war indemnity
- 2nd war: 1858-60
  - Trigger: “illegal” Chinese search of a British ship
  - Treaty of Tianjin (1858)
    - Opened more ports, including inland river ports
    - Allowed Christian missionary activities
    - Legalized the import of opium
    - 1859, occupied Beijing, burned the Old Summer Palace
    - Paid a huge war indemnity
- Similar privilege extended to other Western nations

The 1st Sino-Japanese (1894-1895)
- Politics within Korea and dispute over control of Korea
- Treaty of Shimonoseki
  - Korea became a Japanese protectorate
  - China ceded Taiwan, Liaodong peninsula to Japan
  - Opened more ports for factories
  - Paid a huge war indemnity
- Creation of Manchuria (the Northeast)
Re-cap: The Imperial Era

- Dynastic cycles
  - 3-century cycle
  - Periods of territorial expansion and political stability
- Cultural continuity
  - Civilization originated in Yellow River Valley
  - Expanded to south, center moved back and forth
- Significant contributions to world civilization
  - Chinese firsts: paper and printing, porcelain, silk, compass, gunpowder, ship design, wheelbarrow, discovery of blood circulation, distillation, bronze casting...
- Leader in civilization and technology for centuries, lagging behind recently
  - Internal problems such as corruption
  - Foreign invasions and exploitation of resources.

"The Dynasties Song"

- This "dynasties song," sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques,"
  - Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han
  - Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han
  - Sui, Tang, Song
  - Sui, Tang, Song
  - Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
  - Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
  - Mao Zedong
  - Mao Zedong
The Republic Era (1911-1949)

- Dr. Sun Yat-sen
- Founder of the Republic of China (1911), Nationalist Party, or Kuo ming tang (KMT)
- "Three Principles of the People"
  - 民族主義 People's Relation - Nationalism
  - 民權主義 People's Power - Democracy
  - 民生主義 People's livelihood - Socialism
- 1921, Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
- Helped the alliance between KMT and CCP
- Created Huangpu Military Academy near Guangzhou
- Sun died in 1925, leaving the power to Chiang Kai-shek (or Jiang Jieshi), who ended the alliance with the CCP
- 1934, CCP's Long March

Jiang Jieshi / Chiang Kai-shek

Alliance between CCP and KMT

“The Northern Expedition”
(Guangzhou → Shanghai)

The Republic Era (1911-1949)

- Invasion by Japan (1937-1944)
  - 2nd sino-Japanese War (WWII)
  - “Three-alls” policy (kill all, burn all, destroy all)
  - 35 million Chinese killed
  - The Nanjing Massacre
- “Rape of Nanjing” by Iris Chang

Mao Zedong

The Long March

October 1934

Map of China during the Long March

The Nanjing Massacre

Image depicting the Nanjing Massacre

Jiang Jieshi and Mao Zedong

Image showing Jiang Jieshi and Mao Zedong together
Beijing Soccer Fans Demonstrating against Japanese Team, 2004

Anti-Japan Protest in Shanghai, 2005

Chinese activists land on Diaoyu Island

U. S. Help

Propaganda played an important part of every country’s war effort. China was receiving relief from the United States through legal and illegal means before the war began.

This poster reminded Americans that China had been fighting the Japanese for ten years before Pearl Harbor.
### The Republic Era (1911-1949)
- Invasion of Japan (1937-1944)
  - 2nd sino-Japanese War (WWII)
  - "three-alls" policy (kill all, burn all, destroy all)
  - The Nanjing Massacre
  - 35 million Chinese killed
- Civil War between CCP and KMT
- KMT fled to Taiwan
- Oct 1st, 1949: Mao declared the rise of People’s Republic of China

### The Socialist Era (1949-78)
- Unity restored again
- Sever socioeconomic problems → socialist transformation
  - Capitalist private economy → Planned state economy (five-year plans)
  - Provide welfare benefits: housing, education, medical care, food, employment ...
- The concept of "socialism"
  - Utopian society with equality and prosperity
  - Brief popularity among people

### Group Discussion
- What would you do if you were the leader of the socialist China?

### United, we are undefeatable

### Working People as Masters
Loyalty

Post-revolutionary peasant art
People’s Communes

Chubby children and bumper harvests

The fish and the boy are big and fat
The harvest is bountiful

Celebration of Chairman Mao’s Longevity
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Literacy program

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Promote physical education in countryside

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"Barefoot" Doctors in Countryside

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The Socialist Era (1949-78)

- Socialist transformation
  - Significant improvement in every aspect of the society

- The Great Leap Forward (1958)
  - "Exceed U.S. and U.K."

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The Socialist Era (1949-78)

- The Great Leap Forward (1958-1960)
  - Created People's Commune
  - Increased production of steel and agricultural output ("backyard furnaces", "satellite field")
  - (coupled with bad weather)
    Disastrous results: massive starvation

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Figure 3.2: Female education levels. Notes and source: See Fig. 3.1.
The Socialist Era (1949-78)
- Socialist transformation & recovery
- The Great Leap Forward (1958-1960)
- Readjustment and Recovery (1961-1965)
- The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)
  - "Red Guards": challenge the status quo, destroy the "old"
  - "Up to the mountains and down to the villages" (the "sent-down" movement)

Go to the countryside, be educated by peasants

Encourage Rebellion

The Socialist Era (1949-78)
- The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)
  - "Red Guards"
  - "Up to the mountains and down to the villages" (the "sent-down" movement)
  - Emphasized on "redness" and class struggle, instead of experts and economic development
  - Stagnant economy
  - A lost, uneducated generation

The Reform Era (1978-)
- Transition back to "capitalism"
  - "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" (Deng 1978-1989); Jiang (1989-2002); Hu (2002-)
- Goals: four modernizations (by Deng)
  - Agriculture, industry, defense, science and technology
- Emphasize economic development
  - "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice."
  - "Poverty is not socialism. To be rich is glorious."
Deng Xiaoping – the architect of economic reform; a pragmatist

"The Dynasties Song"
- This "dynasties song," sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques,"
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  - Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
  - Mao Zedong

The Reform Era (1978-)
- Transition back to "capitalism"
- Goals: four modernizations (by Deng)
  - Rural reform: Household Responsibility System
  - Urban reform: privatization
  - Open-door policy
- Phenomenal economic growth vs. New concerns and challenges

Summary
- The Neolithic China
- The Imperial era
  - dynastic cycles
  - China's contribution to the world
  - Foreign invasion and unfair trade
- The Republic era
  - Sun, Yat-sen
  - Japanese invasion and WWII,
  - Civil war between CCP and KMT
- The Socialist era
  - Socialist transformation
  - Great Leap Forward
  - Cultural Revolution
- The Reform era

post-1978 propaganda posters