



Boston University Study Abroad
London

Social Change & Modernization: Russia and China
CGS SS 201
Fall 2014

Instructor Information

A. Name Dr. Jason Tomes

Course Objectives

The course centres on two case studies in rapid modernization, Russia and China, both of which experienced revolutions inspired by Marxist ideas that had a profound effect on a significant part of the world's population. Russia and the Soviet Union are considered as an example of dramatic economic and social change, attention being paid to the way in which Marxist theories were translated into practise. This serves as the basis for a comparison with the problems of modernization in contemporary China. The roots of industrialism, the culture of non-Western peoples as it affects their responses to it, and the complexities of social change combine to illuminate the problems facing the modern world

Studying these revolutions will provide data and concepts with which we can test some important ideas. Why do revolutions occur? What social, political and economic factors prepare this ground for revolution? Do revolutionaries seize power in order to turn their dreams and desires into reality? Is it true that revolutions, which start with lofty aims, inevitably degenerate into caricatures of their original intent? Is it possible to export revolutions from one country to another?

Perhaps the primary reason we study the Russian and Chinese revolutions is to understand the contemporary world in light of the major changes that occurred in the twentieth century. As a result of these changes, three different "worlds" emerged, each with its own internal dynamics, values, sources of inspiration, and political and social organizations.

Last semester you studied the first of the three worlds. The First World refers to the cluster of nations in Western Europe and North America whose culture and heritage evolved, through several centuries, from feudal society into capitalist economies and democratic political institutions. These developments within the First World, punctuated at times by revolutionary outbursts and social strife, gradually replaced political and social institutions that were not compatible with bourgeois capitalism with new institutions that were. While each First World nation has followed a distinct historical path, all share the institution of private property and the belief that individual decisions provide an effective basis for organizing a society. Social stratification based on wealth differences is accepted, even encouraged under this system.

If the First World can conveniently be labelled capitalistic, the Second World, which once consisted of the Soviet Union and the nations of Eastern Europe, could be viewed as an example of state socialism. The countries of this region remained traditional societies longer than those of the First World. Imperial Russia, for example, had a form of serfdom which persisted well into the nineteenth century and was only abandoned at the time of the American Civil War. The most serious problems of the Second World have resulted from its perceived backwardness in relation to the First World. This backwardness persisted, despite the efforts of

all Russia's leaders, from tsars to commissars, to overcome it. In contrast to the gradual transition of the First World, Russia experienced only a short capitalist phase before jumping into quasi-socialism. This rapid transformation short-circuited the process of capitalist development and resulted in a new type of social system. What, if any, were the benefits of such a society, and what were its costs? Why did the system established by Lenin and brought to a level of brutal perfection by Stalin collapse between 1985 and 1991 despite Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts to reform it? Finally, where is Russia headed in its post-Soviet era?

Third World countries today are also attempting to develop economically and technologically. However, Western Imperialism and Colonialism are among the factors which separate their experience from that of the other two worlds. Our course will approach the Third World in terms of China. China is one of the world's oldest civilizations, with a history as rich as that of Europe. Yet the impact of the industrializing West disrupted and altered Chinese civilization. Modern Europe's commercial interests were too strong and its armies too well equipped for the Chinese to keep up their resistance. The West brought not only trade to China, but also alien ideas and institutions, such as capitalism, Christianity and nationalism. Each of these proved corrosive to Chinese civilization, and we need to comprehend both the pride the Chinese took in the formidable achievements of their civilization and the humiliation they suffered at the hands of the West.

As we finish the fall semester we shall have studied the three worlds which characterized the 20th century. It will remain our task in the spring semester to trace how the United States, as the First World economic and military colossus, reacted to the Marxist revolutions in Russia and China. This will enable us to study the impact of communist revolutions on America's foreign policy and how that reaction shaped the post-war role played by the United States.

Readings

Essential:

M. Kort, *The Soviet Colossus: History and Aftermath*

Norman Lowe, *Mastering Twentieth Century Russian History* (2002)

J. Grasso, J. Corrin, M. Kort, *Modernization & Revolution in China*

Edwin E. Moise, *Modern China: A History*, 2nd ed. (1994) or 3rd ed. (2008)

Recommended:

Robert Service, *A History of Modern Russia* (2003)

Geoffrey Hosking, *A History of the Soviet Union* (1992)

Jack Gray, *Rebellions and Revolutions: China from the 1800s to 2000* (2002)

Jonathan Fenby, *The Penguin History of Modern China: The Fall and Rise of a Great Power* (2009)

Some of the following media sources should be consulted to learn about contemporary issues with respect to the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Major Daily Newspapers

New York Times, Times (London)

Guardian, Independent

Additional reading may be found on Blackboard: <https://lms.bu.edu>

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: <http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

** Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

Grading Breakdown

Short examination, 1 hour, Russia, Thursday 30th October	20%
Essay, 1200 words, China, Thursday 27th November	20%
Final examination, 2 hours, Russia and China, Thursday 4th December	40%
Contributions to class discussion:	20%

Attendance Policy

Classes

All Boston University Study Abroad London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorized Absence Approval Form with the required doctor's note as soon as possible).

Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness, supported by a local London doctor's note (submitted with Authorized Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

Unauthorised Absence:

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Schedule of Classes and Reading Assignments

Part I: RUSSIA

Tuesday 14th October 2 p.m.

Traditional Russia

Reading: Kort, *Soviet Colossus*, chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lowe, *Mastering Twentieth Century Russian History*, 2.1 & 2.2

For an excellent depiction of the lifestyle of the majority of Russians in the 1890s, see also the short story *Peasants* by Anton Chekhov: <http://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/ac/jr/185.htm>

Key terms:

Romanov Dynasty
Alexander II
Alexander III
Nicholas II
Emancipation of the Serfs
Redemption Payments
Mir
Kulak
Duma
Intelligentsia
Slavophiles
People's Will

Thursday 16th October 1 p.m.

Marxism & Tsarist Reforms

Reading: Kort, chs. 6, 7, 8
Lowe, 2.3-2.7

Key terms:

Lenin (Vladimir I. Ulyanov)
Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs)
Russian Social Democratic Party
Leon Trotsky
Mensheviks (Minority)
Bolsheviks (Majority)
Julius Martov
Georgy Plekhanov
Constitutional Democrats (Kadets)
Peter Stolypin
Father Gapon
St Petersburg Soviet

Tuesday 21st October 2 p.m.

Film, *Nicholas and Alexandra*

Thursday 23rd October 1 p.m.

Revolutionary Russia

Reading: Kort, pp91-101, 109-126, 130-136, 137 (line 9)-152, 158-159, 162-171
Lowe, 3.2, 4.1-4.3, 5.1-5.6, 5.10

Key terms:

April Theses
Alexander Kerensky
Central Committee
Decree on land
Cheka
War communism
Whites *versus* Reds
Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
Red Terror
Kronstadt Revolt
New Economic Policy (NEP)

Tuesday 28th October 2 p.m.

Stalinism

Reading: Kort, pp175-180, 186-192, 196-258, 261-263, 278 (line 23)-280
Lowe, 6.2-6.6, 7.3, 7.5

Key terms:

Joseph Stalin (Dzhugashvili)
'Socialism in One Country'
Five Year Plans
Collectivization
Purges
Stakhanovite
Sergei Kirov
Totalitarianism
GULAG

Thursday 30th October 1 p.m.

Khrushchev to Chernenko: Reform to Stagnation

Reading: Kort, pp283-320, 324-329, 340-359
Lowe, chs. 8, 9

Key terms:

Nikita Khrushchev
De-Stalinization
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
Nomenklatura
KGB
Leonid Brezhnev
Yuri Andropov
Samizdat
Konstantin Chernenko

SHORT EXAMINATION ON RUSSIA (1 hour)

Tuesday 4th November 2 p.m.

Gorbachev and the Fall of the USSR

Reading: Kort, ch. 18
Lowe, ch. 10

Key terms:

Mikhail Gorbachev
Perestroika
Glasnost
Nationalities problem
Civil society
Chernobyl
August Coup

Thursday 6th November 1 p.m.

Post-Soviet Russia

Reading: Kort, chs. 19, 20
Lowe, ch.11

Key terms:

Boris Yeltsin
Commonwealth of Independent States
'Shock therapy'
Oligarchs
Gazprom
Chechen Wars
Vladimir Putin
Dmitri Medvedev

Part II: China

Tuesday 11th November 2 p.m.

Traditional China & Western Impact

Reading: Grasso, Corrin, & Kort, *Modernization and Revolution in China*, chs. 1-3
Moise, *Modern China: A History*, pp1-42

Key terms:

Confucius
Mandate of Heaven
Qing (Manchu) dynasty (1644–1911)
Extraterritoriality
Opium Wars 1839–42 & 1856–60
Compradores
Taiping Rebellion (1850 – 1864)
Self-strengthening movement
Sino-Japanese War (1894–95)
Hundred Days Reform (1898)
Kang Youwei
Dowager Empress Cixi
Boxer Rebellion (1900)

Thursday 13th November 1 p.m.

Nationalism and Revolution

Reading: Grasso, Corrin, & Kort, ch.4
Moise, pp42-69

Key terms:

Sun Yatsen
The Three Principles
1911 Revolution (10th October 1911)
Guomindang (GMD)
Yuan Shikai
Second Revolution (1913)
Warlords
Twenty-One Demands (1915)
May 4th Movement (1919)
Chen Duxiu
Li Dazhao
First United Front (1923–1927)
Northern Expedition

Tuesday 18th November 2 p.m.

Guomindang versus Communists

Reading: Grasso, Corrin, & Kort, chs. 5 & 6
Moise, pp67-113 (3rd ed., pp69-121)

Key terms:

Chiang Kaishek
Soong Meiling
New Life Movement
White Terror
Manchukuo
Mao Zedong
Twenty-Eight Bolsheviks (1931–35)
Long March (1934–35)
Xian Incident (1936)
Second United Front (1937–45)
Marshall Mission

WRITING ASSIGNMENT (1,200 words) to be completed by 28 November.

Thursday 20th November 1 p.m.

The Socialist Transformation

Reading: Grasso, Corrin, & Kort, chs. 7 & 8
Moise, pp114-155 (3rd ed., chs. 6 & 7)

Key terms:

Thought reform
New Democracy
First Five-Year Plan (1952– 57)
Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives (APCs)
Hundred Flowers Campaign (1957)
The Great Leap Forward (1958 – 1959)
People's Communes
Liu Shaoqi
Red v. Expert debate

Tuesday 25th November 2 p.m.

The Cultural Revolution

Reading: Grasso, Corrin, & Kort, ch. 9
Moise, ch. 8

For a sample of Cultural Revolution rhetoric, see also 'How the Red Guards' Battle Song was Born,' *China Reconstructs* (1968): http://www.morningsun.org/smash/cr_3_1968.html

Key terms:

Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
Red Guards
Lin Biao
Little Red Book
Capitalist roaders
Jiang Qing
Gang of Four
Cult of Mao
Lost generation

Thursday 27th November 1 p.m.

Film: *To Live* (1994)

Hand in writing assignment on China.

Tuesday 2nd December 2 p.m.

The 'Deng Revolution'

Reading: Grasso, Corrin, & Kort, ch. 10, 11, 12
Moise, chs. 9, 10 (3rd ed., chs. 9, 10, 11)

Key terms:

Deng Xiaoping

One child families

Special Economic Zones

Four Modernizations

Fifth Modernization

Tiananmen massacre

Jiang Zemin

Hu Jintao

Xi Jinping

Thursday 4th December 1 p.m.: RUSSIA AND CHINA

FINAL EXAMINATION (2 hours)

* * * * *

Russia chronology

1825	Decembrist Revolt
1825 – 1855	Tsar Nicholas I
1853 – 1856	Crimean War
1855 – 1881	Tsar Alexander II
1861	Emancipation of the serfs
1863 – 1864	Reforms of law, education, and local government
1870	Birth of V.I. Ulyanov (Lenin)
1874 – 1875	“Going to the People”
1881	Alexander II assassinated
1881 – 1894	Tsar Alexander III
1881	“Statute Concerning Measures for the Protection of State Security and Social Order”
1887	Lenin’s brother executed
1892 – 1903	Sergei Witte’s program for Development of Industry, Transportation, and Commerce
1894 – 1917	Tsar Nicholas II
1898	Founding of Marxist R.S.D.L.P. (Russian Social Democratic Labor Party)
1902	Founding of Socialist Revolutionary Party (SR)
1903	R.S.D.L.P. splits into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks
1904 – 1905	Russo-Japanese War; Bloody Sunday: general strike, October Manifesto
1906	First Duma
1911	Peter Stolypin assassinated; massacre in Lena gold fields
1914 – 1918	Russia involved in First World War
1916	Gregory Rasputin murdered
1917	March: bread lines in Petrograd, rioting, Tsar abdicates Petrograd Soviet formed, Order No.1, Provisional Government formed. April: Lenin returns from exile, April theses May: Trotsky returns July: July uprising, many Bolsheviks arrested, Kerensky becomes premier August: General Kornilov’s coup November: Bolshevik Revolution December: Armistice negotiations begin with Germany
1918	January: Constituent Assembly meets and is dispersed March: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk June: Industry nationalized, War Communism Civil War begins
1919	Comintern founded (Third International)
1920	Allied forces withdraw from Russia; Civil War ends
1921	Kronstadt Revolt; NEP begins
1922	Stalin becomes secretary-general; USSR formed
1924	Lenin dies; Industrialization Debate begins
1926	Trotsky, Kamenev, and Zinoviev ousted from Politburo
1928	First Five Year Plan
1930	Stalin’s “Dizzy with Success”
1932 – 1933	Famine
1934	Kirov assassinated: Great Purge launched
1936	First Moscow trials: Zinoviev & Kamenev convicted and executed
1937 – 1938	Mass arrests and executions; Bukharin executed
1940	Trotsky assassinated in Mexico
1941 - 1945	‘The Great Patriotic War’
1953	Stalin dies

1956	Nikita Khrushchev's secret speech: De-Stalinization
1964 – 1979	Brezhnev and Kosygin era ; détente with West
1982	Brezhnev dies; succeeded by Yuri Andropov
1984	Andropov dies; succeeded by Konstantin Chernenko
1985	Chernenko dies; succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev
1989	Collapse of Communism in eastern Europe
1991	Failed coup against Gorbachev; USSR collapses and is replaced by fifteen independent countries
1999	Vladimir Putin succeeds Boris Yeltsin as President of the Russian Federation
2008	Dmitri Medvedev becomes President of Russia
2012	Putin returns to the Presidency

China Chronology

1644	Manchus establish Qing dynasty of emperors
1793	First British trade delegation to China (Macartney Mission)
1794	White Lotus Rebellion begins
1838 – 1842	Opium War between Britain and China
1842	Treaty of Nanjing establishes treaty ports
1850 – 1864	Taiping Rebellion
1856 – 1860	Second Opium War or <i>Arrow War</i>
1861 – 1875	The Tongzhi Restoration
1872	First Chinese students go abroad
1890	First modern textile factory in China
1894 – 1895	Sino-Japanese War
1895 – 1899	Western 'scramble for concessions'
1898	The Hundred Days Reform
1900	The Boxer Rebellion
1905	Sun Yatsen founds the Tongmenhui (Alliance Society)
1908	Pledge to establish constitutional government within nine years
1911	Revolution overthrows the Qing dynasty
1912	Republic of China founded, with Sun Yatsen as President, then Yuan Shikai; Tongmenhui renamed Guomindang (GMD)
1913	'Second Revolution' fails to oust Yuan Shikai
1915	Japan presents Twenty-One Demands to China
1916	Yuan dies; period of warlordism begins
1917	Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
1919	May 4th Movement
1921	GMD revived; Chinese Communist Party (CCP) founded
1923	GMD-Bolshevik collaboration begins
1925	Sun Yatsen dies
1926 – 1928	Chiang Kaishek leads GMD's Northern Expedition to unify China
1927	White Terror: GMD crushes CCP in cities; Mao Zedong leads peasant rebellion in Hunan
1930	GMD begins campaign against CCP in south China
1931	Japan invades Manchuria
1934	GMD offensive forces CCP to begin the Long March
1935	Long March ends; Mao becomes undisputed leader of CCP
1936	Xian incident
1937 – 1945	'The War of Resistance against Japan'
1941	USA enters World War II
1946	Civil War resumes between GMD and CCP
1949	GMD flees to Taiwan; CCP establishes the People's Republic of China (PRC)
1950	USSR-PRC Friendship Pact; PRC conquers Tibet
1950 – 1953	Korean War
1952	Land reform completed
1953 – 1957	First Five-Year Plan
1954	US-Taiwan (GMD) defence pact

1957	The 'Hundred Flowers' campaign
1958	'The Great Leap Forward'; People's Communes established
1960	Soviet technicians leave China
1961	Reversal of 'Great Leap' led by Li Shaoqi
1963	Start of public hostility between USSR and PRC
1966	Cultural Revolution begins
1972	US President Nixon visits China
1976	Death of Mao Zedong
1978	USA recognises PRC
1979	Deng Xiaoping visits USA; Democracy Wall movement; Wei Jingsheng imprisoned
1981	Gang of Four convicted
1983	Liberalization of agricultural production
1984	CCP moves away from Soviet model of centralised economic planning
1986	Start of pro-democracy movement
1987	Zhao Ziyang continues Deng's model for development
1989	Tiananmen Square Massacre
1993	Jiang Zemin assumes leadership
1997	Hong Kong becomes part of PRC
2001	China joins the World Trade Organisation
2002	Hu Jintao assumes leadership
2008	Beijing Olympics
2012	Xi Jinping assumes leadership