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

**Recommended:**

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](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](http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester)
*Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

**Grading Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short examination, 1 hour, Russia, Thursday 30th October</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay, 1200 words, China, Thursday 27th November</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination, 2 hours, Russia and China, Thursday 4th December</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to class discussion:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Authorised 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 Authorised 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.

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**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

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**Tuesday 25th November 2 p.m.**  
**The Cultural Revolution**

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


**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)

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## Russia chronology

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1644</td>
<td>Manchus establish Qing dynasty of emperors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>First British trade delegation to China (Macartney Mission)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>White Lotus Rebellion begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838 – 1842</td>
<td>Opium War between Britain and China</td>
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<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>Treaty of Nanjing establishes treaty ports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850 – 1864</td>
<td>Taiping Rebellion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856 – 1860</td>
<td>Second Opium War or Arrow War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861 – 1875</td>
<td>The Tongzhi Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>First Chinese students go abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>First modern textile factory in China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894 – 1895</td>
<td>Sino-Japanese War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895 – 1899</td>
<td>Western ‘scramble for concessions’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>The Hundred Days Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>The Boxer Rebellion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Sun Yatsen founds the Tongmenhui (Alliance Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Pledge to establish constitutional government within nine years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Revolution overthrows the Qing dynasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Republic of China founded, with Sun Yatsen as President, then Yuan Shikai; Tongmenhui renamed Guomindang (GMD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>‘Second Revolution’ fails to oust Yuan Shikai</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Japan presents Twenty-One Demands to China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Yuan dies; period of warlordism begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Bolshevik Revolution in Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>May 4th Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>GMD revived; Chinese Communist Party (CCP) founded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>GMD-Bolshevik collaboration begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Sun Yatsen dies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926 – 1928</td>
<td>Chiang Kaishek leads GMD’s Northern Expedition to unify China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>White Terror: GMD crushes CCP in cities; Mao Zedong leads peasant rebellion in Hunan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>GMD begins campaign against CCP in south China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Japan invades Manchuria</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>GMD offensive forces CCP to begin the Long March</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Long March ends; Mao becomes undisputed leader of CCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Xian incident</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937 – 1945</td>
<td>‘The War of Resistance against Japan’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>USA enters World War II</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Civil War resumes between GMD and CCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>GMD flees to Taiwan; CCP establishes the People’s Republic of China (PRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>USSR-PRC Friendship Pact; PRC conquers Tibet</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950 – 1953</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Land reform completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953 – 1957</td>
<td>First Five-Year Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>US-Taiwan (GMD) defence pact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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