Making Modern China
Pre-Revolutionary China

- China had been ruled by a series of dynasties for over 2000 years
  - Sometime foreign dynasties
- Immediately preceding the Revolution Ruled by Emperor P’u Yi
  - Only 3 years old when he took reign in 1908
  - Member of Qing dynasty
  - Highly privileged life
  - Last Emperor of China
Problems with Pre-Revolutionary China

• Extensive foreign control
• Loss of Wars
  • Opium Wars
  • Sino-Japanese Wars
• Governmental Problems
  • Attempts for liberal reforms
  • Push for a republic
    • Lead by Sun Yat-sen
Nationalist Revolution

• Jan 1st, 1911 Parliamentary republic formed
  • Sun Yat-Sen elected provisional president
  • Royal family formally abdicates in 1912
  • Republic not fully formed until 1928
World War I

• Japanese (allies) invade German holdings in eastern China
  • Japan laid claim to large portion of China
  • Anti-Japanese riots all over country
    • May 4th, 1919 massive riot in Peking
    • Long history of Anti-Japanese sentiments in China
      • Especially after World War II
Post World War I

• China re-unified and government re-established in 1928

• Government led by Kuomintang
  • Elected Chang Kai-Shek
    • Anti-Modernization
    • Pro Confucius
    • Still considered to be an important revolutionary leader in China
Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

• Established in 1921
  • With help of Russian advisors

• Attempting to establish communist state
  • Emphasis on farmers instead of workers
    • Led to split between Chinese and Russian Communists
  • Highly organized leadership
    • Much of which would later be purged
Chinese Civil War

• Openly warred against KMT
  • 1927-1937 & 1945-1949
    • KMT winning from 1927 to 1937
    • CCP won 1945-1949
      • KMT no longer with western support

• Communists led by Mao Tse-Tung
  • Became first leader of PRC
  • KMT flee to Taiwan
Principles of Maoism

• Maoism – form of communism that believed in the strength of the peasant
  • Key Values:
    • Collectivism
    • Struggle and Activism
    • Egalitarianism
    • Self-Reliance
    • Mass Line: leaders would communicate their will/direction to people, but people would communicate through mass line their wisdoms to leaders
Maoist Reforms

• **The Soviet Model (1949-1957):**
  • Land Reform
    • Redistributed property from rich to poor and increased productivity in countryside
  • Civil Reform
    • Free people from Opium addiction
    • Enhanced women’s legal rights
  • Five-Year Plans
    • Nationalized industry
    • Collectivized agriculture
    • Private property eliminated
Maoism in Practice

- The Great Leap Forward (1958-1966)
  - Wanted to free China from Soviet domination
  - Utopian effort to transform China into a radical egalitarian society
  - Reorganizes China into communes that would serve all basic social and economic functions
    - (all around development – equal emphasis on industry AND agriculture)
  - Mass Mobilization (turn #s into asset)
    - Red vs. Expert
    - Failure - Famine

- The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)
  - Goal – remove all vestiges of “old” China and its inequality
    - Scholars sent to fields to work
    - Universities/libraries destroyed
    - Emphasis on elementary education only
  - Student radicals (Red Guard) lead a purging of “class enemies”
  - 1976: Mao dies leaving followers divided into factions
    - Moderates win and arrest radicals
Reforming China

• 1979: **Deng Xiaoping** takes control of the Communist Party

• Four Modernizations
  • industry, agriculture, science & military

• Open Door Trade policy

• Reforms in Education

• Restored legal system/bureaucracy of Old China
New Policies

- **Socialist Market Economy**
- **Household Responsibility System**
  - Replaced communes
  - After paying taxes/contract fees to govt, families may consume/sell what they produce
- **More Economic Liberalization**
  - **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**
    - Promote foreign investment
  - Township and Village Enterprises (TVEs)

- **Economic Success:**
  - Fastest-growing major economy in the world for more than two decades
  - GDP per capita grew at avg rate of a little over 9% per year from 1990-2009

- **Economic Problems:**
  - No more “iron rice bowl” – cradle to grave benefits
  - Unemployment
  - Inequality
  - **Floating Population** – urban migration & issues with hukou (household registration)
Modern Chinese Politics

• After Deng dies, rise of technocrats
  • Career-minded bureaucrats who administer public policy according to technical rather than a political rationale

• Professional competence & political loyalty
  • Jiang Zemin (1993-2003)
  • Hu Jintao (2003-2013)
  • Xi Jinping (2013 - ?)
    • All had university training in engineering
    • All were “groomed” by top leaders to move up in ranks