HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE PEOPLES’ REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Course Description: A two-part course on contemporary China. Part I surveys the history of the PRC (1949-1997). Part II offers a three-part analysis of China’s political economy, with special attention to 1) Politics, government, Foreign relations, and national security; 2) Economic reform and modernization; and 3) Current issues and thoughts about the future prospects of China.

Lecture Schedule

An introduction to the course, relative to the major historical themes, issues, personalities, and interpretations advanced.

Week 2: 9-30-2020  The Enigma of Maoist leadership and thinking
Chairman Mao: The Man, his life, leadership and thinking

Week 3: 10-7-2020  The later Maoist Era, 1960-1978
The aftermath of the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the legacy of Chairman Mao

Discussion of the man, his times, and his agenda for China’s Modernization

Week 5: 10-21-2020  The Mechanics of Deng’s Reforms and China’s Modernization
Discussion of the material components of Deng’s ambitious agenda

Week 6: 10-28-2020  The Chinese Political Economy, Part I, Political Change via
A series of new leaders and new agendas
The new (post Deng) Communist regime, its ideology, communist party apparatus, leadership issues, the political system and governance at local, provincial, and national levels, foreign policy, international relations, and national security issues

Week 7: 11-4-2020  The Chinese Political Economy, Part II: Economic Reform and China’s Modernization
Chinese economic reform and modernization (commerce, trade, Banking, industry, law, technology, engineering, communications,
Transportation, urban development, the environment, Media, foreign/overseas investment, aide, and competition. Changes in contemporary Chinese society and culture

(THERE IS NO CLASS ON Wednesday 11-11-2020)

Week 8: 11-18-2020  The Chinese Political Economy, Part III: Major Current Issues and some perspectives about the future of China

PRC History and Political Economy: A select bibliography

General historical narratives

Readable accounts of contemporary Chinese society in transition
1. China Alive in the Bitter Sea
By Fox Butterfield (1982)
2. Riding the Iron Rooster, by train through China
By Paul Theroux (1988)
3. Discos and Democracy, China in the Throes of Reform
By Orville Schell (1988)
4. China Awakes, The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power
By Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn (1994)

Specialized historical studies in Communist Chinese History
By Frank Dikotter (2010)
2. China’s Second Revolution, Reform After Mao
By Harry Harding (1987)
3. One Step Ahead in China, Guangdong Under Reform
By Ezra F. Vogel (1989)
4. Behind the Tiananmen Massacre, Social, Political, and Economic Ferment in China
By Chu-yuan Cheng (1990)
5. Chinese Democracy
By Andrew J. Nathan (1985)

Biographies of key Chinese Communist historical figures
1. The Unknown Story of Mao
By Jung Chang and Jon Halliday (2005)
2. The Private Life of Chairman Mao
By Dr. Li Zhisui with Anne F. Thurston (1994)
3. Zhou Enlai, the Last Perfect Revolutionary
By Cao Wenqian 2007)
4. **Deng Xiaoping* (A very short biography)  
   By Uli Franz (1988)

5. **Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China* (a very long biography)  
   By Ezra F. Vogel (2011)

6. **Prisoner of the State, The Secret Journal of Zhao Ziyang**  
   Translated and edited by Bao Pu, Renee Chiang, and Adi Ignatius (2009)

7. **Tiger on the Brink, Jiang Zemin and China’s New Elite**  
   By Bruce Gilley (1998)

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**The Contemporary Chinese Communist Regime**

1. **How China is Ruled**  
   By Alan P. Liu (1986)

2. **The Party, The Secret World of China’s Communist Leaders**  

3. **China’s Leaders, The New Generation**  
   By Cheng Li (2001)

4. **The Perfect Dictatorship, China in the 21st Century**  
   By Stein Ringen (2016)

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**Books on China’s changing technology, environment, demography, and culture**

1. **China Dawn, Culture and Conflict in China’s Business Revolution (The Internet)**  
   By David Sheff (2002)

2. **The Retreat of Elephants, An Environmental History of China**  
   By Mark Elvin (2004)

3. **By All Means Necessary, How China’s Resource Quest is Changing the World**  
   By Elizabeth C. Economy and Michael Levi (2014)

4. **Bare Branches, The Security Implications of Asia’s Surplus Male Population**  
   By Valerie M. Hudson and Andrea M. den Boer (2004)

5. **The Living Tree, The Changing Meaning of Being Chinese**  
   By Tu Wei-ming (1991)

6. **China’s New Confucianism, Politics and Everyday Life in a Changing Society**  
   By Daniel A. Bell (2008)

7. **Economics of Planning Policies in China: Infrastructure, Location and Cities (Regions and Cities)**  
   By wen-jie Wu (2017)

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**The Changing nature of China’s place in the World Today**

1. **China Inc., How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World**  
   By Ted C. Fishman (2005)

2. **China: The Balance Sheet, What the World Needs to Know about the Emerging Superpower**  

3. **Power and Restraint, A Shared Vision for the U.S.–China Relationship**  
   edited by Richard Rosecrance and Gu Guoliang (2009)

4. **When China Rules the World, The End of The Western World and The Birth of A New Global Order**  
   By Martin Jacques (2009)
5. **U.S. –China Relations, Perilous Past, Pragmatic Present**  
   By Robert G. Sutter (2010)  
   **China Goes Global, The Partial Power**, By David Shambaugh (2013)  
6. **China’s Silent Army, The Pioneers, Traders, Fixers and Workers Who are Remaking the World in Beijing’s Image**,  
   By Juan Pablo Cardenal and Heriberto Araujo (2013)  
7. **Dealing with China, An Insider Unmasks the New Economic Superpower**  
   By Henry M. Paulson Jr (former U.S. Treasury Secretary) (2015)  
8. **Destined for War, Can America and China Escape Thucydides’ Trap?**  
   By Graham Allison (2017)  

**Select current topics and issues in China (Summer 2020)**  

1. **Inside the Mind of Xi Jinping**  
   By Francois Bougon (2018)  
   2. **CEO, China: The Rise of Xi Jinping**  
   By Kerry Brown (2017)  
   3. **Vigil: Hong Kong on the Brink** (Columbia Global Reports)  
   By Jeffrey Wasserstrom (2020)  
   4. **City on Fire, The Fight for Hong Kong**  
   By Antony Dapiran (2020)  
   5. **Umbrella Blossom: The Story of the Hong Kong Protests from 2014 to 2019**  
   By Erik Wennermark (2019)  
   6. **The War on the Uyghurs: China’s Internal Campaign against a Muslim Minority**  
   By Sean R. Roberts (2020) (Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics)  
   7. **When China Sneezes: From Coronavirus Lockdown to the Global POLITICO-Economic Crisis**  
   By Cynthia McKinney (2020)  
   8. **A Survey of China’s Artificial Intelligence Solutions in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic: 87 case studies**  
   By Synced Global, Robert Tian, et. Al (others) (2020)