POL 342
Politics in the Asia-Pacific

II. China
A. Historical and Cultural Background--Part 1

Politics and Government in the U.S.
• Popular rule (Elected Government)
• Separation of powers
• “Amateurism”
• High regime stability (protest movement not intended to overthrow the state)

U.S. Politics Historical Background
• Short-history
• Established in the modern period
• Wealth
• No experience of occupation by foreigners

U.S.: Ideological Background
• Classical liberalism (skepticism of the government)
• Populism
• Egalitarianism
• Secularism
### Politics and Government in Contemporary China
- Autocracy (non-elected government, Communist rule)
- Centralism (predominance of the central government)
- Technocracy (meritocracy, professionalism, elitism...)
- Potential instability (revolutions and insurgencies)

### Chinese Politics
#### Historical Background
- Long history--Shang (1700 B.C.-)
- Dynasties--Qing (1644-1911), etc.
- Late integration into the world economy-
  underdeveloped economy
- Foreign invasion--Mongorians, Manchus, Japanese, etc.

### Chinese Politics: Ideological background--Confucianism
- Conservative governing ideology--preservation of the order
- Hierarchy--non-egalitarianism, ideological mastery
- Correct conduct--social harmony
- Mandate of heaven: poor conduct by the ruler ==> dynasty change

### Historical and Cultural Background
#### US and China Compared
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Government</th>
<th>Chinese Government</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fragmented</td>
<td>Autocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less penetrating into society</td>
<td>Centralized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History-short history</td>
<td>More penetrating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture-Classical liberalism</td>
<td>History-long history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government developed</td>
<td>Government developed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confucianism</td>
<td>Confucianism</td>
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Politics in the Asia-Pacific

II. China
A. Historical and Cultural Background—Part 2
Transition to Communist Rule

Decline of the Qing Dynasty 1644-1911
• Opium War 1841-2
• Sino-Japanese War 1894-5
• Peasant uprising (with religious overtone)
• Military insurrections
• The government’s inability to cope with internal and external problems

China’s modernization in the 20th Century
• The Revolution of 1911
  – Sun-Yatsen (Nationalist Party)
  – Yuan Shikai (the Imperial Army)
• Warlord Period (1916-36)

Movement against Japan
• Japan’s intrusion into China
• The May Fourth Movement (1919)
  – Protest against Japan’s expansionism
  – Nationalistic student demonstrations
  – Growth movement for national unification
  – Mass mobilization
Nationalist Revolution

- Chinese Nationalist Party [Guomindang]
  - Founded by Sun Yatsen
  - Revolution led by Chiang Kai-shek
  - Nationalism--weak on domestic reform
- Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
  - Established in 1921 students, etc.
  - Internal struggle between urban (pro-Soviet Union) and rural activists

Communist’s ascention to power

- The Jianxi Soviet led by Mao Zedong
- Long March 1934-1935--Mao’s leadership
  - The Second United Front 1936-46
    - Xian agreement in 1931
- Defeat of Japan in 1945
- Civil War 1945-
- The People’s Republic of China in 1949

Transition to Communism 1

- Old System--Agrarian state
  - Central government--administrative and military elites
  - Landed upper class--control over peasants
- Inability to cope with external threat (West and Japan)
  - Central elites: fragmented, ill-equipped
  - Landed upper class: unwilling to cooperate
  - Mobilization would undermine ruling elites
- Disintegration of domestic political system==Civil war

Transition to Communism 2

- Peasant insurrection
  - Impoverishment, local community closure
  - Migrants
  - Incorporated into Communist strategy
- Elites with radical nationalist goals
  (modern-educated youth)
Post-revolution China

• Mao years: 1949-1976
  – Mao Zedong
  – Revolutionary movement

• Deng reform: 1976-1997
  – Deng Xiaoping
  – Pragmatic reform
  – Economic development

Mao Zedong Thought and Marxism

• Marxism, Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought
• Karl Marx and socialist thought
  – Class struggle: capitalists vs. workers
  – Egalitarianism
  – Economic development => the development of the working class
  – Socialist revolution: social transformation
    • Capitalism=>Socialism=>Communism

Orthodox Marxism

• Leninism
  – Communist Party: Vanguard Party
  – Workers
  – Internal discipline
  – Democratic centralism

  – Soviet Union
  – Development of bureaucracy

Mao Zedong Thought

• Emphasis on correct ideology
  – Ideological education/Little red book
• Voluntarism
  – Mobilization
• Self-reliance
Communist rule

- Soviet Style (Stalin)
  - Party bureaucracy
  - Hierarchy
  - Central planning
  - Detailed constant control

- Mao?
- Revolution and post-revolution state building
- Mao Years

Mao’s basic approaches

- Mass Line
  - Anti-Confucian notion
  - Learning from the people

- Campaigns
  - Changing social (economic) activities
  - Broad theme => concrete => coercive

- Struggle
  - Not harmony

- Egalitarianism

Map of China