Politics in East Asia

II China
B. Political Process
Part 1 Mao Years

Politics of Social Transformation

- Communist Revolution
  - Ideology for social change
  - Mao Zedong Thoughts
    - Mass line
    - Anti party establishment
  - Social transformation
    - Egalitarianism
    - Communist system

Politics of state building

- State (re-)building process
  - Pragmatism
  - Party/government bureaucracy building
  - Economic recovery/development
  - Social control
  - Liu Shaoqi, Deng Xiaoping, etc.

Politics of isolation

- Uneasy relations with the Soviet Union
- War against the U.S.
- Japan’s imperialist past
- Mao’s emphasis on autonomy

- Inward-looking social policy
- Intensified internal conflict
China and the Soviet Union
Development of Cooperation

- Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance (1950)
- The Soviet's provision of military assistance against Japan (and the U.S.)
- The Soviet's use of the Changchun railways
- The Soviet's five-year $300 million loan ==> China's First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957)
- The New Defense Technical Accord in 1957
- The Soviet's assistance to China in nuclear weaponry development

China and the Soviet Union
Divergence

- A. Nikita Khrushchev's doctrine of peaceful coexistence in the mid-1950s ==> Discouraged China to increase tension with the U.S. (Taiwan Policy)
- B. Cancellation of the 1957 agreement in 1959
- C. China's divergence from the Soviet development model—Centralized economic policymaking
- China's public criticism of Soviet Union as social imperialism in the early 60s

Domestic Policy:
The First Five-Year Plan
(1953-57)

- Rapid industrialization necessary
- The Stalinist strategy of centralized planning
- Heavy industry sector
- 58% of $20 billion investment to heavy industries (Soviet aid + domestic fund)
- 8% growth, education (engineering) and public health
- Problems: Limited Domestic fund
- Exploitation of agriculture
- High degree of centralization (top-down)
- Technocrats, engineers, and plant managers

The Great Leap Forward

- Mao's mass mobilization for economic development
- Traditional sector to increase its flow of food and raw materials to build up the industrial sector
- Reality
- Unrealistic expectations
- Lacked technical expertise
- Exaggerated production statistics
- Result
- Famine (Flood and drought in 1959)
- 30 million starved to death; Stalled industrial development
Cultural Revolution
General Background

- Failure of the Great Leap Forward
  - Party establishment's power (Liu Shaoqi)
  - Market-oriented approach
  - Mao's influence declined

- Mao's concern
  - Degeneration of Revolution
  - Revisionism
  - Bureaucratization
  - Corruption

Cultural Revolution
Actors

- Revolutionaries
  - Radical Intellectuals
    - The Cultural Revolution Group (CRG) within the Central Committee
    - Jian Qing (Mao's Wife), etc.
  - High School and College Students
    - Idealism against Elitism, Inequality, and Bureaucracy
    - Limited Upward Mobility
      - (Bourgeois and Intellectual Family Background)
  - Workers
  - Party Establishment
    - Zhou Enlai (Premier)
    - Liu Shaoqi (Chief of the State)
    - Deng Xiaoping (Party Secretary)
    - Cadres
    - Local Party/Government Officials

- People's Liberation Army (PLA)
  - Loyal to Mao
  - Lin Biao
  - Generally protected from Rebels' accusations

Cultural Revolution
General Characteristics

- Ideological Crusade
  - (Maoism, Ideological Purity)
- Power Struggle
- Purpose: Rectification of the Communist Party
  - (Abolition of Revisionism and Corruption)
- Method
  - Continuous Revolution
  - Mass Mobilization
  - Outside of the Party Establishment
Initial stage: student protest: 1965-
• Students Accusing Party Officials, School Teachers, etc., as Revisionists
• Big Character Wall Posters (Dazibao)
• Violent Demonstrations and Public Meetings
  Party establishment’s response
  • “Reeducation”
  • Sending Officials and Scholars to Rural Areas

The decline of party leadership: 1966
• Eleventh Plenum of the Central Committee in August 1966
  • Demotion of Liu Shaoqi (2nd to 8th)
  • Promotion of Lin Biao
  • The Formation of the Red Guards
• Collapse of Education System and Local Authority

Escalation of Conflict
• Civil war: radicals vs. conservatives
• Clash between radicals and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA)
• Mao concerned with national unity
• Use of the PLA to contain the movement
  – Increase of PLA influence => purge of Lin Biao
    (PLA leader loyal to Mao)
• Students sent down to rural areas

Consequence
• Victims (Half a million died.)
• Education deteriorated
• Party/Government officials purged
• Leadership weakened
• Participants: Lost Generation
  – Political Cynicism, Passivity, and Materialism