Pu Yi: The last emperor of China’s last imperial dynasty, the Qing Dynasty. Was forced to abdicate as a result of the Xinhai revolution.

Manchu Dynasty: A synonym for Qing dynasty. The Qing dynasty was in place from 1644-1912, with a brief failed attempt to seize power again in 1917, which lasted 12 days.

Chinese Communist Party: Founded in 1921 by Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao, and established as the ruling party of China in 1949, with Mao Zedong as head of state.

Guomindang: Chinese National People’s party. Led by Chiang Kai-shek beginning in 1927. Struggled against the Communist party at times, but in 1923, the two parties allied to form the First United front, which sent the National Revolutionary Army to fight warlordism.

Sun Yat-sen: A Nationalist who helped overthrow the Qing Dynasty and then was the first president of the Republic of China (pre-People’s Republic of China)

Three People’s Principles: A political philosophy developed by Sun Yat-sen intended to make China a free, wealthy powerful nation within the world. The Three Principles of which he spoke were nationalism, democracy, and the livelihood of the people.

First United Front: An alliance of the Communist Party and the nationalist (Kuomintang) party, which formed the National Revolutionary army, which sought to fight warlordism, but was a relatively unsustainable effort. In 1927, Chiang Kai-shek removed all Communists from the United Front while the Northern Front, (effort to rid China of warlordism and the Beijing-based government) was halfway through being completed. This led to civil war.


Mao Zedong: Chairman of the People’s Republic of China from its founding in 1945 until 1976. He helped found the Red Army during the Northern Front. His forces defeated the Nationalists.

Northern Expedition: A military expedition led by Chiang Kai-shek intended to unify China and take down the government of the Republic of China

Nanjing Decade: Between 1927-1937, after Chiang Kai-shek took Nanjing, in Eastern China out of the control of a warlord, and declared it to be the capital of China. In 1937, the Nanjing Decade came to a conclusion in the Second Sino-Japanese War.

Shanghai Massacre: A massive and violent purge of Communist officials, initiated by Chiang Kai-shek and the more conservative group of Kuomintang. This caused the Kuomintang to split into a left-wing and right-wing faction Chiang Kai-shek was the leader of the right-wingers, in Nanjing, and Wang Jingwei led the left-wingers in Wuhan.

Chinese Civil War: A war between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party, which began in 1927 with Chiang Kai-shek’s Northern Expedition, and ended with a government run by the Kuomintang in Taiwan, governing the Republic of China, and the Communist Party of China governing the People’s Republic of China. China was being led by two contesting governments, both claiming to be the legitimate government.

Eight Points of Attention: A set of guidelines for all of the military under Mao Zedong that required treating civilians well. This included such admonitions as “do not harass women,” “do not damage crops,” and “be polite when speaking.

Rape of Nanking: Japan marched into the capital city of Nanking, and murdered half of the people in the city.
**Jiangxi**: A Southeastern province of China, in which many peasants were recruited to the Communist party.

**Soviet Red Army**: The Communist army of the Soviet Union, who, during the Sino-Japanese war, created a pro-Soviet regime in Xinjiang

**Long March**: A 4,000 mile (more or less, depending on who you ask) march of the Chinese Communist Army, which led to their ultimate victory.

**Deng Xiaoping**: Mao Zedon’s successor, a party chairman. He had economic policy ideas different than those of Mao, but he masterfully employed doublethink to use Maoist values to justify his economic policy.

**Lin Biao**: Led the People’s Liberation Army in Beijing, and defeated the Kuomintang.

**Lin Shaoqi**: President of People’s Republic of China between 1959-1968. Mao wanted Lin to succeed him, but he was ultimately purged by Mao, and villainized as a traitor to the Revolution. He was rehabilitated posthumously.


**Manchukuo**: Also known as Manchuria. An area in the Northeast of China, and part of Mongolia, that was captured by Japan and run as a puppet state. At the end of World War II, China regained the territory.

**Second United Front**: alliance between Chinese Nationalist Party and Communist Party of China to resist Japanese invasion

**People’s Liberation Army**: Chinese Communist party armed forces

**Great Leap Forward**: 1958-1961, Mao’s plan to install communism and bring economic reform

**100 Flowers Campaign**: begun May 1956 lifting restrictions on intellectuals allowing greater free speech and thought

**First 5-Year Plan**: economic plan with emphasis on heavy industry while ignoring other economic sectors (agriculture, consumer goods…)

**Chinese Lysenkoism**: scientific idea that genes can be altered based on the environment

**“walking on two legs”**: policy to develop heavy industry and agriculture simultaneously; does not work due to China’s lack of capital

**rural people’s communes**: collectivization of collective farms into a larger working unit

**Red Flag**: red on China’s flag symbolic of communist revolution

**Chen Boda**: secretary to Mao, major contributor to cultural revolution

**Lushan Plenum**: July/August 1959, discussed Great Leap Forward. Mao purges Defense Minister Peng

**Eighth Plenum**: pro-cultural revolution plays organized by Jiang (madam Mao)

**Great Leap famine**: 1958-1962 caused by agricultural failure created by Great Leap Forward

**The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution**: 1966-1976, created by Mao to purge Capitalism

**Socialist Education Movement**: 1963-66 movement to remove reactionary elements (politics, economy, organization, ideology)

**Cadres**: public official holding a responsible or managerial position, usually full time, in party and government

**Ten-Year Catastrophe/The Lost Ten Years**: complete stop in education during cultural revolution

**Red Guards**: student paramilitary group mobilized by mao to spread cultural revolution
“Four Olds”: Old Customs, Culture, Habits, Ideas
Quotations from Chairman Mao: “little red book”, selected statements from Mao that the red guard always carried (and would attack others for not carrying)
“capitalist roaders”: people who were moving on a path towards capitalism (or driving China towards capitalism
The Red Detachment of Women: one of the “eight model operas” meant to instill revolutionary pride
Jiang Qing: actress, wife to Mao (Madam Mao), leader of Gang of Four
“barefoot doctors”: people in the countryside with basic medical training to serve as doctors in the country
Three-in-One Method: revolutionary power structure that contained leaders to represent the three main groups of people: the broad masses, representatives of local PLA units, and revolutionary leading cadres
Eight Model Plays: Revolutionary operas engineered by Jiang to progress the cultural revolution
Mao Yuanxin: this young ’un was Mao’s liason to the Central Committee when he was dying and stuff. A hardliner who was allied with the Gang of Four, also Mao’s nephew.
“right opportunism”: a term used to describe opposition to the communist party line, used to threaten anyone who supported liberalizing the economy or politics.
Rehabilitation: basically the party’s way of apologizing, people who had been purged were allowed back into politics after having “relearned” the correct ways
The People’s Daily: Official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party
Cult of Mao: intense love for Chairman Mao, the Red Sun of our Hearts, Heir to the Sun and the Moon, etc. Mao sustained it by not appearing in public often, and used the power it gave him to influence politics since the people loved him.
Lei Feng: A Chinese soldier who had died, his diary and life were used as example of the ideal communist, he was also rly good at throwing grenades so all the kids had to practice that.
“speak bitterness meetings”: large meetings where the villagers/ proleteriate of a region would diss all the bourgeois pigs. Landowners would get beaten, yelled at, and verbally abused.
“bitterness meal”: a nasty meal made of herbs that was supposed to represent what people ate before communism in China. It was fed to school children every so often.
“Great Helmsman”: A term for Mao.
Gang of Four: Jiang Qing (Madam Mao), Wang Hongwen, Zhang Chunqiao, Yao Wenyuan. Hard line leftists who had control over the Cultural Revolution Committee and censorship in media. They attempted to continue the Cultural Revolution and seize more power but failed because they didnt have military or governmental backing.
571 Project: an alleged attempt by Lin Biao to kill Mao Zedong, probably actually planned by Lin’s son, Lin Liguo, but since Lin Biao died in a plane crash in Mongolia we’ll never know for sure.
Anti-Confucius Campaign: a way of criticizing Lin Biao by tying him to Confucius, it went from ’73-’76 and was used by the Gang of Four to attack their opponents.
Wang Hongwen: A member of the Gang of Four, he led workers groups in Shanghai and was the young face of radical communism, having been a red guard who moved up through the ranks.

Four Modernizations: A drive to improve agriculture, Science and Technology, Industry, and the military. Originally proposed by Zhou Enlai in ’63, they were enacted by Deng Xiaoping. Brought in massive investment from abroad and from the government.

Qing Ming Festival: A traditional day of mourning for the dead in China, people had a large gathering to mourn Zhou Enlai in Tianmen square.

April 5th Movement: A political protest following the gathering to mourn Zhou Enlai when signs and mourners were removed from the square by the government.

“three poisonous weeds”: the Gang of Four’s name for three documents by Deng Xiaoping outlining the basics of the Four Modernizations.

”fragrant flowers”: After the fall of the Gang of Four Deng Xiaoping got his documents renamed “fragrant flowers” in newspapers and media.

Hua Guofeng: The immediate successor to Mao, a weak leader who didn’t really have much policy stance other than “whatever Mao would have wanted”.

Ye Jianying: A general who was the Chairman of the the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress from 1978 to 1983, he led the coup against the Gang of Four and supported Hua Guofeng.

“smashing the Gang of Four”: The campaign to totally destroy any influence the Gang of Four after their arrest. Included the publicized trials and campaigns to criticize them.

“with you in charge, I am at ease”: What Mao supposedly told Hua Guofeng, may or may not be true. Legitimized Hua’s position though.

Hundred Flowers: A campaign to open up ideology “let a hundred ideas bloom”, but it was really a way to get dissidents to show themselves so they could get wrecked afterwards.

1977 Ten Year Plan: A really ambitious economic expansion plan that was abandoned almost immediately that was put forward by Hua Guofeng.

1976-1985: The period of time the 10 year plan was supposed to go for.

Democracy Wall: A wall in a park in Beijing where people posted big character posters criticizing the government, Wei Jingsheng posted “The Fifth Modernization” here.

Hu Yaobang: general secretary of the CCP from ’82 to ’87. Was a big free market reformer and ally of Deng Xiaoping. When he died in 1989 protesters went to Tianmen to commemorate him, which led to the big protests then.

Big-character posters: Large posters with popular messages written mostly by students, posted all over and one of the four freedoms guaranteed in the Chinese constitution.

Third Plenum: A meeting that made a lot of economic changes in agriculture: substantial price increases paid by the state for grain and other products and removal of restrictions on rural markets - Agricultural collectivization was insufficient in accomplishing goals: it involved coercions against the middle peasants which alienated the most efficient producers; result was little or no increase in per capita income.

1977 Open Door Policy (Deng era): Opened China through special economic zones and implemented the surge for the four modernizations.

Special Economic Zones: Allowed for capitalist like economies within specific coastal cities and free foreign investment.
**Decollectivization:** Collectivized agriculture was removed and replaced with the individually based household responsibility system.

**Household Responsibility System:** Allowed peasant households to work on land they contracted out, payed for the land through quotas and were able to keep the excess.

**Township and Village Enterprises:** Local industrial enterprises which were locally run and owned.

**“iron rice bowl”:** Jobs with guaranteed job security with steady income and benefits which was removed by Deng Xiaoping which led to lower wages on the free market.

**Decentralization:** Shifted much of the governmental power to regional authorities.

**Marketization:** Removed the planning done by the central government and its power over market forces. This opened the market to foreign investments and trade. The Chinese mindset created some problems with importation and control over the exchange rate.

**Financial Liberalization:** Allowed for banks to control finances and investments which were previously controlled by the state although this led to economic growth it stunted economic development.

**Township, village and private enterprises:** Enterprises which were individually owned, (ie a shop) and were spurred out of unemployment.

**Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon:** US secretary and president which initiated political and economic relationships within China.

**Wei Jingsheng:** The author of the fifth modernization who pushed for democracy, when tried in court and unofficial transcript of his trial was put on the democracy wall

**Fifth Modernization:** An essay demanding the fifth modernization, democracy

**Wang Xizhe:** One of three writers under Li Yizhe who wrote about original socialism and argued the communist party of China was the only obstacle to democracy.

**Tiananmen Square:** The square where the protests for democracy took place.

**Li Peng:** The fourth premiere of the People’s Republic of China, (1987-1998) and was chairman between (1998-2003)

**Zhao Ziyang:** Third premier of China (1980-1987) and general secretary (1987-1989), he was sympathetic to the protesters in Tiananmen square.

**Hunger strikers:** ~ 300k pro-democracy protesters assembled in Tiananmen Square by may 13. Sparked solidarity which lead to more than a million demonstrating in Beijing and many more demonstrating in nearly 400 other cities.

**1989 Martial law:** Martial law declared in response to the pro-democracy protests in tiananmen square, in order to clear the square some 250k soldiers were sent to the square ending in the deaths of several hundred.

**1989 Goddess of Democracy Heroes’ Monument:** A large statue during the protests in tiananmen square which resembled the statue of liberty and stood in front of a giant image of Mao.

**“Tank Man”:** Mysterious man who jumped in front of a tank after tiananmen square who was swiftly whisked away and sent ripples throughout the world.