

Timeline of Key Events - Paper 2 - Authoritarian States

Mao Zedong and China

Revision Activities - Remembering the chronological order and specific dates is an important skill in IBDP History and can help you to organise the flow of events and how they are connected. Study the timeline of key events below, taken from the [IBDP specification](#), to test yourself.

[Rise to Power](#) - [Consolidation of Power](#) - Domestic Policies - Foreign Policies

1893	26 December - Mao Zedong is born in Shaoshan, Hunan province, the son of a wealthy farmer.
1911	10 October - The Xinhai Revolution (Double Ten) in China occurs as a military uprising in Wuchang spreads to others provinces, each declaring independence from the Qing court. The refusal of Yuan Shikai to lead the Beiyang Army in crushing the revolt led to the collapse of the Qing dynasty.
1912	1 January - Sun Yat-sen is elected as provisional president by revolutionaries of the newly proclaimed Provisional Government of the Republic of China in Nanjing. 12 February - The formal abdication decree is issued on behalf of Emperor Puyi by Longyu , the dowager empress. 10 March - Yuan Shikai was elected as Provisional President. Yuan had the backing of the military, therefore Sun had no choice but to relinquish power. 25 August - The Guomindang (Chinese Nationalist Party) is formed by Sun Yat-sen through the merger of the the Tongmenghui (Alliance League) and five other smaller parties.
1913	January - The first National Assembly elections are held, with the GMD led by Song Jiaoren winning a majority. Song was expected to become the next Premier. 20 March - Song Jiaoren is assassinated at Shanghai railway station with evidence pointing to the involvement of Yuan Shikai. July - The Second Revolution takes places as the GMD attempt to organise armed resistance to Yuan's abuse of power. The revolt failed.
1914	10 January - Parliament is dissolved by Yuan Shikai after forcing it to elect him President. 1 May - Yuan passes the Constitution Compact which replaces the provisional constitution , giving him unlimited powers over government. He then abolished regional assemblies, relying on his influence amongst generals in the provinces to support him. Borrowing heavily from foreign powers, Yuan was able to restore temporary stability to China, but left the country crippled by foreign debts.
1915	8 January - Japan presents the Twenty-One Demands to China which sought to extend Japanese control of Manchuria and the Chinese economy. The demands were a direct challenge to the US Open Door policy and would have destroyed China's independence. Under US and UK pressure, Japan was forced to drop its fifth set of demands but Yuan was forced to accept the rest, sparking nationwide

	protests that damaged his position as president.
1916	<p>1 January - Yuan Shikai is enthroned as Emperor Hongxian in an attempt to restore imperial authority over China. The move was supported by foreign powers, yet provinces instantly rose in revolt as well as his own generals.</p> <p>22 March - Yuan Shikai was forced to step down in the face of near total opposition to his attempts at restoring the monarchy.</p> <p>6 June - The Warlord Period begins as Yuan Shikai dies aged 56 from uremia. Infighting immediately begun between his army commanders, with General Duan Qirui emerging as Premier. Duan continued to rule as leader of the republican government yet in reality central control had broken down with power exercised by rival warlord factions like the Anhui, Fengtien, and Zhili cliques. China descended into anarchy, which actually served to unite nationalist revolutionary forces in southern China against the warlords.</p>
1917	14 August - China declares war on Germany , sending 95,000 labourers to the Western Front of which 20,000 died.
1918	Winter - Mao Zedong moves to Beijing, where secures a job at Peking University as assistant to university librarian Li Dazhao . It is here that Mao first became influenced by communism, joining Li Dazhao' marxist study group and attending lectures by Chen Duxiu. In 1919 Mao would spend his time in Shanghai learning more about communism and returning to Hunan province, where he helped to organise student protests against the local warlord in Changsha.
1919	<p>18 January - The Paris Peace Conference takes place. Japan lays claim to Shandong province in China and Germany colonies in North Pacific including the Mariana, Marshall, and Caroline islands.</p> <p>4 May - The May Fourth Movement breaks out in China in protest against Japanese demands at the Paris Peace Conference. The Movement sparked a nationwide renaissance in nationalist thought and contributed to a move towards left-wing politics and a rise in anti-Japanese and anti-foreigner sentiment.</p> <p>28 June - The Treaty of Versailles is signed, confirming the loss of Shandong to Japan, further inciting anti-Japanese sentiment in China and leading to a rejection of western influence amongst intellectuals in China, leading to the rise in popularity of Russian Bolshevism as a revolutionary force.</p> <p>10 October - The Guomindang of China is re-established in Shanghai as Sun Yat-sen relaunches the nationalist movement, establishing his HQ in Canton.</p>
1921	1 July - The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is founded with Russian Comintern support. Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao were two of the chief intellectual founders of the party. Mao Zedong joins and becomes the CCP representative for Hunan. The first National Congress was held in the French Concession of Shanghai. Chen Duxiu was elected as General Secretary.
1923	26 January - The Sun-Joffe Manifesto is signed between Sun Yat-sen and Soviet ambassador to China, Adolph Joffe . It was essentially a pact of friendship between Moscow and the GMD, leading to closer cooperation between the CCP and GMD.
1924	20 January - The First United Front between the CCP/GMD is official formed at the 1st National Congress of the GMD. The Congress confirm Sun's Leninist

	<p>inspired reorganisation of the party, adopting his Three Principles' of the People (nationalism, democracy, people's livelihood) and confirming its alliance with the USSR and CCP. Mao Zedong was elected an alternate member of the GMD Central Executive Committee. The alliance increased the support and membership for the CCP from its original 57 members in 1921 to 58,000 by 1927.</p> <p>1 May - The Whampoa Military Academy is established in Guangzhou to train the new National Revolutionary Army (NRA). It's first military commandant was Chiang Kai-shek whilst its political instruction was handled by Wang Jingwei. It was heavily supported in arms, funds and training by the USSR.</p> <p>3 July - The Peasant Movement Training Institute is founded in Guangzhou and led by Peng Pai, CCP member and Secretary of the Peasant Department of the GMD Central Committee. The institute was formed by Peng as a way to train young idealists to educate the masses in rural China, thereby inciting revolution. Mao Zedong worked as director of the institute from May to November 1926.</p>
1925	<p>12 March - Sun Yat-sen dies and a power struggle ensues between the right-wing of the party represented by Chiang Kai-shek, and the left-wing led by Wang Jingwei.</p>
1926	<p>20 March - The Canton Coup occurs as Chiang Kai-shek declares martial law and launches a purge of the GMD after believing his life was in danger. He arrested many members of the Left GMD, CCP, and Soviet advisors. The coup consolidated Chiang's control of the GMD and Northern Expedition, with Wang Jingwei being forced to go to Europe 'on holiday'. Stalin reluctantly accepted the reduced role of the CCP, hoping to maintain influence within the GMD.</p> <p>9 July - The Northern Expedition, led by Chiang Kai-shek as Commander-in-Chief of the NRA, begins with over 100,000 men. Their targets were the warlords Wu Peifu of the Central Plain region, Zhang Zoulin of Manchuria, and Sun Chuanfang on the east coast.</p>
1927	<p>1 January - The Ninghan Separation occurs as Wang Jingwei declares Wuhan to be the new capital of the national government and party headquarters of the GMD. This was a clear attempt by Wang and the Left GMD to regain power, outraging Chiang who was attempting to capture Nanjing and Shanghai which fell in March.</p> <p>12 April - The Shanghai Massacre and White Terror is launched as Chiang Kai-shek attempts to purge the GMD of left-wing and communist influences, including his leadership rival Wang Jingwei. Over 300,000 suspected communists were estimated to have been killed in the purges.</p> <p>18 April - Chiang declared a new Nationalist Government in Nanjing to rival the communist-tolerant government of Wang in Wuhan. However Wang's government quickly disintegrated after he learned of a CCP plot to overthrow his government, leading him to change sides and support Chiang's purge of the CCP across China. Consequently, the USSR terminated all cooperation with the GMD. Chen Duxiu was blamed for the disaster, and was replaced as General Secretary by Qu Qiubai.</p> <p>1 August - The Nanchang Uprising begins as communist forces numbering 20,000 led by He Long and Zhou Enlai attempt to capture the city of Nanchang and ferment a peasant uprising. Despite the fact that many GMD troops led by Zhu De rebelled to the CCP, they faced a heavy Nationalist counterattack. The communist forces were routed with only 1,000 reaching the safety of Jiangxi province.</p>

	<p>7 September - The Autumn Harvest Uprising led by Mao Zedong begins in an attempt to take control of the city of Changsha. It was quickly defeated with Mao leading the survivors into the Jinggang Mountains between Hunan and Jiangxi provinces.</p> <p>11 December - The Guangzhou Uprising begins as communist forces attempt to take over the city, but are defeated within days.</p>
1928	<p>1 April - The Red Army is formed as Communist forces under Mao Zedong meet up with units led by Zhou Enlai and Zhu De in the Jinggang Mountains. Together they formed the nucleus of the First Workers' and Peasants' Revolutionary Army, spending the rest of 1928 trying to expand their small force against Nationalist attacks. It is in Spring of 1928 that Mao first developed his Three Rules of Discipline and Eight Points of Attention, helping to turn the Red Army into a disciplined fighting forces popular amongst the peasantry.</p> <p>2 April - The Second Northern Expedition begins as Chiang renews the attack on Zhang Zoulin after previous defeats in the autumn of 1927.</p> <p>8 June - The Nationalist Government of the Republic of China is announced after Beijing is captured by the NRA and is renamed Beiping, with the capital moving to Nanjing, marking the start of the Nanjing Decade. The fall of Beijing completed the Northern Expedition, with Chiang named leader.</p>
1929	<p>14 January - The Red Army led by Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Zhu De move south to set-up a new base area in the town of Ruijin, which would eventually form the capital of the brief Jiangxi Soviet. It is here that the Red Army gained experience in Guerilla Warfare tactics, harassing local GMD units.</p> <p>1 December - The Gutian Congress of the CCP was held. Chaired by Mao Zedong, the Gutian Congress Resolution was passed, asserting Mao's political control over the Red Army, defining the army as a vehicle for 'mass propaganda' and criticising 'ultra-democracy' within the army. It enforced the concept of democratic centralism, whereby the army would abide by decisions of the political leadership in this case Mao as the only Comintern-appointed political commissar.</p>
1930	<p>December - The Futian Incident occurs as Mao Zedong launches a purge of Red Army troops, in which estimates vary between 700 and 4,000 soldiers tortured and executed on Mao's orders. The purge was sparked by the rebellion of the Futian battalion, who themselves were angered by a previous purge of over 100 suspected GMD informants.</p>
1931	<p>18 September - The Japanese Invasion of Manchuria occurs. Planned by Lieutenant General Ishiwara Kanji of the Kwantung Army, a bomb was exploded in Manchuria on the Japanese-owned South Manchurian Railways, giving a pretext for its takeover by the Japanese Kwantung Army.</p> <p>7 November - The Chinese Soviet Republic or Jiangxi Soviet, is declared in the town of Ruijin, Jiangxi province. Mao Zedong was elected Chairman of the Central Executive Committee. The Soviet expanded to over 30,000 sq km, controlling a population of more than 3 million. It even had its own bank, currency and taxation system. This enabled the Red Army to expand to more than 140,000 troops, posing a serious challenge to the Nationalist Government in Nanjing. It is in Jiangxi that Mao came into increasing conflict with the urban leadership of the CCP based in Shanghai and the Comintern. Mao ignored their calls to concentrate on urban areas, instead insisting that the peasantry should be the basis of the revolution.</p>

1932	<p>3 October - The Ningdu Conference of the CCP is held in Jiangxi province. Mao Zedong was removed from his leadership positions and replaced as commissar of the Red Army by Zhou Enlai, who whilst supporting Mao, couldn't prevent his demotion. Mao was criticised by many for the severity of his purges and his failed military tactics, and by the urban leadership of the party which denounced his 'adventurism'. Along with Zhou, the newly arrived General Secretary of the CCP, Bo Gu, and German Comintern advisor Otto Braun, arrived in Jiangxi to take command over military affairs.</p>
1933	<p>25 September - The Fifth Extermination Campaign against the Jiangxi Soviet is launched by Chiang Kai-shek. Mobilising over one million soldiers, Chiang adopted a blockhouse attritional strategy, suggested to him by his German advisor Hans von Seeckt to blockade the Jiangxi base area. By October 1934, the communists were forced to abandon the base area.</p>
1934	<p>16 October - The Long March begins as over 130,000 Red Army soldiers and civilians led by Bo Gu and Otto Braun attempt to breakout of the Nationalist encirclement of the Jiangxi Soviet. The march took over 370 days, travelling 9,000km and only around 10,000 soldiers reached their destination at Yanan. The March was a turning point in Mao's rise to power, enabling to establish his authority over the Red Army and CCP.</p> <p>30 November - The Battle of the Xiang River occurs as Red Army forces attempt to break out of the last line of GMD encirclement. After heavy losses, only 36,000 soldiers successfully escaped, serious damaging the credibility of Bo Gu and Otto Brau.</p>
1935	<p>15 January - The Zunyi Conference of the CCP begins during the Long March as Mao gains leadership of the First Front Army from Bo Gu and Otto Braun. Zhou Enlai blamed their failures on himself, Bo Gu and Otto Braun, arguing in favour of Mao. Supported by other party leaders like Zhang Wentian. Whilst not able to gain outright power, Mao was subsequently appointed to the Military Affairs Commission with Zhou Enlai and Wang Jiaxiang, therefore being able to exert a huge influence on the direction of the Long March. Wang replaced Bo Gu as General Secretary of the CCP.</p> <p>29 May - The Battle of Luding Bridge occurs at Dudu River in Sichuan. The battle is controversial and debate exists over what actually happened. It was used extensively in CCP propoganda about the Long March, and contributed to the growing mythology of the Red Army and Mao Zedong.</p> <p>22 October - The Yan'an Soviet is established as Mao Zedong's Red Army and other forces arrive in Shaanxi province, ending the Long March. Only 7,000 troops had survived the Long March, from the original 130,000 that had embarked. The march cemented Mao's position as de facto leader of the CCP, being named Chairman of the Military Commission in November. Mao would use his time in Yan'an to develop his reputation as a Marxist theoretician, forming ideas that would become known as Mao Zedong Thought. This helped stamp his authority as leader of the CCP in an ongoing power struggle with the 28 Bolsheviks led by Wang Ming, who had returned from Moscow under Stalin's orders to reassert control over the CCP.</p>
1936	<p>12 December - The Xi'an Incident forced Chiang Kai-shek to form a Second United Front with the CCP against Japan. Whilst visiting troops in Xi'an to oversee</p>

	<p>operations against the Yan'an Soviet, Chiang was arrested by troops led by Zhang Xueliang and held prisoner. In negotiations with the CCP, it was agreed by Chiang to cease all anti-Communist operations and form a new United Front.</p>
1937	<p>7 July - The Marco Polo Bridge Incident leads to the Japanese Invasion of China and the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War. After a series of small clashes between troops, the incident was used as a pretext to escalate tensions, which this time Chiang Kai-shek refused to bow to. The international community initially failed to support China, although many international 'volunteers' fought for the GMD, including Claire Chennault's American 'Flying Tigers' fighter squadrons.</p> <p>22 September - The Communist Eighth Route Army is formed from units of the Red Army and the nominal control of the Chiang Kai-shek's National Revolutionary Army. Whilst officially designated at the 18th Army Group and wearing nationalist uniforms, the Eighth Route Army in reality acted independently, fighting the Japanese in northern China through the use of guerrilla warfare tactics. It was led by General Zhu De. It consisted of three divisions led by Lin Biao, Liu Bocheng and He Long. In 1947 it was renamed the People's Liberation Army as the Chinese Civil War recommenced.</p> <p>12 October - The New Fourth Army is established in southern China, who along with the Eighth Route Army, was one of the key communist forces fighting the Japanese, yet they often clashed with NRA troops, culminating in the New Fourth Army Incident of 1941 in which nationalist troops decimated the army.</p> <p>26 November - The Battle of Shanghai ends in Japanese victory and the capture of the city. It was the first major engagement between the NRA and IJA, with over one million troops engaged in both sides. Chiang Kai-shek was determined to slow the Japanese advance long enough to relocate his government and industries into the interior of China to Chongqing, and in the hope of attracting Western support. Chiang committed his best troops, sustaining over 250,000 casualties and losing 10,000 out of 25,000 junior officers. His army never recovered these losses and for the rest of the war had to rely on provincial armies of questionable loyalty. The Japanese sustain only 40,000 but the surprise resistance shocked the Japanese army.</p> <p>13 December - Japanese forces attack Nanjing. The subsequent 'Rape of Nanjing' saw mass murder committed by the Japanese on the civilian population.</p>
1938	<p>5 June - The Yellow River Flood was created on the orders of Chiang Kai-shek to breach the dikes on the Yellow River at Zhaokou, hoping that the consequent flood would slow the Japanese advance into central China and protect Xi'an and Wuhan. The floods destroyed thousands of km of farmland and killing an estimated 800,000 civilians, even diverting the mouth of the Yellow River hundreds of miles south. It was a massive propaganda victory for the CCP, with civilians blaming Chiang Kai-shek for the flooding, which failed to slow the Japanese.</p> <p>27 October - The Battle of Wuhan ends with the Japanese capture of the city. The battle was one of the largest in history with over one million NRA troops defending against 350,000 Japanese. The Japanese believed the capture of Wuhan would effectively end the war and Chinese resistance, yet the NRA denied the Japanese a decisive victory over their forces, and was able to inflict over 140,000 casualties on the Japanese, effectively slowing their advance into central China to a halt.</p>
1940	<p>9 January - Mao publishes 'On New Democracy', defining Chinese Communism as a national movement, not a class-based one. The idea of New Democracy</p>

	<p>clashed with traditional Soviet Marxist views, which added to growing mistrust between Stalin and Mao.</p> <p>30 March - The Reorganised National Government of China is created headed by President Wang Jingwei in Nanjing. Wang's government collaborated with the Japanese, in reality existing merely as a puppet state.</p> <p>20 August - The Hundred Regiments Offensive is launched against the Japanese, led by Peng Dehuai. Lasting until December, it was the biggest CCP offensive of the war, utilising the Eighth Route Army to destroy Japanese controlled rail lines across northern China. Statistics vary, but an estimated 20,000 Japanese soldiers were killed, along with 20,000 of Chinese collaborator forces. The CCP sustained over 100,000 casualties.</p>
1941	<p>3 December - The Three Alls Policy is issued by Imperial General Headquarters of the Japanese army. It called for a scorched earth campaign of 'kill all, burn all, loot all' against communists insurgents in response to the Hundred Regiments Offensive. An estimated 2.7 million Chinese were have said to have been killed in the anti-insurgency campaign.</p> <p>7 December - The Attack on Pearl Harbour occurs which leads the war between the US and Japan. This led to increased support from the US for the GMD government, with US General Joseph Stilwell appointed as US Chief of Staff to Chiang Kai-shek to help coordinate the alliance. Stilwell increasing came into conflict with Chiang on military policy, claiming that he was only half-heartedly fighting the war. Due to his fighting with Chiang, Stilwell was replaced as Chief of Staff for China operations by General Albert Wedemeyer on 27 October 1944.</p>
1942	<p>1 February - The Yan'an Rectification Campaign is launched by Mao Zedong, primarily in order to indoctrinate new CCP recruits into Mao's conception of Marxism, but also to consolidate his authority over the party and in its later stages, to remove the opposition of his rival, Wang Ming. Setting up the Central General Study Committee to replace the politburo, Mao gained complete power over the CCP. The campaign first used study sessions and group discussions to re-educate CCP members. This soon expanded into the use of self-criticism and 'struggle sessions' where members were forced to identify their 'errors'. In the later stages a terror campaign was organised by Mao's security chief, Kang Sheng, who set about arresting, imprisoning and torturing over 1,000 suspected spies in show trials. 60 people had committed suicide and over 40,000 were dismissed from the party by the time the campaign was ended in 1944. Wang Shiwei and Ding Ling were notable victims of the campaign. The result of the campaign was in consolidating Mao's control over the CCP, elevating him to cult status and identifying communism in China with Maoism, triumphing over the pro-Moscow wing of the CCP.</p>
1944	<p>19 April - Operation Ichi-Go is launched by Japan with the aim of opening a land route to French Indochina and to capture US air bases in southeast China from which American bombers were attacking the Japanese homeland. It was the largest land offensive launched by Japan in the Second World War and only served to weaken Japanese forces. Henan, Hunan and Guangxi province were captured by Japan, yet this left there forces seriously overstretched and open to guerrilla attacks by communist forces. The US simply relocated its bombers to the Pacific to continue its bombing of Japan.</p>

	<p>22 July - The Dixie Mission by the US Army Observation Group begins. It was the first US effort to establish official relations with the CCP and investigate the possibility of establishing political and military relations in the fight against Japan. It was also agreed that better relations with the CCP might prevent them from being controlled by Moscow. They would continue until 1947, when the US pulled out due to hostilities in the Chinese Civil War.</p>
1945	<p>6 August - The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima occurs as the US drops the worlds first nuclear bomb.</p> <p>9 August - The Soviet Invasion of Manchuria begins as the USSR renounces its Neutrality Pact with Japan and invaded on three fronts. It was the last major campaign of the Second World War and enabled the USSR to establish pro-communist governments in Manchuria and Korea, down to the 38th parallel, capturing Pyongyang on 24 August.</p> <p>15 August - The Surrender of Imperial Japan was announced by Emperor Hirohito, and formally signed aboard the USS Missouri on 2 September.</p> <p>9 September - Japanese forces in China officially surrender to the Nationalists.</p> <p>10 October - The Double Tenth Agreement is signed in Chongqing between the CCP and GMD, with the CCP acknowledging the GMD as the legitimate government of China, with the GMD recognising the CCP as the legitimate opposition. The truce didn't last as small scale fighting continued and both sides hurried their forces to Manchuria to accept the surrender of Japanese forces.</p> <p>20 December - The Marshall Mission arrives in China as US General George C. Marshall attempts to negotiate a unified government between the CCP and GMD. The mission ultimately failed to prevent civil war, and was withdrawn in February.</p>
1946	<p>20 July - The Second Chinese Civil War begins as Chiang Kai-shek launches an assault on Communist territory across the country. The fighting was most intense in Manchuria where CCP troops had been handed Japanese equipment by the Soviets. By this time, CCP forces had grown to over 1.2 million troops with a militia of over 2 million.</p>
1947	<p>1 February - The Marshal Mission to China ends with the US stopping all military aid to the GMD, effectively abandoning the GMD to their fate.</p>
1948	<p>24 September The Battle of Jinan ends in PLA victory as the city falls, leading to the capture of Shandong province and setting the stage for the Huaihai Campaign.</p> <p>1 November - The Liaoshen Campaign for control of Manchuria ends in PLA victory as the city of Shenyang falls. The defeat was a turning point in the Civil War, cutting of Chiang from his Manchurian resources and decimating some of his best troops. The PLA were now numerically superior for the first time in the war.</p>
1949	<p>10 January - The Huaihai Campaign ends with PLA victory as the key city of Xuzhou is captured with the destruction of over 500,000 of Chiang's best American armed and trained troops. The campaign secured east-central China for the PLA and left the transport routes to Nanjing and Shanghai exposed to communist attack.</p> <p>31 January - The Pingjin Campaign ends with PLA victory as Beijing and Tianjin are captured, marking the end of GMD dominance in Northern China. By this point in the war, the PLA had managed to wipe out 1.5 million veteran GMD troops, destroying the backbone of the GMD army.</p>

	<p>23 April - Nanjing falls to PLA troops, forcing the GMD government to flee to Guangzhou until 15 October when they were forced to Chongqing, and Chengdu on 25 November before fleeing to Taiwan on 10 December with 1.2 million supporters, declaring Taipei to be the temporary capital of the Republic of China.</p> <p>2 June - The Shanghai Campaign ends with the capture of the city from GMD forces who believed that by defending the city, foreign support would be forthcoming.</p> <p>29 September - The Common Programme of the CPPCC is adopted, serving as the de facto constitution of the PRC until the 1954 Constitution was adopted. It set out the CCP's policy and reform agenda as well as the structure of the government. The PRC was to be run on the basis of a People's Democratic Dictatorship, with the three pillars of the system being the CCP, State Bureaucracy, and PLA.</p> <p>1 October - The People's Republic of China (PRC) is declared by Mao Zedong in Beijing, effectively ending the Civil War but for a few isolated pockets of resistance. The Civil War was one of the costliest military campaigns of the 20th century, with 3 million GMD and 1 million PLA losses. Over 6 million civilian deaths were attributed to the war. The CCP reorganised China into six administrative regions, each governed by a Chairman, Party Secretary, Military Commander, and Political Commissar. Mao held ultimate power as Chairman of the CCP, Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.</p> <p>13 October - The province of Xinjiang is reunified with the PRC after PLA troops occupy the province. The CCP feared that Xinjiang might fall into Soviet hands or provide a base for GMD resistance.</p> <p>7 December - The Nationalist Government of the GMD and Chiang Kai-shek flees to Taiwan, taking what remained of China's foreign currency reserves and national treasures, as well as 2 million troops, supporters and government staff.</p>
1950	<p>14 February - The Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance is signed by Mao and Stalin. It provided China with a Soviet loan of \$300 million and access to 20,000 Soviet experts who were sent to help China industrialise and rebuild. Over 80,000 CCP cadres were sent to Moscow to study. Yet the loan was conditional and had to be paid back with interest.</p> <p>1 March - The Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries is announced by Mao in an attempt to consolidate power in China. Running until 1951, the campaign was successful in eradicating bands of GMD underground forces. It is estimated that around 700,000 to 2 million were executed in the repression with many being sent to 'reform through labor' camps, known as the Laogai.</p> <p>1 May - Hainan Island falls to the PLA in a carefully planned amphibious assault.</p> <p>1 May - The New Marriage Law is introduced in China by Mao. It sought to reform traditional marriage traditions by providing a civil registry for all marriages, raising the marriage age to 20 for males and 18 for females, banning marriage by proxy, banning concubinage and extending divorce rights to women. With women now regarded as equal to men, the number of working women quadrupled between 1949 to 1976, from 8% to 32%. Whilst much progress was made in women's right, the CCP still failed to promote women to high office, with only 13% of CCP membership being made up of women.</p> <p>25 June - The Korean War begins as Communist North Korea launches a surprise invasion of US backed South Korea. The invasion forced President Truman to</p>

	<p>reconsider his willingness to abandon Taiwan, sending the US 7th Fleet to patrol the waters of the Taiwan Strait to prevent any potential PLA attack.</p> <p>30 June - The Agrarian Reform Law is passed in China which redistributed land to peasants, being a major promise of the CCP since its inception. By 1951 more than 10 million landlords had been forced to divide their land, with 40% of land being redistributed to 60% of the population. Mutual Aid Teams were also formed to encourage peasants to share their tools and labour. The process quickly descended into retribution in many areas as 'speak bitterness' campaigns by the CCP urged peasants to attack their landlords in an attempt to encourage revolutionary thinking and to empower the peasantry, thereby tying them to the revolution. Estimates vary from between 1 million and 4.5 million deaths as a consequence of the reforms.</p> <p>6 October - The Invasion of Tibet is launched in order to reassert Chinese sovereignty over the region, creating the Tibetan Autonomous Region. The subsequent Seventeen Point Agreement affirmed Chinese sovereignty over Tibet.</p> <p>7 October - UN forces in Korea cross over the 38th parallel into North Korea. The next day, Mao Zedong ordered PLA soldiers of the North East Frontier Force to assembly on the Yalu River, ready to cross.</p> <p>25 October - The Chinese Assault on UN Forces begins as over 270,000 soldiers of the PVA led by Peng Dehuai begin to attack UN forces, catching them by surprise and forcing the retreat of the US Eighth Army. The invasion was accompanied by the 'Great Movement to Resist America and Assist Korea' mass campaign within China. This was a social movement designed to persuade the masses to support war in Korea by means of mass propaganda. It also targeted all foreigners, forcing many churches and foreign businesses to close. By 4 January Seoul had been recaptured but PVA forces were severely overextended. Counter-attacks were launched by UN forces, commanded by General Matthew Ridgway after Douglas MacArthur was forced to resign on 11 April 1951 due to policy disagreements with President Truman. By June 1951, a stalemate had been reached as the front stabilised along the 38th parallel, where it would remain until the ceasefire on 27 July 1953. The war hit the Chinese economy hard with up to 55% of GDP being spent on the military.</p>
1951	<p>1 November - The Three-Antis Campaign is launched in China to target waste, corruption and inefficiency. It aimed to reduce what was called 'bureaucratism' within the CCP and government. Party Cadres were urged to identify and criticise officials that had taken bribes, were corrupt, or were embezzling state funds.</p>
1952	<p>1 January - The Five-Antis Campaign is launched which extended the Three-Antis campaign to target businessmen and capitalists. It targeted industrial sabotage, tax evasion, bribery, fraud, and theft of government property. Propaganda encouraged workers to identify their employers, with over 450,000 businessmen being accused. Most were forced to surrender their businesses to the state, with many committing suicide or being subjected to struggle sessions.</p> <p>14 March - The Central Patriotic Health Campaign Committee is established to organise mass health campaigns throughout China. The campaigns focused on epidemic-prevention and preventative medicine. By the end of 1952, health campaigns had disposed of 15 million tons of waste, dredged 280,000km of marshland, rebuilt 4.9 million toilets, rebuilt 1.3 million water wells and eliminated 44 million rats and other pests. In 1957, health campaigns were established as part of the Great Leap Forward, most notably the Four Pests Campaign which</p>

	<p>urged mosquitoes, flies, rats and sparrows. Healthcare was damaged during the Cultural Revolution as doctors were often targeted for their bourgeois lifestyles. As a result, the Rural Cooperative Medical System was introduced, which sought to extend healthcare to the countryside, training over one million farmers as paramedics known as Barefoot Doctors who treated patients free of charge. This was one of Mao's most popular programmes, yet was no substitute for a national health service.</p> <p>28 April - The Treaty of Taipei is signed between Japan and the ROC, formally ending the Sino-Japanese War and normalising relations.</p>
1953	<p>1 January - The First Five-Year Plan is announced Mao that rapidly industrialise China following the Soviet economy model. Running until 1957, the Plan set ambitious goals for industry, concentrating on heavy industry, and also attempted to collectivise agriculture. Industrial output was doubled, with steel production growing from 1.3 million tonnes to 5.2 million tonnes. Coal production was increased by 98%. The focus on industry led to a rise in the urban population from 57 million to over 107 million, putting pressure on services. The Plan led to a huge increase in state planning and control, with over ⅔ of businesses becoming state-owned and the rest jointly owned. Agriculture was also targeted with lower-stage and higher-stage cooperatives being introduced in order to collectivise land and increase state control. By 1957, 93% of all farm households had joined producers' cooperatives.</p> <p>27 July - The Korean Armistice Agreement is signed at Panmunjom between the US, DPRK, and the People's Volunteer Army of China. It called for the cessation of all hostilities until a final peaceful settlement is achieved, something which is yet to happen. Korean remains divided with a demilitarised zone at the 38th parallel. In total, the PVA suffered over 390,000 casualties. An estimated 2.5 million civilians were killed in the war, with the economies of both sides ruined. The war was seen as a huge propaganda victory in China, helping to consolidate Mao's position. Yet it also led to a growing conflict with the USSR over the lack of support China received. It also hardened Cold War attitudes, with the US committing itself to a policy of containment in Asia, signing a Mutual Defense Treaty with the ROK on 1 October, and committing itself to protecting Taiwan.</p> <p>24 December - The Gao Gang Affair takes place as Gao Gang and Rao Shushi are expelled from the Party in one of the first major purges since the founding of the PRC. Gao was the head of the Central Planning Commission and in charge of developing the First Five-Year Plan. He was immensely powerful within the CCP and attempted to displace Zhou Enlai and Liu Shaoqi from their positions. In response, he was accused by Zhou Enlai of setting up an 'independent kingdom', with Mao finally accusing Gao of forming an 'anti-Party alliance'. Disgraced, Gao committed suicide in August 1954. His ally, Rao Shushi, was also purged, being arrested in 1955. The purges served as a reminder to party members of Mao's power.</p>
1954	<p>20 September - The New 1954 Constitution is approved which reformed the government of China, making Mao President of the PRC. The Constitution strengthened CCP power within China.</p> <p>3 September - The First Taiwan Strait Crisis begins as PLA troops start shelling the ROC islands of Quemoy and Matsu. The conflict ended on 1 May 1955 after the US threatened the possibility of massive nuclear retaliation, with the USSR failing to declare its support for the PRC.</p>

	<p>2 December - The Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty is signed between the ROC and US, discouraging the PRC from attacking Taiwan.</p>
1955	<p>29 January - The Formosa Resolution is passed in the US, committing the US to protect Taiwan. It gave the President the power to intervene if the island was attacked, further discouraging PRC aggression.</p> <p>18 April - The Bandung Conference takes place in Indonesia as a meeting of newly independent Asian and African nations. The PRC was represented by Premier Zhou Enlai, who improved diplomatic relations with member nations, marking a willingness by the PRC for a more active foreign policy in SE Asia.</p> <p>1 June - The Hukou Household Registration System is extended to countryside by Zhou Enlai. Serving as an internal passport, the system labelled families as either urban or rural, effectively tying millions of rural residents to the countryside and preventing their internal migration, of which a migration certificate was required. Ration cards were introduced in order to buy produce and local officials kept dossiers on every individual, called a Dang'an. The system increased control over the people, especially in the cities where every citizen was assigned to a Danwei work unit. The Danwei System regulated every aspect of life, with permission having to be obtained in order to migrate, marry, or even have children. The combined effect of the registration system was to enforce control over the population, enabling government policies and mass campaigns to be implemented effectively.</p> <p>21 November - The Chinese Character Simplification Scheme was introduced in all schools in China, enacting the Pinyin script that ensured that Mandarin could be written in a standardised form. This boosted literacy across China and was aided by a focus on primary education. By 1976, literacy levels had risen from 20% in 1949 to 70%.</p>
1956	<p>25 February - Nikita Khrushchev delivers his 'secret speech', On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences, to a closed session during the 20th Congress of the CPSU. The speech was sharply critical of Stalin's reign and criticised the cult of personality that had developed around Stalin. The speech ushered in a period of relaxation in the Cold War known as the Khrushchev Thaw, however it contributed to the growing Sino-Soviet Split as Mao consider the speech as an implicit attack on his rule. Mao Zedong and Enver Hoxha of Albania condemned Khrushchev as a revisionist, in response forming the anti-revisionist movement which criticised the USSR for deviating from world revolution and the path of Lenin and Stalin.</p>
1957	<p>27 February - The Hundred Flowers Campaign is launched by Mao's speech, On the Correct Handling of the Contradictions Among the People. Mao encouraged intellectuals to openly criticise perceived errors in the CCP and state bureaucracy. The public responded in their thousands by writing letters to government, rallying in the streets, hanging big character wall posters, and holding meetings. Many people even begun to call for the CCP to give up power, at which point Mao decided to call a halt to the campaign.</p> <p>1 July - The Anti-Rightist Movement led by Deng Xiaoping is launched as a purge of suspected 'rightists' and intellectuals who had criticised government during the Hundred Flowers Campaign. By the end of 1957, over 300,000 had been arrested and imprisoned, including the writer Ding Ling. The purge rooted out opposition to Mao within the party and country.</p>

	<p>18 November - The Moscow Conference of World Communists Parties meets to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Revolution. Mao attended the conference, giving a series of speeches warning Moscow to abandon 'revisionism'. Deng Xiaoping also attacked Khrushchev's policies of 'peaceful co-existence', claiming that world revolution was only possible through armed struggle. Khrushchev responded by calling the Great Leap Forward 'harebrained'.</p>
1958	<p>1 January - The Great Leap Forward is announced by Mao in Nanjing. As the Second Five-Year Plan for the development of the economy, the GLF sought to harness China's huge population to drive forward industrialisation and collectivisation. Ideologically, the GLF marked a change from the Soviet model of bureaucratic, careful planned, and centrally controlled growth. Instead, decision making power was increasingly decentralised to the People's Communes, where communal life was regimented into production brigades and teams. Exposed to endless propaganda, each Commune was given increasingly higher production targets for agricultural output and steel production. Initially, it was believed by Mao that the mass campaign, based on Lysenkoism, could easily boost production and even match the level of the UK within 15 years. Yet production targets continued to be revised upwards, beyond the capacity of the Communes to meet them. As a consequence, peasants stopped harvesting crops in order to work in backyard steel furnaces. This directly led to the Great Chinese Famine between 1959-1961 where over 40 million have been estimated to have been killed. Overall, the GLF failed to boost the economy, with industrial output falling as much as 50%. Liu Shaoqi in 1962 commented that the reason for the failure was '30% natural disaster, 70% policy'. After 1962, much of the GLF was reversed, with Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping de-collectivising much of the countryside and reintroducing the profit motive to boost production.</p> <p>31 July - Khrushchev's First visit to Beijing occurs to meet with Mao. The meeting went badly, with both sides disagreeing about international Communist cooperation. Khrushchev sought to persuade Mao to give up China's nuclear weapons programme and to adopt a two-china policy over Taiwan to avoid tensions with the US. Mao resented Khrushchev's patronising tone, worsening relations between the two nations further.</p> <p>23 August - The Second Taiwan Strait Crisis occurs as PRC forces resumed shelling the islands of Quemoy and Matsu without first notifying the USSR. The US quickly reinforced ROC forces in the area. Mao used the crisis as a way of mobilising the masses behind his domestic policies in China, whilst strengthening his contested position with the USSR as leader of the worldwide communist movement against Western imperialism. The USSR refused to even morally-back the PRC, worsening the growing split between the two nations.</p>
1959	<p>10 March - The Tibetan Uprising begins in Lhasa in response to socialist land reform in which Tibet suffered a man-made famine, killing over one quarter of its population. Over 80,000 Tibetans were killed in the subsequent repression to the uprising, with the Dalai Lama fleeing to India.</p> <p>1 April - Mao steps down as President of the PRC and is replaced by Liu Shaoqi. Mao's credibility was damaged by the increasing failures of the Great Leap Forward and decided to pass on responsibility for government decision. He retained his position as Chairman of the CCP and Military Affairs Commission.</p> <p>2 July - The Purge of Peng Dehuai, Minister of National Defence, occurs at the Lushan Conference of the CCP Central Committee. Peng had openly criticised the</p>

	<p>Great Leap Forward for the famine it was causing, and had apparently criticised the plan to Khrushchev whilst in Eastern Europe. Peng had attempted to persuade Mao to change his policies on the Great Leap Forward, but at the conference few supported Peng when he was attacked by Mao for being a 'rightist'. The conference ended with Peng being accused of leading an 'anti-Party clique' and removed from all his positions and held under house arrest. He was replaced as Minister of National Defence by Lin Biao, who worked to increase party influence over the PLA, indoctrinating the army in Mao Zedong Thought. He worked to promote Mao's cult of personality, conducting the Learn from Lei Feng campaign in 1962 and publishing the Little Red Book in 1964. The purge of Peng Dehuai was a key event in the consolidation of Mao's power, as any criticism of party actions and policies was now equated with criticism of Mao himself.</p> <p>2 October - Khrushchev's Second and Final Visit to Beijing takes place in an attempt to repair relations between the two, yet the visit only served to increase tension between the two leaders.</p>
1960	<p>August - The USSR withdraws Soviet scientific and technical advisors and aid from China, leading to the closure of 300 industrial plants and projects, increasing the Sino-Soviet Split.</p>
1961	<p>1 February - China and Albania become allies against the USSR after China steps up financial support for Albania after the USSR cut financial support due to Albania's continued opposition to Soviet policies.</p> <p>17 October - Zhou Enlai walks out of the 22nd Congress of the CPSU in Moscow after Khrushchev attacked Albania for its Stalinist policies, ending diplomatic relations between the PRC and USSR. A war of words soon began between the two nations, with Khrushchev calling Mao an 'Asian Hitler', and Mao calling Khrushchev a 'redundant old boot'.</p>
1962	<p>20 October - The Sino-Indian War breaks out over a disputed Himalayan border, although tensions had been rising since the 1959 Tibetan Uprising and the granting of asylum to the Dalai Lama by India. The war ended on 20 November after China declared a unilateral ceasefire. The war worsened the Sino-Soviet Split as the USSR supported India, supplying MIG-fighters to the Indian government.</p>
1963	<p>1 September - The Socialist Education Movement is launched by Mao as a mass campaign and rectification movement designed to re-educate those within the party and government, especially reactionary elements within the bureaucracy. Also known as the 'Four Cleanups', the movement sought to cleanse politics, the economy, organisation, and ideology. The movement was seen as an attempt by Mao to reassert Maoist orthodoxy at a time in which many of his policies were being reversed after the failure of the GLF. The failure of the movement to be fully implemented, partially due to being blocked by Liu Shaoqi, led to his planning of the Cultural Revolution.</p>
1964	<p>10 January - Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong, known as the Little Red Book, begins publication. The book was initially compiled by the PLA Daily as an inspirational document to help with the indoctrination of the PLA as overseen by Lin Biao and Chen Boda from 1959. During the Cultural Revolution its publication was accelerated as a means to spread Mao Zedong Thought and the cult of Mao to the masses. It became the single most recognisable propaganda icon in China</p>

	<p>and it essentially became an unofficial requirement for every Chinese citizen to own, read, and carry it at all times, especially during the ideological escalation of the Cultural Revolution. It is claimed that over one billion printed volumes were created between 1966-1969.</p> <p>16 October - The First Chinese Nuclear bomb is tested at the Lop Nur nuclear test site, code-named 596. The development of the atomic bomb, helped by previous Soviet assistance, enabled Mao to pursue an increasingly independent foreign policy, lessening PRC dependence of the Soviet Union, further exacerbating the Sino-Soviet Split. By the end of the year, the USSR had broken diplomatic relations with China leading to international rivalry within the communist movement.</p>
1965	<p>10 November - The Purge of Wu Han occurs after Yao Wenyuan publically attacks Wu Han for implicitly criticising Mao. Wu Han was vice-mayor of Beijing, and in 1961 had written a play called 'Hai Rui Dismissed from Office' based on the story of an honest Ming dynasty minister who was imprisoned for criticising the Emperor. Critics like Yao Wenyuan (member of the Gang of Four), interpreted the play as an attack on Mao's decision to purge Peng Dehuai in 1959 during the Lushan Conference. Mao himself had been planning a way to remove President Liu Shaoqi, who he believed was his chief ideological rival within the Party. Wu Han worked for Peng Zhen who was Mayor of Beijing and part of the Five Man Group setup in order to explore the potential for a cultural revolution. Peng Zhen himself was one of Liu Shaoqi's chief supporters. Mao believed that if he could remove Peng Zhen, by purging Wu Han, he could then damage Liu Shaoqi, demote him from power, and gain control over the Five Man Group in order to launch the cultural revolution. Peng Zhen tried to prevent attacks on Wu Han by using his leadership of the Five Man Group to block publication of Yao Wenyuan's attack. Mao was angered by Peng Zhen's attempt to stifle the development of the cultural revolution. In the May 16 Notification of 1966, Mao roundly condemned Peng Zhen for obstructing the revolution, removed Peng and his supporters from their posts and replaced the Five Man Group with the Central Cultural Revolution Group, led by the Gang of Four and other Maoists. Lu Dingyi, head of CCP propaganda and a Peng Zhen supporter, was also purged, giving the CCRG unrestricted access to the press.</p>
1966	<p>16 May - The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution begins in Beijing with the May 16 Notification, purging the 'Peng-Luo-Lu-Yang anti-Party clique' and summarising Mao's justification for the Cultural Revolution before the Politburo. Mao then appointed the Central Cultural Revolution Group (CCRG) to oversee his plans. On 16 July, Mao swum in the Yangtze River in Wuhan in a widely publicised feat to announce his comeback. Debate still exists over Mao's motives, but it was a clear attempt by Mao to re-impose Maoist thought and his authority on the CCP which had waned after the failure of the GLF. Mao claimed that bourgeois elements and rightists had infiltrated the CCP and country at large, requiring young students to remove these revisionists by violent class struggle, as called for in the 5 August 'Bombard the Headquarters' speech by Mao and the Four Olds Campaign on 19 August. In response to these calls, young people formed Red Guard groups across the country, paralysing the running of the state. What followed was a mass purge of government officials including Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping in October 1966. In January 1967 the Shanghai municipal government was overthrown. Millions of others were persecuted across the country as the revolution gave</p>

	<p>thousands a reason to move against rivals. In 1967 chaos broke out as factional fighting between Red Guard units increased. By 1968, the CCP itself was replaced by Revolutionary Committees which were made up predominantly of Red Guards, Maoist radicals and the PLA. From 1968, the PLA was used to end the factional violence, launching the Down to the Countryside Movement to relocate Red Guards to the countryside. With the Ninth Party Congress on 1 April 1969, the Cultural Revolution was declared over with the Central Cultural Revolution Group in de facto control of the country. Mao Zedong Thought was written into the constitution as the official ideology of China. Yet triggered by the Lin Biao Affair, in-fighting between the Gang of Four and Party moderates would continue until the death of Mao and the arrest of the Gang of Four in 1976.</p>
1967	<p>6 May - The 1967 Leftist Riots breakout in Hong Kong as the Cultural Revolution encourages anti-imperialists protests. What started as labour dispute soon broke into mass demonstrations on the streets of Hong Kong. The violence escalated on 8 July as five members of the Hong Kong Police were killed in shooting on the border. Imposing a curfew, leftists responded by launching a bombing campaign. On 22 August in Beijing the British embassy was attacked and burnt down. By the time leftist groups were ordered to stop by Zhou Enlai in December, 51 people had been killed, 832 injured, and 4979 arrested. The events marked a dangerous escalation of the Cultural Revolution, with attack spreading to 30 other countries.</p>
1968	<p>22 December - The Up to the Mountains and Down to the Countryside Movement is launched by Mao, using the PLA to forcible send Red Guards to the countryside for re-education in an attempt to quell the violence of the Cultural Revolution. It total, over 17 million youths were 'sent down', forced out of the cities to work in remote areas of China. They became known as the 'lost generation', missing out on university education.</p>
1969	<p>2 March - The Sino-Soviet Border War commences along the Ussuri River on their disputed border. The incident heightened fears of nuclear war between the two former allies at a time of domestic upheaval in China, putting pressure on Mao to end the Cultural Revolution. The war caused Mao to re-appraise his foreign policy and seeking rapprochement with the US, leading to the so called Ping Pong Diplomacy of 1971.</p> <p>1 April - The Ninth Party Congress declares the Cultural Revolution over with the Central Cultural Revolution Group in de facto control of the country. Lin Biao is confirmed as heir-apparent to Mao.</p>
1971	<p>10 April - Ping Pong Diplomacy commences between the PRC and US as the US Table Tennis Team is invited to play in China in a diplomatic gesture designed to improve Sino-US relations. The diplomacy was successful, resulting in the lifting of the trade embargo against China on 10 June, and leading to Kissinger's secret trip to China to meet with Zhou Enlai in July. Both sides had reasons to improve relations, with China hoping for US support to deter Soviet aggression, and the US hoping to pressurise the USSR into detente by improving relations with China. On 15 July President Richard Nixon revealed Nixon's secret visit to the world and that he had accepted an invitation to visit the PRC.</p> <p>13 September - Lin Biao dies in a mysterious plane crash after being implicated in a plot to assassinate Mao and defect to the USSR. Fearing that Mao no longer trusted him due to the power he had amassed in the PLA, Lin and his followers</p>

	<p>planned Project 571, the plan to assassinate Mao. The plan failed and Lin fled. Within a month of his death over 1,000 officials had been arrested in a purge. The shock of Lin's actions undermined faith in Mao amongst the people, always having assumed that Mao was considered absolutely correct. The betrayal of Lin as the second ranking official and Mao's chosen successor dealt a huge blow to faith in the regime. Mao's health rapidly deteriorated after the incident, reappointing Zhou Enlai as the second most powerful man in China ahead of the Gang of Four.</p> <p>25 October - The PRC replaces Taiwan at the United Nations as 'the only legitimate representative of China'. General Assembly Resolution 2758 was passed after the US stopped actively opposing the proposal in order to facilitate its rapprochement with the PRC.</p>
1972	<p>21 February - Nixon's visit to China commences with Nixon visiting Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai. The visit started with a personal meeting between Mao Zedong and Richard Nixon. The trip culminated on 28 February with the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué which pledged both nations to the normalisation of relations (which wouldn't occur until 1979), and agreed that neither they nor any other power should seek hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Communiqué, the US also acknowledged the One-China Policy concerning the political status of Taiwan, but did not endorse the PRC's version of the policy.</p>
1973	<p>30 August - The Criticise Lin, Criticise Confucius Campaign is launched by Jiang Qing and the Gang of Four in an attempt to attack Zhou Enlai and other moderates within government. The propaganda campaign, which lasted until 1976, tried to implicitly equate Zhou Enlai with Confucius, who was criticised. It also tried to blame the excesses of the Cultural Revolution on Lin Biao. The campaign sought to reinterpret Chinese history using a Marxist perspective, arguing that peasants results throughout history proved that the common people had always rejected feudalism and Confucian ideology which supported it.</p>
1976	<p>8 January - Zhou Enlai dies of bladder cancer, aged 77. Mao issued no statements acknowledging Zhou's death, worrying that public expressions of mourning would be seen as a public admission that he was being forced to rethink the Cultural Revolution as Zhou had been known for moderating its excesses. His state funeral was held on 15 January, with Deng Xiaoping giving the eulogy. His personal tribute was seen as a subtle criticism of Mao and other leaders. Zhou was replaced as Acting Premier by Huo Guofeng, a compromise candidate.</p> <p>4 April - The Tiananmen Incident occurs as thousands of people gathered around the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square to commemorate the life and death of Zhou Enlai. They began to lay wreaths and banners, some of which attacked the Gang of Four, the Cultural Revolution and even Mao. The crowds soon rose to over two million people. On 5 April, a violent riot erupted as mourners realised that police had had removed the memorial. In the ensuing repression, thousands were arrested and imprisoned.</p> <p>7 April - Deng Xiaoping is stripped of all his positions within the CCP and government as the Tiananmen Incident is blamed on him by Mao and the Gang of Four. Huo Guofeng is then elevated by Mao to the positions of First Vice Chairman of the CCP Central Committee and Premier of the State Council.</p> <p>9 September - Mao Zedong dies after a series of heart attacks and is replaced by Huo Guofeng, becoming Chairman of the CCP Central Committee and Chairman</p>

	<p>of the Military Affairs Commission, holding all three of the most powerful party and state positions.</p> <p>6 October - The Gang of Four and their supporters are arrested by Huo Guofeng and nationwide denunciations of the Gang commence, being blamed for the Cultural Revolution. In their 1981 trial, all four members were sentenced to life in prison, with Jiang Qing committing suicide in 1991.</p>
1977	<p>22 July - Deng Xiaoping is restored to the posts of Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission and Chief of the General Staff of the PLA. Deng then used his influence and position to oust Hua Guofeng from power by 1980. Huo was removed from power and forced to retire.</p>
1978	<p>18 December - Deng Xiaoping emerges as 'paramount leader' of China at the 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CCP. The meeting also rehabilitated many party members imprisoned in previous purges during the Cultural Revolution and set the 'Four Modernisations' as the reform agenda for the next decade. The Four Modernisations focused economic policy on agriculture, industry, national defense, and science and technology.</p>