

# The End of the Chinese Revolution?

November 14, 2007

# Endings and New Beginnings

- 1. When Do Revolutions End?
- 2. What was the Chinese Revolution About?
- 3. Legacies of Revolution in China and Russia

# Many Endpoints

- 1949: The Chinese people “stand up.”
- 1956: Collectivization and Industrialization on the Stalinist model.
- 1958-61: Rise and collapse of the Great Leap: Thermidor at last?
- 1966-76: The Cultural Revolution
- 1978: The real revolution?
- 2001: The end of a united nation

# The Dream of John Ball

- “I pondered how men fight and lose the battle, and the thing that they fought for comes about in spite of their defeat, and when it comes turns out not to be what they meant, and other men have to fight for what they meant under another name”  
– William Morris

# Why didn't the Chinese revolution settle down?

- The personality of Mao Zedong
- Contradictions of economic growth
- Isolation from the world

- 1956: Collectivization and Industrialization
  - The new society: command economy, unit structure
- 1956: A fateful year
  - Khrushchev Secret Speech
  - Hungarian uprising
  - 100 Flowers campaign and its suppression
- 1957: crisis of agricultural growth
- 1958: Walking on two legs

# Mao's Retreat and Recovery

- Peng Dehuai criticizes Mao at Lushan plenum, 1959
- Mao retreats to second line, Liu Shaoqi runs the government
- Deng Xiaoping on cats and mice
- Mao finds allies
  - Lin Biao and the army
  - Jiang Qing and cultural warfare
  - Students attack University officials

# Study Lei Feng: Lin Biao's Army Campaign

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# Jiang Qing's Revolutionary Ballet

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# Legacies of Revolution

- State nation, and class
- International diffusion of Marxist Leninist revolution does not happen
- The counter revolution movement of the 1980s

# 1978

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