

China in Revolution, 1644- 1976

October 29, 2007

The Chinese Revolution

- Issues and Comparisons
- The Ancien Régime: The Qing Dynasty (1636-1911)
- From the 19th Century to the Revolution of 1911

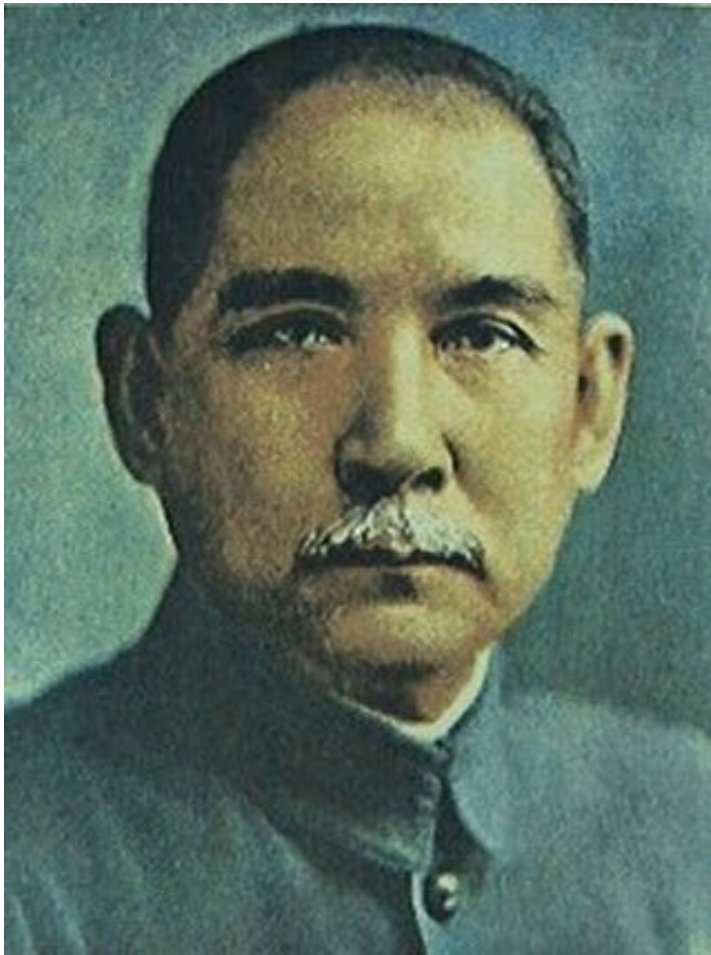
The Complexities of China

- Scale of population, time, and space
- Multiple sites of Revolution
- Multiple revolutionary parties
- Multiple goals:
 - Class (jieji)
 - State (guo)
 - Nation (guojia, minzu)

Who is Chinese?



Who is Chinese?



Nobel Prize Winners



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http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2000/gao-bio.html

Rebiya Kadeer and Yo-yo Ma

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Heroes of Modern China

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Female Heroes



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The Many Chinese Revolutions

- Democracy
- Mass mobilization
- Constitutions
- Anti-imperialism
- Anti-capitalism
- State-building to overcome backwardness
- Nation-building: to achieve dignity
- Consumerist: to get rich

China's Environments

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Environmental Stress



Courtesy NASA. Image from Wikimedia Commons, <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

The Story of Chinese Empires

- Qin Shihuangdi, the first emperor (221 BCE)
 - Bureaucracy
 - Unification of the Chinese written language: burying the scholars and burning the books
 - The Fall of Qin and the Mandate of Heaven
 - Geming: “transfer the Mandate”

What Should a Ruler Do?

- The Role of the Shi (scholars, literati, gentry, officials)
- The Examination System
- Classes of Chinese society
 - Shi (scholars)
 - Nong (peasants)
 - Gong (artisans)
 - Shang (merchants)

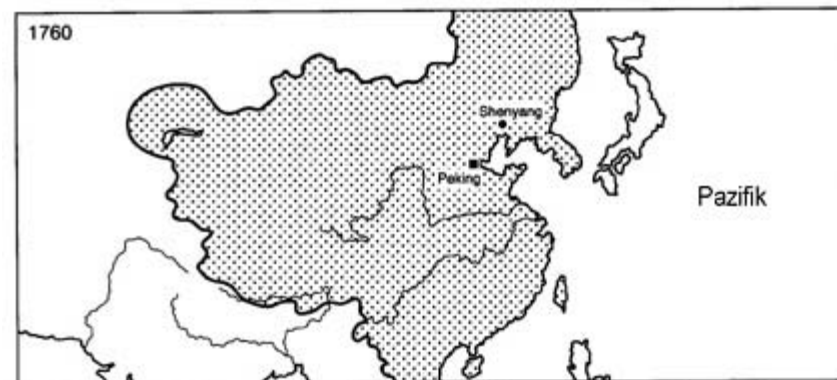
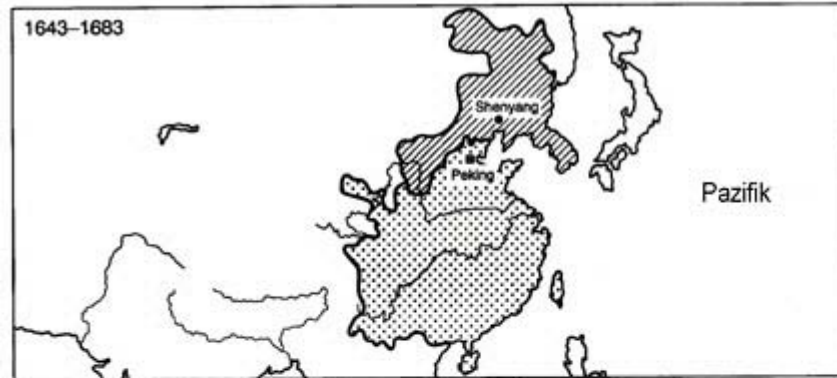
Outside the System: Order and Chaos

- Mobile people (actors, nomads, shifting cultivators, refugees, etc.)
- Women
- The military
- Non-Han people
- Religious leaders (Buddhists, Daoists, Islam)

Contradictions

- Conquerors vs subjects
- Emperors and the scholar-officials
- Officials and merchants
- Elites and peasants
- The settled and the unsettled
- Interior and exterior

Qing Expansion



The Decline of the Qing

- The 18th Century Peak
- Strains in the Flourishing Age
 - Population Growth
 - Environmental Stress
 - Feuds, banditry, and rebellions

Opium trade and the end of the Canton System

- The Canton System, 1780-1842
 - British pay for tea with silver
 - Trade confined to Canton
 - No direct access to the Qing officials
- The Opium War 1839-1842
- Imposition of Unequal Treaties
 - Open ports
 - Fixed tariffs
 - Commercial representatives

Major Rebellions and Recoveries

- Taiping Rebellion (1851-1864)
 - Hong Xiuquan (1813-1864): The Christian Revolutionary
- Self Strengthening
 - “Rich Nation Strong army”
- Japan’s Meiji Revolution 1868
 - The Sino – Japanese War, 1894-1895
- 1898 100 Days of Reform
- 1900: The Boxers
- 1905: The Russo Japanese War and Manchu Reform
- The Road to 1911