

Timeline

1644: The Manchus, a non-Chinese Central Asian people, complete their conquest of China and establish China's last Confucian dynasty, the Qing (1644-1911).

1893: Mao born in China south-central province of Hunan

1895: When Mao was two, Sun Yat-sen, an American-trained dentist, begins the organization of an anti-Qing nationalist group that later becomes the basis for the Nationalist or Guomintang (Kuomintang) party.

1911: Mao moves to Changsha, the Hunan Provincial capital to attend Middle School

October 10, 1911: Beginning of the uprising that overthrows the Qing dynasty and establishes a republic

1913: To the disappointment of Mao and many of his fellow students, the New Republic begins to falter, eventually disintegrating into a number of competing warlord regimes

1915: Founding of New Youth magazine for which Mao wrote article on physical fitness. Also marks beginning New Culture or May Fourth Movement

May 4, 1919: The May Fourth Movement takes its name from the May Fourth Incident, when Chinese students took to the streets to protest the Western powers decision to award former German territories in China to the Japanese rather than giving them back to China. Mao organizes demonstration in Hunan

1921: Mao marries Yang Kaihui and becomes a Communist after he like many other Chinese intellectuals became disillusioned with the West

July 1921: Mao attends the First Congress of the Chinese Communist Party

1923: Mao joins the Guomintang or Chinese Nationalist party after the Guomintang accepts aid from the Soviet Union and allies with the Chinese Communist party (the first United Front).

1925: Sun Yat-sen dies and Jiang Kaishek (Chiang Kai-shek), who had earlier studied briefly in Moscow, becomes the head of the Guomindang (KMT)

May 30, 1925: Students protest Japanese and British atrocities sparking the May 30th Incident which increases membership in the Chinese Communist party. Mao becomes increasingly active in the Guomindang.

July 1926: Jiang Kaishek (Chiang Kai-shek), with strong help from Mao and his other Communist allies, begins the Northern Expedition to reunify China

April 12, 1927: Jiang Kaishek (Chiang Kai-shek), having converted to Christianity, begins the White Terror. KMT forces turn on their Communist allies and slaughter many of them in the streets of Shanghai

1927: Mao escapes the White terror and leads peasant followers in a failed uprising in his native province of Hunan. He and his followers flee to the hills, where he helps form the Red Army.

1931-34: Mao helps establish the Jiangxi Soviet

1934-5: During the Long March the Chinese communists move to Northwest China, where Mao becomes the supreme Chinese Communist leader and the party establishes a new base camp in Yanan.

December 9, 1935: Students begin to flock to Mao's base camp at Yanan after student demonstrations protest government appeasement policies towards the Japanese

1937: After the kidnapping of Jiang Kaishek, the Chinese Communists and the Guomindang form the Second United Front.

1937-1945: Sino-Japanese War

October 1, 1949: Proclamation of the People's Republic of China

1950-53: Korean War

1956-7: Mao initiates the Hundred Flowers Campaign to encourage intellectuals and others to speak up and voice criticism of the party

June 1957: Mao okays the Anti-Rightist Campaign to quash many of those who did speak up

1958-60: Mao begins the Great Leap Forward, a campaign intended to establish an alternate economic model to that of the Soviet Union but which results in massive famine

June 1966-December 1969: Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

1966-1976: Official period of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

1972: U.S. President Richard Nixon accepts Mao's invitation to visit China and reestablish relations between the two countries.

September 9, 1976: Death of Mao Zedong