



Establishing Modern China

MAIN IDEA

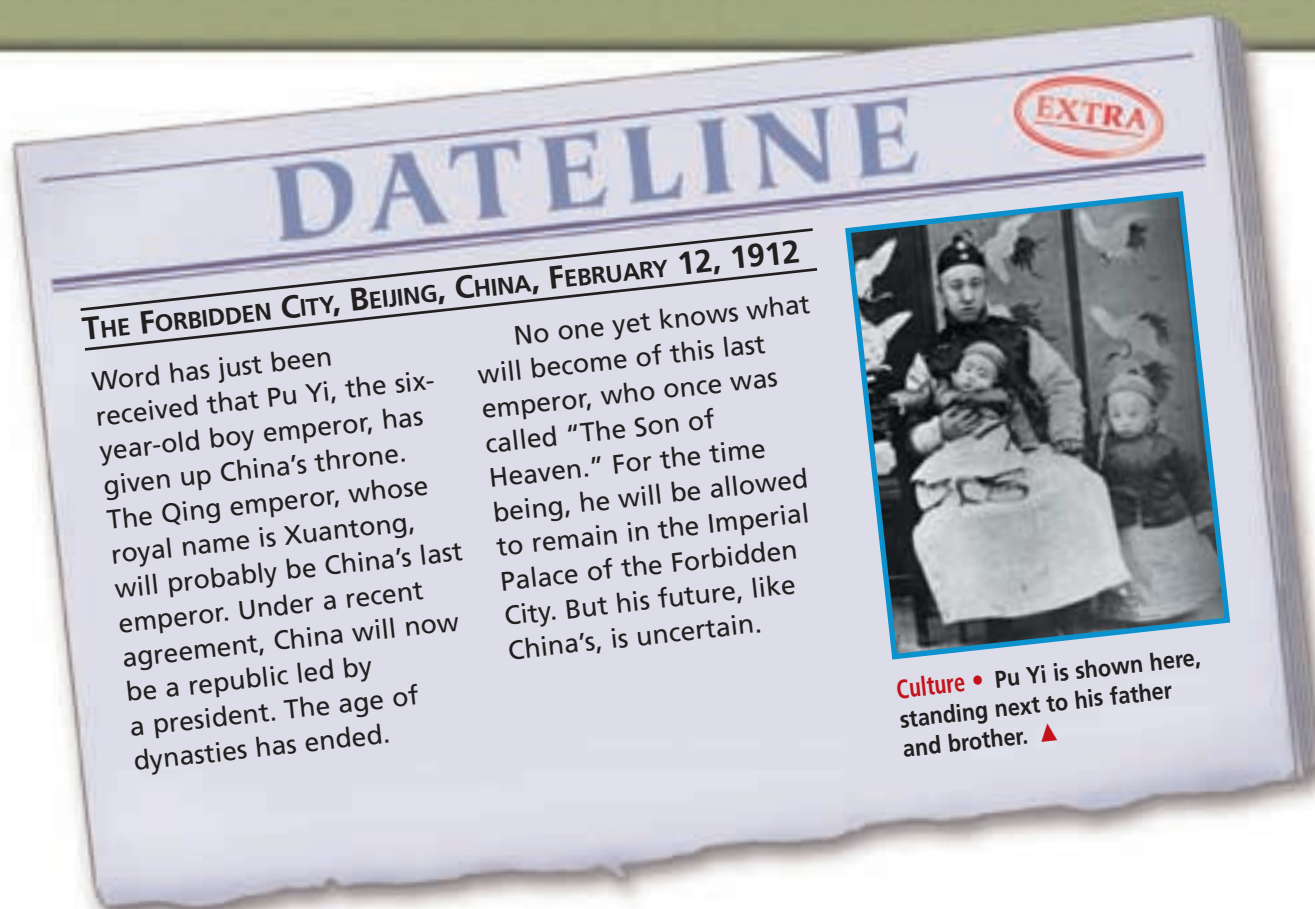
After the end of China's last dynasty and decades of conflict, a Communist government took control of China in 1949.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Because China is a large country with a huge population, its influence politically and economically is felt around the world.

TERMS & NAMES

Opium War
Taiping Rebellion
Boxer Rebellion
Sun Yat-sen
Chiang Kai-shek
Mao Zedong
Great Leap Forward
Cultural Revolution



China's Last Dynasty

In 1644, the Manchus established the Qing Dynasty—China's last and largest empire. The Qing drew both the southwestern region of Tibet and the island of Taiwan into China. However, by the mid-1800s, China's population had more than tripled, straining the country's ability to produce enough food. Shortages, famines, and wars overwhelmed Qing rulers, helping to bring their empire to an end.



Place • This monument in Tiananmen Square shows the Chinese seizing the British opium in Canton. ▲

The Opium War The Qing rulers faced turmoil early on because of a drug called opium. They tried several times to prohibit the sale of opium in China but were not successful. In the late 1700s, the British began smuggling opium from India into China. They used opium, rather than money, to buy Chinese goods, which hurt China's economy.

In 1839, the Chinese government seized all the

opium the British had stored in the Chinese port of Canton. The British responded with an attack, and the first **Opium War** began. Because Qing rule was weak, the British overpowered the Chinese. The Opium War ended in 1842 with the signing of the Treaty of Nanking. This treaty forced the Chinese to pay Great Britain money, hand over Hong Kong to British control, and allow British traders into more Chinese ports.

The Rise of Nationalism Angered by the Treaty of Nanking, peasants rebelled around China. The greatest revolt, the **Taiping Rebellion** (ty·PIHNG), raged for 14 years and took 20 million lives. Peasants demanded equality for women, the end of private property, and the division of surplus harvest among the neediest. The Chinese military, with help from other nations, finally crushed out the last of the rebellion in 1868.

In 1900, another rebel group, called the Boxers, rose up in the **Boxer Rebellion**. The Boxers hoped to defeat the Qing Dynasty and force all foreigners out of China. British, French, Russian, Japanese, and American troops joined together to defeat the Boxers, leaving China's government in turmoil.

A New Republic Many Western-educated Chinese wanted a new government. One ambitious leader, **Sun Yat-sen** (suhn yaht·sehn), had long hoped China would become a democracy. He founded the Chinese Nationalist Party, which in 1911 toppled the Qing Dynasty. The next year, China became a republic. Sun Yat-sen was named the first provisional president. For political reasons, he gave up the first presidency to Yuan Shigai (yoo·AHN shee·ky).

Reading Social Studies

A. Recognizing Important Details
Why would the Treaty of Nanking have angered the Chinese?

BACKGROUND

The Boxers called themselves the "Righteous and Harmonious Fists." The British called this group the Boxers because they practiced a kind of boxing that they thought made them safe from bullets.

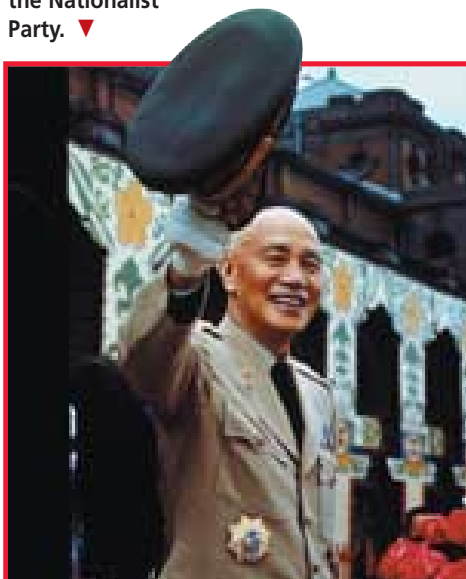


Over the next 16 years, China was in turmoil. Yuan struggled with rebels for power, and before and during World War I, China fought against Japan. During this time, the Nationalist Party gained more members. The Chinese Communist Party also formed. By the end of 1925, the Nationalist Party had about 200,000 members, and the Communist Party had about 10,000.

The Fight for Control In 1927, the two parties joined forces, and **Chiang Kai-shek** (chang ky·shehk), one of Sun Yat-sen's military commanders, became the leader of China. Soon, Chiang turned against the Communists, and the two parties began a long fight for power. In 1934, because the Nationalists seemed close to victory, the Communists retreated on what is known as the Long March. About 100,000 Communists marched more than 6,000 miles north to escape the Nationalist forces.

Chiang Kai-shek maintained control of China until 1949. During this time, the government improved transportation, provided education to more people, and encouraged industry. The lives of peasants and workers were not improved. Gradually many of these people turned to the Communist Party for help.

Culture • Chiang Kai-shek waved his hat at a celebration of the founding of the Nationalist Party. ▼



Communist Revolution

By the end of the Long March, a leader emerged in the Communist Party—**Mao Zedong** (mow dzuh·dohng). When World War II began and Japan invaded China, Chiang Kai-shek turned to Mao and the Communist Red Army for help. At the end of the war in 1945, China's two parties again turned on each other. In 1949, the Communists defeated the Nationalists, forcing Chiang Kai-shek to flee to Taiwan. On October 1, Mao declared China a Communist state called the People's Republic of China.

Biography

Sun Yat-sen (1866–1925) Sun Yat-sen grew up in a poor farmer's family in northern China. In 1879, his older brother, who had been working in Hawaii, brought Sun to Honolulu. Sun learned about Western ways and became interested in Christianity. This troubled his brother, who sent him back to China after four years.

Sun studied medicine and became a doctor, but he had bigger ideas. He thought that China needed to move ahead, to leave some of its traditional ways behind and overcome the past political humiliations. After many struggles, Sun helped China to become a republic. Today, he is known as the Father of Modern China.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

1. **Movement** • What river did the Communists cross on their march?
2. **Place** • Where did the Long March end?

Reform and Revolution

Mao Zedong became head of the Chinese Communist Party and China's government. The party set policy and the government carried it out, giving Chairman Mao nearly absolute power.

Chairman Mao's Reforms The Communists instituted many reforms. They seized land from the wealthy and gave it to the peasants. They also established a five-year plan that brought China's industry under government control. As in the Soviet Union, peasants combined their land into collective farms and worked together to grow food.

In 1958, Mao Zedong launched a program, called the **Great Leap Forward**, to speed up economic development. Collective farms became huge communes of 25,000 people. The communes grew crops, ran small industries, and provided education and health care for their members. In one year, this program shattered China's economy.



Reading Social Studies

B. Synthesizing
How do you think Mao expected communes to help economic development?

Place • This famous portrait of Mao Zedong hangs in Tiananmen Square. ◀



Poor agricultural production, droughts, and floods caused one of the worst famines in history. From 1958 to 1960, as many as 20 million people starved, while millions more died of disease. China then abandoned the Great Leap Forward, and Mao's influence wavered.

Culture • These Red Guards at a rally waved copies of the "Little Red Book," a collection of Mao's sayings. ▼



The Cultural Revolution After the Great Leap Forward, many people in government called for reform. Mao feared that they wanted to make China a capitalist country. In 1966, Mao launched a movement called the **Cultural Revolution**, which aimed to remove opposition to the Communist Party. Mao's new supporters were called the Red Guards. They sought out and punished people who spoke against Mao's principles or who had contact with Western people or ideas. China fell into chaos once again.

During this time, the economy weakened, and the government was unable to carry out many of its duties. Goods and services, such as health care and transportation, were not made available to the people. Many Chinese began calling for reform.

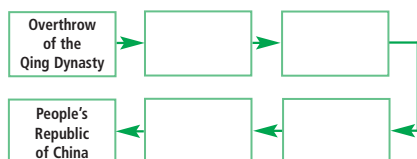
SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. **Identify:** (a) Opium War (b) Taiping Rebellion (c) Boxer Rebellion (d) Sun Yat-sen
(e) Chiang Kai-shek (f) Mao Zedong (g) Great Leap Forward (h) Cultural Revolution

Taking Notes

2. Use a sequence map like this one to list the events that led to the establishment of the People's Republic of China.



Main Ideas

3. (a) Who fought in the Opium War, and why?
(b) What role did the Nationalist Party play in China?
(c) What reforms did Mao Zedong make?

Critical Thinking

4. Recognizing Effects

How do you think European actions in China contributed to feelings of discontent among China's peasants?

Think About

- ♦ European involvement in China during the 1900s
- ♦ the different goals of Europeans and the Chinese

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Imagine you are a journalist. Make a **list of questions** you would like to ask a person who lived during the Cultural Revolution.