

## **DSE IX**

### **HISTORY OF MODERN CHINA (c. 1840s-1950s)**

#### **Course Objectives:**

The course studies the transformation of China from an imperial power into a modern nation taking its place among a constellation of world powers. This transition has been studied in the context of the impact of a specific form of western imperialism on China and the country's numerous internal fissures and contradictions.. This paper seeks to focus on a range of responses to the tumultuous changes taking place: various strands of reform (from liberal to authoritarian), popular movements, and revolutionary struggles. It facilitates an understanding of the multiple trajectories of China's political and cultural transition from a late imperial state, to a flawed Republic, to the Communist Revolution led by Mao Tse Tung. The paper shall expose students to historiographical debates pertaining to each of these themes, keeping in mind historical and contemporary concerns centred on such issues.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of China's engagement with the challenges posed by imperialism, and the trajectories of transition from feudalism to a bourgeois/ capitalist modernity.
- To locate these historical transitions in light of other contemporaneous trajectories into a global modernity, especially that of Japan.
- Analyse significant historiographical shifts in Chinese history, especially with reference to the discourses of nationalism, imperialism, and communism.
- Investigate the political, economic, social and cultural disruptions caused by the breakdown of the centuries old Chinese institutions and ideas, and the recasting of tradition to meet modernist challenges.
- Comprehend the genesis and unique trajectories of the Chinese Communist Revolution.
- Locate the rise of China and Japan in the spheres of Asian and world politics respectively.

## **Course Content:**

### **Unit I: Late Imperial China: Society, Economy, Polity**

- (a) Confucian Value System
- (b) China and the Great Divergence Debate

### **Unit II. Imperialism, Popular Movements and Reforms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

- (a) Opium Wars and the Unequal Treaty System
- (b) Taiping and Boxer Movements – Causes, Ideology, Nature
- (c) Self-Strengthening Movement; Hundred Days Reforms of 1898

### **Unit III: Emergence of Nationalism**

- (a). The Revolution of 1911: Context, Nationalist Ideologies, Role of Social Groups, Changing Gender Roles.
- (b). Sun Yat-sen (Sun Zhong Shan) — Ideology and Three Peoples Principles
- (c) May Fourth Movement of 1919

### **Unit IV: Nationalism and Communism**

- (a). 1921-1927: Formation of the CCP and early activities; Reorganization of the KMT (Nationalist Party); The First United Front
- (b). 1928-1949: Kiangsi (Jiangxi) Period; Evolution of Maoist Strategy and Revolutionary Measures; the Yen-an Phase; Peasant Nationalism and Communist Victory

## **ESSENTIAL READINGS AND UNIT WISE TEACHING OUTCOMES:**

**Unit I:** This unit will introduce student to history of China since early modern times. As a backdrop it will discuss Confucianism and it will also examine the Great Divergence debate. **(Teaching time: 4 weeks Approx.)**

- Latourette, K.S. (1954). *History of Modern China*. London: Penguin Books, (Chapter 2 & Chapter 3).
- Gray, J. (1990). *Rebellions and Revolutions: China from 1800s to the 1980s*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (Chapter 1).
- Pomeranz, K. (2000). *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, (Introduction, Chapter 1).

- Wong, R. Bin. (1997). *China Transformed: Historical change and the Limits of European Expansion*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-52 (The “Introduction” is available on line:

[http://www.history.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/readings/bin\\_wong\\_introduction\\_1.pdf](http://www.history.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/readings/bin_wong_introduction_1.pdf).

**Unit II:** This unit deals with European imperialism in China. It also examines the nature and consequences of popular Movements; Taiping and Boxer Movements. It also deals with Hundred Days Reforms of 1898. **(Teaching Time: 4 weeks Approx.)**

- Peffer, N. (1994). *The Far East- A Modern History*. New Delhi: Surjeet Publications, (Chapter VI & Chapter VII).
- Chung, Tan. (1978). *China and the Brave New World: A Study of the Origins of the Opium War*. New Delhi: Allied Publishers, (Chapter 2, Chapter 6 & Chapter 7).
- Vinacke, H.M. (1982). *A History of the Far East in Modern Times*. Delhi: Kalyani Publishers, (Chapter II).
- Chesneaux, J. (1973). *Peasant Revolts in China 1840-1949*. London: Thames and Hudson, (Chapter 2).
- Cohen, P.A. (1997). *History in Three Keys: The Boxer as Event, Experience and Myth*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Fairbank, J.K. and Merle Goldman. (2006). *China: A New History*. Harvard: Harvard University Press, (Chapter 10 & Chapter 11).
- Gray, J. (1990 reprint). *Rebellions and Revolutions: China from 1800s to the 1980s*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (Chapter 3 & Chapter 6).
- Purcell, V. (1963). *The Boxer Rebellion: A Background Study*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (Chapter VI, Chapters IX, Chapter X & Conclusion).
- Tan, Chester C. (1967). *The Boxer Catastrophe*, New York: Octagon Books.
- Shih, Vincent. (1967). *Taiping Ideology: Its Sources, Interpretations and Influences*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

**Unit III:** This unit examines the history of emergence of Nationalism in China. The Revolution of 1911, its character, nature of protest and participation etc. It also deals with the rise and impact of Sun Yat-sen (Sun Zhong Shan), his ideology and Three Peoples Principles. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks Approx.)**

- Wright, M. C. (Ed.). (1968). *China in Revolution: the First Phase, 1900-1913*. London: Yale University Press, (Introduction).
- Zarrow, P. (2005). *China in War and Revolution 1895-1949*. London: Routledge.
- Lazzerani, Edward J. (Ed.). (1999). *The Chinese Revolution*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, pp 19-32.

- Linebarger, P.M.A. (1973). *The Political Doctrines of Sun Yat-sen: An Exposition of the San min Chu I*. Westport (Connecticut): Greenwood Press, (“Introduction”. Also available online: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/39356>).
- Schiffrin, H.Z. (1968). *Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Chinese Revolution*, Berkeley: University of California Press, (Chapter 1, Chapter II & Chapter X).
- Bianco, L. (1967). *Origins of the Chinese Revolution 1915-1949*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, (Chapter 2).
- Chow, Tse-tung. (1960). *The May Fourth Movement*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, (Chapter I, Chapter XIV).
- Sheridan, J.E. (1975). *China in Disintegration: The Republican Era in Chinese History 1912-1949*. London: Free Press, Collier Macmillan Publishers, (Chapter IV).
- Spence, J. (1999). *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton, (Chapter 11. 13).

**Unit IV:** This unit will examine nature of Nationalism and emergence of Communism in China. It will also examine the formation of the CCP and its early activities. History of Reorganization of the KMT (Nationalist Party) and The First United Front will also be elaborated upon. **(Teaching time: 3 weeks Approx.)**

- Bianco, L. (1967). *Origins of the Chinese Revolution 1915-1949*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, (Chapter 3 & Chapter 4).
- Fairbank, J.K. (1987). *The Great Chinese Revolution 1800-1985*, Part Three. London: Chatto and Windus, (Chapter 12, Chapter 13 & Chapter 14).
- Harrison, J.P. (1972). *The Long March to Power: A History of the Chinese Communist Party, 1921-1972*, London: Macmillan, (Chapter 2, Chapter 3 & Chapter 9).
- Isaacs, H. (1961). *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, (Preface, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Chapter 4 & Chapter 18).
- Johnson, Chalmers A. (1962). *Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power: The Emergence of Revolutionary China, 1937-1945*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, (Chapter I).
- Selden, M. (1971). *The Yen-an Way in Revolutionary China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, (Chapter 1 & Chapter VI).
- Shinkichi, E. and H. Z. Schiffrin, (Ed.). (1984). *The 1911 Revolution in China: Interpretive Essays*. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, pp. 3-13.
- Snow, E. (1937). *Red Star over China, Part Three*. London: Victor Gollancz, (Chapter 2).
- Spence, J. (1999). *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton, (Chapter 16).

## SUGGESTED READINGS:

- Bailey, Paul J. (2007). *Gender and Education in China: Gender discourses and women's schooling in the early twentieth century*. London: Routledge.
- Cameron, Meribeth H. (1931). *The Reform Movement in China, 1898-1912*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Chen, J. (1965). *Mao and the Chinese Revolution*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Chesneaux, J. (Ed.). (1972). *Popular Movements and Secret Societies in China 1840-1950*. Stanford: Stanford University.
- Chesneaux, Jean *et. al.* (1976). *China from Opium War to 1911 Revolution*. New York: Random House, (Chapters 2-4, 7).
- Cohen, P. A. and John E. Schrecker. (1976). *Reform in Nineteenth Century China*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Duara, Prasenjit. (2009). *The global and the regional in China's nation-formation*. London: Routledge.
- Fairbank, J. K. (1953). *Trade and Diplomacy on the China Coast: the opening of the treaty ports, 1842-54*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, (Basic textbook, select chapters).
- Fairbank, J.K. (Ed.). (1983). *Cambridge History of China: Volume XII: Republican China 1912-1949*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Fairbank, J.K. and Merle Goldman. (2006). *China: A New History*. Harvard: Harvard University Press, (Chapter 12).
- Fairbank, J.K., E.O. Reischauer and A.M. Craig. (1998). *East Asia: Tradition and Transformation*. New Jersey: Houghton Mifflin.
- Fenby, J. (2009). *The Penguin History of Modern China: The Fall and Rise of a Great Power 1850-2009*. London: Penguin Books, 2009.
- Franke, Wolfgang. (1980). *A Century of Chinese Revolution, 1851-1949*, Colombia: University of South Carolina Press.
- Goodman, Bryna and Wendy Larson (Ed.). (2005). *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- Greenberg, M. (1951). *British Trade and the Opening of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (Basic textbook, select chapters).
- Hsu, I.C.Y. (1985). *The Rise of Modern China*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, (Chapter 10).
- Hsu, I.C.Y. (Ed.). (1971). *Readings in Modern Chinese History, Part Two*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, (Chapter II).
- Lovell, J. (2011). *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams, and the Making of China*, London: Picador.

- Michael, F.H. (1966-1971). *The Taiping Rebellion: History and Documents*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Schram, S.R. (1963). *The Politics and Thoughts of Mao Tse Tung*. London: Pall Mall.
- Schurmann, F. and O. Schell (Ed.). (1968). *China Reader Series: Vol. I– Imperial China, Vol. II– Republican China*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
- Schwartz, B. (Ed.). (1972). *The Reflections on the May Fourth Movement: A Symposium*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Sheng, Hu. (1981). *Imperialism and Chinese Politics*, Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, (Basic textbook, select chapters).
- Spence, J.D. (1972). *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*. London: Faber and Faber Limited.
- Tan Chung. (1986). *Triton and Dragon: Studies on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century China and Imperialism*. New Delhi: Gian Publishing House.
- Teng, S.Y. (1971). *The Taiping Rebellion and the Western Powers: A Comprehensive Survey*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Twitchett, D. and J.K. Fairbank. (1978). *The Cambridge History of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Vohra, Ranbir. (1987). *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review From 1800 to the Present*. Englewood: New Jersey.: Prentice Hall.
- Waller, D. *Kiangsi Soviets Republic: Mao and the National Congress of 1931 and 1934*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Wasserstorm, Jeffrey N. (2003). *Twentieth Century China: New Approaches (Rewriting Histories)*. London: Routledge.
- Wasserstorm, Jeffrey N. (2016). *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern China*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- पन्त,शैला:(year) आधुनिक चीन का उदय.
- मिश्र,कृष्णकान्त. (2005).बीसवीं सदी का चीन: राष्ट्रवाद और साम्यवाद, ग्रन्थशिल्पी.
- सत्यकेतु विद्यालंकार. (1952). एशिया का आधुनिक इतिहास, Masoori: Sarasvati Sadan.
- जैन एस के. आधुनिक एशिया का इतिहास.
- जैनकैलाशचंद्र. एशिया की विकासोन्मुखी एकता.
- सराओ,के. टी.एस. चीन का इतिहास.
- चीन का भूगोल, (1985). विदेशी भाषा प्रकाशन गृह, पेइचिंग
- एप्सटाइन,इजराइल. (1984). अफीम युद्ध से मुक्ति तक.
- मोहंती,मनोरंजन. (1980). माओत्सेतुंग का राजनीतिक चिंतन (अनुवाद: आनंद स्वरूप वर्मा), दिल्ली : मैकमिलन.
- पाण्डेय धनपति. (2005). आधुनिक एशिया का इतिहास. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas.

**Teaching Learning Process:**

Classroom teaching will be enriched by discussions and presentations made by students in class and/or in tutorials. Presentations shall focus either on important themes covered in class lectures, or on specific readings. Overall, the Teaching Learning Process shall emphasise the interconnectedness of issues within the different rubrics to build a holistic view of the time period.

**Assessment Methods:**

Students shall submit two pieces of written work and shall make presentations based on the prescribed readings during tutorial classes. Since this is a discipline-specific elective paper chosen by the student, she should be encouraged to explore the subject through as many diverse media and in as many ways as possible. Students will be encouraged to innovatively use diverse learning aids, such as maps, texts on historical geography, literature, media reports, documentaries, and movies.

Internal Assessment: 25 Marks

Written Exam: 75 Marks

Total: 100 Marks

**Keywords:**

China, Nationalism, Canton, Opium, Communism, Mao, KMT, CCP, Soviet, Peasantry, Reform, Revolt, Revolution, Sun Yat-sen, Imperialism, Confucianism, Great divergence, Warlordism, Peasant nationalism, Soviets.