

POLS3308 Master Doc

LECTURE 1	2
READING: UNDERSTANDING CHINA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM	2
LECTURE 2: THEORETICAL PARADIGMS OF CHINESE POLITICS.....	4
LECTURE 3: TRADITIONAL/IMPERIAL CHINESE POLITICAL ORDER- GRANDEUR, HUMILIATION, SELF-STRENGTHENING & COLLAPSE.....	5
LECTURE 4: POLITICS OF REPUBLICAN CHINA (1911-1949)	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
NATIONALISTS & COMMUNISTS: TWO COMPETING VIEWS OF NATIONAL SALVATION	ERROR!
BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.	
TUTORIAL 1	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 5: MAOIST RADICAL POLITICS (1949-76)	.ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
MASS MOBILIZATION & PERSECUTION IN 'NEW CHINA'	.ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 6: TRANSITION OF POST-MAO ERA.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
REFORM & OPEN-DOOR ERA.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 7: CHINESE POLITICS IN REFORM ERA.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
TUTORIAL 3	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
<i>Ideology in the lead ("politics in command")</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Marxism, Maoism and social change</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Criticising Mao's aspirations</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
LECTURE 8: ASSESSING REFORM ERA- ACHIEVEMENTS, PROBLEMS & CRISES.....	ERROR!
BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.	
TUTORIAL 4	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 9: THE WEALTH GAP WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RURAL MIGRANT WORKERS	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 10: ETHNIC MINORITIES IN XINJIANG	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 11: BEIJING SPRING & POLITICAL REFORM	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
TUTORIAL 5	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 12: GROWTH OF CIVIL SOCIETY- MIRROR OF POLITICAL OPENING-UP IN ERA OF REFORM	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
TUTORIAL 6	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 13: DEMOCRATIZATION IN CHINA- FROM AUTHORITARIAN PLURALISM TO DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 14: EVOLUTION OF CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
TUTORIAL 7	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 15: SOFT POWER OF CHINA- EXPANSION & CONSTRAINTS	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
TUTORIAL 8	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
LECTURE 16: CHINA & GLOBAL DIPLOMACY OVER CLIMATE CHANGE	ERROR!
BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.	
LECTURE 17: HONG KONG- 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS'	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
TUTORIAL 10.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
<i>Basic Law</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Political: Election of Chief Executive</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>

Economic Integration..... *Error! Bookmark not defined.*

Conclusion: Answer depends on where you sit..... *Error! Bookmark not defined.*

LECTURE 18: REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN- FROM ‘ANOTHER AUTHORITARIAN CHINESE REGIME’ TO ‘FIRST CHINESE DEMOCRACY’..... **ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

LECTURE 19: OVERSEAS CHINESE & CHINA’S GLOBAL ETHNIC DIPLOMACY..... **ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

LECTURE 20: SUMMARY **ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

Lecture 1

Importance of China

- Complexity & contradictions in Chinese politics, society & foreign policy defy conventional academic paradigms
 - ‘Divided nation, glory and humiliation, “China dream”, vulnerability, ancient wisdom, modern challenges’
- China Model: does China provide a contending alternative economic & political system, complicating the world’s fundamental ideological debate? Is China providing a distinct formula for the ‘end of history’?
- Implications of China’s rise for Australia: debate over China’s mounting shadow

Reading: Understanding China’s Political System

Introduction

- Questioning of long-term viability of current political system
- Wen Jiabao: ‘without the success of political structural reform, it is impossible for us to fully institute economic structural reform. The gains we have made in reform and development may be lost, new problems that have cropped up in China’s society cannot be fundamentally resolved and such historical tragedy as the Cultural Revolution may happen again.’

Overview of China’s Political Institutions

- Four pillars of power
 - People’s Liberation Army (PLA)
 - Control of personnel appointments across all political institutions, military state-owned corporations, & public institutions
 - Control over media
 - Control of judiciary & internal security apparatus
- State: headed by State Council & includes State’s ministries & commissions & layers of ‘people’s governments’
- National People’s Congress (NPC): oversees State Council and:
 - Presidency
 - Supreme People’s Court
 - Public prosecutors’ office
 - Military
 - Can exercise little oversight
 - Expected to approve everything
 - Power: in ability to initiate & shape legislation

- Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee
- Minor political parties ('democratic parties'): pledge loyalty to CCP
 - Allows Party to describe China's political system as 'multi-party cooperation & political consultation led by the CCP'

Features of China's Formal Political Culture

- Collective leadership
 - No supreme leader since death of Deng Xiaoping (1997)
 - In order of rank:
 - Politburo Standing Committee: 9 members
 - Politburo: 25 members
 - Central Committee: 204 members; 167 alternate members
 - Party Congress: 2,213 delegates
 - Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) forms collective leadership in which each man has rank & specific portfolio
 - Hu Jintao: convenes PSC & larger Politburo meetings, military & foreign affairs
 - PSC decision-making is believed to involve considerable bargaining & maneuvering for factional advantage
 - Designed to guard against repeat of excesses in Mao era
 - Guard against emergence of figure like Mikhail Gorbachev (blamed for collapse of Soviet Union)
 - Need for consensus accounts for slow public responses to important events
- Power of provincial governments
 - Fiscal decentralization has been major force in empowering provincial governments
 - Provinces have their own revenue streams & governments at provincial level are responsible for country's public expenditure including public spending on:
 - Education, health, unemployment insurance, social security, welfare
 - Provinces have right to pass own laws & regulations
 - Beijing sometimes struggles to impose will on provinces
 - Conflict of priorities: leaders tend to put provincial leadership's interests first
 - Officially 34 provincial-level governments (23 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 municipalities, 2 special administrative regions of Hong Kong & Macau)
- Document-based culture
 - Statements of individual leaders are less authoritative than documents approved by collective leadership
 - Includes heavy reliance on paper documents, with these documents & signatures helping to build consensus
 - IN US-China relationship: great store China places in documents helps explain why Chinese side has pushed so hard

- for issuance of series of detailed joint statements between countries
- Considers these to be highly authoritative texts containing guiding principles for the relationship, although US officials do not hold them to similar importance → disconnect
- Importance of ideology
 - Ideology more important in China than anywhere else
 - Won revolution based off ideology & therefore must uphold it
- Ideal of meritocracy
 - Notion that people rise within Party or State hierarchy based on merit
 - Party argues it has a track record of promoting competent administrators: makes China's political system superior to systems of countries that elect their leaders in competitive, multi-party elections
- Age & term limits for official positions
- Emphasis on long-term planning
- Emphasis on political stability

Lecture 2: Theoretical Paradigms of Chinese Politics

Chinese Political History: Pre-PRC

- Oldest continuous civilization; regional domination by Middle Kingdom under various dynasties
- Weakened & humiliated by Western powers since Opium War in 1840
- Fall of last dynasty (1911): Republic of China (ROC) established by GMD
- Japanese invasion & occupation in eastern China (1937-45)
- Civil War (1946-49): GMD vs. CCP
- Oct 1949: communists won civil war & established PRC, GMD fled to Taiwan

Political Trajectory of Party-State

- Mao Zedong: Chairman (1949-76, ruled until his death)
 - Radical ideology; excessive political purges
- Deng Xiaoping (1978-89): pragmatic economic reform & open approach to global capitalism
- Jiang Zemin (1989-2002): continued & expanded Deng's reform strategy
 - Deng wielded power behind scenes until his death in 1997
- Hu Jintao (2002-2012): followed reform line with more emphasis on equitable share of benefits among people & diverse regions
- Xi Jinping (2013-): emerging as new visionary strongman; populist propaganda of 'China dream'
 - In 100 years after PRC, our party will develop the nation by GDP, high tech, etc., and will be called a developed country

Tools of Analysis: Frustration in 'reading the tea leaves' of Chinese party-state

- 'Leninist' party-state model: applied to define fundamental features of Chinese politics & measure its genetic development
 - Parallel systems: communist vs. government system

- Government loyally implements communist party order in nation
 - Provincial & city government under the overarching party
 - Communists dominate (single-party): not subject to challenge, challengers shot down
 - Represents the people
 - Only party with right ideology for everyone
- Generational analysis, focused on top leaders
 - Personal background, formative years, in light of extremely eventful Chinese history from late 19th century
 - Post-1949 technocratic experience of current generation of leaders
- Historical cultural analysis: essentialist use of traditional imperial Chinese political models to interpret working of PRC, including its leadership
 - ‘Century of Shame’ syndrome
- Factional models: guanxi
 - Balance of power among rival factions, formed on basis of common political/revolutionary background, provincial/regional origins, bureaucratic interests, attitudes toward foreign ideas
- Authoritarian pluralism
 - Very recent perspective to capture changing nature of PRC government & politics
 - Claims one should discuss China as transformed & more responsive party-state, with rise of interest groups & more demanding people
 - As a result of rising living standards, education level & globalization
 - School of thought divided over whether authoritarian pluralism will necessarily evolve into liberal democracy

Conclusion

- Theories developed during different phases of PRC, focused on different aspects of political life
- Might all have validity, none has monopoly of analytical wisdom
- Hybrid approach whilst seeing China as ‘party-state’ in essence

Lecture 3: Traditional/Imperial Chinese Political Order- Grandeur, Humiliation, Self-Strengthening & Collapse

Evolving Political Boundaries of China

- Han Dynasty: 206 BC to 220 AD
- Tang Dynasty: 618 to 907 AD
- Song Dynasty: 960
- Yuan Dynasty: 1279 to 1368 AD
- Ming Dynasty: 1368 to 1644 AD
 - Provinces delineated in this dynasty still remain today
- Qing Dynasty: 1644 to 1911 AD
 - Subjugated by Western power
 - Fraught with problems

- Forced to relinquish some outer regions i.e. Xinjiang (Chinese Turkestan)
- China deeply entrenched in political society & cultural norms
 - Institution/memory has remained intact for 2000 years
 - Past continues to have influence on modern day

Key Aspects of Political Economy: Dynastic Cycle

- Economy based on agriculture: sophisticated skills in wet rice cultivation, water irrigation, silk production
- Chinese developed written language at early stage
- Political system & society as a whole (was highly hierarchical, centralized, founded on Confucianism)
 - Not religion: concerned with proper human relations & statecraft
 - Involves ethics

Confucianism

- Advocates orderly & harmonious society
 - Achieved by hierarchical relationships from within family (filial piety) to ruler/subject relationships
- Rulers act as moral role models for subjects to emulate
- Emperor is benevolent father to people
- Confucianism not favorably disposed to rule of law
- Commerce (or non-agricultural economic activity) is disrespected
- Ideal Confucian society is officialdom-centered & agriculture-based society
 - Encouragement for individual freedom & industrial entrepreneurship
 - Elaborate, centralized, rigid hierarchy
- Social mobility through competitive civil service examination
 - Sense of meritocracy
- Pro-Western reformers in late 19th century lamented that political system remained one which was identifiable to Qin Dynasty (1st imperial dynasty 221-206 BC)
 - Vicious recycling of similar dynastic politics
 - This remained because there was no superior challenge from within the nation from any other leader/group
 - China did not feel the need to reform, therefore there was recycling

Western Challenge

- Opium War & aftermath
 - Beginning of series of Western military & diplomatic campaigns to subjugate China
 - Carved up China into various international concessions
 - Westerners enjoyed economic, social, & legal (extraterritorial) privileges over Chinese
 - Hong Kong ceded to UK
 - Climax: Qing Dynasty's defeat by Japan in 1895
- Ignorance & arrogance

- Celestial Kingdom's ignorance of post-medieval enlightenment & advances in science & technology in Europe (Industrial Revolution)
- Consequence: enduring 'Century of Humiliation' syndrome (still suffers from this today)

Failed Reform & Rise of Republican Revolution

- Superficial borrowing from West: arsenals, shipyards, factories, foreign language schools
- Conservative socio-political mindset remained, making modernization difficult, in sharp contrast to Meiji Japan
- 1911 Republican Revolution
- Potential end of dynastic cycle

To what extent is Chinese politics still Confucian?