


" Just five years ago, most of us were China optimists. We thought that economic freedom would eventually lead to political liberalisation too... China as getting more like us. That all seemed perfectly reasonable then, but looks like wishful thinking now."

Tony Abbot, Weekend Australian, 1 May 2021

WHAT HAS CHANGED ?
WHAT IS GOING ON IN CHINA?

1



WHAT IS GOING ON IN CHINA?

- * How do the Chinese people think?
- * Foundation of the PRC & the dictatorship of the CPC
- * The legacy of DENG XiaoPing
- * XI JinPing – the new Emperor of China
- * What happens next?

2

How do the Chinese people think ?

"We have different thinking ways"


Please and thank you
I don't care
Appointments & commitments
Everything is dependent on relationships
The Five Relationships (五倫)

father-son,	husband-wife,
ruler-subject,	friend-friend, and
elder-younger	

Brothers, sisters and Cousins – family comes first
Gift up, not Down
Professor Terry
'One Under Heaven' – Tianxia (天下) (Hero)
China = Zhōng Guó = Middle Kingdom
Centre of the Earth

3

QUICK HISTORY OF CHINA



1750 – China limits foreign trade to Canton – they need nothing
1793 – Lord Macartney refuses to bow to the Emperor – refused audience. China affirms Tianxia philosophy
1839 – First Opium war – British Government survives by 5 votes
1856/60 – Second Opium War; 1860 – burning of the Summer Palace
1851 / 1865 – TaiPing Rebellion - between 25 and 70 million died. Qing Dynasty loses the 'mandate of heaven'.
1861/1908 – Empress Dowager Xhd rules China (1895 – Marble Boat)
1911 – Revolution headed by Sun Yat-sen – Qing Dynasty Falls
1911 – Sun Yat-sen steps down from the presidency, hoping to avoid civil war – the era of the War Lords begins
1923 – Sun Yat-sen tries to unite Communists and KMT
1925 – Sun Yat-sen dies of cancer – Chiang Kai-shek takes over KMT (Young Riders)
1927 – Chiang Kai-shek splits from Communists – civil war begins

4



QUICK HISTORY OF CHINA

1949 – Communists win civil war– PRC Established – KMT Flees to Taiwan
1965 – Mao's health in decline – power struggle results in 'Cultural Revolution' led by the 'Gang of Four'
1971 – LIN Bao dies in a 'plane crash' – power struggle continues
1976 – Mao dies
1978 – DENG XiaoPing wins the power struggle, becomes General Secretary of CPC, starts economic reforms
1979 – Sino/Vietnamese War - military reforms instituted
1989 - TianAnMen massacre (100k troops; 10,000 students)
1989 – Deng takes charge, installs JIANG ZeMin
1992 – Deng becomes 'Paramount Leader' – installs HU Jintao
2010 – XI JinPing takes over
2018 – XI JinPing abolishes term limits on Presidency (1982/2018)



5

HOW DOES THE CPC REGIME SURVIVE?

Strong moral/economic legitimacy after the revolution
Restored national pride after a century of humiliation
Implemented an 'Iron Ricebowl'
BUT Disasters with:


The 'Great Leap Forward'
The 'Cultural Revolution'
Death of Zhou Enlai provoked economic backlash
Deng's reforms promised that 'Your Children will have a better life' - 5% growth essential
Then: Tian An Menh

6

DENG XiaoPing

Fundamentally a 'rightist'
 Purged twice during the Cultural Revolution, son tortured and crippled
 Spent 1969-73 in a tractor factory
 1976 Purged again after death of ZHOA En Lai
 1978 - Became General Secretary of CPC
 1989 - TianAnMen massacre - 200K troops kill 10,000 students
 Purged again after TianAnMen (1989)
 A political genius who outmanoeuvred his opponents in 1989 and became 'Paramount Leader' in 1992
 Died 1997



7

THE LEGACY OF DENG XIAO PING

It doesn't matter if it is a black cat or a white cat, so long as it catches mice
 Instituted a system of term limitations for leadership positions and separation of the positions of CCP General Secretary, President and Military Commander to ensure the peaceful transition of power - a world first for an absolute dictatorship?
 Not a democrat - perhaps a traditional Chinese warlord, but also possibly a true patriot
 Maybe he and Chiang Kai-Shek had a lot in common?

8

XI Jin-ping


Son of a high ranking Party official whose family was purged when he was 10 years old
 Sister committed suicide during Cultural Revolution, father spent 12 years in labor camps & prisons
 Finally admitted to Tsinghua University and earned degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Doctorate in Law and Marxist theory and Ideology
 A 'Princeling'
 Battled for years to be granted CPC membership
 Kept his 'nose clean' by toeing the Party Line and gradually rose through the CPC Ranks



9

XI Jin-ping in Power

Succession to the leadership was threatened by BO Xi-lai until XI had his wife arrested for murder and BO disappeared after allegations of corruption.
 Immediately on accession to power as General Secretary of the CPC instituted a massive 'drive against corruption' resulting in 'the biggest purge since the time of Mao'.
 Established the *National Supervision Commission*, that is ranked higher than the Supreme Peoples Court, allegedly to wipe out corruption.
 'Coincidentally' most of the 400,000 purged for corruption happened to be opponents of XI Jin-ping
 Instituted a cult of personality
 Can't stand criticism



10

XI Jin-ping - Policies

Consolidated power over the Party, Government & Military in his hands - the first time since Mao
 Reasserted the place of China in the world under the Tanxia philosophy as the 'China Dream'
 Instituted the 'Belt and Road' economic initiative in 2013
 Rejects the Sovereignty of the World Court, the Haigh Permanent Court of Arbitration or any international supervisory body
 Asserts that Taiwan will be absorbed into the PRC, if necessary by force
 Adopting a 'salami slicing' policy in dealing with its neighbors
 India perceived as the major 'local' threat

11

The '9 Dash Line'



The map shows the '9 Dash Line' in the South China Sea, with labels for CHINA, TAIWAN, VIETNAM, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, and INDONESIA. Key locations marked include Dong Sha Island, Pratales, and Scarborough Shoal. A legend indicates 'China's claim line', 'UNESCO 200 Nautical Mile Exclusive Economic Zone', and 'Occupied nations'.

12

