Chinese Socialism in the Postwar World

Course Proseminar 06LE39S-123 (6 ECTS)

Instructor Puck Engman

Time and place Thursdays, 12h-14h, Erbprinzenstraße 12, 4 OG

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Description Chinese socialism is an important chapter in the global story of the postwar era. The end of World War II did not mark the end of conflict in China as it was followed almost immediately by the breakout of civil war. Armed conflict did not cease until 1949 when the Chinese Communist Party proclaimed the People's Republic of China on the mainland and the Guomindang set up its own government on the island of Taiwan. Like in other parts of the world, the postwar period saw China confronted both with the legacies of past violence and the emerging hostilities of the Cold War. By looking at the legacies of war and revolution together, this seminar allows students to consider how the history of the People's Republic of China relates to global history in the late twentieth century.

Student learning outcomes

At the end of this seminar, you will be able to:

- Identify key events in the history of Chinese socialism and interpret them in connection to global developments in the postwar era.
- Assess the legacies of war and wartime mobilization in recent Chinese history.
- Purposefully switch perspectives and frames to produce new knowledge about the past and recognize the place of creativity and imagination in the historian's craft.

Requirements and evaluation

Requirements for Studienleistung (SL)

- Mandatory attendance (no more than two absences for the entire semester) / Präsenzpflicht (maximal zwei Abwesenheiten im gesamten Semester)
- Active participation, based on active preparations for the sessions and fulfillment of assignments in class / Aktive Beteiligung, basierend auf der aktiven Vor- und Nachbereitung der Sitzungen und der Erledigung der Arbeitsaufträge
- Session summary / Sitzungszusammenfassung (ca. 3 min)
- Presentation / Referat (ca. 10 min)

Requirements for Prüfungsleistung (PL)

- Mandatory attendance (no more than two absences for the entire semester) / Präsenzpflicht (maximal zwei Abwesenheiten im gesamten Semester)
- Active participation, based on active preparations for the sessions and fulfillment of assignments in class / Aktive Beteiligung, basierend auf der aktiven Vor- und Nachbereitung der Sitzungen und der Erledigung der Arbeitsaufträge
- Session summary / Sitzungszusammenfassung (ca. 3 min)
- Presentation / Referat (ca. 10 min)
- Graded essay / Benotete Hausarbeit (2500 words)

Preparation and participation

For this seminar to be successful, there has to be a good environment for discussion in class. Therefore you are expected to participate actively in the discussion and to prepare outside of class by reading the assigned texts, taking notes, and preparing questions and comments. All readings are available via the ILIAS and HISinOne platforms.

Attendance is mandatory with a maximum of two absences for the entire semester.

Session summary

The session summary should recapitulate in a few sentences the main points from the previous week's discussion and then raise one or two unanswered questions or propose related problems.

This exercise is meant to strengthen your ability to succinctly capture the broad strokes of an argument before presenting your own questions or views. More broadly, the summaries are intended to bridge the discussion as the class moves from one topic to the next one.

Oral presentation

For the oral presentation you can choose between two options. The first option is a **reading response**. This presentation serves to open up the class discussion of the weekly readings. You should select one of the assigned texts and one or several text(s) from the list of further readings or another text that you find relevant (feel free to ask me about additional texts beforehand). The presentation should briefly summarize the main arguments or points made by the authors, identify the types of sources used, connect the texts by pointing out similarities or conflicts between them, and above all raise issues or questions for further

discussion in class (for example, by connecting the texts to earlier readings or topics you have discussed in other seminars).

The second option is an **essay outline**. In this way you can take advantage of the oral presentation to get feedback on your ideas for the essay (PL only). This presentation should summarize the topic you want to write about, engage with what historians have written on the topic in the past, and offer preliminary questions and arguments.

Essay

The objective of the essay is to present a historical argument. This means that the essay should start out with a clearly defined problem and proceed to solve it through the analysis of historical events. Here, analysis refers to the way you describe, arrange, and contextualize the events to connect them to your particular perspective and the point you want to make. You can choose any topic relevant to recent Chinese history but in making your argument you should clearly formulate a framework for your narrative. By choosing a specific framework, events can be shown in light of broader historical trends (e.g. the global postwar era, the Cold War, the anthropocene, globalization and transnationalism) or let you explore how the inclusion of neglected stories can change the overall narrative (e.g. histories of women, the grassroots, sound, human-animal relations).

Regardless of topic and framework, the essay has to engage with the historiography. This means that you will have to include references to secondary literature and relate your own findings to what historians have said in the past. If you choose a topic only to find that little has been written about it before, you will have to think creatively about how your own topic might relate to more popular subjects and how literature on similar topics from other parts of the world or other time periods can be relevant.

Although many arguments can be made on the basis of secondary literature alone, others require empirical research using primary sources. As a principle, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself first with the secondary literature and look for primary sources when you already have an idea of what you want to write about. You can start looking for sources in the footnotes and bibliographies of the assigned texts, by searching for relevant keywords in the university library catalogue, on CrossAsia, or by consulting the list of resources below.

Your essay will be evaluated based on how well it meets the following criteria:

- The essay clearly states research question(s) and argument(s) in the introduction.
- The essay connects research question(s) and argument(s) to a clearly defined historical framework.
- The essay has a clear structure within each section and between sections.
- The essay balances careful and nuanced description with effective argumentation.

- The essay cites relevant evidence to back up statements.
- The essay engages with relevant historiography on the topic.
- The essay is consistent with the institute guidelines.

The essay should be approximately **2500 words** (+/-10% is allowed, including footnotes and references).

A topic proposal of three to four sentences should be submitted together with a basic outline and a list of literature and sources by Friday, 20.12.2019.

The final essay is due **Friday**, **06.03.2020**. To be submitted to: puck.engman@sinologie.uni-freiburg.de

The essay can be written either in English or German.

Lesson Plan

Week 1. Introduction: What is Postwar Socialism?

Week 2. Postwar Visions: The Guomindang in 1945

Van de Ven, Hans. *China at War: Triumph and Tragedy in the Emergence of the New China.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018: pp. 221-236.

Westad, Odd Arne. *Decisive Encounters: The Chinese Civil War, 1946-1950*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003: pp. 17-32.

Chiang Kai-shek. *China's Destiny and Chinese Economic Theory*. New York: Roy Publishers, 1947: pp. 214-229.

Video recording of Song Meiling's speech at a Chicago rally, April 27, 1943 (~1 min)

~45 pages

Week 3. Postwar Visions: The Communists in 1949

Westad, Odd Arne. *Decisive Encounters: The Chinese Civil War, 1946-1950*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003: pp. 259-293.

Schram, Stuart. *The Thought of Mao Tse-Tung*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989: pp. 84-94.

Mao Zedong. "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship." In *Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung*, IV: pp. 411–24. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1961 (1949).

Video recording of Mao Zedong declaring the founding of the People's Republic of China October 1, 1949 (~4 min)

~60 pages

Week 4. War Economy and Urban Reconstruction

Kirby, William. "Continuity and Change in Modern China: Economic Planning on the Mainland and on Taiwan, 1943-1958." *The Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs*, no. 24 (1990): 121–41.

Howard, Joshua. *Workers at War: Labor in China's Arsenals, 1937-1953*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004: pp. 327-356.

Chen, Hansheng. "The Path of China's Economy." China Reconstructs, no. 1 (1954): 5–10.

~55 pages

Week 5. The Peasant Question, Land Reform, and Bitter Recollections

Wemheuer, Felix. *A Social History of Maoist China: Conflict and Change, 1949-1976.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019: pp. 55-65.

Guo Wu. "Recalling Bitterness: Historiography, Memory, and Myth in Maoist China." *Twentieth-Century China* 39, no. 3 (2014): pp. 245–68. https://doi.org/10.1353/tcc.2014. 0021.

Skinner, William *Rural China on the Eve of Revolution: Sichuan Fieldnotes, 1949-1950.* Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017: pp. 219-232.

~50 pages

Week 6. Collaborators and Counterrevolutionaries

Brook, Timothy. "Collaboration in the History of Wartime East Asia." *Asia-Pacific Journal* 6, no. 7 (July 2008): pp. 1-17.

Louzon, Victor. "From Japanese Soldiers to Chinese Rebels: Colonial Hegemony, War Experience, and Spontaneous Remobilization during the 1947 Taiwanese Rebellion." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 77, no. 1 (February 2018): pp. 161–79. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911817001279.

"Regulations on the Punishment of Counterrevolutionaries of the People's Republic of China," 1951.

~40 pages

Week 7. Capitalists, Intellectuals, and the United Front

Mazur, Mary. "The United Front Redefined for the Party-State: A Case Study of Transition and Legitimation." in *New Perspectives on State Socialism in China*, edited by Timothy Cheek and Tony Saich, pp. 51–75. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1997.

"Memorandum of Conversation between Anastas Mikoyan and Mao Zedong, February 05, 1949." Translated by Sergey Radchenko. APRF: F. 39, Op. 1, D. 39, Ll. 64-73. History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive.

"Memorandum of Conversation between Anastas Mikoyan and Mao Zedong, February 06, 1949." Translated by Sergey Radchenko. APRF: F. 39, Op. 1, D. 39, Ll. 78-88. History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive.

~45 pages

Week 8. The Korean War

Garver, John. China's Quest: The History of the Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018: pp. 59-91.

Chen Tiqiang, "Who Is Undermining International Law?" 2019 (1950), translated and introduced by Ryan Mitchell

~40 pages

Week 9. The Global Peace Movement

Forster, Elisabeth. "Bellicose Peace: China's Peace Signature Campaign and Discourses about 'Peace' in the Early 1950s." *Modern China*, 2019. https://doi.org/10.1177/0097700419851460.

Harrison, Henrietta. "Popular Responses to the Atomic Bomb in China 1945-1955." *Past & Present* 218, no. suppl 8 (January 1, 2013): 98–116. https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts036.

~50 pages

=== Proposed essay topic and source list due Friday, December 20 ===

Week 10. Women and Mobilization

Hershatter, Gail. Women and China's Revolutions. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019: pp. 189-250.

~70 pages

Week 11. Socialist Welfare

Dillon, Nara. *Radical Inequalities: China's Revolutionary Welfare State in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2015: pp. 1-36, 118-154.

Song, Qingling. "Welfare Work and World Peace." China Reconstructs, no. 1 (1952): 2–3.

~70 pages

Week 12. Socialist Futures and the Great Leap Forward

Walder, Andrew. *China under Mao: A Revolution Derailed*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015: pp. 152-179

Leese, Daniel. "Between Socialist Futures: Mao Zedong on the 'Ten Major Relationships.'" In *Revolutionary Moments: Reading Revolutionary Texts*, edited by Rachel Hammersley, pp. 159–66. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015. https://doi.org/10.5040/9781474252669.0026.

Mao Zedong, "On the Ten Major Relationships," In *The Writings of Mao Zedong*, 1949-1976, II, edited by John K. Leung and Michael Y. M. Kau, pp. 43–66. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1992 (1956).

~55 pages

Week 13. The Socialist Education Movement: Learning about Old Society in New China

Ho, Denise. *Curating Revolution: Politics on Display in Mao's China*. Cambridge University Press, 2017: pp. 138-173.

Yang Guobin. *The Red Guard Generation and Political Activism in China*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016: pp. 48-68.

"Rent Collection Courtyard." Morning Sun.

~60 pages

Week 14. The Cultural Revolution: Worldwide Rebellion Against the Old

Lovell, Julia. Maoism: A Global History. New York: Knopf, 2019: pp. 266-305.

Wu Yiching. *The Cultural Revolution at the Margins*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014: pp. 17-52

~70 pages

Week 15. Concluding Discussion

=== Final essay due Friday, March 6 ===

Further reading

Socialist China

Anagnost, Ann. *National Past-Times: Narrative, Representation, and Power in Modern China*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997.

Bramall, Chris. Chinese Economic Development. London; New York: Routledge, 2009.

Brook, Timothy. *Collaboration: Japanese Agents and Local Elites in Wartime China*. Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Brown, Jeremy, and Paul Pickowicz, eds. *Dilemmas of Victory: The Early Years of the People's Republic of China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.

Chan, Anita, Jonathan Unger, and Richard Madsen. *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization*. 3 edition. Berkeley: University of California, 2009.

Cochran, Sherman, ed. *The Capitalist Dilemma in China's Communist Revolution*. New York: Cornell University East Asia Program, 2014.

Cochran, Sherman, and Andrew Hsieh. *The Lius of Shanghai*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013.

Crook, Isabelle, Christina Gilmartin, and Xiji Yu. *Prosperity's Predicament: Identity, Reform, and Resistance in Rural Wartime China*. Edited by Gail Hershatter and Emily Honig. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015.

DeMare, Brian James. *Land Wars: The Story of China's Agrarian Revolution*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2019.

Frazier, Mark. *The Making of the Chinese Industrial Workplace: State, Revolution, and Labor Management*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Gao, James. *The Communist Takeover of Hangzhou: The Transformation of City and Cadre,* 1949-1954. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2004.

Groot, Gerry. *Managing Transitions: The Chinese Communist Party, United Front Work, Corporatism and Hegemony*. London; New York: Routledge, 2004.

Goldstein, Joshua. "Scissors, Surveys, And Psycho-Prophylactics: Prenatal Health Care Campaigns And State Building In China, 1949–1954." *Journal of Historical Sociology* 11, no. 2 (January 6, 1998): 153–84. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-6443.00059.

Guo, Vivienne Xiangwei. "Forging a Women's United Front: Chinese Elite Women's Networks for National Salvation and Resistance, 1932–1938." *Modern Asian Studies* 53, no. 2 (March 2019): 483–511. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0026749X17000105.

Hinton, William. Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village. Berkeley; Los Angeles; London: University of California Press, 1966.

Howard, Joshua. "The Politicization of Women Workers at War: Labour in Chongqing's Cotton Mills during the Anti-Japanese War." *Modern Asian Studies* 47, no. 6 (November 2013): 1888–1940. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0026749X11000849.

Jacobs, Justin. "Preparing the People for Mass Clemency: The 1956 Japanese War Crimes Trials in Shenyang and Taiyuan." *The China Quarterly* 205 (2011): 152–172.

King, Amy. *China-Japan Relations after World War Two: Empire, Industry and War,* 1949-1971. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Kushner, Barak. "Ghosts of the Japanese Imperial Army: The 'White Group' (Baituan) and Early Post-War Sino-Japanese Relations." *Past & Present* 218, no. suppl_8 (January 1, 2013): 117–50. https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts037.

——. Men to Devils, Devils to Men: Japanese War Crimes and Chinese Justice. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015.

Kushner, Barak, and Sherzod Muminov, eds. *The Dismantling of Japan's Empire in East Asia: Deimperialization, Postwar Legitimation and Imperial Afterlife.* London; New York: Routledge, 2017.

Lary, Diana. *China's Civil War: A Social History, 1945-1949*. New Approaches to Asian History 13. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Lawson, Konrad. "Wartime Atrocities and the Politics of Treason in the Ruins of the Japanese Empire, 1937-1953." Harvard University, 2012. http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/9795484.

Leese, Daniel. Die chinesische Kulturrevolution 1966-1976. Munich: C.H. Beck, 2016.

Li Fangchun. "Mass Democracy, Class Struggle, and Remolding the Party and Government during the Land Reform Movement in North China." *Modern China* 38, no. 4 (2012): 411–45.

Li Huayu. *Mao and the Economic Stalinization of China, 1948–1953*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

Li Lifeng. "From Bitter Memories to Revolutionary Memory." *Chinese Studies in History* 47, no. 1 (October 1, 2013): 71–94. https://doi.org/10.2753/CSH0009-4633470104.

Lincoln, Toby. "The Rural and Urban at War: Invasion and Reconstruction in China during the Anti-Japanese War of Resistance." *Journal of Urban History*, February 15, 2012, 009614421142868. https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144211428684.

Lüthi, Lorenz. *The Sino-Soviet Split: Cold War in the Communist World*. Princeton Studies in International History and Politics. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

MacFarquhar, Roderick, and Michael Schoenhals. *Mao's Last Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006.

Meyskens, Covell. "Third Front Railroads and Industrial Modernity in Late Maoist China." *Twentieth-Century China* 40, no. 3 (October 2015): 238–60. https://doi.org/10.1179/1521538515Z.00000000068.

Mitter, Rana. "Imperialism, Transnationalism, and the Reconstruction of Post-War China: UNRRA in China, 1944-7." *Past & Present* 218, no. suppl 8 (January 1, 2013): 51–69. https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts034.

Muscolino, Micah. The Ecology of War in China. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Musgrove, Charles. "Cheering the Traitor: The Post-War Trial of Chen Bijun, April 1946." *Twentieth-Century China* 30, no. 2 (April 2005): 3–27. https://doi.org/10.1179/tcc.2005.30. 2.3.

Parsons, Kenneth. "Land Reform in the Postwar Era." *Land Economics* 33, no. 3 (August 1957): 213. https://doi.org/10.2307/3144530.

Pepper, Suzanne. "The KMT-CCP Conflict 1945–1949." In *The Cambridge History of China*, edited by John K. Fairbank and Albert Feuerwerker, 13:723–788. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986. https://doi.org/10.1017/CHOL9780521243384.

Perry, Elizabeth. "Moving The Masses: Emotion Work In The Chinese Revolution." *Mobilization*, 2002. https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/11591713.

Schiffrin, Harold. "Sun Yat-Sen's Early Land Policy The Origin and Meaning of 'Equalization of Land Rights.'" *The Journal of Asian Studies* 16, no. 4 (August 1957): 549–64. https://doi.org/10.2307/2941638.

Selden, Mark. The Political Economy of Chinese Socialism. 1 edition. Armonk, N.Y: Routledge, 1988.

Sheehan, Brett. *Industrial Eden: A Chinese Capitalist Vision*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015.

Spakowski, Nicola. "Mit Mut an Die Front": Die Militärische Beteiligung von Frauen in Der Kommunistischen Revolution Chinas (1925-1949). Böhlau Verlag Köln Weimar, 2009.

Tiffert, Glenn. "Judging Revolution: Beijing and the Birth of the PRC Judicial System (1906-1958)." University of California, Berkeley, 2015.

U, Eddy. "Dangerous Privilege: The United Front and the Rectification Campaign of the Early Mao Years." *The China Journal* 68 (2012): 32–57. https://doi.org/10.1086/666579.

van de Ven, Hans. *War and Nationalism in China*: 1925-1945. London; New York: Routledge, 2003.

van de Ven, Hans. "War in the Making of Modern China." *Modern Asian Studies* 30, no. 4 (1996): 737-56.

Wakeman, Frederic. "Hanjian (Traitor)! Collaboration and Retribution in Wartime Shanghai." In *Becoming Chinese: Passages to Modernity and Beyond*, edited by Wen-Hsin Yeh, 298-341. Berkeley; Los Angeles; London: University of California Press, 2000.

Wang Zheng. Finding Women in the State. Oakland: University of California Press, 2016.

Wemheuer, Felix. Famine Politics in Maoist China and the Soviet Union. Yale Agrarian Studies Series. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2014.

Xia Yun. *Down with Traitors: Justice and Nationalism in Wartime China*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017.

Yang Guobin. *The Red Guard Generation and Political Activism in China*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016. https://doi.org/10.7312/yang14964.

Yang Jisheng, Stacy Mosher, and Jian Guo. *Tombstone: The Untold Story of Mao's Great Famine*. London: Allen Lane, 2012.

Yang Kuisong. "Reconsidering the Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries." *The China Quarterly*, no. 193 (2008): 102–21.

Zhang, Shu Guang. *Beijing's Economic Statecraft during the Cold War*, 1949–1991. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press; Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014.

Postwar world

Adorno, Theodor. "What Does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean?" In *Bitburg in Moral and Political Perspective*, edited by Geoffrey Harman, 114–29. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

Buruma, Ian. Year Zero: A History of 1945. New York: The Penguin Press, 2013.

Cadiot, Juliette, and Tanja Penter. "Law and Justice in Wartime and Postwar Stalinism." *Jahrbücher Für Geschichte Osteuropas* 61 (2013): 161–71.

Chamberlin, Paul Thomas. *The Cold War's Killing Fields: Rethinking the Long Peace*. New York: Harper, 2018.

Friedman, Jeremy Scott. *Shadow Cold War: The Sino-Soviet Competition for the Third World.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Fürst, Juliane, ed. Late Stalinist Russia: Society between Reconstruction and Reinvention. London: Routledge, 2009.

———. Stalin's Last Generation: Soviet Post-War Youth and the Emergence of Mature Socialism. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Geyer, Michael. "The Stigma of Violence, Nationalism, and War in Twentieth-Century Germany." German Studies Review 15 (Winter 1992): 75. https://doi.org/10.2307/1430641.

Gosewinkel, Dieter, and Stefan Meyer. "Citizenship, Property Rights and Dispossession in Postwar Poland (1918 and 1945)." *European Review of History: Revue Européenne d'histoire* 16, no. 4 (August 1, 2009): 575–95. https://doi.org/10.1080/13507480903063886.

Henke, Klaus Dietmar, and Hans Woller, eds. *Politische Säuberung in Europa: Die Abrechnung Mit Faschismus Und Kollaboration Nach Dem Zweiten Weltkrieg.* Munich: DTV, 1991.

Holquist, Peter. *Making War, Forging Revolution: Russia's Continuum of Crisis, 1914-1921.* Harvard University Press, 2002.

——. "Violent Russia, Deadly Marxism? Russia in the Epoch of Violence, 1905-21." Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History 4, no. 3 (2003): 627–52. https://doi.org/10.1353/kri.2003.0040.

Judt, Tony. Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945. New York: Penguin Press, 2005.

von Lingen, Kerstin, ed. *War Crimes Trials in the Wake of Decolonization and Cold War in Asia,* 1945-1956: *Justice in Time of Turmoil.* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

Resources

List of open databases and digital resources. Resources accessible through CrossAsia are marked (xA).

Official documents

- China Media Law Database
- Maoist Legacy Database (registration required)
- Marxist Internet Archive
- Socialist History of China, 1949-1979

- The Chinese Foreign Policy Database
- UK Foreign Office files for China, 1919-1980 (xA)

Newspapers and periodicals (after 1949)

- China Reconstructs
- People's China
- Peking Review 1958-2016 (various years available in English, German, French, Spanish, and Japanese)

Newspapers and periodicals (before 1949)

- Heidelberg University China Digital Archive (registration required)
- North China Herald
- Old Hong Kong Collections and Newspapers

Chinese language

- Chinese Cultural Revolution Database (xA)
- Chinese Historical Documents Database
- Chinese Pamphlet Digital Archive
- CNKI Knowledge Resource Integrated Database (xA)
- Data Platform of the Anti-Japanese War and Modern Sino-Japanese Relations
- Harvard-Yenching Library Chinese Rare Books Collection
- People's Daily (xA)
- Wanfang New Local Gazetteers (xA)
- Zhaiyi database (registration required)
- 中共国史料
- 中华人民共和国国务院公报

Visual sources

- Chinese Propaganda Poster Collection
- David Rumsey Map Library
- Enemy of the People: Visual Depictions of Chiang Kai-shek
- Everyday Life in Maoist China
- Historical Photographs of China
- Joseph Needham Photographs Wartime China, 1943-1946
- Korean War Propaganda Leaflets
- Lafayette College East Asian Postcard Collections
- Lianhuanhua Picture Storybook

- University of Texas Perry-Casteñada Map Archive
- Virtual Shanghai

Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

- 1914-1918 Online International Encyclopedia of the First World War
- Apabi China reference books collection (xA)
- Dictionnaire biographique du mouvement ouvrier international: La Chine
- Marxists Internet Archive Encyclopedia
- Zhongfa Directory