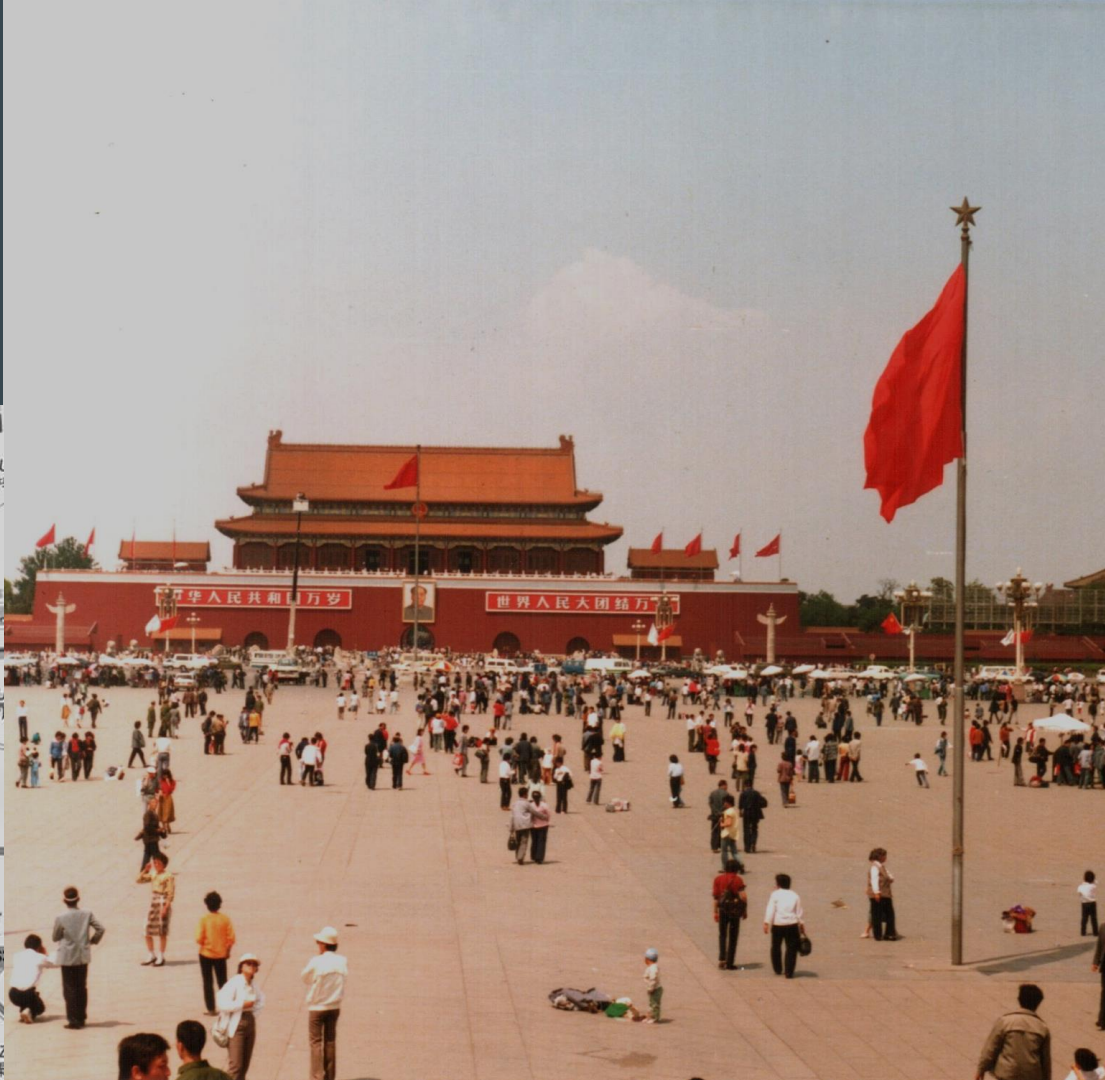
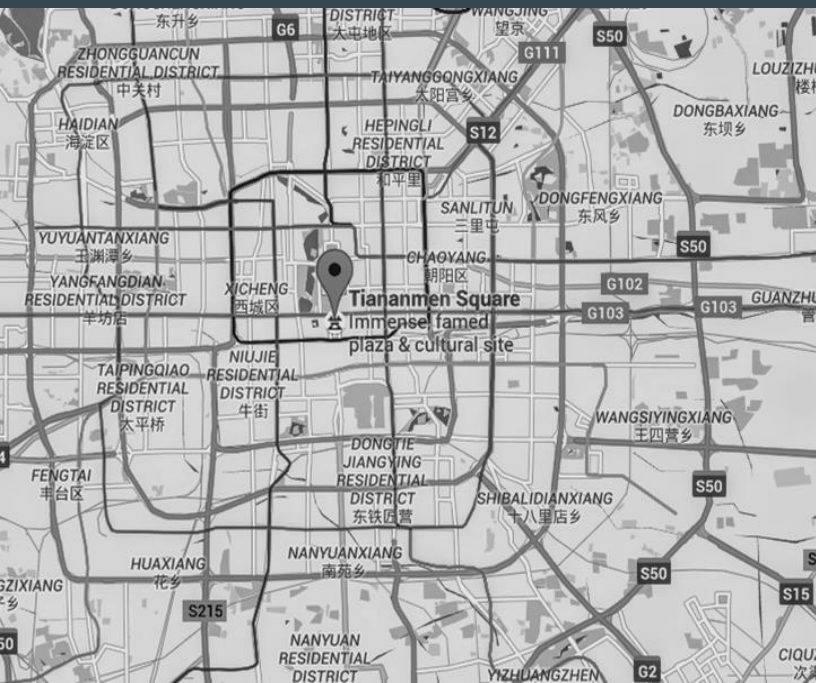


A photograph of Tiananmen Square in Beijing, showing the large crowd and the Tiananmen Gate in the background. The square is filled with people, and the gate is a large red structure with a portrait of Mao Zedong. The sky is overcast.

The Tiananmen Square Massacre & Modern China

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Mushfiq Mahmud
IDH 4200, USF Spring 2016

Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China



What Happened?

- Triggered in April 1989 by Hu Yaobang's death.
- Student Led Popular Demonstrations
- Hunger strike, peaceful protests at first
- The protest spread to 400 cities by mid May



The Government's Response

- China's leader Deng Xiaoping declared Marshall Law on May 20 and dispatched about 300,000 troops to Beijing.





- Heavy fighting ensued which was mostly one sided.
- The civilians fought back but the military used lethal force and war grade live ammunition.
- The overall death toll has been estimated to be from 200 to 3000 all over China.



Tank Man

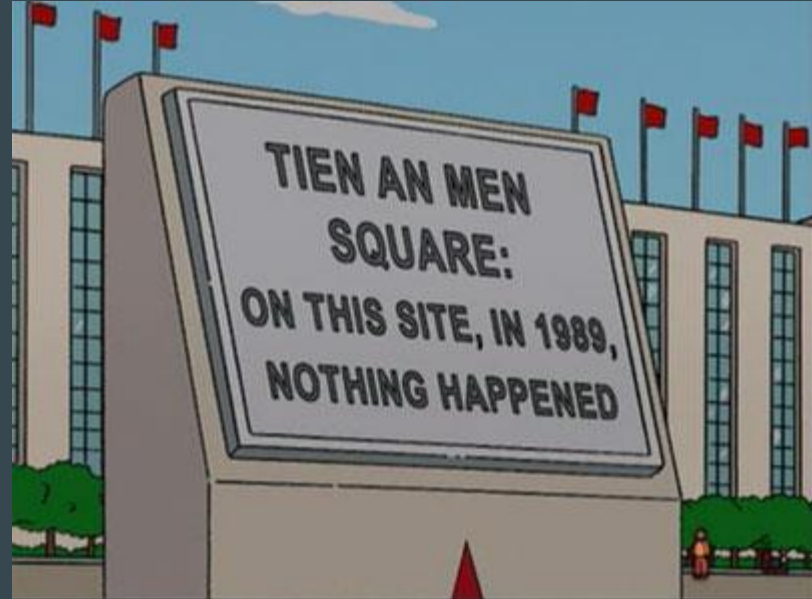


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeFzeNAHEhU>

The Government's Story

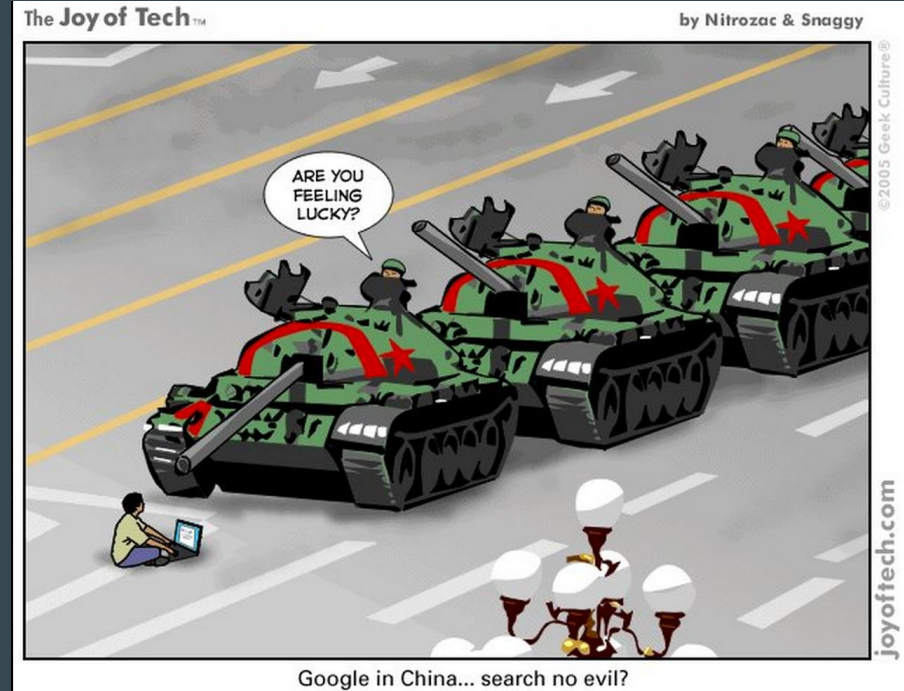
Denial...

- They refuse to apologize
- They hold that it was a necessary violence to control a 'political disturbance'
- There is no education about the event
- People born after 1980 are generally unaware of the massacre
- The UN tried to get China to reassess their position in the massacre but China but the government sent it back



A Ban on Knowledge

- Education about the event has been completely banned
- Journalists cannot write freely about this unless it's the government's version.
- They have maintained a very strong hold on the internet access in China making sure people do not become too educated about the matter
- Internet search results are regulated



Economic Growth

- China has seen rapid economic growth over the past decades
- This has led the people into a sense of contentment with their government
- There has been a creation of middle class since then and a lot of people have had the opportunity to be well off



How China Changed

“Economic and educational opportunities, readily available telecommunications and the Internet have made the people of China highly mobile, and quite well informed,” but also “more individual-centered and therefore, less committed to traditional extended family and Confucian social ethics.”

-Ling-Chi Wang, professor emeritus of Asian American Studies at Berkeley.

A Departure from Early Confucian Values?

- Although very much a part of Chinese culture, not that practised by a lot of modern people
- Premarital sex is now extremely common
- The beauty of the body has taken place of the intellect for many
- People are leaning more towards bodily pleasures and beauty than intellect
- Since forever Chinese philosophy has revolved around esteeming the brain and the mind over the brawn or the body and now the Chinese have been very quick to do the opposite.
- “Those who work with their brains rule, those who work with their brawn are

The Culture of the Body

- Body beautification with surgeries and cosmetics have become very big for women.
- Upsurge of surgeries for straighter noses, breast augmentation and double eyelids have made the beauty of the body more important.
- For guys, it is also the body that dominates as Chinese men have taken to making fit bodies.
- Boxer rebellion
- Confucian philosophies talked about valuing the intellect over the body and therefore being fit and athletic with ripped bodies was not really a requirement.

Fashion

- Previously long clothing that covered most of the body with jewelries showing off beauty was considered beautiful.
- Now western fashion has greatly influenced Chinese fashion and has made way for more.

