# HIS 100 Topic Exploration Worksheet

## Part 1

Select a research topic area for Project 1 based on which of the following areas interests you the most. You will explore the selected topic a little later in this theme. Mark your selection in the right-hand column.

| **Topic** | **Selection** |
| --- | --- |
| Drafting of the U.S. Constitution |  |
| Mao Zedong’s Rule Over China | X |
| South African Apartheid |  |
| Choose Your Own Topic (insert pre-approved topic here) |  |

| In the space below, replace the bracketed text with a short paragraph about what you already knew prior to this course about the topic you selected, based on your personal history or experiences. This may include assumptions, beliefs, or values related to the topic. Be as detailed as possible. |
| --- |
| I do not know much about this topic, which is why I chose it. I know that Mao Zedong was a Communist leader over China. In the US, Communism is regarded as very bad and I believe that because of this, Americans are averse to even talking about it and thus information isn’t disseminated freely in most circles and to learn about it one needs to go out of their way to research the subject specifically. |

Part 2

Now that you have identified your topic and described what you already know about the topic, what questions do you still have about the topic? Replace the bracketed text with your answers.

| **Question** | **Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Identify one question about the topic that you are curious about. | I’m curious about the Chinese sentiment of Mao. What did the Chinese public think of Zedong. Was he praised? Hated? Feared? |
| Describe why this question matters to you personally. | Communism is so hated here in the US that many people just automatically think it is bad without good reason as to why. I would like to know more about how other cultures received Communism as a political structure. |
| Describe why this question matters to society. | This question is important because our political systems are what governs most of our lives. More importantly, they are ever evolving and the more we know about other systems, the better off we are when our systems change because we can implement the things that work and avoid the things that don’t |
| Identify a second question about the topic you are curious about. | I would also like to learn how Zedong ruled. What laws did Zedong implement? How long did he rule? |
| Describe why this question matters to you personally. | This matters to me mostly because I want to understand more about the subject in general and this seems like pretty basic Zedong information that I do not know. |
| Describe why this question matters to society. | Since it is basic information, similar to the last question, it is important to society because not knowing history is bad for making future decisions. |

## Part 3

You are now ready to complete the final part of your Topic Exploration Worksheet. You have chosen a topic, posed some research questions, and are ready to start thinking about what kind of sources you will need to investigate your research questions further. Using the library guide in the Shapiro Library provided for your chosen topic, skim through the suggested resources (or find your own) and replace the bracketed text with relevant information about your research questions.

| **Question** | **Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Which secondary sources would be helpful for investigating your first research question?  (Include the title and author of the sources.) | Boon, H. T. (2018). *China's global identity: Considering the responsibilities of great power*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press. |
| Which primary sources would be helpful for investigating your first research question?  (Include the title and author of the sources.) | Zhou, X. (2012). The great famine in China, 1958-1962: A documentary history. Yale University Press. |
| Which secondary sources would be helpful for investigating your second research question?  (Include the title and author of the sources.) | Dong, Z. (2014). Mao Zedong and the independent and comprehensive industrial system and the modernization of New China. *World Review of Political Economy, 5*(4), 472–487. |
| Which primary sources would be helpful for investigating your second research question?  (Include the title and author of the sources.) | [Mao, T. (1949). The Chinese people have stood up! *Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung, Vol. 5.* |
| Now that you have gone through the research, what have you learned about your topic in one to two paragraphs? | I see that the general sentiment of Mao by the sources is split. One talks about famine and squalor after Mao’s rule, and the other has the tone of Mao turning a weak China around. I only skimmed the resources, but that seemed to be the general sentiment. I also learned that Mao seemed to be a very inspiring person in China sometimes saying that “The people of China have stood up!” |