Nation-Building in East Asia and the Pacific Rim
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1940 C.E.</th>
<th>1955 C.E.</th>
<th>1970 C.E.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1945 Ho Chi Minh proclaims the Republic of</td>
<td>1957 &quot;Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom&quot; campaign in China</td>
<td>1976 Deaths of Zhou Enlai and Mao Zedong; purge of Gang of Four</td>
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<td>1948 U.S.-sponsored Republic of (South)</td>
<td>1960 South Korean nationalist leader</td>
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<td>Korea established</td>
<td>Syngman Rhee forced from office by student demonstrations</td>
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<td>1949 Communist victory in China; People's</td>
<td>1963 Beginning of state family planning in China</td>
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<td>Republic of China established</td>
<td>1965–1968 Cultural Revolution in China</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam</td>
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<td>1950–1953 Korean War</td>
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<td>1952 U.S. occupation of Japan ends</td>
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<td>1953 Beginning of China's first five-year</td>
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<td>plan</td>
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<td>1954 French defeated at Dien Bien Phu;</td>
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<td>Geneva accords, French withdrawal from</td>
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<td>Vietnam; beginning of the Sino-Soviet split</td>
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Introduction

- Japan the anomaly in non-Western societies
  - Fought imperialism & high level of industrialization
  - Imitation of Western rivals - imperialist tendencies
- Korea has also emerged as leading industrial center
- China and Vietnam resemble other emerging nations
  - Suffered from exploitative terms of exchange w/ West
  - Had to deal with underdevelopment, overpopulation
  - And..poverty and environmental degradation
  - Sound familiar?
  - But...they also saw collapse of 1000 year civilization
- Confucian system destroyed in Vietnam and China
  - External aggression + internal upheaval
  - Imperialism destroyed political institutions
    - Left nothing for nation-building
- Recent themes
  - Confucianism and traditions reworked/adapted
  - Economic development
  - Growing independence and self-assertion
East Asia in the Postwar Settlements

- **Introduction**
  - Divisions after WWII
    - Korea divided between Russian/US zone
    - Taiwan returned to China - ruled by Chiang Kai Shek
    - US regained Philippines, pledged quick turnover w/ bases
    - Europeans retook control of Vietnam, Malay and Indonesia
    - Japan occupied by US forces

- **New Divisions and the End of Empires**
  - Decolonization led to independence for Malaya, Indonesia, Philippines
  - Taiwan ruled by Chiang Kai Shek, mainland to Mao
    - Taiwan emerges as separate republic
  - US intervention preserves South Korean independence

- **Japanese Recovery**
  - Recovered economy in surprising speed
    - US provided opportunity for selective westernization
  - New political system
    - Ruled by General Douglas MacArthur
    - Got rid of wartime political structure
      - military disbanded
      - police decentralized
      - officials removed
      - political prisoners released
  - Democratization
    - women suffrage
    - encouraging labor unions
    - abolishing Shintoism as state religion
  - People in favor of demilitarization
  - Parliament system easy to incorporate - already have history
East Asia in the Postwar Settlements

• New economic pattern
  • Broke up landed estates
  • Tried, but failed to break up zaibatsus

• Other changes
  • Military abolished forever - unique for industrialized nation
  • Emperor becomes symbolic figurehead only
  • 1963 law for taking care of elderly

• Japanese society
  • Education - reduced nationalism in textbooks
    • Back to state control after occupation
    • Have to teach tradition to children
  • Extreme meritocracy - rigid examination system
East Asia in the Postwar Settlements

• Korea: Intervention and War
  • Gave Russia control of north in exchange for potential help against Japan
  • North Korea - People's Democratic Republic of Korea
    • Communist totalitarian state - Kim Il-Sung until 1994
  • South Korea - Republic of Korea
    • Parliamentary institutions but authoritarian
  • Korean War
    • 1950-1953 - N. Korea invades, S. Korea + United Nations pushes back
    • China gets involved, pushes back to original borders
    • Sign armistice
  • Two divergent paths since then
    • N. Korea - isolated one-man rule
      • Power to one political party + military
    • S. Korea - w/ help from US economic + military bases
    • Tensions continued between two nations with border clashes

• Emerging Stability in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore
  • Nationalists take over Taiwan island after losing civil war
    • Communists couldn't threaten Taiwan - no navy
    • Becomes authoritarian - must keep island under control
    • Support of US - convinced Chiang to not attack mainland
  • Hong Kong - returned to China from British control in 1997
    • Chinese population swelled - economy boomed
  • Singapore
    • British naval base until 1971
    • Became strong port and independent nation
  • Why economically successful?
    • Western aid/contacts
    • Tradition of group loyalty
    • Political stability
    • Eventually grows to substantial international influence
Japan, Incorporated

• Japan’s Distinctive Political and Cultural Style
  • Conservative stability
    • Liberal Democratic party controls 1955-1993 – compromise
    • Made agreements/deals with opposition leaders
    • Returned to oligarchy rule
  • Government-business coordination
    • Lending public resources
    • limit imports
  • Kept traditions
    • Tradition – state-sponsored discipline
      • Promoted birth control/abortion – population slowed
    • Customs – poetry, painting, tea ceremonies, flower arrangements
      • Kabuki and No theater
  • Incorporated Japanese w/ western
    • Western music w/ Japanese instruments
    • Some rejected westernization
      • Hiraoka Kimitoke – Yukio Mishima – hate Western ways
        • Ritual suicide in 1970
Japan, Incorporated

• The Economic Surge
  • By 1983 growth phenomenal, behind only US and Germany
    • Automobile/electronics manufacturers – mass quantity/high quality
  • Why so successful?
    • Active government encouragement
    • Educational expansion
      • More engineers
    • Foreign policy – no money for military
      • US protects them
    • Labor policy
      • Company unions – worked with corporation
      • Lifetime employment
      • Social activities – group exercise
      • Less class conscious and less individualistic
    • Group consciousness
      • Few changed firms
      • Long term success of firm important
      • Reluctance to take vacations

• Family life
  • Women well-educated and declining birth rates, but...
    • Fewer leisure activities than husband
    • Shame toward non-conformist behaviors
    • Game shows – elaborate, dishonoring punishment for losers
  • Chance for release – geishas, alcohol, still stressed by exams

• Popular culture
  • Fusion of east and west
  • Sometimes tension between westernization and Japanese identity
    • The great chopstick calamity of the 1980s
    • Young people tired of taking care of old people – too many

• Problems in the 1990s
  • Government corruption
  • Recession led to unemployment
The Pacific Rim: New Japans?

• The Korean Miracle Politics in South Korea
  • Series of generals, put down by student protest pressure, new general
  • Opposition groups tempered or jailed
    • Freedom of the press minimal
  • Economic focus of Korea
  • Combination of government and private enterprise working together
    • Huge industrial firms created w/ gov’t aid + entrepreneurship
      • Daweoo and Hyundai
        • Built ships, supertankers, housing units
        • Built schools, cars
        • Took care of workers
          • Workers worked 6 day weeks, 3 vacation days
          • Worshipful ceremonies of fleet of cars
          • Lives protected by company
  • Surpassed Japanese growth rates in 1980s
    • automobiles, cheap consumer goods, steel, technology
  • Industrialized changes
    • Population soared – highest pop. densities in world – 40 million in Indiana
    • Urban areas – air pollution
    • Per capita income increased a ton, but still lower than Japan
    • Huge fortunes next to extreme poverty
The Pacific Rim: New Japans?

- Advances in Taiwan and the City-States
  - Republic of China – Taiwan – agriculture/industrial rapid development
    * Could focus on economics – military aspirations declined – US support
    * Money poured into education, literacy
    * Traditional medicine blends w/ western medicine
    * Land reform
    * Host of new concerns
      * US recognized People’s Republic of China in 1978
      * Made contacts w/ regional gov’ts
        * Japan – purchased food, textiles, chemicals
        * Informal links with Beijing
      * Son of Chiang Kai-shek kept authoritarian rule
  - The greatest country in the world – Singapore – My Singapura
    * Lee Kuan Yew took over in 1965 – three decades
      * Controlled citizens
        * sexual behavior, economic corruption
        * local regulation, economic planning
        * Unusual discipline = low crime rates
        * Impossibility of political protest
          * People’s Action Party suppressed opposition
      * Economic success made political control OK
        * Government control + entrepreneurs
        * Port + banking + manufacturing
        * 1980s – second highest per capita income in Asia
      * Educational levels and health conditions rose
      * Plus, it has a cool island named Sentosa
        * Merlion blows water from its mouth
        * You can road lourge down to the beach
        * Wading in the water off Sentosa a risky choice
        * Buying illegal CDs in Malaysia is bad
  - Hong Kong
    * Major world port + strong banking industry
    * Why successful?
      * High speed technology + low wages/long hours for employees
    * Prosperous middle class grows
    * Becomes part of China, free market economic system respected
The Pacific Rim: New Japans?

• Common Themes and New Problems
  • Stressed group loyalty
    • Devalued protest/individualism
    • Confucian morality
  • Reliance on government planning
  • Dynamism spread to “Little Tigers” – Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand
  • But, what are the weaknesses...
    • Growth faltered, unemployment rose, currencies took a hit
      • Problem of gov’t/company link
      • Should be more of a free market
        • West believes only their model works
    • But...by 1999, growth started to pick up again...a few bad years ain’t bad
Mao’s China and Beyond

• Introduction
  • Chiang Kai-shek vs. the Communist – 1930s
    • Chiang focused on communists, Japanese took advantage – invaded
      • Eventually forced to align w/ communists to fight Japanese
    • Communists took advantage of Japanese invasion
      • Took coastal areas – banks and business backing of Nationalists
      • Nationalist forces destroyed by superior Japanese
        • Looked bad to people
        • Forced to retreat, ask for help from landlords and US
      • Communist guerilla warfare more successful
        • Pushed Nationalists to northern cities
        • Mao takes advantage of propaganda
  • Ensuing civil war – communists won
    • Some shifted allegiance
    • Communist soldiers treated better
    • Chiang/armies retreat to Formosa – Taiwan
    • Mao proclaims People’s Republic of China
  • Why Mao successful? The info below is quite debatable...
    • Land reform programs, access to education, improved health care
    • Mao’s armies protected peasantry vs. Chaing’s abusive army
    • Guerilla warfare better chance for success
    • Convinced peasants they had programs to make life better
Mao’s China and Beyond

• Planning for Economic Growth and Social Justice
  • Tried to complete social revolution in rural areas
    • Landlords dispossessed/purged – 3 million executed
    • Redistributed land to peasants – nation of peasant smallholders
  • But...then focus turned to industrialization
    • Needed to focus money on urban areas
    • Became more centralized gov’t
    • urban based – wealthy technocrats emerged
  • New method of industrialization
    • Hated Lenin’s version of revolution by small number of elites
      • Distrusted intellectuals
      • Believed peasants solution to everything
      • Wanted to avoid urban elitist population
    • Turned to option B – Mass Line approach
      • Farming collectives for 90% of China’s peasant
        • No longer peasant owners, land turned over to state
      • “Let a hundred flowers bloom” – encouraged protest/criticism
        • Once critics out – demotions, prison sentences, banishment
Mao’s China and Beyond

• The Great Leap Backward
  • Great Leap Forward – 1958
    • Industrialization not in factories, but at farms
    • Use communes extra resources for building tractors, cement for irrigation
    • “Backyard furnaces” make steel in backyard without machines
    • All aspects of lives regulated on communes
    • Mao believed this was good – helped peasants, didn’t create bureaucracy
  • But...within months...total failure
    • Peasants resisted collectivization, commune leaders, backyard factories
    • Horrible drought
    • China resorted to importing grain
  • Plus...huge birth rate...solution?
    • Family planning – urban couples 2 kids – rural couples 1
    • 1980s reduced to one child per family
      • Led to infanticide, abortions, or shipping kids underground
    • But...base is so huge that #s are out of control
  • By 1960, total failure
    • Mao lost position as state chairman – remained head of Central Committee
    • Pragmatists come to power – Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqui, Deng Xiaoping

• “Women Hold Up Half of the Heavens”
  • Revolutionary strategy – involve women
  • Tradition – part of Taiping Rebellion and Boxer Rebellion
  • May Fourth intellectuals pushed for women’s rights
    • footbinding, education, career opportunities
  • Nationalists try to reverse gains – return to traditional China
    • Chiang Kai Shek’s wife helps out
    • Says immoral to criticize husband
      • virtue more important than learning
    • But with the Chinese, women had a larger role
      • Teachers, nurses, spies, truck driver, laborers
      • Even became soldiers
        • Some became cadre leaders
  • Victory in revolution brought equality
    • Choose marriage partners
    • Expected to work outside home
    • Cadre positions at lower, mid level
      • Except for Jiang Qing – wife of Mao – has power
        • Tried to rule when he died
Mao’s China and Beyond

• Mao’s Last Campaign and the Fall of the Gang of Four
  • Mao tries to regain power
    • Criticizes efforts of successors
    • Pushes for support of students, peasants, and military
    • Cultural Revolution aimed at attacking “capitalist-roaders”
      • Student “Red Guard” criticized Mao’s rivals
      • Professors, plant managers, children of elite “confess”
        • Either imprisoned, killed or sent to farms
        • Learn realities of peasant life
      • Centralized state being taken over by people
      • Nation plunging back to chaos
  • Eventually military and opponents fought Mao and his followers
    • Gang of Four vs. Mao – pragmatists vs. ideologues
    • In 1976 – Zhou Enlai and Mao die
      • Gang of Four + Jiang Qing arrested – sentenced to life

• Since Mao’s death pragmatists taken over
  • Opened up China to the West
  • Private peasant production encouraged, communes ended

• Achievements of communist regime
  • redistribute wealth of the country
  • education, health care, housing, working conditions, food > better off
  • Better standard of living than other developing nations
  • higher rates of industrial/agricultural growth than India – w/out aid

• Failures of communist regime
  • economic setbacks
  • political turmoil
  • low level of political reform

• Challenge – continue growth/living conditions
  • But also deal w/ social injustice/economic inequities
Colonialism and Revolution in Vietnam

- French control of Vietnam
  - Interested since 17th century – failed to take Japan
  - Missionaries attracted to civil wars/Confucian elite – good place for religion
  - French need to protect missionaries plus French merchants
  - In late 18th century, French supported Nguyen Anh
    - Northern Trinh and Southern Nguyen dynasty toppled by peasants
    - This new Nguyen Anh united Vietnam – gave special positions to French
    - Unfortunately he created city in Confucian vision of Beijing
      - French a little frustrated
  - Eventually took over Vietnam and Laos and Cambodia
    - Took advantage of infighting
    - Control Vietnam, take advantage of trading
    - But agriculture falls apart and taxes super high
    - Vietnam major rice producing exporters in world, but...
      - People starving to death
      - Forced to buy opium and alcohol from France
  - Vietnamese Nationalism: Bourgeois Dead Ends and Communist Survival
    - Nguyen family, old bureaucrats lost credibility
      - Unable to push out French
      - Confucianism also pushed out, failed
    - New middle class, western trained
      - French educated, French lifestyles joined nationalistic organizations
        - First priority – ending racism/discrimination
        - Second priority – improving their personal opportunities
    - French stopped attempts at peaceful resistance
      - Violent resistance only option – Vietnamese Nationalist Party
        - French respond w/ imprisonment, repression, execution
      - Communist party of Vietnam – lone nationalist party
        - Led by Ho Chi Minh – ignored at WWI Paris Peace Conference
        - Tried to foment revolution – but hard w/ only peasants
        - Forced underground, but gained support from Comintern
Colonialism and Revolution in Vietnam

- **The War of Liberation Against the French**
  - Viet Minh take over
    - Help push out Japanese in WWII
    - Encouraged land reform and mass education
    - Used guerilla tactics under Vo Nguyen Giap to defeat French
      - Took control of North – August 1945
      - But...French control South
        - Vietnamese communists fighting wealthy bureaucrats
  - Dien Bien Phu – French forces totally embarrassed
    - Two years elections for united Vietnam

- **The War of Liberation Against the United States**
  - US #1 priority – don’t let South Vietnam fall to the communists
    - Even though they worked with Viet Minh against Japan
  - US puts Ngo Dinh Diem into power
    - Not a popular dude – Catholic, US puppet, fled Vietnam during WWII
    - Set up rigged elections, eliminated political rivals
    - Viet Cong – southern communists Vietnamese fighting for recognition
      - Eventually supported by Viet Minh
    - War between Diem’s military and Viet Cong – US supports Diem
      - Diem fails, Buddhists burn themselves, US overthrows him
      - US takes over military operations
  - But...w/ 500,000 men, 60,000 deaths, US can’t beat Vietnamese communists
    - US just another imperialist aggressor
    - Guerilla warfare vs. US technological advantage
      - More tonnage of bombs than in all WWII combined
  - 1975 ceasefire, South Vietnam gov’t falls apart, Vietnam becomes communist
Colonialism and Revolution in Vietnam

• After Victory: The Struggle to Rebuild Vietnam
  • Why has Vietnam struggled?
    • US pressured world not to help
    • Border clashes with China
    • Dictatorial regime early on to persecute old enemies
    • Maintain centralized command economy
      • Different than China’s cadre, regional organization
      • Left Vietnamese impoverished
  • 1980s switched to liberalizing, expanding markets
    • US and other nations now invest in Vietnam
      • Vietnamese and US working together to resolve war issues – POW
  • But…free education gone and sweatshop labor prevalent
Global Connections

• Radical changes in China and Vietnam
  • Monarchies/autocratic rule replaced w/ communism – power to the peasants
    • Social classes of landlords eliminated
    • Women improved legal status, position in family, job opportunities
    • Marxism + Westernization replaces Confucianism
  • But...still both fear commercial class
  • Both still stress secular, social harmony, life in this world
  • Usually traditions of old blend w/ new
  • Japan and Pacific Rim changes not as severe

• Asia becoming key player in world affairs
  • 21st century belongs to East Asia?
  • Asia more active in world affairs
  • They’re products and pop culture now spread around world