The Cultural Revolution in China

(The bad years were 1966 – 1976)

• The worst years were 1966 – 1968
  • Terrible things happened in China

• The Red Guards beat up on all authority in China
  • Mao started this

• Rioting students around the world “were inspired by the finger-pointing, slogan-shouting style of the Red Guards.”
  • See the preface from the book, “Red-Color News Soldier” attached.

• How did Mao sideline the Chinese president?
  • So that Liu Shaoqi could not stop the utter chaos.

• Ready to scan Aug 2, 2006 (Doc RJ0399, 29 pages)
The Cultural Revolution in China

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Introduction

Cultural Revolution in China; Red Guards; It Spreads

Roy Jenne

July 2006

The worst part of the Cultural Revolution in China was 1966-1968. The whole period was 1966-1976. It was terrible. My contacts in China called it their lost decade. Mao had lost a lot of power because of the awful effects of the Great Leap Forward during 1957-62. It wrecked the economy and the food supply. About 26m people died, mostly from hunger during 1960-62.

In 1966 a more practical person was the Chief of China, but Mao was still the popular hero. So Mao quickly organized the Red Guards and told them to challenge all authority and all old things (like old Chinese churches and paintings). And challenge Western things (like classical Western music, etc.) And more. The mobs went on a rampage. The people who ran the weather archives in China told me that they had a big fear that the Red Guards would come in and destroy all of the old weather records (a reasonable fear). They boarded up all entrances to the main archives. When the Red Guards came, they did not realize that they did not see those rooms. The records were safe. Cheers.

Also, 1968 was a very bad time for lots of protests against authority in the USA. Plus other years from about 1966-72. I thought this was mainly due to the Vietnam War, but Canada was against the war and university presidents there had a very, very difficult time with protesters that were very pushy and aggressive. There is a little more information about the situation in the US and Canada in the material here (written 1980).

France: They had bad riots and demonstrations in the Fall of 2005 and early 2006. The news stories talked about the very bad riots in France in 1968. I still know very little about that history.

A good recent book about the Chinese Cultural Revolution is called "Red-Color News Soldier." The book has many pictures that illustrate the history. Please see the book. The author wrote, "It was necessary to produce a clearer and more truthful image of the turmoil that turned China upside down during the Cultural Revolution."

The author, Li Zhensheng, also said in the preface to the book:

"In the late 1960s and early 1970s, rioting students around the world were inspired by the finger-pointing, slogan-shouting style of the Red Guards..."

Stalin was always portrayed in a good light in the press of the Soviet Union. But Stalin died about 1953. The new Russian Chief denounced the evil things that happened under Stalin. Then it was harder for sympathizers in the west to make a hero of Stalin. A number of people in the west then made a bigger hero of Mao and his China. In the 1970s I would be told by US friends, "At least China fed the people." This was about 15 or 20 years after the disastrous Great Leap Forward pushed by Mao during 1957-62 when 26 million people died of hunger.
And Mao pushed the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) to take power from China’s government and give lots of power to far left forces (like the Gang of Four). But remember that Mao himself was part of the far left forces, though perhaps not as extreme as the Gang of Four.

Finally the situation was getting so far out of hand that Mao helped to fight the Gang of Four. For several years it was perfectly possible that the Gang of Four could have won the political battles and emerged as the full power structure of China. But Mao died in 1976. And the Gang of Four (which included Mao’s wife) was soon arrested.

It is hard to understand Mao as a person. He certainly liked to be at the center of power and attention. The China news would portray him as a very caring person. But he could carry on in a joking manner, even if a young person had just been badly injured in a bad accident. From 1950-on, he was often just needlessly stirring things up in China, in an adverse, inhuman, impractical way. He seemed to be more of an “agitator, stir it up” person rather than a problem solver. The effect was to retard the development of China. Such behavior might have helped him to topple the previous China, but it did not help China to make progress and reduce poverty, and sickness.

Mao’s private doctor writes about Mao

Mao’s private doctor wrote a good inside story about Mao (in US News and World Report, weekly, Oct 10, 1994, 21 p). It is fairly short and very worth reading. It is in Doc RJ0391. I hope that a number of people will buy another book, “Red-Color News Soldier.” It has text to describe a number of events, and it has pictures that help show one the sad emotional and physical impact of the awful period of the Cultural Revolution.

I have wanted to do a few things to help keep alive part of the history of this awful period in China—as a tribute to the people who lived through it. And for those who died. The online text RJ0391 (65 pages), gathers part of the history and gives points to a few more sources.
Some Events in China, 1950 – 1976

Roy Jenne
July 11, 2006

▷ Mass rallies in China, anti-US for involvement in the Korean War.

▷ Mass rallies of entire rural people in the name of land reform in China.

▷ Assaulstes by entire rural people of China against natural pests such as birds, rodents, snakes, insects, etc.

▷ 1957: Mass criticism of writers and arts for deviating from the standards of socialist realism.

▷ “Anti-Rightists” campaign (anti-intellectuals) in 1957. Is this the same as the “writers and artists” mess??

(And next came the terrible “Great Leap Forward”)

  • Mao sought to increase production of grain and steel. And he collected all of China into a vast net of peoples’ communes.
  • He told the people that in 15 years, China would catch up with (and even surpass) the living standards in Britain and the USA.

▷ The Great Leap Forward (1958-1959) was a disaster for China. Mao’s doctor described it well.
  • Millions died from starvation during 1959-1962 (26 million).

   On the ashes of these ruins (of the Great Leap) in China, Mao got ideas for a cultural revolution to erase all political revisionism and backsliding. And make it impossible to have any restoration of capitalism.

▷ 1963: The Socialist Education movement (1963-64)
  • Campaign anti-corruption and ideological back-sliding.
  • It was really a dress rehearsal for the great chaos to come (the terrible Cultural Revolution).

▷ 1965: Anti-landlords: Public struggle sessions in 1965 that were anti some local farmers who were branded as “landlords.” There was a huge scale of these anti-landlord rallies.

  • And then the huge struggle between right and left forces for the future of China.
  • The whole bad period was 1966-1976, a “lost decade” for China.
Early 1972: Nixon visits China

1976: Mao died in 1976, and soon after that, the “Gang of Four” was arrested.
I was in China in Dec 1980. All of the people were talking about the Gang of Four and how bad
they were. The people were angry. They felt that anything that happened to these four was too
good.

A note for Jan 1968: The US was involved in heavy fighting in Vietnam. The North Koreans
suddenly took over the US ship Pueblo near N. Korea. The US was afraid (correctly) that N. Korea
would again send its armies swooping down into S. Korea. I was recalled into the USAF with only 24
hours warning. Those were trying times. – Roy Jenne
China -- China
Ignoring the past Cultural Revolution

HONGSHENG AND ARBEN

Forty years on, the government still avoids discussion of the Cultural Revolution.

In the village of Hongsheng, Li Furong feared trouble when he was summoned one day in August 1966 to a meeting. He had been denounced as a "capitalist-roader" and thought fellow peasants had gathered to attack him. Instead he found himself pressed-ganged into helping with the murder of octogenarian former landlords in one of the bloodiest orgies of violence in or around China's capital, Beijing, during the Cultural Revolution. Even 40 years later, the authorities are trying to suppress news of what happened in Hongsheng and nearby villages of Beijing's Daxing district.

The Communist Party's unwillingness to confront the horrors of the Cultural Revolution, which was launched on May 16th 1966 and officially ended ten years later with the death of Mao Zedong and the fall of the Gang of Four, means that for Chinese historians as well as for millions of victims that entire period is, in effect, off-limits for debate. The passage of time does not appear to be helping. Chinese scholars say the government has been even more intent on stopping public commemoration of this week's anniversary than it was a decade ago. No mention of it has appeared in the state-controlled media. A group of scholars who held a private symposium in Beijing in March to discuss the Cultural Revolution avoided using email to arrange it for fear their communications would be intercepted by officials.

Partly, it is embarrassment about the scale and brutality of the violence carried out in Mao's name. In Hongsheng, Mr Li, now 75, says village officials told the meeting that former landlords and rich peasants, stripped of their holdings after the Communists took power in 1949, planned to stage a revolt. No evidence was offered. The plan was to kill the alleged plotters and their entire families that night. Mr Li, worried that as a "capitalist-roader" he too would be killed, agreed to use his well-known skills with rope to bind the victims. Two former landlords in their 80s were the first to be dealt with. Mr Li had barely finished his work before the old men were dragged away and beaten to death.

It could have been worse. Mr Li says that, had he not asked the village party chief whether he had written an appeal for this, other members of the landlords' families would have been murdered that night too. In some neighbouring villages there was much greater bloodshed. The youngest victim was one month old. Bodies were thrown down wells or into pits. In the commune to which Hongsheng belonged, 110 people were slaughtered within 24 hours. This was only one of 13 communes in Daxing district involved in what has become known to locals as the "8/31 [August 31st] massacre". City officials called a halt to the violence after a couple of brave village officials travelled to the party's headquarters in central Beijing, 35 km (22 miles) away, to complain.

Even today, few in Beijing know anything about this, even though the official death toll, 324, exceeds the conservative government estimate of around 200 killed in the suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. A brief mention of the massacre appeared in a book on the Cultural Revolution that was published in 1986 and quickly banned. A detailed government account was published only four years ago in an appendix to the "Daxing County Gazette", a hefty and little-read tome, but was not reported in any newspaper. Of those killed, the book says, 91 were women. Nineteen entire families were eliminated.

The Daxing killings were part of what some perpetrators boasted of as a "red terror" that gripped Beijing between August and October 1966. Wang Youqin of the University of Chicago says officials have never acknowledged the extent of the bloodshed in the capital. She says that Red Guard mobs, obeying Mao's exhortation to "be violent", killed some 2,000 Beijing residents in the space of two weeks.

One reason for the government's reticence is that, during this stage of the Cultural Revolution, many Red Guard leaders were the offspring of high-ranking officials who were subsequently purged but who became powerful again after Mao's death. Perpetrators of the violence were barred from influential positions after Deng Xiaoping took control in 1978. But Ms Wang says their family connections often protected them from punishment. The "Daxing County Gazette" says 348 people were "directly responsible" for the murders, nearly two-thirds of them party members. Only 38 were jailed, the longest for 12 years. Pardons were granted to 246.

Officials fear that closer scrutiny of the Cultural Revolution could destabilise the
country by inflaming long suppressed antagonisms. Many scholars now believe that well over 1m were killed or driven to suicide in political struggles between 1966 and 1976. The lives of almost all urban residents were profoundly disrupted. Schools and universities were closed. Educated people were forced to leave cities and work on farms. Family members turned on one another. Many of those now in their 50s belong to a “lost generation” whose education and careers were permanently blighted by the Cultural Revolution.

In 1981 the party leadership issued a long denunciation of the Cultural Revolution, as well as various other “mistakes” made by Mao, though these were portrayed as secondary to his contributions. The “Gang of Four” led by Mao’s wife, Jiang Qing, who were deemed responsible for the Cultural Revolution’s atrocities, were given lengthy prison terms (the last of the four died in December). Most of those persecuted were officially “rehabilitated” by the early 1980s.

There is, however, no official memorial to the victims. Appeals by some intellectuals for a museum dedicated to the events have gone unheeded. In recent months, private funds have started to remedy this.

Last year, a privately run Cultural Revolution museum opened near the coastal city of Shantou in southern Guangdong province. In Anren township, near Chengdu, the capital of the south-western province of Sichuan, a wealthy real-estate developer, Fan Jianchuan, says he is preparing to open another later this month.

These ventures are still modest. The one in Shantou shows pictures of officials and other prominent figures being persecuted, but otherwise sticks to the government line. Mr Fan’s will concentrate at first on porcelain artefacts from the period. His vast and lavishly designed complex, opened last year, is already home to a remarkable display of historical daring: a whole building of exhibits concerns the (positive) contribution of the Kuomintang, China’s then ruling nationalist party, to the war against Japan. In Communist Party histories the Kuomintang is portrayed as having shirked the war.

But Mr Fan has no plans to display objects relating to the Cultural Revolution’s fractional warfare and other violence. “It’s not just that I’m too cowardly and don’t want trouble, but I also think it wouldn’t be good for the peace of society,” he says. He may perhaps do so in 20 years. □
RED-COLOR NEWS SOLDIER

A CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHER'S ODYSSEY THROUGH THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Published 2003, 316 pages

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This is a powerful book
- please buy a copy - Ray Jenner
PREFACE

Red-Color News Soldier is the literal translation of the four Chinese characters printed on the armband first given to Li Zhensheng and his rebel group in Beijing at the end of 1966, eight months after the launch of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. There are other, more fluent translations, but none retains the musicality of the four character words brought together.

For a long time in the Western world, Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution were perceived with amazement and fascination; only very rarely with horror. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, rioting students around the world were inspired by the finger-pointing, slogan-shouting style of the Red Guards, and Andy Warhol in New York was producing his renowned silk-screen paintings of Mao, the "Great Helmsman." Even today, all the chaos of that period can seem somewhat romantic and idealistic in comparison with the contemporary Chinese society we see and hear about.

With this in mind, it was necessary to produce a clearer and more truthful image of the turmoil that turned China upside down during the Cultural Revolution. Li Zhensheng was the one person who, through his exceptional photographic legacy, could convey this truth on the printed page. A few guidelines were established up-front with Li's agreement: none of the photographs would be cropped; the images would be presented in the most accurate chronological order possible so as to best depict the historical process; and precise captions would accompany the images, with facts verified through additional research and double-checked against the archives of the Heilongjiang Daily, where Li worked for eighteen years.

Over a period of several years, Li delivered to the offices of Contact Press Images in New York approximately thirty-thousand small brown paper envelopes bound together with rubber bands in groups according to chronology, location, type of film, or other criteria that changed over time. Each envelope contained a single negative inside a glassine pouch. Some of these had not been removed since Li had cut them from their original negative strips and hidden them away thirty-five years earlier. On each envelope Li had written detailed captions in delicate Chinese calligraphy. Communes and counties, people's names, official titles, and specific events were all carefully noted. Yet as Li's written account clearly demonstrates, his memory of the period is still clear and detailed.

For three years, from 2000 to 2003, a small group including Li, translator Rong Jiang, writer Jacques Menasche, and I (and later to be joined by Li's daughter Xiaobing) met nearly every Sunday to collectively piece together this history of a largely unknown era. In these exhausting and, at times, animated sessions, we pored over a variety of archival and scholarly documents, conducted interviews, reviewed images, and even listened to Li sing revolutionary songs from the time.

During the period of the Cultural Revolution the whole of China became a theater in which the audience was increasingly part of the play—from the poorest peasant attending a "struggle session" to the "class enemy" forced to bow at the waist in humiliation; from the rarely seen leader waving from a Jeep to the denounced and the denouncers; from the rebels to the counter-
other needs. The CMB also receives fax charts, mostly from Japan.

L. Some Personal Comments

The China Situation, 1950-1980

I was told that "In the 50's we learned Russian. In the 60's after the Cultural Revolution started (1966), we learned nothing. It was in full swing by 1968-69. Now we are so eager to catch up, we can go overboard". Such as by purchasing too much high technology. There were many, many stories about the Cultural Revolution and the Gang of Four and the havoc brought by this period. Sometimes the statements were matter-of-fact or showed some disbelief that this could happen. Sometimes the personal anger or hurt showed.

The universities were closed from about 1967-72, 6 years. Many professors were sent to the country. Mao encouraged the students at first, then it is hard to tell. He couldn't control them. Then the students attacked officials "We want to get rid of them". A Chinese friend compared it somewhat to Iran in 1980.

About 2 to 4 years later than China, the U.S. had somewhat similar social conditions, but with much less amplitude. A Canadian climate friend made the following comments about this period: At one time only one university west of Montreal had a permanent president. Being president was a very bad job to have then, it was a center of authority to attack. One really can't attack a thing like parliament, it is too amorphous. He said the movement seemed to start in Berkeley and spread around. Some of the spreading just happened and some by design. One or two new students or faculty would help get it started. During this period 325 U.S. universities were without presidents.

The Chinese friend commented that China was like that too. It got started at one university and spread very rapidly. The Chinese people didn't like it. It hurt the whole economy. Those were really bad years. Finally got the universities back about 1973. Other Chinese have commented that 10 years were lost.

Before I went to China, it seemed clear from press reports that the new government was on a new political course and was trying to put the Mao era (and Gang of 4) behind them. The changes seem much bigger than I imagined. The new government is pro development, pro practicality, pro consumer, pro U.S. ties, anti radical, anti bureaucratic over-control, etc. They deserve encouragement.

We went to the Chinese Opera once and to acrobatic performances twice. It was great!

Note: France had very bad uprisings in 1968.

M. China Climatic Atlas and China data listings given to me in Beijing (Tom Potter, EDIS-NOAA also got a copy).

1. Climatological atlas of China (nicely done, in color--no English)

(from Document RTO106, on-line at NOAA)
1) A niece of mine was going to China for a year starting Sep 2005, to teach English. I told her about the book "Life and Death in Shanghai."

2) I was first in China in Dec 1980. Three of us traveled together from Beijing to Shanghai. We gave talks at universities and at government offices. We heard lots & lots about the Cultural Revolution and the Gang of Four. For some time it had been nip & tuck whether the Gang of Four would take over the country. The people I talked with were very angry at the Cultural Revolution (wrote during 1966-68, but China lost a decade of progress). And they were very angry at the Gang of Four. They hated them. — For good reason —

3) Mao had caused so many bad problems during the Great Leap Forward that China had decreased his power. But it was Mao who started the Cultural Revolution & pushed it hard. In mid 1966, the President (Liu Shaoqi) tried to bring the chaos under control. But in Aug 1966 Mao told the Red Guards to attack Liu Shaoqi — which they did. So the chaos continued.
China: Growth, Bad 1960s, Old History (04/2006)

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This document ready Apr 27, 2006, 65 p, Doc RJ0391

NOTE: To find document:
http://dss.ucar.edu/docs/papers-scanned/papers.html

Reason for this text:
- I do not want the history to be lost
- Help people find the China history
- A tribute to the people who went through so many hard times.

Roy Jenne
Apr 27, 2006
My secretary made a reference to this in the letter. When Luo read it, he came to me and said that with a letter like this, his wife would never be able to find a job. I simply crossed out this line and asked my secretary to rewrite it. I’m not saying I’m very noble. Only I had some compassion. I belonged to a rebel faction, but I never hit anybody. Instead I was hit. I didn’t search anyone’s home. Instead my own house was searched.

Like everyone else at the time, I rid myself of “suspect” belongings, such as an edition of love poems by Pushkin and a book of paintings by Xu Beihong, who had studied in France and was criticized during the Cultural Revolution for his nudes. I also hid under my bed three stamps of works by Goya, including his painting *Naked Maya*, and some old silver coins with the likenesses of Chiang Kai-shek and the self-proclaimed emperor Yuan Shikai. Everyone looked very revolutionary from the outside, but deep down, it was often another story.

In any political movement, as in normal times, people still fall in love. My girlfriend from film school, Sun Peikui, had decided not to become an actress after all, and transferred to another school to study Chinese instead. After graduating, she was assigned to teach at a high school on the outskirts of Siping, a city in Jilin province. She had been selected as a model teacher by both the municipal and the provincial authorities, but during the Cultural Revolution her mother was condemned for being brought up in a landlord family and, tormented, committed suicide.

Those who committed suicide — and there were countless during the Cultural Revolution — were regarded as having “alienated themselves from the people and the Party.” Overnight Peikui’s life changed. She, too, was criticized and condemned. She was called the daughter of a “dog landlord” who had “infiltrated the teachers’ ranks,” a “fake model,” and made to attend study sessions where she was investigated and spent endless hours poring over Mao’s works. Her room in the dormitory for singles was wrecked, and she was forced to share a room with a married couple she knew, lying in the same bed — even when they made love.

Ironically, Sun Peikui was an adopted child — but it didn’t matter. The same way it didn’t matter that her mother, who would be rehabilitated after the Cultural Revolution, hadn’t come from a landlord family at all.

In April Peikui came to Harbin. I showed her around the city a little, but she was in no mood for...
sight-seeing. Crying, she told me what had happened. She said we could not be married, that I was a member of the standing commission and had a bright future and that she didn’t want to create problems for me. Visiting the newspaper, she also couldn’t help noticing Zu Yingxia, a young female editor. Yingxia was smart and pretty and one of the founding members of the Red Youth Fighting Team. She also belonged to the Communist Party. Peikui suggested I marry her instead.

“Let’s go live in the forest,” I pleaded with her. “If your family background won’t allow me to be a journalist, then I won’t be a journalist. We’ll set up a home somewhere in the remote mountainous regions.” But Peikui knew it would never work. Even there, people would ask us for our household registration certificate and where we had come from. Local authorities in China were expert at getting reports from every corner of the country.

Peikui left without saying good-bye. I found a note waiting for me in my room. “It’s because I love you that I don’t want to destroy you,” she said. “I want us to part — I want you to forget me.” After I read the letter, I ran all the way to the railway station, but I didn’t see her anywhere. So I caught the next train to Siping where she lived, and went to her apartment to try and change her mind. I told her it would be alright, that it would all work out. But Peikui did not agree. Two months later, she sent me a letter with a photograph from her wedding. She had married a neighbor from her hometown. This man had courted her before film school. He was not good-looking and no taller than she was. He worked in Changchun, in auto manufacturing, and she only became his wife so I would give up hope. She had “only married a man,” she wrote, “not a lover.”

Yingxia and I were married six months later, on 6 January 1968 — a typical revolutionary wedding. With wicked black humor, some of our friends hung placards around our necks. Instead of “capitalist-roader” or “black-gang element,” the signs read, “Groom taking the socialist road” and “Bride taking the socialist road.” But if the Cultural Revolution had not taken place, I know Peikui and I would have wed.

As it happened, ten months later Yingxia’s father committed suicide, too. He was a country doctor in a commune clinic, famous for his knowledge of traditional medicine, but he was denounced as a “reactionary academic authority.” One night, some rebels placed him in front of a coal-burning stove until he was drenched with sweat, then
forced him to strip down to his underclothes and sent him outdoors to stand in the snow until he was nearly frozen. The following day he hanged himself.

When Yingxia found out, she burst into tears. But she didn’t have time to grieve. She washed her face and, with her eyes still swollen, reported to the propaganda-team representative at the paper. For the sake of her own future, she couldn’t show any emotion. “My father has betrayed the Cultural Revolution,” she said. “And I want to ‘draw a line’ between him and myself.” Even so, afterward Yingxia — like Peikui — was considered “politically unreliable” and forced to attend study sessions. She had been thought one of the best editors at the paper, but after her father’s suicide she was no longer allowed to work in the editorial department at all.

Three months after our wedding, on 5 April 1968, I photographed an execution of seven men and one woman. Six — including the woman and her lover, who had murdered her husband — were “ordinary” criminals. The other two men were technicians at the Harbin Electric Meter Factory who had published a flyer entitled “Looking North,” which the authorities interpreted as “looking northward toward Soviet revisionism.” They were condemned as counterrevolutionaries. One was named Wu Bingyuan, and when he heard the sentence, he looked into the sky and murmured, “This world is too dark”; then he closed his eyes and never in this life reopened them. All eight were put on the backs of trucks in pairs, driven through town, then out to the countryside northwest of Harbin. There, on the barren grounds of the Huang Shan Cemetery, they were lined up, hands tied behind their backs, and forced to kneel. They were all shot in the back of the head.
Hooked on fossils

For decades, much of the early history of fish evolution was locked away in rocks in China. **Rex Dalton** tracks down the scientist who brought many of the remains to the surface.

The dry desert setting of Mesa, Arizona, may not seem the most appropriate place to talk about the watery world of fish. But palaeontologists gathered in a lecture hall there last autumn to celebrate a life spent studying ancient oceans and the fish that swim in them. **Autumn 2005**

The symposium, held by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, celebrated one of China’s most prominent palaeontologists — Meemann Chang, former head of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) in Beijing. Her work has helped clarify the links between the fish that swim in Earth’s oceans 460 million years ago and the air-breathing, land-walking creatures that evolved from them. Now 69, she has played a key role for years in bringing little-known Chinese fish fossils to the attention of the scientific world.

Chang’s career has been far from straightforward. Along with her successes, she has also faced significant difficulties, thanks to the shifting political landscape of her homeland. Despite such problems, her enthusiasm for her subject remains undimmed. “I am still digging and collecting fossil fishes,” she smiles during an interview at the landlocked Arizona hotel.

Chang’s father, a gifted pathologist from Nanjing, wanted her to become a physician, but love of her country led her to choose geology instead. In 1958, during the Great Leap Forward, she was among those who heeded the call of vice-president Liu Shaoqi to study the Earth so that China might exploit its natural resources, such as oil. For Chang, that introduction to China’s rocks set her on the path to study fish fossils, a quest that has taken her to all the continents of the world.

In 1965, Chang was chosen to do graduate research at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, one of the leading research centres in palaeontology. But her time there was to prove short-lived. When the Cultural Revolution swept China in 1966, Chang, ever the patriot, halted her studies and returned home. In Beijing, Chang was confronted by the new phenomenon of the Red Guard who, on the orders of Mao Zedong, ‘purified’ China by isolating and punishing the academic classes.

**Bad dream Cultural revolt**

For more than a decade, Chang lived what is now called the ‘time of nightmares’ — public humiliations to challenge the intellectual spirit, and hard labour in the countryside to break the body. “I wasn’t allowed to do research,” she recalls, “only to read Mao.” It would be many years before Chang was able to return to Sweden to complete her doctorate.

“She is a wonderful person who has been through a lot,” affirms John Maisey, curator of fossil fish at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and one of the organizers of the Mesa meeting. “But she still smiles and is charming.”

Chang’s career has taken her through many countries, and allowed her to pick up numerous languages. She earned her undergraduate degree in 1960 at the Lomonosov Moscow State University, where she became fluent in Russian. She learned modest Swedish while in Stockholm, is fluent in English and reads German and French. But she is also adept at deciphering another language: that of fossilized remains. She can readily navigate a path from the age of fish 460 million years ago in the Devonian period, to the end of the dinosaur age and the Cretaceous period 65 million years ago.

In her current studies, Chang is working to understand the species distribution pattern of fish across the Pacific Ocean — a distribution that reached its maximum during the Eocene epoch, between 34 million and 56 million years ago. Most of these fish became extinct in the western Pacific, she notes, but a few, such as the coelacanth, still survive in the eastern Pacific. “Tracing the origins and distribution of these fish is a very exciting endeavour,” she says.

Chang’s contribution to Chinese palaeontology was recognized in 1983 when she became the first woman to head the IVPP. This was significant not only because of her gender...
but because it marked the IVPP’s move away from political appointments to those based on merit. Chang served two terms as director, ending her tenure in 1990, and helped shepherd the institute from the days when whole families were living on an upper floor of the research building, to a new facility that included modern laboratories.

Unlike some of her more rigid compatriots, Chang was very flexible and open when it came to guiding her students’ careers, says paleontologist Desui Miao, who helped to organize the Mesa symposium. He cites the case of Zhonghe Zhou as an example. One of Chang’s promising students, Zhou had begun a doctoral programme in the early 1990s to examine fossil fish. But then quarries in the northeastern province of Liaoning started to yield an intriguing assortment of fossilized birds dating back to the early Cretaceous.

Zhou saw this as an opportunity to switch from fish to avian fossils. Chang agreed, allowing him to change the direction of his research. “This was a major break with Chinese tradition,” says Miao, of the University of Kansas in Lawrence. “But it showed how she treated every student,” he adds — working first and foremost to develop them professionally.

The change more than paid off. What began as a seemingly minor academic move helped pave the way for China to become a leading force in palaeontology. Liaoning’s avian-like fossils of feathered dinosaurs with rapacious teeth redefined how birds evolved. Soon, the world’s top palaeontologists were clamouring to come to China, which in turn generated collaborations and opportunities abroad for young Chinese researchers.

Miao himself was among those who benefited from these new links — in the late 1980s, he found himself studying at the University of Chicago. Once more, Chang was to show her willingness to put her students’ interests first. In 1988, Miao knew he wanted to continue his postdoctoral studies in Chicago, but at that time China’s leaders, worried about a countrywide ‘brain drain’, were pushing for foreign-trained scientists to return home.

Taking a gamble
Miao decided to write to Chang, asking her permission to stay in the United States. A Chinese colleague thought this was a rash move, calling him a “bloody fool”, Miao remembers. But soon after, Miao received a letter from Chang granting her permission. “I was stunned,” he recalls. “For the first time in a long time, I wept.”

Chang’s experiences in Stockholm, of course, meant that she knew only too well the difficulties of studying abroad. But she also understands the rewards. Despite the interruption by the Cultural Revolution, her research in Sweden did much to rework the evolutionary tree for fish — and sparked some very lively debate.

Hans-Peter Schultz, a palaeontologist who was doing a postdoc at the Stockholm museum in the early 1960s, remembers the rumours of fabulous specimens from the early Devonian that Chang had brought from quarries in Yunnan province. At the time, palaeontologists regularly argued about the evolutionary tree of fish before species evolved to move ashore. Such trees, or cladograms, are important in understanding historical biodiversity and specialized characteristics of current species.

Swedish palaeontological icons Erik Stensiö and Erik Jarvik — both now deceased — held strongly to a view about the split between two lineages of Devonian fish: lungfish (dipnoans) and lobe-finned fish (paleolepiformes). Before Chang’s work, there was no known species that shared characteristics from both these types of fish, which were the predecessors of creatures that later walked on land and breathed air. But Chang had a fossilized fish that did: Youngolepis, a specimen dating from around 415 million years ago in the Devonian.

“It was very disturbing for them when Chang brought the new form,” says Schultz, who is now at the University of Kansas. “Jarvik called Youngolepis the ‘devil’s fish.” In jest, Chang later used that epithet to name another Chinese specimen, Diabolepis, which furthered her theories of the link between lungfish and lobe-finned fish. Her specimens “became pivotal in strengthening the connection” between these species, says Schultz, and helped to lay the groundwork for Chang to propose an evolutionary history for the fishes. Debate over this history continues today, with some authors using cladograms to challenge her conclusions about how closely Youngolepis and Diabolepis are related to the dipnoans.

Lars Werdelin, a graduate student in Stockholm when Chang returned to complete her graduate degree, says her understated manner made her data even more convincing. “She doesn’t stretch the evidence,” says Werdelin, now senior vertebrate curator at the Stockholm museum. “She is not prone to hyperbole. When she says something, you believe it.” Although colleagues often tell of Chang’s personal warmth, they acknowledge that she also has a steely, determined side. In the late 1950s, she was a student leader charting a future field trip in a dangerous area of Kazakhstan. Outsiders were loathed then, and hotels used to deny foreigners a room. “She demanded a room — arguing, putting her side and saying: ‘I have money. I have money,’” says Ke-Qin Gao, a palaeontologist at Peking University in Beijing, who heard the story later. “She was fearless.” And she got the room.

Today, Chang never tells such stories. Asked about her successes, she brushes aside the questions, seeking credit for her students and colleagues.

Fortunately, her students and colleagues have found a way to honour her record. Xiaobo Yu, a palaeontologist at Kean University in New Jersey, is preparing a book based on the Mesa symposium. Yu couldn’t go to college during the Cultural Revolution. But afterwards, Chang took him on as her first graduate student. It set him on a course to receive his doctorate from Yale University.

Rex Dalton is Nature’s West Coast correspondent.

How did Mao Sideline the President of China?

- Mao caused huge problems with the Great Leap Forward (1958-62)
- Then he was no longer president.
- Liu Shaoqi was president (a good one).

May 1966: Mao starts the Cultural Revolution in China

Mao used Red Guards to attack all authority.

> Thus he got rid of all his possible opposition in China—and created havoc.

> And give himself and havoc more power.

NOTE:

> The President (Shaoqi) had a very good reputation in China.

> But in a year, Mao’s gang was able to discredit Shaoqi and marginalize him and physically hurt him. Grrr. Grrr.

> Mao used the Red Guards, the press, etc., to do these evil deeds to Shaoqi, who had helped Mao.

> Probably Shaoqi could hardly believe what was happening.

In 1968, the political winds that would bring about my own downfall in the Cultural Revolution shifted. This was the era when ultra-leftist forces — such as Vice-Chairman Lin Biao and Mao’s wife, Jiang Qing — held sway in the Party. Newly reorganized, the Central Committee had been purged of all moderate elements. Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping were now condemned as a “bourgeois headquarters.” The Red Guards had left behind a wake of infighting, school closures, and work stoppages — utter chaos. Now, under Mao’s national “three-in-one” combination policy, teams of rebel leaders, veteran cadres, and PLA representatives throughout the country took power of the new revolutionary committees and reasserted Party control.

The head of Heilongjiang’s provincial revolutionary committee, the province’s new number-one man, Pan Fusheng, was determined to implement an ultraleftist line. He dispatched five cadres to the Heilongjiang Daily.
On 16 May 1966, the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee issued a document — the May 16 Notice — announcing the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Everywhere people were genuinely excited. Their enthusiasm was real. They believed in Mao. They thought he was trying to prevent China from “changing its color,” that we were all marching forward toward prosperity and a powerful state. When Mao said, “destroy the old and establish the new,” everyone felt the same — that it was a right movement.

At the beginning of the Cultural Revolution I was very excited, too. Like hundreds of millions of people in China, I believed in Mao. He was the leader with the “great strategic thinking against imperialism and revisionism.”

Mao once wrote that even though there are a lot of Marxist teachings, in the final analysis there is only one sentence that matters: “It is right to rebel.” That summer, people took him at his word. Many students didn’t return home during the vacation. Instead they stayed on campus to be part of the revolution. That was the summer of the Red Guard.

The Red Guards were part of a grassroots movement that basically sought to overthrow all authority. They sprang up first at a middle school in Beijing, then swept through the high schools and universities, quickly joined by thousands of other groups known as “rebels.” Unlike the Young Pioneers or the Communist Youth League, none of them were under provincial control, and it was through them that Mao and the Central Committee would carry out the revolution.

Mao sat out the early turmoil of the Cultural Revolution in Hangzhou, near Shanghai. But after President Liu Shaoqi, his would-be successor, sent work teams to the universities to bring the movement under control, the Chairman returned to Beijing and decisively threw his weight behind the Red Guards — and against Liu. On 5 August 1966, Mao issued what he referred to as “my own big character poster.” It said, “Bombard the Headquarters.” The poster, an indirect accusation of Liu Shaoqi, pointed toward a “bourgeois headquarters” in the Central Committee of the Party. Thirteen days later, Mao appeared before a million Red Guards from a podium atop Tiananmen Gate and put on a Red Guard armband, giving the movement his symbolic blessing.

After that, it was like a small flame bursting into a big fire. In Harbin, as in cities all over China, great rallies and demonstrations took place. Sports fields and stadiums filled with enormous crowds, hundreds of thousands of people, making a noise.
Because, like all Chinese newspapers, the Heilongjiang Daily was a branch of the local authority, the Red Guards viewed it with suspicion. A week before the attack on Jile Temple, rebels from Harbin's Military Engineering Institute and University of Industry came to the paper for a heated debate. These two universities were a breeding ground for Red Guards. The military institute was the largest university in the province, and many of the senior leaders' children studied there — including Chairman Mao's nephew.

On 16 May 1966, Mao issued the document that officially launched the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Rejecting a more limited resolution made three months earlier, the May 16 Notice asserted that "The whole Party must follow Comrade Mao Zedong's instructions, hold high the great banner of the proletariat Cultural Revolution, thoroughly expose the reactionary bourgeois stand of those so-called academic authorities who oppose the Party and socialism, thoroughly criticize and repudiate the reactionary bourgeois ideas in the sphere of academic work, education, journalism, literature and art, and publishing, and seize the leadership in these cultural spheres. To achieve this," the document added ominously, "it is necessary at the same time to criticize and repudiate those representatives of the bourgeoisie who have sneaked into the Party, the government, the army, and all spheres of culture, to clear them out . . ."

The announcement coincided with the birth of the Red Guard at a middle school in Beijing. Marked by a fierce devotion to "die fighting to protect Chairman Mao" and inflamed by his exhortations to "start fires" to keep the revolutionary spirit alive, members of the grassroots student movement placarded the nation's walls with slogans and personal handwritten statements called "big character posters" held rallies, attacked teachers and all forms of authority, and quickly clashed with government authorities.

President Liu Shaoqi vainly pleaded for instructions from the Chairman before sending in work teams to the schools to restore order. But after the work teams restrained the violence on the campuses, Mao seized on the action as a pretext to launch an attack on the "bourgeois headquarters" headed by Liu, and began to make his way back to Beijing.

Mao did: Use Red Guards to attack all authority.
- Thus he got rid of all his possible opposition in China --- and created havoc.
- And gave himself and havoc more power.
Aug 1966: Mao writes "Bombard the Headquarters!"

This is anti-President Liu Shaoqi.

1966

Mao

On 16 July 1966, a seventy-two-year-old Mao went for a swim in the Yangtze River in a two-hour public display of vigor that signaled he was back at the helm. Two days later he flew to Beijing. Forcing Liu Shaoqi’s public self-criticism for having carried out an "act of oppression and terror," on 5 August Mao took a cue from the Red Guards and wrote his own big character poster. It said, "Bombard the Headquarters!" Having fought the Nationalists, the Japanese, the Americans and the Soviets, landlords and capitalists, the man who had once written that "politics is war by other means" now set in motion a guerrilla assault on his own Party.

Note: I understand that Liu Shaoqi was really a very good person.
-So now Mao clobbers him - grrr

On 18 August 1966 Mao stood atop Tiananmen Gate in Beijing before a million cheering Red Guards waving Little Red Books and pinned on an armband presented to him by a young female Red Guard. With this gesture he decisively threw his weight behind the student movement and against the entrenched Party establishment.

Within weeks, this symbolic act reverberated throughout China, spawning thousands of rebel groups under no one’s direct control, widespread demonstrations, epic criticism sessions, and a nationwide wave of violence.

Under the banner of eliminating the "four olds" — old thought, old culture, old customs, and old practices — school officials, newspaper editors, intellectuals, and bureaucrats from all levels of government were attacked and often overthrown in a revolutionary maelstrom as the campaign to eradicate all "snake monsters and ox demons" slowly made its way up the ranks of the Party hierarchy.

Note: The President (Shaoqi) had a very good reputation in China.
-But in a year Mao’s gang was able to discredit Shaoqi and marginalize him and physically hurt him. Grrr, Grrr.
After I returned from Beijing with the Red-Color News Soldier armband at the beginning of 1967, the “Revolutionary Rebel Headquarters of Workers” in Shanghai overthrew the municipal Party committee and the government. That spear-heading event was called the “January Storm,” and the storm swept all over China.

On 10 January, Red Guards from both Harbin’s Military Engineering Institute and Teacher’s College took over the Heilongjiang Daily and shut it down. The next day, there was no newspaper. For the five days after that, only wire stories from the Xinhua News Agency were published; no local news, not even the paper’s masthead at the top. The day-to-day management was put in the hands of the deputy editors in chief, who had yet to be denounced. The Red Guards, looking for a group to represent them at the paper, in the end chose the Red Rebel League — an alliance led by my Red Youth

By the fall of 1966 Mao had become, to most Chinese, a living god. Popular songs like “The Sun in the East” and newspaper editorials extolled his limitless virtues, while millions traveled to the capital, Beijing, from all over the country, sometimes on foot, for just a glimpse of the Great Helmsman. Mao’s elevation to superhuman status was all the more remarkable considering that his previous mass movement — the Great Leap Forward — had resulted in the famine-related death of over twenty million people.

Mao managed such sweeping control over the country through a propaganda campaign of unprecedented scope. Carefully coordinated by his new second in command, Marshal Lin Biao, the force behind the Little Red Book, and the Chairman’s wife, Jiang Qing, who wielded her power over all aspects of culture and media, the cult of Mao splashed the Great Leader’s “supreme instructions” onto the walls of every factory and across every newspaper page, and put his likeness into every home on posters, buttons, fabrics, and dishes. Two seemingly contradictory forces fueled the cult, as Mao was simultaneously ever-present (in image) and inaccessible (in person). With the exception of those who attended one of Mao’s eight reviews of the Red Guards at Tiananmen Square between August and November 1966, few Chinese ever saw him. And although Mao Zedong Thought had become the ubiquitous official expression of Chinese thinking, replacing nearly all other writing, much of which was now banned, nearly one-third of all Chinese were still unable to read.

The overall effect was to make Mao one of the most powerful men on the planet, puppet master of a swirl of destruction and fear from which he alone was immune. Schools shut down, and industry slowed to a crawl as rebels turned on capitalists, religious leaders, the press, local Party leadership, and each other. By the summer of 1967, the violence had reached its peak. Marauding Red Guards conducted random household searches, ransacked libraries, and held interrogations as millions were killed, tortured, or committed suicide before Mao finally sent in the PLA (People’s Liberation Army) to pull the country back from the brink of total chaos.
Early 1967: Rebel groups fight each other in China

Having overthrown numerous Party leaders, intellectuals, and other “demons and monsters,” by early 1967 the tens of thousands of Red Guard and rebel groups whose destructive force Mao had harnessed to wage revolution turned on one another. The period of infighting that followed produced some of the most violent episodes of the Cultural Revolution, as rivals armed themselves, clashed in pitched battles, and took prisoners in a fight for the power and prestige that went with being acknowledged as the “real” revolutionaries.

Generally the factions shared a similar ideology: total support for Mao and a willingness to “die fighting.” But fissures among the Chairman’s grassroots shock troops developed along class lines, according to family background, and between those who wanted to preserve a refashioned Party leadership and those who wished to destroy all power structures. This conflict between “radicals” and “emperor protectors” was endlessly reenacted on campuses and in workplaces throughout the country. As Mao wrote the following year,

In 1967, former Party officials became prize exhibits in the ongoing publicity campaign against “black gang elements.” That spring, the blackest of all was Liu Shaoqi. Nominally still head of state, the public campaign against him began in April with an editorial in People’s Daily, edited by Mao himself, which criticized the president as the “top Party person in power taking the capitalist road.” Liu’s home in Beijing was searched, and his wife was humiliated before a crowd of thousands of Red Guards at Qinghua University in Beijing by being forced to mount the stage wearing high heels, a sexy silk dress, and a necklace of ping-pong balls.

All over China, rallies were held denouncing the once-revered leader. The campaign would reach a boiling point on 18 July, when the seventy-year-old Liu and his wife were roughly handled and made to bow for two hours during a criticism session inside Zhongnanhai, the leadership compound. After another criticism session a few weeks later, Liu Shaoqi was stripped of his duties.

For the next year he would be held in house arrest. When the Party finally officially ratified his overthrow the following summer as a “renegade, traitor, and scab,” the former head of state, suffering from pneumonia, was already bedridden, could no longer speak, and was being fed intravenously. In October 1969, he was removed to Kaifang, in Henan province, and housed in an unheated building. Refused hospitalization, he died on 12 November, 1969.

On the steps of Harbin’s North Plaza Hotel, which served as a public space for criticism sessions and Red Guard rallies, one rebel group forces leaders from a rival group to kneel and be criticized.

17 Jan 1967

Spring 1967 President Shaoqi was made a dirty rat

his wife treated badly

More dirty plays by Mao

Roughly treated - He was hurt badly

Aug 1967: Shaoqi stripped of his duties

Forced to stand on chairs in front of the North Plaza Hotel, the seven secretaries of the Heilongjiang Party committee are denounced for “carrying out Liu Shaoqi’s revisionist line.”

Dec Nov 1969

Fat
Relations between China and Soviet Union

Feb 1950 Mao and Stalin sign a treaty of friendship

Oct 1959 After a trip to the USA, Khrushchev (of USSR) visits Beijing for his second (and last) time

July 1960 The USSR recalls all of its advisors from China

1964 First test of a Chinese atomic bomb.

1967 China explodes its first hydrogen bomb.

Sep 1971 Failed attempt to overthrow Mao.

Lin Biao leaves for Russia. His plane crashes

Border fights
Sino-Soviet relations were especially volatile in 1969 and the early 1970s, and skirmishes along the border were common, leading to armed militia patrols like this one near Rakes on the Wuului River, which marks the border at the northeastern tip of China.

Picture on Page 24ft

Note: I first visited China in Dec 1980

Roy Jenner
Aug 2006
1911 Overthrow of the Qing dynasty that had been in power since 1644. Sun Yat-sen proclaims a provisional republican government on 10 October. Mao Zedong joins the insurrectionary army.

1912 Foundation of the Chinese Nationalist Party (Guomindang).

1914 The First World War breaks out in June.

1915 Japan seizes Qingdao, a German colony in China.

1917 China joins the allies in the First World War. (October): Bolshevike Revolution in Russia.

1918 (November): First World War ends. Mao Zedong receives a diploma from the Teacher's College of Hunan province, where he was born on 26 December 1893.

1921 Foundation of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Shanghai with Mao Zedong as secretary.

1922-23 China regains sovereignty over Shandong, a German concession given to Japan by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.


1925 Joseph Stalin becomes the successor to Vladimir Lenin, who died in 1924. (March): Death of Sun Yat-sen.

1926 Mao writes *Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society*.

1927 Chiang Kai-shek crushes the communists in Shanghai.

1928 Creation of the first "soviets" and the first elements of the "Red Army" in the southern provinces by Mao and Zhu De.

1930 Yang Kailui, Mao's first wife, and Mao's younger sister are beheaded by the nationalists in Changsha (Hunan).

1931 Sino-Japanese crisis over Manchuria. Mao becomes Chairman of the Chinese Soviet Republic, which includes only three provinces (Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning).

1932 Japanese occupation of Shanghai. Japan creates the puppet government of Manchukuo, headed by the former emperor of China, Pu Yi, inheritor of the Manchu Dynasty.

1934-35 The Red Army carries out the Long March from the provinces of Hunan and Jiangxi to the province of Shaanxi in the north with Zhou Enlai, Zhu De, Lin Biao, Deng Xiaoping and Liu Shaoqi under the leadership of Mao Zedong.

1935 Mao establishes a communist base at Yanan (Shanxi). He Zichen, Mao's second wife, undergoes treatment for cancer in Moscow. Mao meets Jiang Qing and divorces He Zichen. His older brother Mao Zitan is killed in combat at the end of the Long March. (December): Student revolt against the Japanese in Peking.

1937 (December): Japanese army enters the city of Nanjing (Jiangsu), headquarters of the communist government. Nationalists and communists unite against the invaders.


1940 (August 21): Birth of Li Zhenzheng in Dalian (Liaoning).

1941 Pearl Harbor in Hawaii is attacked by Japan. The US enters the Second World War.

1943 China declares war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.

1945 Mao Zemin, Mao's younger brother, is executed by the nation Guomindang.


1949 (December): The Red Army becomes the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

1950-53 The Korean War.

1950 Li Zhenzheng returns to Dalian.

1951 (14 February): Mao and Stalin sign a treaty of friendship, alliance, and mutual assistance between China and the USSR. Marriage and agrarian legislation adopted in China.

1952 (September): A contingent of the UN debarks in Korea, followed by the first Chinese volunteers to the North in October.


1954 First hydrogen bomb test in the US.

1955 (March): Stalin, Chairman of the Council of the People's Commissars of the USSR, dies.


1957 Zhou Enlai represents China at the Afro-Asian Conference of twenty-nine non-aligned countries in Bandung, Indonesia.

1958 Li Zhenzheng attends High School in Dalian, and begins taking photographs. (February): The XXth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party denounces "cult of personality." (May): Hundred Flowers Campaign in China. (September): VIIIth Congress of the CCP; Deng Xiaoping becomes General Secretary of the Central Committee and criticizes the USSR.

1959 The Hundred Flowers is extended by an "anti-rightist" campaign of "rectification." (4 October): The USSR launches Sputnik, the Earth's first artificial satellite. (November): Nikita Khruushchev greets Mao Zedong in Moscow. This is his second and last trip abroad.
1958
The Great Leap Forward: Creation of agricultural communes.

1959
Failure of the Great Leap Forward; famine ravages the country.
(March): Chinese authorities put down the rebellion in Tibet.
(The Dalai Lama flees to India.
(April): Liu Shaoqi becomes President of China.
(1 October): After a trip to the US, Nikita Khrushchev arrives at Beijing for his second and last visit to China.

1960
Li Zhenheng enters the Film School of Changchun (Jilin).
Lin Biao releases the Little Red Book for use as a handbook by the PL.
(April): Student riots (125 dead and 1,000 wounded) in South Korea; President Syngman Rhee resigns.
(July): The USSR recalls all its advisors from China.

1961
China is strongly criticized at the XXIInd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Zhou Enlai leaves Moscow; breaking-off between the two countries.
(13 August): The German Democratic Republic (GDR) erects the Berlin Wall, which will remain in place until 1989.

1962
The Film School of Changchun is converted into a School of Photojournalism.
Socialist Education Movement in rural China.
Crisis between the USSR and the US over Soviet missiles installed in Cuba. Khrushchev pulls them back in October.

1963
Li finds a job in the photography department of the Heilongjiang Daily newspaper in Harbin (Heilongjiang).
(22 November): John F. Kennedy, president of the United States, is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.
Zhou Enlai visits several African countries.

1964
(October): Li Zhenheng goes to the countryside as part of the Socialist Education Movement.
(16 October): First test of the Chinese atomic bomb.

1965
American President Lyndon Johnson sends troops to South Vietnam. Intensive aerial bombing in the North.

1966
(16 July): Mao Zedong swims in the Yangtze.
(5 August): Mao writes his daiziba, "Bombard the Headquarters."
(18 August): Mao Zedong receives the Red Guard in Tiansanmen Square in Peking (Beijing) for the first time.
(Autumn): Li Zhenheng creates the "Red Youth Fighting Team" at his newspaper.

1967
(1 January): The Cultural Revolution reaches the army.
(April): President Liu Shaoqi is accused of fomenting a coup against Mao in January 1966; attacks against "bourgeois" and "revisionists."
(May): Serious incident involving the People's Liberation Army and the Red Guards in Beijing and in other cities of the country.
(17 June): Explosion of China's first hydrogen bomb.
(8 August): The Eighth Central Committee of the CCP approves the Cultural Revolution and the economic policy of Mao.
(Summer): Insurrections in some cities and provinces, particularly in Wuhan (Hubei).
(October): Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, dies in Beijing.

1968
(1 January): The American spy ship, the Pueblo, is captured by North Korean forces.
(May): Student uprisings and general strike in Paris.
(20 August): The Prague Spring is put down by the Soviets.
(October): Birth of Xiaohao, son of Li Zhenheng.
The CCP officially proclaims the end of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

1969
(26 December): Li Zhenheng is publicly accused of being a "newly born bourgeois" and a "foreign agent."
(April): The IXth Congress of the CCP names Lin Biao as Mao's successor when the Chairman decides to retire.
(July): Americans Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong walk on the moon.
(6 September): Li is sent to the Liubei May 7th Cadre School for reeducation.
(February): Meeting between Mao and American President Richard Nixon.
(November): Death of Liu Shaoqi, made public five years later.

1970
Coup by General Lon Nol in Cambodia. Prince Norodom Sihanouk is overthrown. He lives in exile in Beijing.

1971
(September): Failed attempt to overthrow Mao; Lin Biao leaves for the USSR; his plane crashes in Mongolia.

1972
(16 September): President Georges Pompidou of France meets Mao in Beijing.

1973
(1 January): Confrontation of factions within the Chinese Communist Party between radicals led by Mao's wife Jiang Qing and moderates like Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping.

1974
(August): In the United States, Richard Nixon resigns following the Watergate scandal.
Portraits of Mao painted by Andy Warhol in 1972 are exhibited for the first time (Galliera Museum in Paris).

1975
(17 April): The Khmer Rouge enter Phnom Penh.
(30 April): The Vietnamese communist forces enter Saigon; the Vietnam War ends.

1976
(December): Official visit to China by the American President Gerald Ford, who meets with Mao.

1977
(8 January): Death of Zhou Enlai.
(February): Death of Li Zhenheng's father, Li Yuanjian.
(28 July): Between 250,000 and 750,000 persons die in an earthquake at Tangshan, southeast of Beijing.
(9 September): Death of Mao Zedong.
(6 October): Hu orders the arrest of the Band of Four (Jiang Qing, Yao Wenjuan, Zhang Chunqiao and Wang Hongwen), marking the historic end of the Cultural Revolution.
Hua succeeds Mao at the head of the Chinese Communist Party.

1978
Deng Xiaoping is rehabilitated.

1979
Deng is appointed Vice Prime Minister at the head of the Military Affairs Commission from 1981 to 1988. He launches economic modernization and the "open door" policy.

1980
(1 January): Diplomatic relations with the United States are officially reestablished.
(28 January): Official visit of Deng Xiaoping to the US under the presidency of Jimmy Carter.

Li Zhenheng begins teaching photography in the journalism department of University Beijing's International Political Science Institute.
## 16-6 客运量

**Passenger Traffic**

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## 16-7 旅客周转量

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**Source:** A Statistical Yearbook (2005) from China

[Ray James] 553
### Number of Postgraduate Students by Field of Study (2004)

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