

CHINA KNOWLEDGE SERIES

YEARS OF
TRIAL, TURMOIL AND
TRIUMPH
—CHINA FROM 1949 TO 1988

Compiled by Zong Huaiwen



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Publisher's Note

Years of Trial, Turmoil and Triumph—China from 1949 to 1988, edited by Zong Huaiwen, is the first book on modern Chinese history published by the Foreign Languages Press. To implement the policy of opening to the outside world, China needs to understand the world and the world needs to understand China. This book is to help foreign readers learn about New China from the process of history. Between October 1, 1949 and December 1978, and especially in the twenty-one years since 1957, with class struggle being taken as the key impetus, leftist leanings in the economy, constant political movements and high targets and arbitrary orders in economic construction, not as much progress was made as should have been done. China was still an underdeveloped, backward country. At the end of 1978, the Party Central Committee began correcting leftist mistakes in an all-around way and shifted its focus to socialist modernization. It introduced the policy of reform, opening to the outside world and invigorating the economy. This policy has proved successful. Now China is adopting important measures to fasten and deepen the reform. It will open further to the outside world; strive to realize the modernization of industry, agriculture, national defence and science and technology; and build China into a wealthy, democratic and civilized country. This is the rough course of China's social development in the past forty years.

This book is divided into four parts, following the course of China's social development. The first part looks back at how New China was founded, covering mainly the period from October 1949 to December 1956. The second part describes political and economic issues between January 1957 and April 1966. The third part gives an overall, systematic and accurate description of the ten-year "cultural revolution," which lasted from May 1966 to

October 1976. The fourth part deals with the period from November 1976 to April 1988, giving an especially detailed description of China's reform and policy of opening to the outside world in the past ten years.

In compiling this book we adopted a realistic attitude. While talking of China's progress and achievements, we did not gloss over the difficulties and shortcomings. We did our best to ensure that all information in this book be real, all viewpoints be objective, comprehensive and based on facts. We hope that through this book foreign readers will obtain an accurate picture of China and a more comprehensive understanding of modern Chinese history.

The bibliography at the back of this book lists our major sources of information, which are also good reference materials for further studies of modern Chinese history. Twenty-one photographs with captions are chronologically placed in the text. There is also an index at the back of the book.

This book was first compiled several years ago. In 1984, Professor He Qin and Lecturer Wang Shunsheng from the People's University of China wrote a draft. Based on that draft and some newly added materials, we compiled this book. Here we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the publishing of this book. It would not have been possible without their hard work and determined efforts. Any remaining errors are our sole responsibility.

The Editors
Foreign Languages Press
May 1988

Contents

Foreword	i
Part I From New Democracy to Socialism (October 1949-December 1956)	1
1. The Day Breaks in China	3
2. The Philosophy of People's Democratic Dictatorship	14
3. Consolidating the People's Power	20
4. Economic Rehabilitation	30
5. New China's First Constitution	39
6. Socialist Transformation—the Chinese Way	46
7. Searching for the Correct Path of China's Socialist Development	56
8. Foreign Policy and External Relations in the Early Post-Liberation Years	63
Part II Full-Scale Socialist Development (January 1957-April 1966)	77
1. Party Rectification and the Anti-Rightist Campaign	79
2. Overfulfilment of the First-Year Plan (1953-57)	83
3. The Great Leap Forward and the Movement for People's Communes	86
4. Reappraisal: Cooling the Fires of the Great Leap Forward	90
5. The Attack on Peng Dehuai and Its Consequences	95
6. Hard Times and Economic Readjustment	100
7. A Turning Point in Tibetan History	109

8. Independent Foreign Policy and Friendly Neighbour Relations	117
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**Part III The Ten Years of the "Cultural Revolution"
(May 1966-October 1976)** 125

1. Launching the "Cultural Revolution"	127
2. The "January Storm" and the February Counterattack	138
3. The Twelfth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee and the Ninth Party Congress	145
4. The Campaign of "Struggle, Criticism and Transformation"	148
5. The Collapse of the Lin Biao Clique	150
6. Zhou Enlai Took Charge	154
7. Defeat of the "Cabinet" of the Gang of Four	158
8. Rehabilitation Under Deng Xiaoping	161
9. The Criticize-Deng Campaign	163
10. The Tiananmen Incident	165
11. The Downfall of Gang of Four and the End of the "Cultural Revolution"	167

**Part IV The New Era of Socialist Modernization
(November 1976-1988)** 173

1. Exposure and Criticism of the Jiang Qing Counterrevolutionary Clique; Progress in All Quarters During a Time of Change	175
2. The Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC—A Great Turning Point of Historic Significance	181
3. Readjustment of the National Economy	184
4. Restructuring of Party and State Leadership and Strengthening of Socialist Democracy and the Legal System	188

5. "Resolution on CPC History 1949-81—Order out of Chaos in the Party's Guiding Ideology	191
6. Achievements in 1981	195
7. The Twelfth National Congress of the CPC—Creating a New Climate for Socialist Modernization	198
8. Economic Growth and Political Stability	214
9. Major Measures Taken at the Thirteenth CPC National Congress and the Seventh NPC for Stabilizing the Economy and Deepening the Reform	229
10. "One Country, Two Systems"—the Reunification of China	253
11. Opening to the Outside World—A Basic National Policy	267
12. China Perfects Her Foreign Policy of Independence and Peace—New Development in Foreign Relations	276
Appendices	293
1. Reference Materials	295
2. Index	311