

HSTR 366
War and Revolution in China
Instructor: Prof. Zhongping Chen
Spring 2020



A study of dynamic interaction between wars and revolutions as well as military and political changes in modern China up to the mid-twentieth century. Focuses on the escalation of China's civil wars and its military engagements with foreign powers during its successive Republican, Nationalist, and Communist revolutions. Guerrilla tactics, positional fights, mobile warfare, decisive battles, and intelligence operations will receive special attention.

(The syllabus below was used in spring 2019, and it is subject to revision)

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Spring 2019

HSTR 366 A01 (CRN 21840) War and Revolution in China

Instructor: Zhongping Chen Class schedule: TWF: 12:30 – 1:20 P.M.
Office: Clearihue B-209 Office hour: Wed. 1:30-2:30 P.M. or by appointment
Phone: 250-721-7404 Email: zhchen@uvic.ca

Course Description:

A study of dynamic interaction between wars and revolutions as well as military and political changes in modern China up to the mid-twentieth century. Focuses on the escalation of China's civil wars and its military engagements with foreign powers during its successive Republican, Nationalist, and Communist revolutions. The militant radicalization of revolutionary politics and the simultaneous politicization of military forces, strategies, and activities, including guerrilla tactics, positional fights, intelligence operations, mobile warfare, and decisive battles, will receive special attention.

Required Textbooks:

Elleman, Bruce A. *Modern Chinese Warfare, 1795-1989*. New York: Routledge, 2001.
Spence, Jonathan D. *The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution, 1895-1980*.
New York: Penguin Books, 1982.

Other required readings (see the *Schedule of Lectures and Readings* for weeks 8 & 11).

Assignments and Grading:

The final grade will be made up as follows: class participation, 10 %; three one-page critiques of readings, 30%; a term paper, 30%; and a final exam (take-home), 30%.

Course Requirements:

1. Students should attend class regularly, complete the required readings, and be prepared to ask and answer questions about these readings and lectures in class, especially in weekly debates and discussions. The topics for the weekly discussions are listed in the *Schedule of Lectures and Readings*. They are designed not for political correctness, but as *extreme* and *dichotomous* questions to provoke thought and generate debate. Students are encouraged to raise and tackle more critical, challenging, and comprehensive questions about the weekly class content.

2. In the three short critiques, students are required to *summarize* and *evaluate* the assigned readings for weeks 4, 8 and 11 by citing the two main textbooks, the instructor's lectures and other sources. Each of these critiques is limited to one page of double-spaced text (endnotes and bibliography on a separate page) and must be submitted on time (Feb. 1, Mar. 1, & Mar. 22. Also see the *Schedule of Lectures and Readings* for weeks 4, 8 & 11).

3. The topic of a term paper should be chosen by Feb. 15. The paper should be of approximately 10 pages in length (typed double-spaced). It must cite at least 5 sources (excluding general textbooks; internet sources must be publications of an academic nature), and follow an academic style in footnotes and bibliography. For relevant sources, see the website of “History of China” (<http://libguides.uvic.ca/content.php?pid=178798&sid=1504517>). For the academic style of the paper, refer to [UVic] Department of History’s “History Essay Style Guide” (<https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/history/assets/docs/styleguide.pdf>). The mark for the essay will be based on the originality and soundness of arguments, the adequacy of sources, the quality of analysis, and the correctness of writing and academic style.

4. The final exam will test students by means of interpretative essay questions based on class lectures and readings.

All written assignments should be submitted to the instructor in hard copy. **Late papers will be penalized 2 marks for each day.**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence and carries penalties ranging from failure in an assignment to debarment from the university. Please check the University's *Policy on Plagiarism* for the definitions, procedures, and penalties for dealing with plagiarism.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1 (Jan. 8/9/11)

Introduction

Course orientation

Geography and historiography

Premodern wars and primitive revolutions

REQUIRED READING: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, “Preface,” Chapter 1; Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, “Preface.”

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Were the secret societies in Qing China rebellious or revolutionary organizations?

Week 2 (Jan. 15/16/18)

Dynastic Revolutions and Traditional Wars

The early Sino-West contacts and wars

The Opium War and Western military challenge

The Arrow War and the fall of traditional warfare

REQUIRED READING: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapters 2-3 (pp. 13-34, 45-51).

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Had Chinese military power suffered decline by the 1860s because of China’s geopolitical conditions or its cultural conservatism?

Week 3 (Jan. 22/23/25)

Peasant Revolutions and Semi-modern Civil Wars

The Taiping warfare and “Christian” revolution

The Nian guerrillas and Muslim rebellions

Confucian generals and militia modernization

REQUIRED READING: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapters 3-5 (pp. 35-45, 51-81).

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Did the mid-nineteenth-century rebellions or the Qing government’s modernization bring about revolutionary elements in modern China?

Week 4 (Jan. 29/30/Feb. 1) **The Rise of Modern Warfare and Radical Reformism**

The Sino-French War and the Sino-Japanese War
The New Army and the One-Hundred-Day Reform
Film: *Datong* (The Great Community)

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapters 6-7; Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapter 1.

Critique of Spence's book chapters (pp. 17-21, 29-57) is due on Feb. 1

Week 5 (Feb. 5/6/8) **Reactionaries, Revolutionaries and Radical Feminists**

The Boxer War and the militant reformers
Revolutionary intellectuals and secret societies
Film: *Autumn Gem*

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapter 8; Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 2-3 (pp. 58-113).

Week 6 (Feb. 12/13/15) **The Military in the Republican Revolution and Regime**

Revolutionaries, the new armies, and military uprisings
Reformers, the military, and provincial independence
Yuan Shikai and the military seizure of the republic

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapters 9-10 (pp. 138-52); Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 3-4 (pp. 113-35).

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Was the 1911 Revolution a success of republican revolutionaries or military leaders?

Week 7 (Feb. 18-22) **Reading Break**

Week 8 (Feb. 26/27/Mar. 1) **Warlord Domination and Division of the Early Republic**

Warlord regimes and wars in the early Republican era
WWI, militant nationalism, and the May 4th Movement
Film: *China in Revolution* (Part 1: 1911-36)

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapter 10 (pp. 153-57, 163-66); Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 4-5 (pp. 135-61); Zhongping Chen, "The May Fourth Movement and Provincial Warlords: A Reexamination." *Modern China* 37.2 (2011): 135-69 (Available at: <http://www.uvic.ca/library/find/index.php> "article")

Critique of Chen's article is due on Mar. 1

Week 9 (Mar. 5/6/8) **Military Politicization in the Nationalist Revolution**

The KMT, CCP, and Nationalist Revolution
The Soviet impacts on the Nationalist Army
Military-mass clashes and KMT-CCP split

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapter 10 (pp. 157-63, 166-74); Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 5-7 (pp. 161-244).

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Did the Nationalist Army succeed in the Nationalist Revolution because of its military superiority or its revolutionary politics?

Week 10 (Mar. 12/13/15) **The Military Rule of the Nationalist Government**

KMT's military regime and German impacts
KMT, Foreign Powers, and Chinese Intellectuals
The Nanchang Uprising and urban communism

REQUIRED READING: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapters 10-12 (pp. 174-99);
Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 8-9 (pp. 245-98).

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Did KMT's Nanjing regime under Chiang Kai-shek fail to win popular
and intellectual support because of its domestic dictatorship? or its diplomatic weakness?

Week 11 (Mar. 19/20/22) **The Communist Initiation of Armed Struggles**

Mao Zedong, rural soviets, and guerilla warfare
The Red Armies and the Long March to unity
Film: *China in Revolution* (Part 2: 1936-49)

REQUIRED READINGS: Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 9-10 (pp. 298-308);
Edward L. Dreyer, *China at War, 1901-1949* (New York: Longman, 1995), pp. 350-70
[available at <http://www.uvic.ca/library/find/index.php> "Course reserves"].

Critique of Dreyer's book chapter (pp. 350-70) is due on Mar. 22

Week 12 (Mar. 26/27/29) **WWII and the 2nd KMT-CCP Alliance**

The Xi'an incident and the Second KMT-CCP alliance
Japanese wars and KMT's military campaigns
The CCP in war of resistance and revolution

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapter 12 (pp. 199-216);
Spence, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 10-11 (pp. 309-42).

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Was CCP's guerilla warfare or KMT's positional warfare a more
effective strategy during the Sino-Japanese War?

Week 13 (Apr. 2/3/5) **The Civil War and the Unfinished Revolution**

China in the Pacific War and Civil War
CCP's mobility warfare and decisive battles
Review and reflection

REQUIRED READINGS: Elleman, *Modern Chinese Warfare*, Chapter 13; Spence, *The Gate of
Heavenly Peace*, Chapters 11-12 (pp. 342-58).

Term paper is due on April 2

Final exam (take-home): TBA

Online course evaluation at: <https://ces.uvic.ca/Blue/>