

## Glossary of the history of the PRC – Abbreviations and terms

M 1

The following is a glossary of Chinese symbols, terms and names that are used in the history of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

### Abbreviations

<b>GMD</b>	Guomindang	<b>SU</b>	Soviet Union
<b>HistoMat</b>	Historical materialism	<b>USSR</b>	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
<b>CCP</b>	Chinese Communist Party	<b>PLA</b>	People's Liberation Army
<b>CPSU</b>	Communist Party of the Soviet Union	<b>PRC</b>	People's Republic of China
<b>M-L</b>	Marxism-Leninism	<b>CC</b>	Central Committee

### Terminology

The following overview helps with the pronunciation of Chinese characters:

c = [ts] ch = [tsch] j = [dj] q = [tj] sh = [sch] u = [ü], nach y x = [ch] z = [ds] sh = [dsch]

<b>Ant</b>	symbol, stands for order, obedience, love of the fatherland and diligence
<b>Blue = Indigo</b>	colour, means loyalty and obedience
<b>Bourgeoisie</b>	M-L: According to the teachings of M-L, the wealthy and rich bourgeoisie, the ruling class in the phase of capitalism, which owns the means of production and exploits the proletariat, i.e. the working class. The term already appears in the <i>Communist Manifesto</i> by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels from 1848.
<b>Chiang Kai-shek</b>	(1887-1975), since 1925 leader of the GMD, until 1949 commander-in-chief of the army and president of China, 1949–1975 president of the Republic of China on Taiwan
<b>Nikita S. Khrushchev</b>	(1894-1971), General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU from 1953–1964, Prime Minister of the USSR from 1958–1964
<b>dang'an</b>	Personal dossier, in which since 1949 the good or bad political attitude of the individual was registered; since the 1960s, the membership of one of the five red, good (poor and middle peasants, workers, revolutionary soldiers, cadres and "martyrs") or five black, bad classes (large landowners, rich peasants, counterrevolutionaries, bad elements, rights)
<b>danwei</b>	Work unit, after the family the smallest socialist unit, understood as the place of work and residence, e. g. a state-owned factory with factory housing
<b>dazibao</b>	Wall newspaper
<b>Deng Xiaoping</b>	(1904–1997), participant in the "Long March", overthrown by Mao during the Cultural Revolution, again in 1976, rehabilitated in 1977, Prime Minister in 1980, begins the "Four Modernisations"
<b>dragon</b>	Symbol, a supernatural, sometimes dangerous but above all benevolent wise force that brings luck and wealth and provides rain and fertility. It also embodies the male principle. With five claws, it symbolises the emperor.
<b>feudalism</b>	L.-M: In HistoMat the epoch before capitalism, in Maoism the relationship between poor peasants and landlords

## What is China? – The perception of others

M 2

An idea that someone else has of a person, a group of people or a nation is called a foreign image. How is China perceived from the outside?



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### Tasks

1. Collect terms and associations for China. What image do you have of China?
2. The word cloud lists keywords and titles of books, newspapers, films and TV documentaries. Research their contents or meanings and summarise the ideas that are reflected in them: What image of China does Western society have?
3. Use the glossary and compare the meaning of the colours mentioned as well as the symbols of the dragon and the ant in Western and Chinese culture. Make assumptions about the causes of different perceptions.

## M 5

## Beijing, a day in the fall of 1949 – The founding of the People's Republic of China (2)

On 1 October 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China before the Gate of Heavenly Peace on Tiananmen Square.

### Excerpt from the memoirs of Li Zhisui (1994)

On October 1, 1949 [...] we arrived in Tiananmen Square a little before seven-. [...] When we arrived, the square was already swarming with people, carefully chosen from all walks of life. [...] I had a perfect view of the podium from which the leaders would proclaim the establishment of the People's Republic. Above the sea of people thousands of banners were unfurled<sup>1</sup>, waving in the autumn breeze, their colours transforming the shabby city. [...] At ten o'clock sharp<sup>2</sup>, Mao Zedong, and the other top leaders appeared at the podium overlooking the square. The effect was electric. Mao had been my hero since my brother first told me he was China's messiah, and this was my first glimpse of my savior.[...] He wore a dark brown Sun Yatsen suit<sup>3</sup> (only later would the style be referred to as the Mao suit) and a worker's cap for this civil occasion and stood among a number of non-communist political personalities as testimony to<sup>4</sup> the reality of the united front [...]. Mao [...] was a truly magnetic force. Mao did not speak standard Mandarin. But the Hunan<sup>5</sup> dialect he spoke is easy for Mandarin speakers to understand, and its rhythm and tones are pleasant to the ear. Mao's voice was soft, almost lilting<sup>6</sup>, and the effect of his speech was riveting<sup>7</sup>. "The Chinese people have stood up," he proclaimed, and the crowd went wild, thundering in applause, shouting over and over, "Long live the People's Republic of China!" "Long live the Chinese Communist Party!" I was so full of joy my heart nearly burst out of my throat, and tears welled up in my eyes. I was so proud of China, so full of hope, so happy the exploitation and suffering<sup>8</sup>, the aggression from foreigners, would be gone forever. I had no doubt that Mao was the great leader of the revolution, the maker of a new Chinese history.

Zhisui, Li: *The Private Life of Chairman Mao. The Memoirs of Mao's Personal Physician*. London: Chatto & Windus 1994, S. 51 f.

1 **unfurled**: entfaltet – 2 **at ten o'clock sharp**: um Punkt 10.00 Uhr – 3 **my first glimpse** = mein erster Blick auf/Eindruck von – 3 **suit**: hier: uniformartiger, schlichter Anzug – 4 **as testimony to**: als Zeugnis für – 5 **Hunan**: Provinz im Süden Chinas, Heimat Mao Zedongs – 6 **lilting**: trällernd – 7 **riveting**: fesselnd, faszinierend – 8 **the exploitation and suffering**: die Ausbeutung und das Leid

### Task

Describe the depiction of this event in the memoirs of the young Peking doctor Li Zhisui, who later became one of Mao's personal physicians. In 1988, he went to the United States and published his autobiography in 1994.

## Fan shen – The implementation of the “New Democracy”

M 8

“Fan shen” means “to turn over while lying down,” as a metaphor for “to free oneself,” “to revolutionise.” The following poster by an unknown artist from the year 1949 shows the confrontation between peasants and a landlord in a village.

Poster “Public trial of evil tyrant“ (1949)



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### Help box

The flag of the People's Republic of China was adopted in 1949. It has a red background with a large yellow star in the upper left corner, representing the Communist Party of China (CPC). The four smaller yellow stars surrounding the large star represent the workers, peasants, petty bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie. Red symbolises communism and luck. Yellow is a reminder of the imperial era and is the colour of renewal and transformation. The number five is a particularly important number that promises happiness and success.

The translation of the text on the red banner is roughly, “The great day of the public trial of the evil and cruel tyrant Niu”. The timeline of the China School Academy at Heidelberg University provides information on the land reform from 1946–1953 (<https://www.china-schul-akademie.de/lernmoddattule/zeitleiste/>). The propaganda film shows the burning of old lease agreements and the handover of land.

Autorentext

### Tasks

1. Name and describe the image.
2. Interpret the image in the sense of Mao's “Dictatorship of the People's Democracy”.
3. Discuss the connection between Mao's concept of democracy with our contemporary understanding of democracy and dictatorship.



## M 10

## “Let a hundred flowers bloom” – Criticism and repression in the People’s Republic of China 1956/57 (2)

On 15 July 1957, Chang Po-chün, the vice chairman of the Democratic League and Minister of Communications, gave a speech to the National People’s Congress, which was published in the important newspaper Renmin Ribao (People’s Daily) on 16 July 1957.

### “I bow my head and confess my guilt before the people (15 July 1957)”

I am a criminal, because I have committed serious political offences. You are lenient<sup>1</sup> and allow me to stand before you, [...] to admit my mistakes and my guilt and to proclaim<sup>2</sup> that I am firmly determined<sup>3</sup> to transform myself. [...] I am deeply grateful to the members of parliament who reported me and exposed my vile<sup>4</sup> words and actions. The reason that I erred<sup>5</sup> so much and committed these crimes is because I come from the landowning class and was brought up in the spirit of feudalism and the bourgeoisie. In 1927, I betrayed the glorious CCP: I organised a third party as a middle way between Chiang Kai-shek and Mao. In 1951, I practised self-criticism, but instead of learning from it and studying the theories of Marxism-Leninism intensively, I did not take them seriously and thought in a revisionist way. I even went so far as to claim that socialism and democracy were contradictory<sup>6</sup> to each other. Furthermore, I made the mistake of considering the science and technology of the capitalist countries and their so-called ‘democracy’ to be their strength. And I came to the erroneous<sup>7</sup> conclusion: if we combine socialism, capitalist science, technology and ‘democracy’, it would be better for our national life. Since last year, I have been advocating<sup>8</sup> these revisionist ideas of the bourgeois rightists in private conversations and meetings... I put the Central Committee of the CCP, democratic parties and people’s organisations on the same level as the National People’s Congress. I was clearly trying to replace the dictatorship of the proletariat and the People’s Congress with the democracy of the bourgeoisie. In doing so, I violated the constitution and advocated the restoration of capitalism. [...] Often, I disrespected the leadership of the CCP and endangered the organisation of the leading party [...] The entire nation demands my severe punishment as a rightist<sup>9</sup> deviant<sup>10</sup>. This is absolutely correct, and I am prepared to accept the punishment. I hate my own wickedness<sup>11</sup>. [...] Members of parliament, with this self-criticism, I show that I bow my head and confess my guilt before the people! [...] Members of parliament should continue to strictly criticise my wrong words and actions in the future.

*Autorentext nach Bowie, Robert R.; Fairbank, John K., (Foreword): Communist China 1955–1959. Policy Documents with Analysis. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press 1962, Document 18, S. 337–341.*

1 **lenient**: nachsichtig – 2 **to proclaim**: ausrufen, verkünden – 3 **determined**: entschlossen – 4 **vile**: abscheulich – 5 **to err**: auf Abwege geraten – 6 **contradictory**: widersprüchlich – 7 **erroneous**: falsch, irrtümlich – 8 **to advocate sth**: für etwas eintreten – 9 **rightist**: rechtsgerichtet – 10 **deviant**: hier: Abweichler – 11 **wickedness**: Bosheit, Schlechtigkeit

### Task

Infer from the content of the speech what happened when intellectuals began to take Mao’s and Lu Dingyi’s appeals seriously. What crimes does Chang confess to? What are the reasons given for this?