

History Revolutions: China
Teach Yourself Series
Topic 1: Chronology of Key Events

Contents

The Chronology of key events	3
Key Events 1912-1927	5
As it appears in Units 3&4	5
Key Events 1928-1949	6
As it appears in Units 3&4	6
Solutions to Review Questions	6

SAMPLE

The Chronology of key events

Revolutions are the great disjuncture of modern times and mark deliberate attempts at new directions. They share the common aim of breaking with the past by destroying the regimes and societies that engender them and embarking on a program of political and social transformation. As processes of dramatically accelerated social change, revolutions have a profound impact on the country in which they occur, as well as important international repercussions.

As revolutions involve destruction and construction, dispossession and liberation, they polarise society and unleash civil war and counter-revolution, making survival and consolidation of the revolution the principal concern of the revolutionary state. In defence of the revolution, under attack from within and without, revolutionary governments often deploy armed forces and institute policies of terror and repression. The process of revolution concludes when a point of stability has been reached and a viable revolutionary settlement made.

How to use this resource

This topic relates to Area of Study 1 of the Chinese Revolution between 1912 and 1949. Outcome 1, shown below, details what students are expected to become experts in in the development of the revolution. This outcome will need to be demonstrated by students in School Assessed Coursework tasks and in the History Revolutions end-of-year examination.

Outcome 1

On completion of this unit the student should be able to analyse the causes of revolution, and evaluate the contribution of significant ideas, events, individuals and popular movements.

Importantly, you should use your text book and a variety of other sources to answer the questions in this topic. Your answers should be extensive, using the number of lines provided as a guide to respond. Within your responses you should include key evidence to support your explanation. This will give you some of the skills you will need to complete the History Revolutions end-of-year examination and School Assessed Coursework tasks which require, for the most part, precision in extended written responses.

The sample responses that are provided at the end of the topic questions are not unique. They are deliberately quite general in order to cover a wider variety of information that students may produce during the course of their investigation. You should not look to the sample answers to judge yourself in a right or wrong type of context but use them to give a guide to your understanding of the concepts explored.

From the VCAA study design

Students should become familiar with the following:

The events and other conditions that contributed to the outbreak of revolution, including the economic and social inequalities, challenges to the early Republican era, Warlordism, the First United Front, the Northern Expedition, the Shanghai Massacre, the establishment of the Jiangxi Soviet (Kiangsi Soviet), successes and limitations of the Nationalist Decade, The Long March, the Japanese occupation of Manchuria and the Sino-Japanese War, the Yan'an Soviet (Yenan), the Second United Front, and the Civil War.

Key Events 1912-1927

As it appears in Units 3 & 4

These questions will enable you to develop an insight into the key events that led to the breakup of the United Front between the Communists and the Guomindang by 1927. You should focus on how the event contributed to the development of the revolution up to the period of Nationalist rule which began in 1927. The rule of Yuan Shikai and that of the Chinese Warlords dominated this period. It was a period of upheaval and experimentation as China emerged from the autocratic rule of the Qing, experimenting in the establishment of a democratic republic before an inevitable fall and fragmentation to warlord rule. The relationship between the fledgling Chinese Communist Party and the Guomindang was significant during this period and saw the foundations for the revolution of 1949 being laid. The deaths of key revolutionary leaders, Yuan Shikai and Sun Yat-sen, the May Fourth protests and the Shanghai Massacre were all key events that played a significant role in developing the revolution. Key events should not be looked upon in isolation but viewed in conjunction with other movements, ideas and revolutionary leaders and how their interaction led to the development of the revolution both in the short term and the long term.

Review Questions

1. What was the date of the Xinhai Revolution?
 - A. 9th September 1910
 - B. 10th October 1911
 - C. 11th October 1912
 - D. 11th November 1912
 - E. 13th December 1913
2. Who was the first official President of the Chinese Republic?
 - A. Emperor Guangxu
 - B. Sun Yat-Sen
 - C. Yuan Shikai
 - D. Song Jiaoren
 - E. Chen Duxiu
3. Which of the following *best* characterises the Warlord Era?
 - A. The creation of the Guomindang movement
 - B. A movement of China towards more 'western tradition'
 - C. The development of the peasant movement
 - D. The growth of nationalist movements
 - E. The increased liberalisation of the commune

4. Give a brief description of the **Abdication of the monarchy by the Qing**.

- a. Include accurate dates, a short description of what occurred including other information related to the event.

- b. Give a brief explanation of how this event contributed to the causes of the revolution.

5. Give a brief description of the **Death of Yuan Shikai**.

- a. Include accurate dates, a short description of what occurred including other information related to the event.

- b. Give a brief explanation of how this event contributed to the causes of the revolution.

Solutions to Review Questions

1.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Students should be aware of the date of the 'double tenth' revolution.

2.

Answer: B

Explanation:

A bit of a trick question. Though Yuan was ordained as the President, officially Sun held the position first before he was deposed.

3.

Answer: D

Explanation:

A occurs too early. The May 4th movement turned China away from the West leaving B incorrect. C takes effect much later in the 1920s and D does not occur until the post-revolutionary period.

4.

- a.** Include accurate dates, a short description of what occurred including other information related to the event.

12 February 1912

This followed the Wuhan uprising on 10th October 1911. Subsequent to the 'double tenth' incident at Wuhan, provincial leaders in the south of China moved to declare an independent republic with Sun Yat-sen its first President. The Qing then recalled respected and influential General Yuan Shikai to re-take the rebel provinces. Yuan was able to defeat the New Armies and then deal with Sun and negotiated that he would lead the republic if he forced the Qing to abdicate which he did.

- b.** The period after the abdication of the Qing was expected to be one of setting up a constitutional democracy with an elected national assembly. Yuan had no desire to run a democracy and instead ruled by decree. All hope of a republic was lost and when Yuan died in 1916 China was left

fragmented and run by warlords. It meant Sun and the Guomintang would need to take control of China by force.

5.

- a. Include accurate dates, a short description of what occurred including other information related to the event.

Yuan died on 6 June 1916.

It ended his dictatorial rule and meant that China had no heir or plan after his death.

Yuan had been in bad health and had tried to crown himself Emperor in the months leading to his death.

- b. The death of Yuan began the warlord era for China. This divided and weakened China even further. Although many revolutionary groups had different ideas on how to govern China they all agreed that nothing could happen until the Warlords had been defeated. The CCP founded in 1921 would join the Guomintang in a United Front to eventually defeat the Warlords by force in 1927.

6.

- a. Include accurate dates, a short description of what occurred including other information related to the event.

4 May 1919

The protest on this date was due to the Paris Peace conference decision to hand the German controlled concession of Shandong to the Japanese and not back to China. Many Chinese intellectuals and revolutionary groups saw this as a slap in the face by the western powers. The protest only involved around 3000 in Tiananmen Square in Beijing but left a legacy as the beginning of the Fourth May Movement which strengthened the New Culture Movement started in 1910.

- b. The protest was a realisation amongst most that for a better China the warlords would need to be removed from power and they would have to modernise to a point where they could throw off the influence of foreign powers. The protests developed into a larger movement of intellectuals and modern thinkers. The New Culture movement evolved into a larger organisation, which challenged warlord rule and the role of the foreign powers in weakening China. The Communist Party was born out of the New Culture Movement, which included key leader Mao Zedong.

7.

- a. Include accurate dates, a short description of what occurred including other information related to the event.

11 March 1925

Sun died suddenly in Beijing. At this point his political party; the Guomintang was an outlawed organisation throughout most of China. The Guomintang had been under the influence of the Soviet Comintern and involved in a United Front with the Communists against the warlords since 1923.

- b. When Sun died there was a power struggle within the Guomintang. Chiang Kaishek was able to become the most influential leader within the Guomintang, as he was commander of the Guomintang armed forces. Chiang was anti-communist and brutally purged the Communists during the Shanghai Massacre in 1927 and subsequent White Terror. This led to a split between