# Unit Y317: China and its Rulers 1839–1989

This theme focuses on the nature of Chinese government and its impact on Chinese people, society and the wider world. Learners should understand the similarities and differences between the nature of the Qing dynasty in Imperial China, the Presidency of Yuan Shikai, the Warlord Era, the Nationalist Government and the Communist government after 1949. The strands identified below are not to be studied in isolation to each other. Learners are not expected to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the specification content, except for the named in-depth studies, but are expected to know the main developments and turning points relevant to the theme.

| **Topic** | **Approx. Lessons:** | **Indicative content from specification** | **Content** |
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| **The Government and Rulers of China 1839-1989** | 2 | * Nature of Manchu rule in 1839; * reasons for and response to rebellions; | * Ideas that shaped society in the 1800s (Toaism/Quietism, Confuciusism, Mandate to Heaven, Imperialism, Suspicion of Foreigners) * Nature of Manchu rule in 1839 * Opium Wars * Peasant revolts * Taiping Rebellion * Nien Rebellion * Government responses |
| 2 | * obstacles to reform under Xi Xi, reforms after 1900; | * Nature and types of reforms * Late Ch’ing Reform – bureaucratic changes, military reforms, educational reforms, political reforms, economic reforms, legal reforms. * Reasons for the failure of the reforms |
| 2 | * reasons for the 1911 Revolution; | * Political factors – failure to reform, corrupt and inefficient government * Social and economic factors – middle class anger, declining economy, famine, floods, ethnic resentment * Ideological factors – growth of revolutionary opposition * Military factors – military failings * Foreign intervention – actions of the West and Japan |

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| **Topic** | **Approx. Lessons:** | **Indicative content from specification** | **Content** |
|  | 3 | * Sun Yat Sen and the new Republic; the rule of Yuan Shikai; * the Guomindang and Jiang Jieshi; | * The Warlord Era 1916-27; nature of government, variations between Warlords, impact of Warlordism on Politics and Society * Changes made and nature of rule * Rise of Nationalism; 4th of May Movement * Nationalists under Sun Yatsen 1912-25 * The Founding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) 1921 * Establishment and aims of Guomindang * Jiang relationship and activities under Sun Yat Sen * Rise and fall of the United Front, China under the Nationalists (successes and failures) * Jiang as ruler, including Chinese Civil War, Second Sino-Japanese War and relations with foreign powers. * Impact of war with Japan * Post war attempts to reassert power |
| 2 | * the Communist takeover; | * Development of Communism at Yanan; Mao’s political ideas, control of the countryside, role of the red army, ratification of conduct campaign * The Communist takeover of China; role in the war with Japan, Civil War and reasons for victory. Reasons for Communists successes |
| 2 | * the government of China under Mao Zedong; | * Nature and features of rule under Mao Zedong * Establishment and nature of Chinese communism. * Mao and the development of Chinese Communism 1928-35; Mao’s view of revolution and the peasants, consolidation of power and the Long March * The government of China under Mao; structure, consolidation of power, Hundred Flowers Campaign, gang of four. |
| 2 | * changes after 1975; Deng Xiaoping. | * Power struggles after Mao’s death * Political changes * Nature of rule under Deng Xiaoping and change nature of Communist policies * The government of China under Deng; the abandonment of Maoism, pro-democracy movement. |
| **The economy of China 1839-1989** | 2 | * The Chinese economy in 1839; developments in Manchu China: railways, trade and industry, agrarian problems; | * State of the Chinese economy * Impact of Opium Wars * Impact of Taiping Rebellion * Economic reforms * Impact of famine * Issues with industrialisation |
| 2 | * the industrial and urban development under the Guomindang; | * development of domestic industries * Nature of rural economy * Foreign investment * Attempts to establish national currency * War economy |
| 1 | * Land reform under Communism; | * Recovery from war * Principals, process and reactions to the land reform policies |
| 2 | * the Four Year Plans; | * Content, successes and failures of the plans |
| 2 | * the Great Leap Forward; | * reasons for introduction of the Great Leap Forward * Content, successes and failures |
| 2 | * economic policy in the later years of Mao and its impact; | * Agriculture First policy * Economic impact of the cultural revolution * Impact of the Gang of Four on economics |
| 2 | * changes in the economy under Mao’s successors; regional variations after 1975. | * immediate reforms post Mao’s death * Reforms post 1978 – increasing the role of market mechanisms and reduction of direct state control. * Change in agriculture * Industrial reforms * Impact of foreign trade * regional variations * the four modernisations |
| **Society in China 1839-1989** | 1 | * Society in China under Manchu rule; | * Nature of society and social classes |
| 1 | * Confucianism; | * Ideas, beliefs and impact |
| 2 | * the role of women; | * position of women in Chinese society including property rights, three obedience’s, female babies, concubines and and foot binding * Changing role of women under Communist role * Women in work * Marriage Law 1950 * Work and crèches * Destruction of the family * Impact of famine in 1959 |
| 1 | * rural society; | * Changing nature of life in rural areas * Work and employment in rural areas |
| 1 | * social changes in the later Manchu period; | * reason and impact of change in later period |
| 2 | * the Boxers; | * Causes and impact of the Boxers on society. |
| 2 | * social developments after 1911; | * Consequences of the revolutions and its impact on society, including impact of Warlord Era. |
| 2 | * social factors in the rise of Communism; | * role of social factors in communist rise * influence of Marxism * growing social ills, including poverty and loss of lives in conflict |
| 3 | * social change after 1949; * the Cultural Revolution and Chinese society; | * Russian influence on society and culture * introduction of 1 child policy * destruction of poppy fields * health reforms * education reforms * Role of religion and culture * Aims, implementation and outcomes of the revolution * Role of Jiang Qing |
| 2 | * social development after 1975; | * return of traditional Chinese culture * impact of 1 child policy * exposure to Western elements * Rise of protests – including Tiananmen Square * the four modernisations |
| 1 | * the rise of the middle class. | * Reasons and extent of the rise |
| **China and the wider world** | 2 | * Foreign influence in Manchu China: the Opium Wars, the sack of Beijing and the Unequal Treaties; | * Impact of Westerners in Manchu China * Causes and results of Opium Wars * Growing resentment * Interactions with Japan |
| 1 | * the international reaction to the Boxer Rebellion; | * international reaction to the Boxer rebellions from the West and Japan |
| 2 | * Japanese aggression and war 1898–1945; | * Growing tension with Japan * Causes and outcomes of wars with Japan including impact on China and its policies |
| 2 | * Jiang Jieshi and relations with the USSR and the USA; | * Support during the WW2 * Talks with the US and USSR * Refusal of French Indochina |
| 2 | * The Korean War; | * Chinese involvement in the Korean War |
| 2 | * relations with the West after 1949; | * Changes in relations following communist takeover, reasons and consequences. * China’s role in the Cold War. |
| 2 | * China as a regional power in South Asia. | * China’s role and influence in S.Asia |

# Unit Y317: China and its Rulers 1839–1989 – Depth studies

Note: Based on 3x 50 minute lessons per week

Terms based on 6 term year.

Timings given are a guide only – depth studies could be integrated into the themes or taught as separate units.

| **Topic** | **Approx. Lessons:** | **Indicative content from specification** | **Content** |
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| **The First Opium War and its impact** | **1** | * China and the Western powers by 1839; | * Position of China in 1839 * Trade and diplomacy with the West |
| **2** | * long and short-term causes of the First Opium War, including the issue of the opium trade; the influence of Commissioner Lin and the British reaction; | * British Trade deficit leading to trade of Opium and role of the East India Company * Impact of Opium use in China * Napier Affair * China closing trade routes and destruction of Opium at Humen * Damage of temple in Tsim Sha Tsui * Reactions and influence of Lin * British reactions |
| 2 | * outbreak and nature of war; | * Course of the conflict * Actions of both sides |
| **2** | * Ch’uan-pi Convention 1841; Treaty of Nanjing 1842 and the Treaty of the Bogue 1843; results of the war on China and relations with the West including the ‘Unequal Treaties’. | * Impact of the conventions / treaties on the war/China including territorial loss of Hong Kong * Consequences of war in China and impact on society and economy * Post war relations with the West. |
| **The Boxer Uprising** | **2** | * Resentment of foreign influence; the impact of the coup of 1898, economic hardships; | * Reasons for the resentment * Defeat of Japan and blame on the West * Causes of 1898 rebellion and impact on China, including economic hardships |
| **2** | * origin of the I-ho ch’uan (Boxers) and their links to the Court, attacks on foreign legations, refusal of Southeast China to join the war against foreigners, actions by foreign forces, defeat of uprising, consequences including the Boxer protocol of 1901; | * Origin of Boxers and attacks on Christians. * Development and spread of uprising * Actions of the Boxers * Support within China (and lack of) * The Seymour Expedition * Attitudes in the imperial court * Siege of the legations * Gaselee Expedition * Reasons and impact of defeat and the Boxer protocol, including reparations |
| **2** | * the Russian expansion in Manchuria; the Open Door policy; | * Russian invasion and expansion in Manchuria and impact on relations with the West. * US attempts to keep the trade routes opened and threat of Russian expansion on policy |
| 2 | * the reputation of China and the weakening of the dynasty. | * Impact of the Boxer uprising on China and long term legacy on the dynasty. |
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| **The Cultural Revolution** | 2 | * Origins and causes; problems by 1966; the impact of the failure of the Great Leap Forward; | * Significance of Lushan Conference * Reasons for failure of the Great Leap Forward and impact on policy * Problems by 1966 |
| 2 | * Mao’s concerns about the progress of the Revolution and Liu Shao-chi; Disappointment with attempts to radicalise 1963–1964; | * Mao’s growing concerns with members of the party and his apparent successors * Disappointment with attempt to radicalise * Process of ‘cleansing’ of powerful officials * Liu’s conflicts with Mao |
| 2 | * influence of Lin Boa, Chen Boda, Jiang Qing and Gang of Four; | * influence and role |
| 1 | * changes in Politburo 1966, influence of the army; | * impact and significance of the changes * role of the army and changing influences |
| **2** | * nature and course of the Cultural Revolution, activities of the Red Guards, decline of violence, demobilisation of Red Guards 1969 and death of Lin Boa 1971; effects of the Cultural Revolution: economic, political, social | * Nature and course of the revolution * Role of the Red Guards and destruction of the four olds * The Lin Boa incident at its impact * short and long term effects of the revolution |

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