



Edexcel - IGCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE

China: Conflict, Crisis and Change, 1900–89



40

STUDY GUIDE

China: Conflict, Crisis and Change, 1900–89

Edexcel - IGCSE





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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons



WHAT questions cover the key events and themes.



WHO questions cover the key people involved.



WHEN questions cover the timings of key events.



WHERE questions cover the locations of key moments.



WHY questions cover the reasons behind key events.



HOW questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



IMPORTANCE questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



DECISIONS questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 16.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

The China: Conflict, Crisis and Change, 1900-89 course investigates the major changes in China during the 20th century. The course focuses on the causes, course and consequences of the crucial events during this period, and you will study the different political, economic and military changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study guide will help you understand the complexities of 20th century China. You will investigate themes such as civil conflict, external influences on China, economic transformation, social transformation and the role of leadership. This guide will enable you to develop the historical thinking skills of causation and consequence, similarity and difference, and change and continuity.

Topics

This study guide is split into five key topic areas.

- ☐ The fall of the Qing, Warlordism and chaos, 1900-34.
- ☐ The triumph of Mao and the CCP, 1934-49.
- ☐ Change under Mao, 1949-64.
- ☐ The Cultural Revolution and its impact, 1965-76.
- ☐ China, 1976-89.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 Empress Dowager Cixi.
- 👤 Sun Yat-sen.
- 👤 Chiang Kai-shek.
- 👤 Mao Zedong.
- 👤 Jiang Qing.
- 👤 Deng Xiaoping.

Key Events

Some of the key events and developments you will study on this course include:

- 📅 The Boxer Uprising.
- 📅 The 1911 Revolution.
- 📅 China under the Warlords.
- 📅 The development of the United Front.
- 📅 The Long March.
- 📅 War with Japan.
- 📅 Civil War.
- 📅 The Great Famine.
- 📅 The Great Leap Forward.
- 📅 The Hundred Flowers Campaign.
- 📅 The Cultural Revolution and its impact, 1965-76.
- 📅 Tiananmen Square.

Assessment

China: Conflict, Crisis and Change, 1900-89 topic forms the second half of paper two. You will have a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the paper. You should spend 45 minutes on the China: Conflict, Crisis and Change, 1900-89 section of the paper. There will be 3 exam questions which will assess what you have learned on the China 1900-89 course.

- 👤 Question a is worth 6 marks and asks you to explain two differences or similarities across the time period. You must use specific details from each example to fully explain the similarities or differences.
- 👤 Question b is worth 8 marks and asks you to explain two causes of an event. You must use accurate, relevant and detailed historical facts to show how each cause led to the event, or how each consequence resulted from it.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

🧑 Question c is worth 16 marks, and gives you a choice of one of two questions. It will ask you to make a judgement about 'how far' a historical statement is true. You must select at least three points to support your answer, use accurate, relevant and detailed knowledge to explain and analyse whether they support the statement, and reach a judgement based on the points that you have made. The question will give you two bullet points to help you answer, but you must use at least one more of your own.

Sample

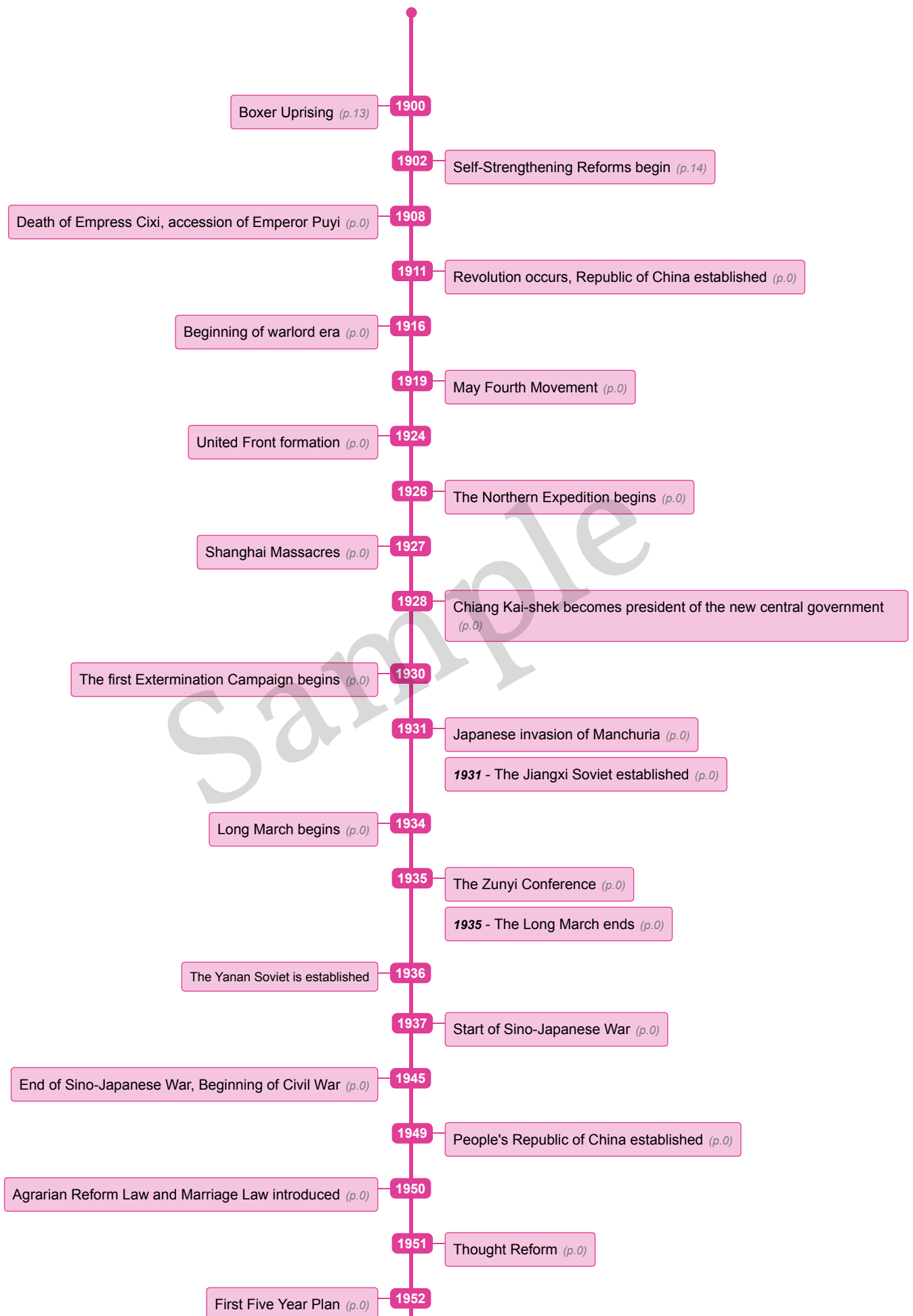


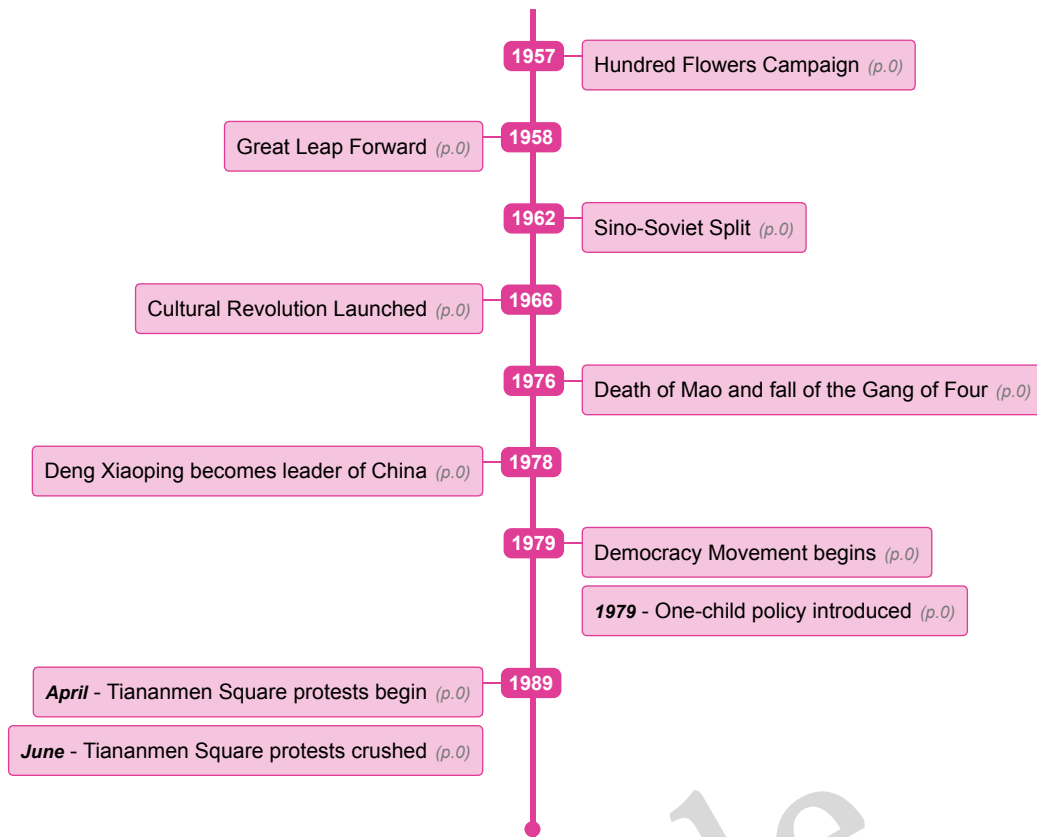
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CHINA: CONFLICT, CRISIS AND CHANGE, 1900-89

TIMELINE





Sample



CHINA IN 1900

In the mid-19th century, China was one of the most powerful countries in the world. However, by the turn of the 20th century, foreign powers were threatening to dominate it.



What was the position of China in 1900?

China was a powerful country in 1900. It was the largest country in Asia, had vast natural resources and was a strong producer of goods.



Who ruled China in 1900?

In 1900, China's 300 million **population** was ruled by Zaitian. He was the 11th and penultimate emperor of the Qing dynasty.



Where did China control in 1900?

China's borders stretched from Manchuria in the north east, down to the borders of Burma and Laos in the south, and across to Tibet and Xinjiang in the west.



Why was China in decline in early the 1900s?

In 1900, China began to see a decline for 3 reasons:

- ✓ China had been defeated in the Opium Wars between 1839 and 1860. It was feeling the consequences, which included Britain taking valuable resources from China.
- ✓ China had also been defeated in the 1894 war with Japan, which resulted in it losing control of Korea.
- ✓ France had also gained **territory** in the south of the Chinese **empire**. They gained Vietnam during the **Sino-French War** of 1884-85.

DID YOU KNOW?

China had the largest population on earth in 1900!

China was home to nearly 25% of the world's population, with 400,000,000 million people living there. This was more than in the whole of the British Empire.



RULING IN THE COUNTRY

'I have often thought that I am the most clever woman that ever lived and others cannot compare with me...although I have heard much about Queen Victoria.' Dowager Empress Cixi, 1800s



What was the system of ruling in China?

China was ruled by an **imperial** system with one person having complete control over the **empire**.



Who ruled China?

China was ruled by an emperor. This wasn't limited to one family but worked on the basis that any dynasty could rule so long as fate favoured them.



When was China ruled by emperors?

China was ruled by various emperors and dynasties from 1570 BC to AD 1912.



Why was China ruled by emperors?

People believed in the 'Mandate of Heaven'. This suggested that fate had chosen the emperor, and this should be respected as part of the world's natural order.

DID YOU KNOW?

The system of dynasties ruling in China had existed for centuries!

One of China's first emperors (Qin Shi Huang, 259 BC –210 BC) was buried with over 8,000 terracotta soldiers to protect him in the afterlife. This is a famous tourist attraction and can still be visited today.



THE BOXER UPRISING

With decreasing influence, European powers began to cement their positions within China. The Boxer Uprising was sparked by resentment at this change in power but would end in even more concessions being granted to foreign nations.



What was the Boxer Uprising?

The Boxer Uprising was an anti-foreigner attack led by Chinese **peasants**.



Who led the Boxer Uprising?

A secret organisation, the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, began the attacks before they became more widespread among **peasants**.



When did the Boxer Uprising happen?

The Boxer Uprising took place between 2nd November 1899 and 7th September 1901.



Why did the Boxer Uprising happen?

There were 3 main causes of the Boxer Uprising:

- ✓ During an attempt to **modernise**, Emperor Guangxu was overthrown by his aunt, Empress Dowager Cixi. Cixi opposed the privileges being given to foreigners in China.
- ✓ The Chinese had a deep-rooted hatred towards the 'foreign devils', as they were seen to be changing the usual way of life and attacking the traditional religions.
- ✓ As a way of avoiding criticism, Cixi promoted the 'foreign devils' as a common enemy of the people. She scapegoated them and encouraged violent attacks against them.



What were the key events of the Boxer Uprising?

There were 7 key events which happened during the Boxer Uprising:

- ✓ **Peasants** had suffered from many natural disasters during the late 1890s.
- ✓ The Boxers began attacking foreigners and Christians.



- ✓ Attacks started in the east coast **province** of Shandong before spreading further north east to locations such as Shanxi.
- ✓ The uprising arrived in Beijing and the German **ambassador**, Clemens von Ketteler, was killed.
- ✓ Panicked, westerners sought refuge in the British Legation. Around 3,000 westerners and Chinese Christians were besieged for 55 days.
- ✓ Cixi backed the Boxers and declared war. However, the forces were unable to overcome the legation's defences. An international **military force** was sent, which defeated the Boxers.
- ✓ Cixi, escaping potential capture, **hid** herself as a **peasant** among the **population** and fled to Xian.



What was the impact of the Boxer Uprising?

There were 5 key consequences for the failed Boxer Uprising, which continued to weaken China:

- ✓ The Qing dynasty suffered damage to its reputation. This imposed another Western defeat on the Chinese.
- ✓ The Chinese were forced to pay **reparations** of \$330 million over the next 39 years.
- ✓ China's military fortifications, defences and weapons were destroyed.
- ✓ International forces were permanently placed in locations across Beijing and 10 officials were executed for their roles.
- ✓ The failed attempt to get rid of foreigners convinced Cixi that **reforms** must happen. However, the reforms were unsuccessful and led to the fall of the Qing dynasty in 1911.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the reparations from the Boxer Uprising were spent in China!

Tsinghua University in Beijing was opened on 11th April, 1911 using reparations funds issued under the Boxer Protocol.



SELF-STRENGTHENING REFORM, 1902-11

'Learn barbarian (Western) methods to combat barbarian threats.'
Wei Yuan, 1843



What were the self-strengthening reforms?

These were a series of education, monetary, military, political and commercial **reforms**. They aimed at **modernising** China through learning and copying Western methods, and technology from the countries with a presence in China.



Who introduced the self-strengthening reforms?

The **reforms** were introduced by Empress Dowager Cixi.



When were the self-strengthening reforms introduced?

The **reforms** were introduced over a number of years, between 1902 and 1911.



Why were the self-strengthening reforms introduced?

Cixi introduced the **reforms** for 3 main reasons:

- ✓ She needed to secure her dynasty following the embarrassment and consequences of the Boxer Uprising (p.13).
- ✓ As foreigners were even stronger in China, Cixi decided to use their knowledge to help her advance her country.



- ✓ Little progress had been made in the late 1800s and Cixi needed to take quick action to improve her dynasty's reputation.



What changes did the self-strengthening reforms introduce?

There were 7 key changes which occurred during the **reforms**:

- ✓ 1902: Foot binding was banned.
- ✓ 1905: Traditional examinations for civil service positions were removed in an attempt to improve diversity in the sector, which was traditionally heavily Mandarin.
- ✓ 1908: A new army was established.
- ✓ 1909: Provisional **assemblies** were introduced.
- ✓ 1910-11: National Consultative Council established to help advise the government.
- ✓ Educational **reforms** were introduced, with more opportunities for military service and international scholarships.
- ✓ The railways were nationalised to offer more consistency and control in transportation.

Sample

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PLEASE PURCHASE THE BOOK FOR FULL CONTENT.

GLOSSARY

A

Abolish, Abolished - to stop something, or get rid of it.

Agricultural - relating to agriculture.

Agriculture - an umbrella term to do with farming, growing crops or raising animals.

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Ambassador - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assembly - a meeting of a group of people, often as part of a country's government, to make decisions.

Autonomy - independence or self-government.

B

Bolshevik, Bolsheviks - was a Russian radical Marxist revolutionary group, founded by Vladimir Lenin and Alexander Bogdanov in 1903. A Bolshevik is someone who is a member of that party.

Bribe, Bribery, Bribes - to dishonestly persuade someone to do something for you in return for money or other inducements.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Ceasefire - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.

Censorship - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

Coalition, Coalitions - a temporary alliance, such as when a group of countries fights together.

Commissions - the collective term for several organisations set up by the League of Nations to solve global issues.

Commune - a place where a group of people live and work together and share resources.

Communism - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each

person receives according to need.

Communist - a believer in communism.

Conference - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

Conscription - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Conservative - someone who dislikes change and prefers traditional values. It can also refer to a member of the Conservative Party.

Consolidate - to strengthen a position, often politically, by bringing several things together into a more effective whole.

Conventional - in accordance with what is considered normal or generally accepted. In military terms, it refers to non-nuclear weapons.

Cooperate, Cooperation - to work together to achieve a common aim. Frequently used in relation to politics, economics or law.

Council - an advisory or administrative body set up to manage the affairs of a place or organisation. The Council of the League of Nations contained the organisation's most powerful members.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

Currency - an umbrella term for any form of legal tender, but most commonly referring to money.

D

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Deploy - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

Deterrent - something that discourages an action or behaviour.

Dictator - a ruler with absolute power over a country, often acquired by force.

Dictatorship - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

Dictatorship of the Proletariat - the belief that, whilst the proletariat would eventually come to rule itself as proposed by Karl Marx, for now they were not ready, and required a 'dictator' to guide them until they were able to rule themselves.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Estate, Estates - an extensive area of land, usually in the country and including a large house. It tends to be owned by one person, family or organisation.

Exile - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

Export - to transport goods for sale to another country.

Extreme - furthest from the centre or any given point. If someone holds extreme views, they are not moderate and are considered radical.

F

Famine - a severe food shortage resulting in starvation and death, usually the result of bad harvests.

Fascism - an extreme right-wing belief system based around racism and national pride. It was created by the Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, and later adopted by Adolf Hitler.

Free elections - elections in which voters are free to vote without interference.

Front - in war, the area where fighting is taking place.

G

Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.

Guerrillas - groups of small, independent fighters usually involved in a war against larger, regular military forces.

H

Harvest - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

Heavy industry - the manufacture of large and/or heavy items in bulk, or industries which involve large and heavy equipment and/or facilities. Examples are the iron, coal, steel and electricity industries.

I

Ideology - a set of ideas and ideals, particularly around political ideas or economic policy, often shared by a group of people.

Imperial, Imperialisation, Imperialism, Imperialist - is the practice or policy of taking possession of, and extending political and economic control over other areas or territories. Imperialism always requires the use of military, political or economic power by a stronger nation over that of a weaker one. An imperialist is someone who supports or practices imperialism and imperial relates to a system of empire, for example the British Empire.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industrialisation, Industrialise, Industrialised - the process of

developing industry in a country or region where previously there was little or none.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Inflation - the general increase in the prices of goods which means money does not buy as much as it used to.

Integrate - to bring people or groups with specific characteristics or needs into equal participation with others; to merge one thing with another to form a single entity.

Intellectuals - people with a high intellect who engage in critical thinking and reading, research, writing, and self-reflection about society.

L

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

M

Martyr - someone who willingly dies for or is killed due to their beliefs, usually religious.

Mass - an act of worship in the Catholic Church.

Massacre - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Mobilisation - the action of a country getting ready for war by preparing and organising its armed forces.

Modernise - to update something to make it suitable for modern times, often by using modern equipment or modern ideas.

Mutiny - a rebellion or revolt, in particular by soldiers or sailors against their commanding officers.

N

Nationalisation - the transfer of control or ownership of a sector of industry, such as banking or rail, from the private sector to the state.

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

O

Occupation - the action, state or period when somewhere is taken over and occupied by a military force.

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

Peasant - a poor farmer.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Production - a term used to describe how much of something is made, for example saying a factory has a high production rate.

Profit - generally refers to financial gain; the amount of money made after deducting buying, operating or production costs.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Province, Provinces - part of an empire or a country denoting areas that have been divided for administrative purposes.

Purged, Purging - abrupt and often violent removal of a group of people from a place or organisation; medically, to make someone sick or induce diarrhoea as a treatment to rid them of illness.

R

Radical, Radicalism - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

Rallies, Rally - a political event with speakers and a crowd, designed to increase support for a politician, political party or an idea.

Rationing - limiting goods that are in high demand and short supply.

Rebellion - armed resistance against a government or leader, or resistance to other authority or control.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Reparations - payments made by the defeated countries in a war to the victors to help pay for the cost of and damage from the fighting.

Repress, Repression - politically, to prevent something or control people by force.

Republic - a state or country run by elected representatives and an elected/nominated president. There is no monarch.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

S

Sabotage - to deliberately destroy, damage or obstruct, especially to gain a political or military advantage.

Sanctions - actions taken against states who break international

laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

Self-determination, Self-determined - in politics, the process where a nation decides its own statehood and whether it will rule itself rather than be part of a larger empire.

Sino - is a reference to China or something relating to China. It is a prefix which is used instead of China.

Socialism - a political and economic system where most resources, such as factories and businesses, are owned by the state or workers with the aim of achieving greater equality between rich and poor.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Standard of living - level of wealth and goods available to an individual or group.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Sterilisation, Sterilise - to clean something so it is free of bacteria; also refers to a medical procedure that prevents a person from being able to reproduce.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Successor - someone who succeeds the previous person, such as a leader who takes over the role from the previous holder.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

The crown, The throne - phrases used to represent royal power. For example, if someone 'seizes the throne' it means they have taken control. Can also refer to physical objects.

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