Mao Zedong and Communist China

Dr Ben Habib
Lecturer in Politics and International Relations
La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga
Q. Why study history?
Q. Why study modern Chinese history?
Key Themes

**Period of National Shame**
- China crumbling from within.
- Foreign powers intervening in Chinese affairs.
- A country divided: Internal conflict.

**Mao the Revolutionary**
- Unites the country.
- Expels foreign forces.

**Mao the National Leader**
- Ideology-driven.
- Bad governance.
- Many deaths.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynasty</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Han</td>
<td>206 BC</td>
<td>220 AD</td>
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<td>Tang</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>907</td>
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<td>Song</td>
<td>960</td>
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<td>Yuan</td>
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<td>Ming</td>
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<td>1644</td>
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<td>Qing</td>
<td>1644</td>
<td>1912</td>
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China Before Mao Zedong: A Divided Country in Turmoil
First Opium War (1839-42)
Second Opium War
1856-1860
Taiping Rebellion
1850-1864
Taiping Rebellion (1850-64)

Taiping leader Hong Xiuquan
Territoires contrôlés par les Taiping en 1854

Légende
- Taipingguo
- Guangxi, lieu d’origine de la rébellion abandonné par la suite
- Nankin, capitale Taiping sous le nom de Tianjing

* d’après : Thomas A. Reilly, *The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom*, University of Washington Press
First Sino-Japanese War
1894-1895
Boxer Rebellion
1898-1901
Russo-Japanese War
1904-1905
Wuchang Uprising
October 1911

Xinhai Revolution
October 1911 – February 1912
Empress Dowager Cixi (left) and the ‘last emperor’, Pu Yi (baby, seated).
The Early Republic
(1912-1916)
Yuan Shikai
The Warlord Era (1916-1928)
Chiang Kai Shek
The Northern Expedition (1925-1927)
Chinese Civil War—Part I
The Nationalist Ascendancy
(1927-1937)
Nationalist government headquarters in Nanking
Mao Zedong: The Revolutionary
The Long March
(1934-1935)
The Long March (1934-35)
A young Mao Zedong
Second Sino-Japanese War
(1934-1945)
Chinese Civil War—Part II
War of Liberation
(1947-1949)
Hundred Flowers Campaign
(1956-1957)
Great Leap Forward (1958-61)
Cultural Revolution (1966-76)
Group Activity

Question: On balance, was Mao Zedong good or bad for China?

Instructions:
1. Discuss in groups of 3.
2. Take a position on the question.
3. Come up with at least three reasons to justify your position.
4. Report findings to the class.