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Excellent... a powerful account of a truly extraordinary period in recent Chinese history, surefooted and perceptive, enlivened by a wealth of vignettes and anecdotes which bring to life the dramatic and frequently horrific events that have played a seminal role in forming Chinese society as it exists today.'

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'Linda Jaivin expertly and concisely dissects the origins and the gruesome trajectory of China's Cultural Revolution. Mao's ego, the Party's compliance and the ideological mass hysteria that left perhaps 1–2mn ordinary Chinese citizens dead and drove many of its brightest talents to kill themselves.'

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Pop

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Also by Linda Jaivin

NON-FICTION

The Shortest History of China (2021)
Beijing (2014)

Found in Translation (2013)

The Monkey and the Dragon (2000)

Confessions of an S&M Virgin (1997)

New Ghosts, Old Dreams: Chinese Rebel Voices (1992, co-edited with Geremie Barmé)

FICTION

The Empress Lover (2014)

A Most Immoral Woman (2009)

The Infernal Optimist (2006)

Dead Sexy (2000)

Miles Walker, You're Dead (1999)

Rock 'n' $Roll\ Babes\ from\ Outer\ Space\ (1996)$

Eat Me (1995)

BOMBARD THE HEADQUARTERS!

The Cultural Revolution in China

LINDA JAIVIN





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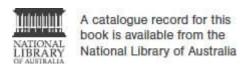
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A CULTURAL REVOLUTION TIMELINE

1949	People's Republic of China founded	End of civil war; Chiang Kaishek flees to Taiwan
1958	Great Leap Forward	Economy collapses
1958–61	Mass famine across China	Tens of millions die; President Liu Shaoqi sidelines Mao
May 1964	'Little Red Book'	Soldiers get their copies first
Nov. 1965	•	Sparks culture war at the heart of the Cultural Revolution

1966

16 May Circular Official start of the Great

Proletarian Cultural Revolution

27 May	First Red Guards	Students swear loyalty to Mao	
5 August	Mao pens 'Bombard the Headquarters'	Attacks Liu Shaoqi and other Party leaders	
August	beginning of	Red Guards murder 1,800 people in Beijing alone, get free travel across China to spread revolution	
Late 1966	Workers join the Cultural Revolution	Zhou Enlai concerned about impact on economy	
1967			
January	Shanghai Commune	Short-lived experiment in 'direct democracy'	
January	Army joins Cultural	Violence ramps up	

Revolution

January– Wuhan Counter- Factional violence involving the July Revolutionary army peaks in Wuhan Incident

Sept. 1967– Campaign against Persecution of non-existent party

March 1969 'Inner Mongolian results in up to 100,000 deaths

People's Party'

1968

April–July 'Hundred Day War' Battles between rival Red Guard factions at Tsinghua University.

Workers help end the fighting, becoming the new revolutionary vanguard

May 'Cleansing the Class Entire families killed in rural Ranks' begins slaughter

December 'Rustication' of 1968–1976, 16 million students are youth begins exiled to the countryside

March	Border war with USSR	Fear of nuclear war	
April	Ninth Party Congress	Cultural Revolution declared over; the killing continues	
Jan. 1970	One Strike, Three Antis	New campaign that will eventually claim 200,000 lives	
April 1971	'Ping Pong diplomacy'	Warming of Sino-US relations	
Sept. 1971	Death of Lin Biao	Mao's successor dies in mysterious plane crash	
Oct. 1971	UN recognises PRC	China in, Taiwan out	
Feb. 1972	Nixon visits China	Rising trade with West	
May 1975	Mao criticises 'Gang of Four'	Mao's wife Jiang Qing and her radical associates chastised	

8 Jan. 1976	Death of Zhou Enlai	Nationwide mourning	
April 1976	Tiananmen Incident	Mass protests	
9 Sept. 1976	Death of Mao	Gang of Four soon arrested	
Nov. 1978	Democracy Wall movement	Brief period of free expression	
Dec. 1978	Reform Era begins	Deng Xiaoping, twice purged in Cultural Revolution, is now paramount leader	
1981	Trial of Gang of Four	Jiang Qing and associates imprisoned; relatively few others held to account	
1981	•	s Official resolution says Mao misled by 'counter-revolutionary cliques'	
2012-	New Era of Xi Jinping	Discussion of Cultural Revolution increasingly censored	

CAST OF CHARACTERS

* * *

Party Leadership in Early 1966

Mao Zedong | Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, founder of the People's Republic of China

Liu Shaoqi | President of the People's Republic, Mao's chief political target in the Cultural Revolution

Lin Biao | Marshal of the People's Republic, Vice Chairman and Mao's chosen successor

Zhou Enlai | Premier of the People's Republic and first foreign minister

Deng Xiaoping | Vice Premier, Liu Shaoqi ally. Will survive purges to lead the Reform Era

Tao Zhu | Head of Central Propaganda Department, fourth in Party hierarchy in May 1966, soon purged

-X-

Gang of Four

Jiang Qing | Mao's fourth wife (m. 1939), political operator and advocate for radical revolutionary culture

Wang Hongwen | Youngest member, worker. Reaches third place in Party hierarchy in 1973

Yao Wenyuan | Author of 1965 attack on playwright Wu Han that paves way for Cultural Revolution

Zhang Chunqiao | Member of the Cultural Revolution Group, 1967 Shanghai Commune organiser

-X-

Red Guards and Rebels

Kuai Dafu | Influential leader of Tsinghua Uni Red Guard faction

Nie Yuanzi | Author of big-character poster at Peking Uni that inspires 'Bombard the Headquarters'

Song Binbin | Leader of high-school Red Guards who murder their teacher in August 1966

-X-

Other Notables

Chen Boda | Head of Cultural Revolution Leading Group, Mao's political secretary, ally of Lin Biao

Chen Zaidao | Regional PLA commander, leader of Million Heroes in Wuhan Incident

Kang Sheng | Mao's trusted and powerful head of security, leading member of Central Case Investigation Group

Hua Guofeng | Mao's successor, ends Cultural Revolution with help of Ye Jianying and Wang Dongxing Qi Benyu | Propagandist, member of Cultural Revolution Leading Group, aide to Jiang Qing

Wang Dongxing | Military commander, chief of Mao's personal bodyguard

Xie Fuzhi | Minister for Public Security from 1959–1972, member of radical faction

Ye Jianying | Defence Minister from 1975, supports Hua Guofeng in coup that ends Cultural Revolution

-X-

Prominent Victims

Lao She | Beloved novelist and dramatist, People's Artist, victim of Red Guard violence

Ulanhu | First Party Secretary of Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region

Wang Guangmei | Wife of Liu Shaoqi, Party veteran humiliated at mass struggle session on Jiang Qing's orders

Wu Han | Deputy mayor of Beijing, historian. Author of the controversial Hai Rui Dismissed from Office (1961)

Yu Luoke | Activist and author of 'On Class Origins', executed in 1970

Zhang Zhixin | Party member and strident critic of Mao and the Cultural Revolution, executed in 1975

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