

**HIST486 – 20<sup>th</sup> Century China**  
Final Exam – Study Guide  
Spring 2009

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The final exam will be exactly the same as this study guide and you will be allowed the full 2 hours to finish it. You will be asked to pick ONE question from each section. You will be allowed to use your sourcebook during the exam.\* The expectation is that your essays will be coherent, with specific references and include dazzling analysis that reflect the immense amount of knowledge you have gained over the course of the semester.

**PART I: Essay Topics – 100 points**

In answering the following questions, all opinions MUST be supported by specific evidence. I am not interested in one-sided diatribes but nuanced essays that show your FULL understanding to the ENTIRE 20<sup>th</sup> century.

1. The way in which one understands 20<sup>th</sup> century China depends on where one identifies China's key turning points. Selecting ONE turning point from EACH of the three main periods (1911-1927; 1927-1949; 1949-2009), offer your own narrative of China's dramatic rise from fallen imperial dynasty to world power.
2. Both the PRC and the ROC (Taiwan) governments depict Sun Zhongshan as the "Father of Modern China" and themselves as his natural successor. After first establishing what you believe were Sun's central political teachings, indicate which political party (the GMD or the CCP) during the 1930s and 1940s were closest to his political beliefs, and after 1949 which government has succeeded in implementing his long-term political aspirations for China?
3. Eschewing the typical top-down approach of traditional political and military histories, examine the evolution of popular movements in China from the revolutionaries of 1911 through students of Tiananmen Square 1989. (You may interpret the term "popular movements" quite broadly to mean any widespread campaign that is supported by large numbers of people).

**PART II: Book Essay – 100 points**

1. Schoppa's *Blood Road* and Chang's *Factory Girls* both stress the significant role that personal relationships play in Chinese society (albeit in dramatically different spheres of society). Identify, compare and contrast the crucial types of relationships in each book. As part of your answer you should comment on the costs of transgressing (or willfully ignoring) the accepted bonds or connections.
2. Westad's *Decisive Encounters* and Goldstein's *A Tibetan Revolutionary* both stress the complex political chessboard of 1940s and 1950s China. At the center of both books is the rise of Communist control set against a backdrop of missed opportunities, bad strategy, and political exigencies. What similarities and differences existed in the CCP victories? As part of your answer you should comment on the shifting strategies and central role of Mao Zedong.

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\* Anyone who is discovered to have written their entire essay (or significant bits of it) in their sourcebook will immediately have an oversized dunce cap placed on their head, then marched up and down the hallways of Thomas being forced to yell Maoist slogans, before attending a "re-education" session led by my hand-picked group of Red Guards and finally being "sent-down" to learn from the enlightened peasants of Pleasant Gap for the remainder of the summer.