

A Generation of Law in China

Key Terms

Read the following key terms. If there are words in the definitions of each term that you don't understand, underline them and ask your classmate or teacher for an explanation.

Hukuo – A family registration program that serves as an internal passport. It regulates where a family can live. It controls population and land migration from rural to urban areas of China. A student can only go to school in the area where his/her family is registered. Urban residents have more benefits than rural residents.

Rapid convergence – How China has changed its legal system to seem more like the United States and Western Europe.

Persistent difference – How China's legal system remains very different from western legal systems.

Cultural Revolution – 1966-1976 – the period in China where Mao Zedong encouraged the youth to perpetuate "continual revolution" by revolting against the structure of the Communist Party and the "4 olds" – old culture, old habits, old customs, old ideas.

Mao Zedong – The leader of the Chinese Communist Party and the victor in the Chinese civil war that ended in 1949. Mao did not believe in private property and is known for collectivizing agriculture during the Great Leap Forward where millions of Chinese died. He also led the Cultural Revolution in 1966 – 1976.

One Child Policy – A policy adopted by the Chinese government that allowed couples to have only one child per family (this policy was abolished by the government in 2015).

Deng Xiaoping – The leader of the Communist Party in China after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976. Deng is known for his policy of encouraging economic modernization in China, and by the phrase, "To get rich is glorious."

Tiananmen Square – In 1989 students led a protest in Beijing to ask the Chinese government for liberalization and a road toward more freedom and democracy. Deng Xiaoping felt this movement was a threat to the power of the Communist Party and brutally put the movement down using the People's Army to remove the protestors from the square. Many protestors were killed on June 4th.

Xi Jinping – The present leader of the Communist Party. The constitution of China was changed in 2018 to allow Xi Jinping to rule for as long as he likes.

709 Crackdown – Over 300 human rights lawyers and activists were arrested for activities that threatened the Communist Party government in 2015. They were detained, arrested, sent to prison, and “disappeared.” Some have been released from custody and others are still in government custody.

Umbrella Movement – In 2014 students in Hong Kong protested the Chinese Communist Party’s interference with the laws and elections on Hong Kong. The National People’s Congress passed a law pre-screening candidates for office in Hong Kong. The students demanded freer elections.

Liu Xiaobo - A winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Liu Xiaobo was arrested and sentenced to 11 years prison by the Chinese government because of his civil protests for more rights for the Chinese people. He died in prison of liver cancer. His wife, **Liu Xia**, was held under house arrest for 7 years and was just freed.

Remonstrance – The duty of the people to speak up when they see an injustice, even if it means a prison sentence or death. It means, “speak truth to power.”

Chinese Communist Party – The ruling party in China. There is no opposition party. China has been a one party system since 1949. The Chinese Party controls all parts of Chinese life and the legal system.

National People’s Congress – The ruling legislative body of the Chinese Party. There are 2980 members and only communist party members can belong. This group makes the laws, and writes and amends the constitution.