History 170E
Communist Revolution, phase I:
Soviet Planning and the Socialist Economy
The Yan’an Way

From 1936 Communist movement was based in poor rural areas such as Yan’an, headquarters of Mao Zedong.
### Manchuria in the Economy of Imperial Japan, 1937-1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage Imported to Japan</th>
<th>Percentage of Imports from Manchuria</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fossil Fuels (Coal)</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig Iron</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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</table>
“Land to the Tiller”

Initial phase of land reform focused on redistribution of land (photo shows family receiving deed to land allocation)
Land reform often accompanied by violence toward former landlords and “rich peasants,” especially in later years (this photo from 1952)
Soviet-Style Economic Planning

Soviet model: rapid development of heavy industry

Caption reads: “Learn from the Advanced Experience of the Soviet Union to Reconstruct Our Fatherland”
First Five-Year Plan

(1) Collectivization of Agriculture: by end of 1956, 98% of farm families enrolled in agricultural cooperatives (20-200 families)

(2) Centralized Industrial Planning: investment focused on heavy industry and producer goods (steel, cotton, chemicals, energy)

(3) Nationalization of Banking: People’s Bank replaced commercial banks

(4) Rationing and Price Controls: control over allocation of housing, grain, education
Household Registration System

- Adopted in 1955, the household registration (hukou 戶口) system became the basis for housing, grain rations, schooling, and other services.
- Residence linked to work unit (danwei 単位), which exercised effective control over lives of employees.
- *Hukou* system became effective check against unregulated migration from rural areas to cities.
Great Leap Forward (1957-59)

- “Red” vs. “Expert”: Capitalize on revolutionary spirit; award jobs, educational opportunities on basis of class background (red vs. black classes)
- “Poor and Blank”: Lack of education among workers and farmers deemed an advantage for social mobilization
- “Walking on Two Legs”: Equal emphasis on agriculture and industry, using labor-intensive technologies (abundance of labor)
“Learn From Dazhai”

- Dazhai (in Shanxi) adopted “people’s commune” model on own initiative
- Quickly popularized by Mao as model for rapid advance to communism
- No private plots; communal daycare & dining halls
Spirit of the Great Leap Forward

“Ride the Wind, Brave the Waves,
Everyone Displays their Miraculous Power”
Backyard Blast Furnace

- Idea that steel production would be accelerated by backyard blast furnaces using scrap metal epitomized GLF development model
- Poor quality of such furnaces rendered them a complete waste
Consequences of the Great Leap Forward

- Collapse of grain production; steel output misleading, since most of steel was useless
- Soaring deaths from starvation (20-50 million died); falling birthrates as well