

N. Post-Maoism (1978-)

1. Mao Zedong died in 1976, and soon Deng Xiaoping took over.
2. Deng was able to start trading between China and other countries at that time, because the United States agreed. In **1972** president Richard Nixon had visited China and said America would not use its power and influence to isolate China, even though it had a communist government.
3. Some people hoped that more trade would lead to the rise of democracy in China, but in **1989**, students protesting for more freedom were *massacred* when Deng Xiaoping ordered the army to break up the protest.
4. Despite this horrible conduct, the United States granted China “most favored nation” trading status in **1994**, and since then trade had continued to grow between the two countries.
5. In **1997** Hong Kong was returned to Chinese control by Britain based on a promise that the democratic freedom there would be respected. Recently, however, China has been changing the laws of Hong Kong to take away the freedoms of the people there. It refuses to listen to any criticism about these issues.
6. The latest conduct of China is worrisome on many fronts. China has made new laws to control every part of the lives of its citizens. It is also regularly threatening Taiwan with a military takeover and bullying its neighbors to the south. All these actions show that China expects to be the “Middle Kingdom” of East Asia again.