Sun Yat Sen

“Father of the Chinese Revolution”

1900-10 there were 16 attempts to overthrow the Qing, Sun Yatsen orchestrated at least 10 of them.

1878 – aged 12 – Sun moved to Honolulu to study at an Anglican Missionary school where he learnt English. Shortly after returning home he moved again to Hong Kong, converted to Christianity and studied medicine. 1893 he opened a practice in Macao and organized his first secret society, the Xing Zhonghui – initially proposing the establishment of a constitutional monarchy for China. Eventually came to the view that Manchus were an obstacle.

March 1895, Sun and his colleagues organized a plot to capture Guangzhou, with approximately 3000 armed men, but the plan was discovered and Sun was forced to flee to Hong Kong then Japan.

1905 in Japan Sun and others formed the Tongmenghui, an anti-imperialist revolutionary society. Called for

- Equalization of land rights
- Free china from western encroachment

Developed the Three Principles of the People

1. Nationalism
2. Democracy
3. Social well-being

Sun believed

- The individual should be limited so as to better serve the state
- Right to rule belonged to an elite group of the best-qualified leaders

Sun was able to raise a lot of money from Chinese people living overseas, this is one of the most important factors for his influence/success. Overseas capitalists were the source of substantial funding for the revolution.

1911 Revolution