Under Mao, China’s influence on international scene began to grow; he supported Vietmanes communists. China entered war in Korea in 1950 against US; Korean victory turned moas china in great regional power. Econmoically, Mao led total change; susbatila economic support form Moscow; applied soviet model in China. Private ownership removed. In 1953, goven launched first 5 year plan: heavy industry → superficially impressive results (fake).

1956: Mao decided to encourage constructive criticism and freedom of discussion after problem of first 5 year plan. Mao bragged to cover up way the plan had gone. In period following hundred flowers campaign, other series of major turning points that led to China’s path to power. Mao broke all ties after Stalin’s death; rejected URSS policy of peaceful ties with West. Mao becom the anti western leader by excellence.

Second major turning point was “great lead forward”: modern industrial state through new 5 year plan; revolutionnig agriculture and industry to build economy that could catch up and overtake great nations. General steel and grain to power economy. Required drastic measures: relied on huge labour potential (everyone mobilized 600million); used propaganda. Day and night to make steel Cannibalism, murder, death.

By 64, paranoia set in. Every chinese person knew red book by heart. Mao needed to regain power: launched cultural revolution. Accused senior party official spf having been counter revolutionary. Formed red guards and terriorized all anti communissts (teachers, doctors..) sometimes beaten to death for their knowledge. Quest for equality turned into witch hun: minorities; temples were burned attacked their neighbours.

It took a decade to undo the damage. Despites setbacks, Albania only communist country to support Mao. Mao started looking at capitalist world. In 64, de Gaulle reconginzed PRC, in 71 Taiwan left UN security council and replaced by Beijing (maos china). US and China established frist china through ping pong (ping pong diplomacy).

In 72, Nixon visited Beijing. In 76 Mao died leaving contrasting views of China; not quite yet world power; still rural and under developed.

New China emerged at Mao’s death. Realistic five year plans transformed into grotesque inner revolutions. New beginning started with Den Xiao Ping; seized power in 78 and throughout leadership maintained comuunisst façade but opted for market economy. Set about changing Mao’s policy; changes so important referred as a revolution. Avoided personality cult; but influence on modern China greater than that of Mao.

The four modernizations:
- Agriculture: could sell surplus produce for private profit (privatizing).
- Industry: attract western capital and created special economic zones; attracted TNC’s that could make large profits; imposed one child policy to control population growth.
- Technology
- Defense