

# Forbidden City Timeline



**Construction of the Great Wall**  
 The Great Wall of China is more than 2,000 years old. The Great Wall is 4,200 miles, and it begins from the mountains of Korea to the Gobi Desert. It was built to protect an ancient Chinese empire from attacking tribes from the north of China. The wall started getting built in 221 BC. During the Qin Dynasty, Qin Shi Huangdi forced peasants and soldiers to work on the wall. The Great Wall was actually a series of different walls that were connected by the different dynasties. The wall was completed to its present form during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). However, the Great Wall changed the meaning of much more meaning. It became a sign of prosperity and a symbol of Chinese will. The Great Wall became a national emblem for China. The Great Wall of China is so immense that it can be seen from the moon.



**Disproportions by college students to protest the terms of the Treaty of Versailles**  
 Beginning on May 4th, 1919, college students started demonstrations to protest the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. The demonstrations began because China lost some of their territory during World War I. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles required that Germany give up some of their territory to China. The Chinese government refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles because they felt that the terms were unfair. The Chinese government felt that they had been betrayed by the Western powers. The Chinese youth everywhere to question the Western value of democracy. These demonstrations started a whole new wave of national awareness in China. The term of the 'May 4th Movement' became a symbol of spirit and patriotism for youth across their nation.



**Mao Zedong proclaims the establishment of the People's Republic**  
 From September 21 to 30, 1949, the first assembly of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) took place in Beijing, with many different political parties, popular organizations, and non-party democrats. The CPPCC elected a Central People's Government Council, they chose Mao Zedong as Chairman and Zhou Enlai as Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs. On October 1, 1949, a grand ceremony was held to announce the People's Republic of China. The event was observed by over 300,000 people in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China. The next few years for China was based on economic recovery. China's total industrial resources quadrupled between 1952 and 1956 (the beginning of the Cultural Revolution), and the national income increased by 50%. The whole process was to basically a movement to make China a better and wealthier country.



**10 years of the Cultural Revolution**  
 The Cultural Revolution began in May of 1966 to change China by making the Chinese people forget about the four olds: old ideas, old culture, old customs, and old habits. Mao Zedong started to follow the Soviet's bureaucratized style of communism for this movement. He encouraged revolutionary committees that had Red Guards to take power from the state and party apparatus. He even closed schools to force the children to join the Red Guard (1966). The Cultural Revolution even caused economic breakdown, the highest production dropped by 12% from 1966 to 1968. The Cultural Revolution ended in October of 1967 when Mao Zedong and the Gang of Four was imprisoned in October.



**Zhou Enlai Dies**  
 Zhou Enlai was born in Huaiyin, Jiangsu in 1898. His childhood turned out to be one of the worst times of his life. Four months after he was born he was adopted, but shortly after, his foster father died. In 1907 his mother and his foster mother both died. In 1910 he moved to Beiping and got an education. In 1949 he became premier and foreign minister of China. Later on, Zhou Enlai resigned as the foreign minister but remained Premier. During the Cultural Revolution, Zhou tried his best to release his friends but resulted in being criticized by Jiang Qing and Red Guards. In the early 1970s, before he became ill, Zhou helped China reestablish contact with the West. On January 8, 1976, when he was seventy-eight years old, he died.