



FOREIGN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MARVIN WACHMAN FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**CLASSROOM LESSONS:
CHINA**

The People's Republic of China

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Grade: 10-12

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to lead students to an understanding of China's current domestic policy direction by uncovering the "policy oscillations" between the practical and the ideological that the CCP undertook between 1949 and the present.

Background: Students should already have studied the main tenets of Marxism, the development of capitalism, and the triumph of the Communists over the Nationalists in China and read in their textbooks about the Maoist era.

Days: 2, or teachers can assign the computer research portion for homework and then complete and review the chart together as a class.

Tools: Computers (or teachers can print out information from the below websites) and overhead projector.

Warm-up: The importance of China to the United States.

World History Standards: 2, 3

As students enter the room . . .

1. Put up **Overhead A** with headlines from American news sources about China.
2. Ask students to read each headline and then answer the question (on the board), "Why should we in the United States care about China?"
 - a. Possible answers: growing economy means economic competition; it is a huge potential market for American goods
 - b. Today we are going to start talking about China's steps towards becoming a competitor with the United States.

Introduction: the Ideological vs. the Practical

3. Put up **Overhead B** with headlines about China's economy