

Tiananmen, 1989: Prelude, Process, Legacy



Forbidden City, Tiananmen,
Tiananmen Square

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1978-1988: Reform and Opening

1976 Death of Mao Zedong

1978 Deng Xiaoping comes to power

1980s Reform and opening

10% growth rate

Liberalization/crackdowns

Corruption

Inflation

Policy struggle reformers vs conservatives

1988 Paralysis of reform?



The Crisis

- Death of Hu Yaobang April 15
- Students demand Party honor him



The Crisis

- Petition ignored – peaceful sit-in



The Crisis

- Li Peng and the April 26 editorial



Mass Demand for “Democracy”

- Students flow to Beijing on trains
- Demonstrations in over 300 cities
- Citizens support students
- Government employees march
- Gorbachev visits; international media
- May 13 hunger strike begins



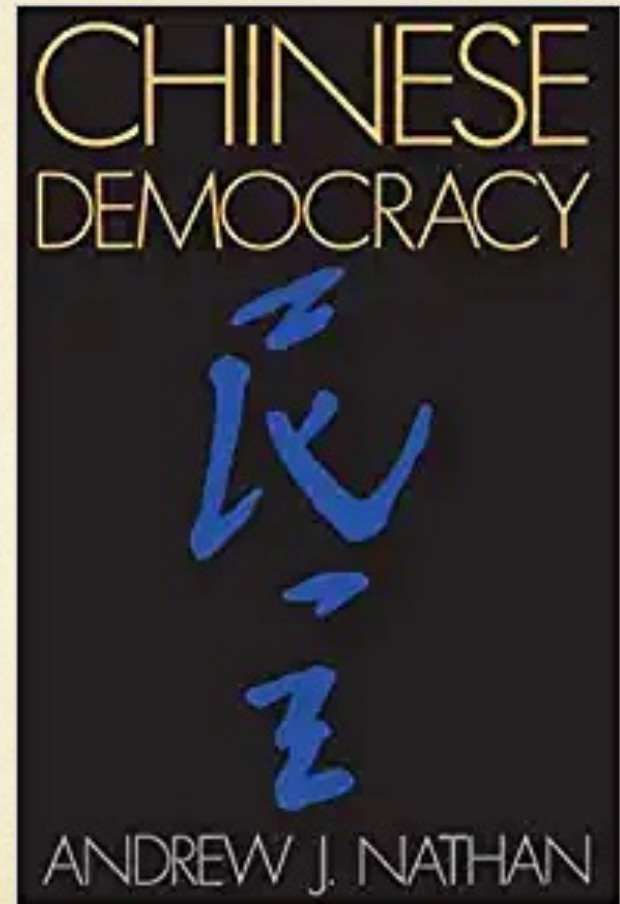
Demonstrators' Demands

1. Dialogue
2. Transparency
3. Rights



Demonstrators' Demands

Would that have led to the
end of the party system?



Politburo Standing Committee splits; Elders decide

PBSC Debates:

Dialogue: Zhao Ziyang, Hu Qili

Suppress: Li Peng, Yao Yilin

Abstain: Qiao Shi

Eight Elders decide:

Purge Zhao

Order troops

Appoint Jiang Zemin



The People's Army marches on the people



Death toll?

Arrest warrants; exile

光明日报 1982.11.11

公安部转发北京市公安局通缉令

通缉王丹等 21 名“高自联”头头和骨干分子

（以下文字为通缉令正文摘要，因原文模糊无法完整转录）



（以下文字为肖像下方姓名，部分模糊）

王丹、李志强、刘刚、李强、周建群、夏传兵、王学敏、王天华、李志强、马学武、杨建、王洪新

北京 一六非注用

Tank Man



Deaths: How Many?

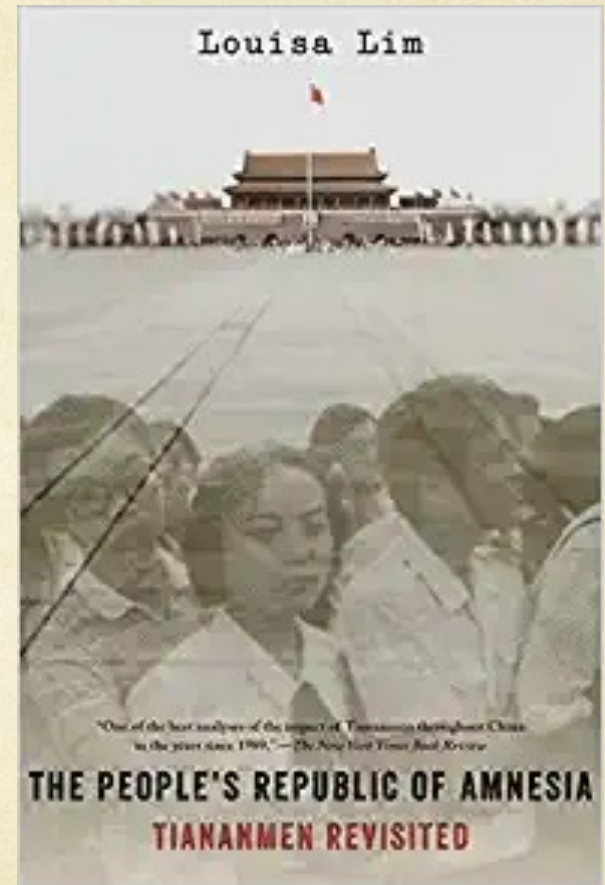
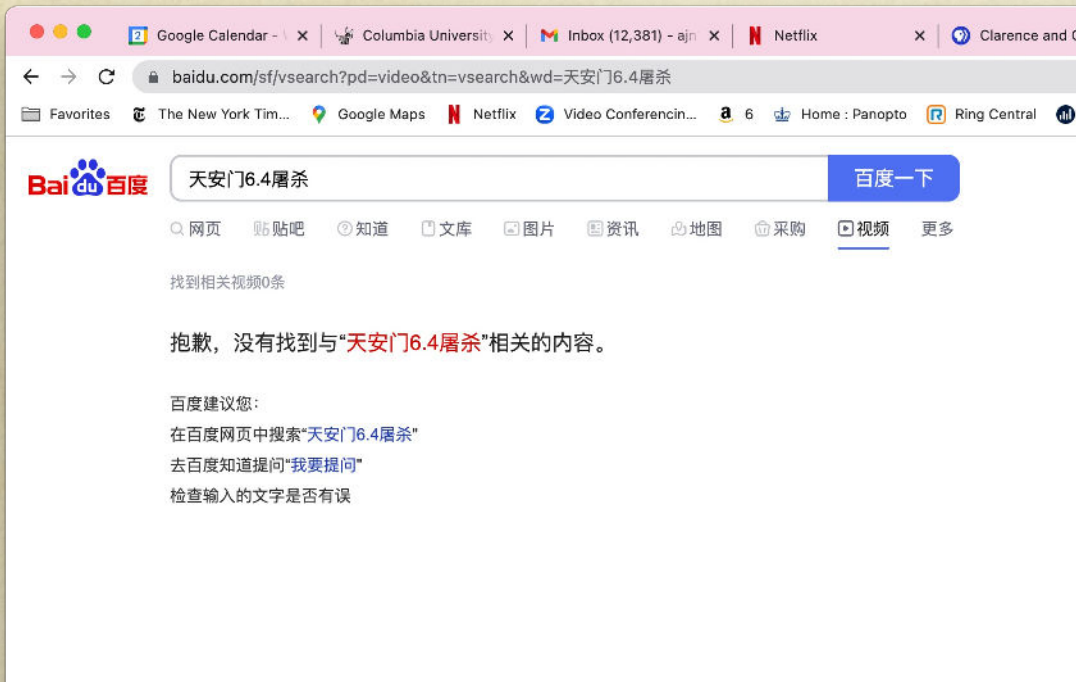


Aftermath: Deng in control



1992 Deng Xiaoping's "southern tour":
Economic reform & political repression

Historical Amnesia



Legacy: Xi Jinping system

- Economic growth & Political control
- Hong Kong National Security Law 2020
- International mistrust and “new Cold War”



Is there still a democratic impulse?



“White paper movement” 2022