

# POLS 103 A

# Comparative Politics

Class 14:

Authoritarianism – China and Russia in comparative perspective

# Recap

- Types of authoritarian regimes:
  - Totalitarian regimes
  - Theocracies
  - Personalistic dictatorships
  - Bureaucratic-authoritarian regimes
  - Hybrid regimes
- Explanations of authoritarian emergence and persistence:
  - Class power and institutions (Moore)
  - Elite incentives (Acemoglu and Robinson)
  - Political culture (Almond and Verba)
  - Barriers to collective action (Kuran)

# Plan for today

- Application of the knowledge acquired in the last class to the cases of China and Russia

What kind of authoritarian regime does China have?



# People's Republic of China's regime

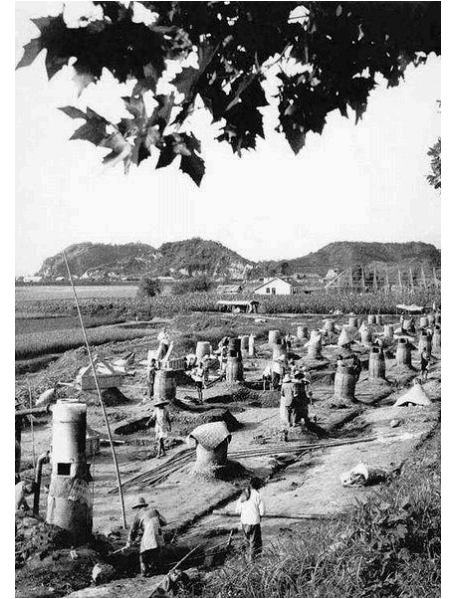
- Chinese Civil War, 1945-49
- Kuomintang retreat to Taiwan
- Proclamation of the People's Republic, 1949

<https://home.bt.com/news/on-this-day/october-1-1949-victorious-mao-proclaims-the-peoples-republic-of-china-a-communist-state-11364008061378>



# People's Republic of China's regime

- Mao's political dominance after the revolution
- Great Leap Forward, 1958-62 + Great Chinese Famine, 1959-61 (~30 million deaths)
- Mao's resignation as president (but not party chairman)
- Cultural Revolution, 1966-76 (~500,000-2 million deaths)



# People's Republic of China's regime

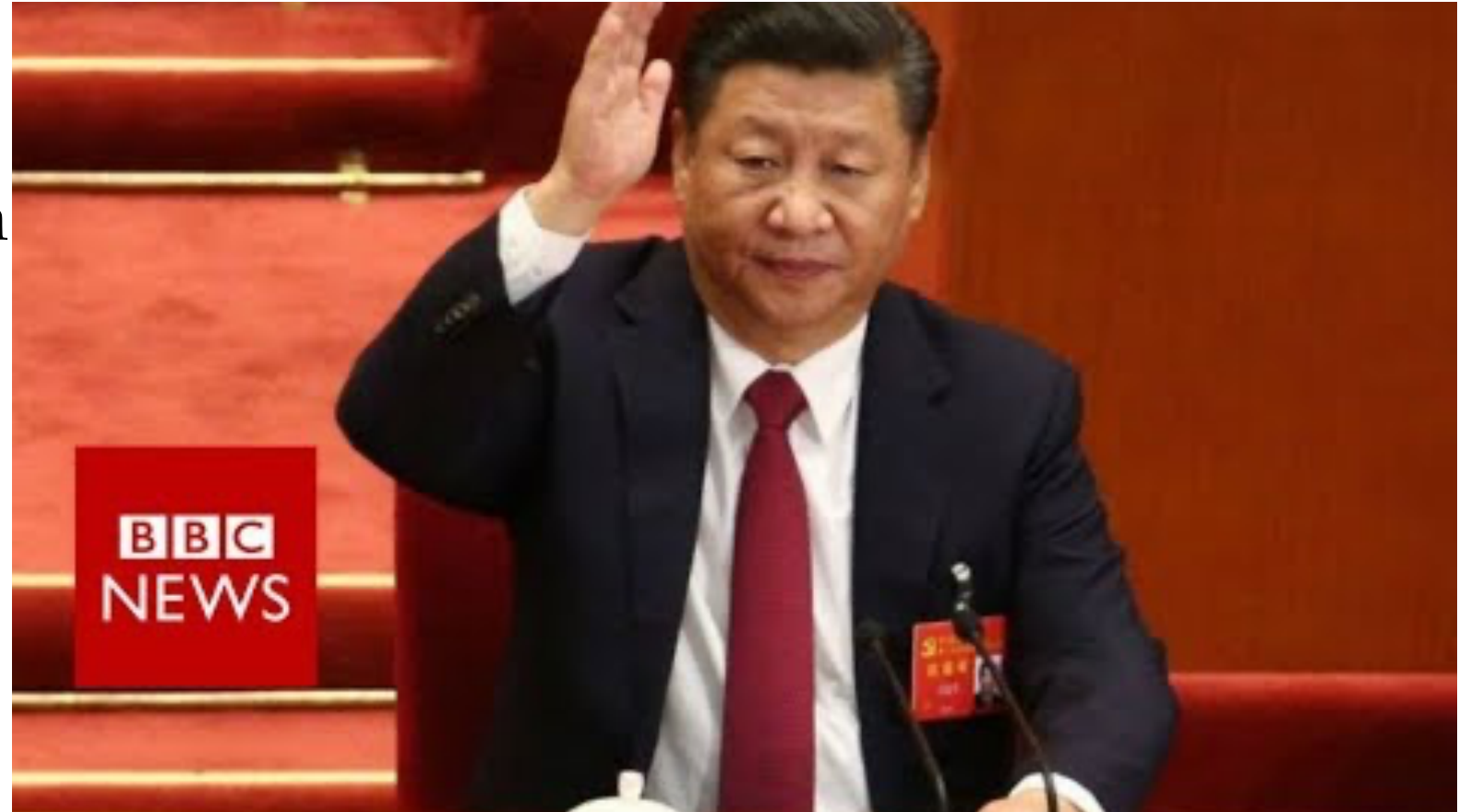
- Mao's death and arrest of the Gang of Four, 1976
- Deng Xiaoping and market economy reforms
- Deng's term-limited successors:
  - Jiang Zemin, 1989-2002
  - Hu Jintao, 2002-2012



# People's Republic of China's regime

- Xi Jinping's rise, 2012-
- Abolition of term limits, 2018
- Cult of personality

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_Y9yQaE89E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_Y9yQaE89E)





How would we classify  
China's political regime at  
various points since 1949?

What explains the persistence  
of China's authoritarian  
regime?

What kind of authoritarian regime does Russia have?



# Russia's regime

- Brief period of (quasi-)democratic rule, 1991-~2000
- Putin's political dominance:
  - President, 2000-08 and 2012-
  - Prime minister, 2008-12



# Russia's regime



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxMWSmKieuc>

What explains the emergence  
of Russia's authoritarian  
regime?

What effects have the Chinese and Russian authoritarian regimes had on regime persistence and change elsewhere?