

Approaching Tibetan Studies About Tibet

Chronology of Tibetan History

416 or 127 BC	Nyatri Tsenpo becomes first Yarlung King, builds Yambulagang Palace in Yartung Valley
AD 627	Songtsen Gampo, known as Tibet's first great religious king, succeeds his father, the 32 nd Yarlung King, who had, at the turn of the century, begun to unify many of Tibet's kingdoms.
649	Tibet is unified under the rule of Songtsen Gampo, Tibet's First Great Religious King; Minister Thomi Sambhota creates Tibetan alphabet from Sanskrit Codifies laws Buddhist temples are constructed
754	Trisong Detsen, known as Tibet's second great religious king, takes the throne. Padmasambhava, Indian Buddhist Master, is invited to Tibet by Trisong Detsen to pacify Bon faith and help spread Buddhism in Tibet.
c.779	Samye, Tibet's first Buddhist monastic university, is created by Trisong Detsen and Padmasambhava. First seven Tibetan Buddhist monks are ordained. Major Buddhist texts, translated from Sanskrit to Tibetan.
c.792	Trisong Detsen declares Buddhism the state religion of Tibet.
815	Tri Ralpachen, Tibet's Third Great Religious King, takes the throne.
821-22	Treaty between Tibet and China
c.836	Tri Ralpachen dies and his half brother, Langdarma, takes throne suppressing Buddhism in Central Tibet and re-establishing Bon as dominant religion.
842	Langdarma is assassinated by a Buddhist monk. The unified state of Tibet collapses.
988-1069	Tilopa, founder of Kagyu Sect of Tibetan Buddhism.
1012	Marpa, "the translator", is born.
1040	Milarepa, student of Marpa, and great poet saint, is born.
1042	Second Dissemination of the Doctrine of Tibet, the revival of Buddhism, led by Atisha, a great Buddhist master brought to Tibet from India.
1073	Khon Konchok Gyaipo builds Sakya Monastery in Southern Tibet.
1207	Ghengis Khan occupies Tibet.
1249	Sakya Pandita (1182-1251) is appointed Tibetan Viceroy by Mongols.
1253	Phagba (1235-1280) succeeds Sakya Pandita in Mongol Court and becomes religious teacher for Kublai Khan.

1260	Kublai Khan appoints Phagpa Imperial Preceptor of Tibet. Sakya sect holds political and religious authority in Tibet.
1357	Tsongkhapa, founder of Gelugpa order of Tibetan Buddhism, is born.
1409	Ganden, first Gelugpa Monastery, is founded by Tsongkhapa.
1578	Altan Khan, Mongol Ruler over Tibet, bestows title of Dalai Lama, "Ocean of Wisdom," upon Sonam Gyatso (actually Third Dalai Lama).
1624	Antonio de Andrade, a Portuguese Jesuit missionary, believed to be the first Western visitor to Tibet, sets up mission in western Tibet.
1642	The Fifth Dalai Lama, Lobsang Gyatso, given rule of Tibet by Mongol leader Gushri Khan.
1720	Manchu overlordship (Ching Dynasty) of Tibet. Chinese Ambans set up office in Lhasa.
1903-4	As a result of The Great Game for Central Asia, a British Expedition, led by Younghusband, invades Tibet from India. The Thirteenth Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso flees to Mongolia (until 1908). Border and trade agreement signed.
1910	Chinese troops invade Lhasa. The 13 th Dalai Lama flees into exile in India.
1911	Ching Dynasty falls. Republic of China is formed after civil war.
1912	Chinese Ambans expelled from Tibet. The Thirteenth Dalai Lama returns to Tibet.
1914	Simla Conference
1933	The Thirteenth Dalai Lama dies.
July 6, 1935	The Fourteenth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is born in Amdo.
1939	The Fourteenth Dalai Lama is installed in Lhasa.
1947	India becomes independent from British colonial rule.
1947-8	Tibetan trade delegation visit US and Europe using Tibetan passports.
Oct. 1, 1949	Mao Tse Tung leads Communist Revolution creating People's Republic of China (PRC)
1950	Chinese Communist Red Guard invades Eastern Tibet. Khampa Guerrilla Resistance movement is formed to fight invading Chinese army. The Fourteenth Dalai Lama, at 16, takes political and spiritual control of Tibet.
May 1951	Tibetan Delegation and Chinese Government in Beijing signs 17 Point Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet.
1954	The Dalai Lama goes to Beijing for meetings with Chairman Mao and Chinese leaders.
March 1959	Lhasa Uprising against Chinese occupation. The Dalai Lama flees into exile in India.
1960	United Nations Resolution 1353 (XIV) on Tibet

1961	United Nations Resolution 1723 (XVI) on Tibet
1965	United Nations Resolution 2079 (XX) on Tibet.
1965	Tibet names "Tibet Autonomous Region" by People's Republic of China
1996-77	China's Cultural Revolution in Tibet
1984	The Dalai Lama cancels planned to visit Tibet.
1986	Tibet opened to foreign tourism by PRC.
Sept. 1987	Five Point Peace Plan proposed by The Dalai Lama.
June 1988	Strasbourg Proposal by The Dalai Lama.
Sept. 1988	United States Congress Resolution 129 on Tibet.
Jan. 1989	The Tenth Panchen Lama, second holiest Monk in Tibetan Buddhism, dies. Soon after, search for his incarnation begins.
March 1989	Martial Law imposed in Tibet Autonomous Region.
March 1989	United States Senate Resolution 82 on Tibet.
April 1989	Hearings on Tibet and Human rights, Bonn, Germany.
May 1989	United States Congress Resolution 63 on Tibet.
Oct. 1989	The Dalai Lama wins The Nobel Peace Prize.
1991	International Year of Tibet.
April 1991	The Dalai Lama meets President Bush.
April 1993	The Dalai Lama first meets President Clinton.
May 1993	Largest demonstrations in Lhasa since 1989.
May 1995	The Dalai Lama recognizes six year old Gendun Choekyi Nyima as the reincarnation of Panchen Lama. Soon after he and his family are taken into Chinese custody, and a new search is conducted by PRC.
Sept. 1995	United Nations Women's Conference held in Beijing.
Sept. 1995	The Dalai Lama meets President Clinton and Vice President Gore.
Nov. 1995	The State Council of the PRC confirms Gyaisen Norbu as their selection of the 11 th Panchen Lama.