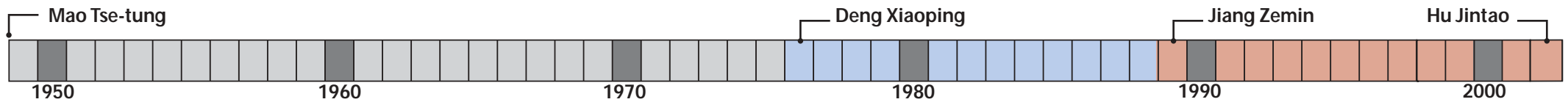


China leaders since the revolution



Mao Tse-tung (1893-1976)

He became China's leader in 1949 after leading the struggle for a communist government. Born in 1893 in Hunan province, he helped found the Communist Party in 1921 in Shanghai. Following the Communists' rise to power, he led a series of programs that promoted the transition to a socialist state. In 1966, he initiated the Cultural Revolution, a crackdown that consolidated his power.



Deng Xiaoping (1904-1977)

After Mao's death, he emerged as China's leader and led a push to economic modernization. Born in 1904 in Sichuan province, he studied in France where he joined the Communist party in 1924. A chief target of the cultural Revolution in 1966, he managed, after Mao's death, to become China's chief leader. He was blamed for the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.



Jiang Zemin (1926-)

Engineer-turned-Chinese leader, he continued Deng's economic reforms. Born in 1926 in Jiangsu province he attended Jiaotong University in Shanghai. He worked at state-run factories and for government ministries. He served as mayor of Shanghai and was appointed general secretary in 1989 and president in 1993. He quit the general secretary's post Thursday.



Hu Jintao (1942-)

Jiang's heir apparent, he is expected to be the "fourth-generation" leader. Born in 1942 in Jixi, Anhui province, he attended Beijing's Qinghua University and trained as a hydraulic engineer. After an early engineering career in Gansu province, he had political appointments in Guizhou province and Tibet, where he oversaw a crackdown on protests in 1988-89. He became vice president in 1998.

