History and Government
Different dynasties ruled China for over 3,000 years. During that time, China became the most powerful country in East Asia.

Inventions and Achievements
Dynasties forced workers to build palaces and other structures. One project, the Great Wall of China, became a safe route for travelers and protected China’s northern borders. The Chinese invented paper, silk, the compass, printing, and gunpowder during the rule of the dynasties.

Becoming a Republic
In the 1800s, many people were unhappy with the rule of dynasties. They wanted a new form of government. In 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the Nationalist Party took power from the Qing dynasty and formed the Chinese Republic. For a time, the Nationalist Party shared power with the Communist Party.

The People’s Republic of China
The Communist Party defeated the Nationalist Party in 1949. The communist leader, Mao Zedong, turned almost all of China into a communist country called the People’s Republic of China. After Mao died, new leaders made changes. China traded with more countries. People were able to start businesses and own property.

China’s Government Today
To make a strong, successful country, leaders of the People’s Republic of China have let go of some communist ideas.