

Box 3.1. Key Political Events in China's Period of International Isolation, 1949–1980

1949 Oct	People's Republic of China created. Diplomatic recognition by Burma, India and communist countries in 1949, by Afghanistan, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Norway, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom in 1950.
1950 Feb	USSR agrees to provide financial and technical assistance — eventually \$1.4 billion in loans and 10 000 technicians. China recognises independence of Outer Mongolia, agrees to joint Soviet–Chinese operation of Manchurian railways, Soviet military bases in Port Arthur and Dairen, and Soviet mining enterprises in Sinkiang.
1950 June 25	North Korea invades South, penetrating deeply to Pusan.
1950 June 27	US changes its neutral line on Taiwan, sends in 7th Fleet.
1950 Oct	China sends “volunteers” (eventually 700 000) to N. Korea to push back UN forces advancing towards Chinese border on Yalu River.
1950–1	China retakes Tibet.
1953 July	Korean armistice.
1954	India cedes former British extraterritorial claims to Tibet.
1958	China menaces Taiwan in Quemoy and Matsu incidents. Khrushchev retracts offer of atomic aid.
1959	Revolt in Tibet, Delai Lama flees to India.
1960	USSR withdraws Soviet experts, abandons unfinished projects.
1962	Border clash with India over Aksai–chin road from Sinkiang to Tibet.
1964	First Chinese atom bomb test, 1969 first hydrogen bomb test.
1963–69	Border clashes with USSR in Manchuria. China questions legitimacy of Soviet/Chinese boundaries in Manchuria and Sinkiang.
1971 April	US lifts trade embargo on China.
1971 Oct	China enters United Nations, Taiwan ousted.
1972 Feb	President Nixon visits China.
1972 Sep	Visit of Prime Minister Tanaka to normalise diplomatic relations with Japan.
1973	US and China establish <i>de facto</i> diplomatic relations.
1978 Dec	US establishes formal diplomatic relations, derecognises Taiwan.
1979 Feb–Mar	Border war with Vietnam after expulsion of ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese destruction of Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.
1980	China becomes member of World Bank and IMF.

Source: Cambridge History of China, Vols. 14 and 15.