

Hong Kong marks 10 years since handover

● **July 1, 1997:** Hong Kong returns to Chinese sovereignty after 156 years of British rule. **Tung Chee-hwa** hand-picked by Beijing to rule territory

● **1998:** Democrats sweep elections for new **Legislative Council (LegCo)**

● **Jun 2002:** 16 members of **Falun Gong** – spiritual movement banned in China but legal in Hong Kong – found guilty of public obstruction, but 8 later cleared by Hong Kong's highest court

● **Sep:** Tung announces controversial anti-subversion law called **Article 23**

● **Mar-Apr 2003:** **SARS** virus leaves near 300 people dead in Hong Kong

● **Jul:** Some 500,000 people march against Article 23. Two ministers later resign and bill is indefinitely shelved

● **Jul 2004:** 200,000 people protest Beijing's ruling against electing next chief executive by universal suffrage

● **Sep:** Pro-Beijing parties retain majority in latest LegCo elections. Human rights groups accuse Beijing of creating "climate of fear" in run-up to poll

● **Dec:** Chinese President **Hu Jintao** publicly rebukes Tung over his administration's performance

● **Mar 2005:** Amid mounting criticism of his rule Tung resigns, citing ill health. **Donald Tsang** takes over

● **Sep:** Hong Kong **Disneyland** opens

● **Mar 2006:** Pope **Benedict XVI** elevates Bishop **Joseph Zen**, leader of Hong Kong's 300,000 Catholics – to cardinal

● **Jul:** Tens of thousands of people rally in support of full democracy, nine years into Chinese rule

● **Jan 2007:** New rules cut numbers of women coming from mainland China to Hong Kong to give birth – drawn by prospect of residency rights and evading China's one-child policy

● **Mar:** Tsang wins second term in first contested leadership race – but only 800 members of pro-Beijing election committee allowed to vote

● **July 1, 2007:** Hong Kong marks 10 years of China's rule

