

# Tibet marks sombre anniversary

**Potala Palace, Lhasa:**  
Dalai Lama's  
chief residence  
until 1959



■ **1950:** Chinese troops invade Tibet, one year after Communist Party leader **Mao Zedong** establishes **People's Republic of China**

■ **1959:** Tibetans stage abortive uprising in which thousands are killed. **Dalai Lama** flees to India with some 80,000 followers and establishes government-in-exile in Dharamsala

■ **1965:** China establishes **Tibetan Autonomous Region**

■ **1966:** China's **Cultural Revolution** reaches Tibet, resulting in destruction of large number of monasteries

■ **1972:** U.S. President **Richard Nixon's** China visit ends CIA support for Tibetans fighting guerrilla war against Chinese army in Tibet

■ **1980s:** China introduces economic reforms while resisting any move towards greater autonomy for Tibet

■ **1987:** Dalai Lama calls for establishment of Tibet as zone of peace and continues to seek dialogue with China with aim of achieving genuine self-rule for Tibet within China

■ **1988:** Martial law imposed after days of rioting sparked by death of 10th **Panchen Lama**, second most senior figure in Tibetan Buddhism

■ **1989:** Dalai Lama awarded **Nobel Peace Prize**

■ **1995:** Dalai Lama names six-year-old as reincarnation of Panchen Lama. China places child under house arrest and designates its own

■ **2006:** China opens Qinghai-Tibet Railway saying it will help modernise Tibet, but critics say influx of Han Chinese will accelerate undermining of traditional Tibetan culture

■ **Mar 2008:** Anti-China protests escalate into worst violence in Tibet in 20 years, five months before Olympic Games in Beijing

■ **Oct:** Dalai Lama says he has lost hope of reaching agreement with China on future of Tibet

■ **Mar 10, 2009:** Tibetans mark 50th anniversary of failed uprising against Chinese rule amid reports of regional unrest

