

Tiananmen protests timeline

In the spring of 1989, over one million students and other Chinese citizens occupied Beijing's Tiananmen Square and began a pro-democracy demonstration that would shake China's Communist Party to the core. Six weeks later the protests ended in a bloody massacre



■ **Apr 15:** Former Communist Party chief and democracy supporter **Hu Yaobang** dies. Thousands of students gather in **Tiananmen Square** to mourn Hu's death

■ **Apr 18-21:** Protests calling for democracy spread to other cities

■ **Apr 22:** Defying government orders, tens of thousands converge on Tiananmen Square for Hu's memorial service

■ **Apr 26:** State-run **People's Daily** denounces demonstrators and threatens government crackdown

■ **May 4:** Massive marches across China coincide with 70th anniversary of historic student protest movement

■ **May 13:** Students begin hunger strike in Tiananmen Square

■ **May 15:** Welcome ceremony in Tiananmen Square for Soviet President **Mikhail Gorbachev** cancelled due to protests – huge embarrassment for government

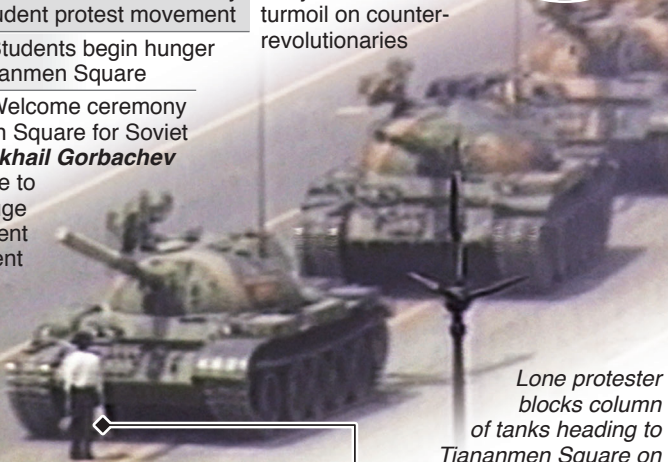
■ **May 19:** **Zhao Ziyang**, head of Communist Party, visits students in square and makes last-ditch appeal for compromise (*above*)

■ **May 20:** Prime Minister **Li Peng** declares martial law

■ **May 26:** Zhao placed under house arrest for opposing crackdown

■ **Jun 3-4:** Troops open fire, killing many protesters

■ **Jun 9:** China's de facto leader **Deng Xiaoping** congratulates army and blames turmoil on counter-revolutionaries



Lone protester blocks column of tanks heading to Tiananmen Square on morning after massacre. Fate of "Tank Man" is still unknown