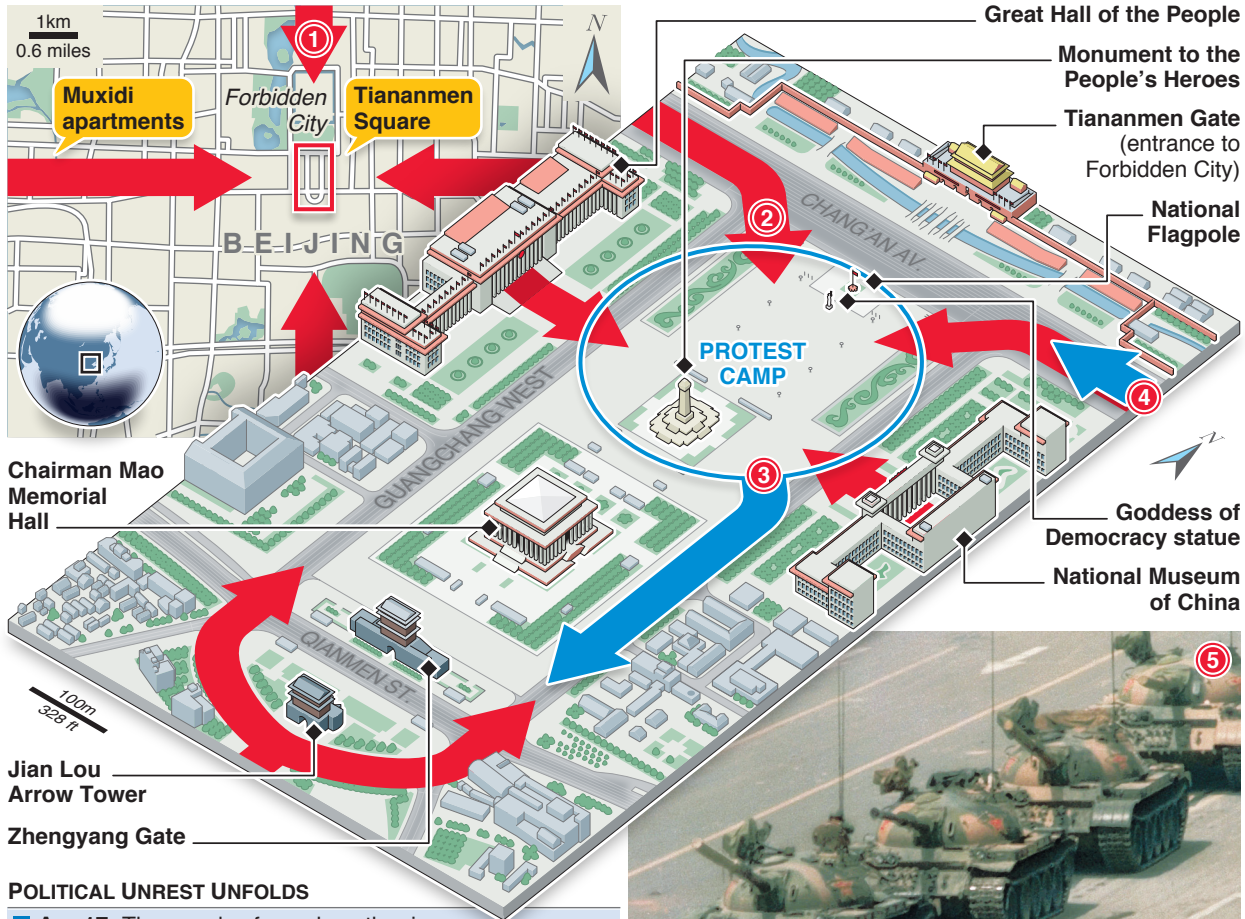


# Tiananmen Square massacre – 25th anniversary

On June 3, 1989, Chinese troops began a brutal two-day crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Numbers of deaths range from the low hundreds to around 3,000\*



## POLITICAL UNREST UNFOLDS

- **Apr 17:** Thousands of people gather in Tiananmen Square to mourn death of **Hu Yaobang** – leading reformist and symbol of anti-corruption
- **Apr 18-21:** Numbers swell into thousands – calling for greater freedom, democracy and end to “dictatorship”
- **Apr 27:** Up to 100,000 students march to Tiananmen Square, breaking through police lines
- **May 15:** Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev** arrives on state visit. Protesting students force embarrassing cancellation of government welcome in Tiananmen Square
- **May 20:** Martial law declared. Tens of thousands of students set up barricades and stop advancing convoys
- **May 24:** Humiliated authorities order army to withdraw
- **May 29-30:** **Goddess of Democracy** statue erected, facing portrait of **Chairman Mao** on Tiananmen Gate
- **Jun 2:** Party elders agree use of military force to quash rebellion

## MILITARY ASSAULT

- ① **Jun 3, 8:00-10:30pm:** Thousands of soldiers move into central Beijing, killing 36 protesters near **Muxidi** apartments
- ② **Jun 4, 12:15-1:30am:** Army units reach Tiananmen Square, crushing pockets of resistance en route
- ③ **4:00-4:30am:** Goddess of Democracy toppled by tank. Students vote to retreat but several are crushed by tanks
- ④ **Daybreak:** Soldiers fire on residents trying to re-enter square. Sporadic gunfire heard throughout day
- ⑤ **Jun 5, “Tank Man”:** Lone figure defiantly steps in front of tanks on **Chang’an Avenue**. His fate remains unknown

\*Chinese Red Cross figures. Chinese government figures put toll at approximately 200 people dead and 8,000 injured  
Sources: BBC, Human Rights In China, GlobalSecurity.org, wire agencies

Picture: Associated Press