

Session 8 China part II

Activity 4

Government Crackdown

1. Read *Upheaval in China: Biggest Beijing Crowds So Far Keep Troops from City Center*

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/world/asia/archive/052489china-square.html>

- a. Define 'martial law'
- b. The author calls the actions of the protestors as, "Mostly Peaceful Confrontations". In the next sentence he states that "a few clashes were reported" but that the confrontations seemed to be mostly peaceful. What examples does the author provide for peaceful, or passive, examples of resistance or protest? Further in the story he notes that protestors used methods to "turn the troops back" and that truck drivers blocked convoys. Are these examples passive or peaceful? Can protest be peaceful yet 'active'?
- c. How did the military react in general? Did the government take non-military action?
- d. Do the military and government's non-military actions fit into the United Nations' definition of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or ethnic cleansing?

2. Read *Crackdown in Beijing; Troops Attack and Crush Beijing Protest*

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/world/asia/archive/060489china-unrest.html>

- a. Why is there such a discrepancy between the estimates of protestors killed? Why might the four hospitals decline to "disclose how many" corpses they had received?
- b. Why was the military action described as crushing a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" in the capital?
- c. What are *blacklists*? What were the repercussions of being placed on the blacklist?
- d. Did the students remain mostly peaceful as noted in the previous article? If not, what types of actions did they take?

Watch AP footage of the Tiananmen Square protests

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92jG18P3Kc4s>