

Tiananmen Square and U.S.-China Relations, 1989-1993

This review of international relations analyzes the 1989 demonstrations, China's human rights issues and more

- Date Range: 1989-1993
- Content: 19,137 pages
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Throughout the 20th century, Tiananmen Square was the epicenter for many political events: the May 4th Movement of 1919; Mao Zedong's proclamation of the People's Republic of China in 1949; and annual mass military displays on subsequent National Days until 1959.

The historic student standoff of 1989 was sparked by the death of a pro-democracy and anti-corruption official, Hu Yaobang. More than 100,000 protesters converged to mourn Hu's death, but they lacked a unified cause or leadership. The so-named June 4th Movement lasted seven weeks, until tanks cleared Tiananmen Square leaving many protesters dead or severely injured.

Following the conflict, the government conducted widespread arrests of protesters and their supporters, cracked down on other protests around China, banned the foreign press from the country and strictly controlled coverage of the events in the PRC press.

Unique primary sources

Tiananmen Square and U.S.-China Relations, 1989-1993 offers unique primary-source documents relating to the demonstrations and their aftermath: public mail, memoranda, reports, cables, meeting notes, news clippings and much more.

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Tiananmen Square and U.S.-China relations, 1989-1993

Consisting of documents from White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject File categories and the Staff and Office Files, this collection documents the response of the George H. W. Bush White House to deteriorating U.S.-Chinese relations and worldwide support for the movement and condemnation of the Chinese government response.

Sample WHORM Subject File collections include:

- CO 034 Country File on China
- FG 0001 Presidential Office
- FO 004-02 Loans - Funds (Regarding World Bank loans to China)
- HU Human Rights
- ME 002 Presidential Messages (relating to the situation in China and American views on the pro-Democracy movement)
- PR012 Public Relations (petitions and resolutions from the public, state officials, and local government officials on U.S.-Chinese relations and support for the pro-democracy movement.)

Staff and Office collections include files from Chief of Staff John Sununu; Council of Economic Advisers members Michael Boskin, John B. Taylor and Paul Wonnacott; National Security Council members Richard Barth, Karl Jackson Files, Doug Paal and Peter Rodman; and Public Liaison Officer James Schaefer.

This collection also contains memorandum, correspondence and talking points tied to President Bush's decision to resume World Bank loans to China in July 1990.

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