

## **A Generation of Law in China: Two Stories of Change**

**By Tobias Smith**

Listen to the video of Tobias Smith's talk about law in contemporary China. As you listen, answer the focus questions below.

1. Law is an important part of American life. What are some examples of how law affects everyday life in America?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Modern Chinese legal practices began after the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976. What does Smith mean by:
  - Rapid convergence –
  
  
  
  
  
  - Persistent difference –
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How did the rise of Deng Xiao Ping change China?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The modern Chinese constitution was written in 1982. What happened to the Chinese legal system after the constitution was written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How is dissent handled in China? What happened during Tiananmen Square in 1979 and the 709 Crackdown in 2015?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Westerns thought that China would become a democracy after it improved its economy and grew its middle class. Is this true, or has something else happened in China?

7. How do countries, like the China and the United States, deal with dissent?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How does China see itself in regard to the law? What model of law is it developing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What view of the law does China emphasize?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How does the United States view the law?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What does China believe about social order and internal security?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What is the Chinese concept of remonstrance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. How do the Chinese Communist Party and the People's National Congress affect law in China?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. What do you believe are the differences between China and the United States regarding the law?