



The Women's Tennis Association Comes to China - But Who? (B)

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Introduction

- In 1949, China became a communist society.
- Women in China before communism were inferior to men and were oppressed in the society.
- Women had little to no say in their lifestyle.
- Traditional Chinese culture and their dominant religion of Confucianism created the belief that men were of higher class than women.

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Definitions

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concubinage: a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his

Definitions

oppressed: subject to harsh treatment

concubinage: a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife/wives

notion: a conception of or belief about something

misogyny: dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women

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Definitions

patriarchy: a system of society in which the father or eldest male is head of the family

emancipation: the fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberation.

subordinate: lower in rank or position

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Confucianism

- Confucius's teachings created the belief that women were inferior to men.
- Women were expected only to serve their families and bear children.
- Unacceptable for women to have ambitions of their own.
- They were pressured into many things like arranged marriages, foot binding, and the duty to have a son.

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Marriages

- Marriage was deemed as the most important factor of a woman's life.
- They were either arranged by the families of the to-be bride and groom, or by matchmakers.
- Young brides were frequently abused by their husbands and mother-in-laws.
- If a woman's husband died, she would be stuck in the household of her in-laws or if she had a son she would have to obey him.

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Foot binding

- Foot binding is a practice of binding feet tightly to prevent further growth.
- Foot binding was a symbol of beauty and made females more desirable to Chinese men.
- The ideal feet of a Chinese woman was 10cm
- Caused extreme pain on the feet, creating difficulty for walking.
- This was a cruel practice that proves just how far parents would go to for men to be impressed by their daughter's appearance.

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Women in Politics

- For hundreds of years, women did not have any say in politics.
- Women did not have any social class.
- They were deprived of an education and the right to participate in social activities.

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