

0. Chapter 6: Trouble Comes to Tibet - Story Preface

1. Chapter 1: Tibet

2. Chapter 2: A New Dalai Lama

3. Chapter 3: The Search Begins

4. Chapter 4: From a Peasant to a King

5. Chapter 5: A Visitor to Tibet

**6. Chapter 6: Trouble Comes to Tibet**

7. Chapter 7: Escape to Exile

8. Chapter 8: The World Honors the Dalai Lama



In 1949, hundreds of miles away from Tibet, there was a revolution in China. The ancient Chinese government was overthrown and the country was taken over by Chinese Communists. The next year, Chinese troops invaded northern Tibet. But there was no Tibetan army to fight them off.

The Dalai Lama, now 15 years old, sent a delegation to China to try to negotiate a peace treaty. The Chinese would not listen and told them it was time that Tibet returned to “the Motherland” and should be part of China.

The Chinese government promised that nothing would change in Tibet. But as soon as they entered the country they forced the Tibetan peasants to build highways so that the Chinese army could get to the capital city, Lhasa.

The Chinese seized the lands and the people were forced to grow crops for the armies instead of crops for themselves. Monasteries throughout Tibet were looted of their priceless treasures and if anyone opposed them, they were tortured and then killed.

In 1954, the Dalai Lama went to China to meet with China’s leader, Mao Tse-tung. He promised the Dalai Lama that he would allow the Tibetan people to have religious freedom and to govern themselves. The Dalai Lama did not trust what he was told, but he tried to be optimistic. But he knew his people were already suffering.

**Footnotes:**

1) The Office of the Dalai Lama, Countdown to Escape, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, May/03/2015, May/03/2015, <http://www.dalailama.com>

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Chapter-6-Trouble-Comes-to-Tibet-The-Boy-Who-Became-the-Dalai-Lama>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Chapter-6-Trouble-Comes-to-Tibet-The-Boy-Who-Became-the-Dalai-Lama>

**Media Stream**



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Tibet IY

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## China invades Tibet

Teens for Tibet

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## The Dalai Lama in China

Image online, courtesy NBC News.

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