Time Line on events leading to Tiananmen Square Incident

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| Event/Date | Impact |
| **4/17: Why did students gather at Tiananmen Square?** | They come to mourn the death of Hu Yoabang. The students call for press freedom and other reforms, in honor of him. |
| **4/18-4/21: Explain how the unrest spread in China** | Workers and officials join in with complaints about inflation, salaries and housing. |
| **4/22 Assembly at the Great Hall** | More than 100,000 university students gather outside the Great Hall of the People, where Hu's memorial service is being held. Three students bring petition of demands up the steps of the Great Hall and ask to meet Li Peng. They receive no response. |
| **4/25: Li Peng calls a meeting of the Politburo** | The Politburo was a meeting dominated by Party members, who were antagonistic to the students. They convinced Party elder Deng Xiaoping that the students aimed to overthrow him and the Communist Party. |
| **4/26: Reaction to editorial; “The Necessity to a Clear Stand Against Turmoil** | This appeared in the state-run newspaper, the *People's Daily*. This editorial closely followed the opinions expressed by Deng at the meeting the day before. |
| **4/28-5/3 Government disagrees on how to handle the world viewing what is happening in Tiananmen Square** | Party leaders are split over how to stop the protests and get the students to return to classes. Zhao Ziyang's camp advocates negotiation and stresses the government should address legitimate complaints, such as the need for political reform. Li Peng and his allies argue that social stability must be restored before any reforms can be considered. |
| **5/13 What precipitates the hunger strike?** | Anticipating Soviet Party Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's visit, about 160 students begin a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square, citing the government's failure to respond to their requests for dialogue. |
| **5/16: How the hunger strike embarrasses China.** | More than 3,000 people are now participating in the hunger strike. The embarrassing protests, during Gorbachev’s visit, further polarize the Politburo. |
| **5/19: Martial law is declared:** | Student leaders learn of the plan to declare martial law and call off their hunger strike. They organize a mass sit-in in Tiananmen Square that draws about 1.2 million supporters, including members of the police and military and industrial workers. Zhao Ziyang is soon removed from office and replaced by Jiang Zemin. |
| **5/20 Soldiers sent into Beijing for the first time** | The PLA troops attempt to occupy Beijing. Civilian protestors block their convoys on the streets. Beijing citizens talk to soldiers, trying to explain to them why they shouldn't be there. |
| **5/24: PLA withdraws** | The troops finally are able to leave, but the government views the event as another example of humiliation and decide to challenge the people. |
| **6/3 The assault begins** | As word spreads that hundreds of thousands of troops are approaching from all four corners of the city, Beijing citizens bombard the streets to block them. People set up barricades at every major intersection. They yell at the soldiers and some throw rocks; someone sets a bus on fire. The soldiers start firing on the unarmed civilians with AK-47s. |
| **6/4: Assault continues** | After a little while, people would gather up their nerve again and would crawl back to the corner and start screaming at the soldiers, and then the commander would eventually give another signal for the soldiers to shoot. No one knows for certain how many people died over the two days. The Chinese Red Cross initially reported 2,600, and then quickly retracted that figure under intense pressure from the government. The official Chinese government figure is 241 dead, including soldiers, and 7,000 wounded. |
| **6/5: The appearance of Tank Man** | By the morning of June 5, the army is in complete control of Beijing. But when all protest in the city seems silenced, the world witnessed one final act of defiance. About midday, as a column of tanks slowly moves along Chang'an Boulevard toward Tiananmen Square, an unarmed young man carrying shopping bags steps out in front of the tank line |
| **Epilogue over time** | Tens of thousands are arrested, many are imprisoned, and an unknown number are executed. The government states "not one person" was killed in Tiananmen Square and only 241 people died when PLA troops and "rioters" fought in the streets. On June 4, 1994, the fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre, Li Peng, stills serving as Premier, announces new security regulations defining political discussions outside the Party line as sabotage. In June 2004, the government produces a five-hour documentary on the Tiananmen 1989 protests, portraying them as "counterrevolutionary rebellion," and requiring officials around the country to view it. |

Based on your notes, write a **detailed summar**y of the events that began the incident and the events that occurred that led to the confrontation in Tiananmen Square in June of 1989 as well as how the incident is viewed over time.

In honor of Hu Yoabang, the students who gathered to mourn his death felt the need to press freedom and start reforms in China. They started off with inflation, salaries and housing, with the help of workers and officials. More than 100,000 university students gathered outside the Great Hall of the People, where Hu's memorial service is being held. A few of the students brought a petition of demands to Li Peng’s steps. They received no response. Peng then orders for a politburo to address the actions. The government leaders have trouble coming to a decision on how to handle the angered students. A hunger strike is begun to gain the attention of those government leaders that failed to respond to the request of the students. Because of the strike, martial law is declared and the strike is then called off. Instead, they organize a sit-in within Tiananmen Square. PLA troops attempt to occupy Beijing but are blocked off by civilian protestors. Eventually the soldiers choose not to fire because of their individual experience with the citizens. The troops end up leaving; however they are called back in to action shortly after. This is so because the government feels as if they have been humiliated. Beijing citizens bombard the streets to block off the soldiers from cornering them. Soldiers begin firing after rocks are thrown at them. The shooting caused the rioters to cool down for a bit. After sometime, people would gather up their nerve again and would crawl back to the corner and start screaming at the soldiers, and then the commander would eventually give another signal for the soldiers to shoot. The army has complete control of Beijing, by morning. When all is supposed to be said and done, an angry citizen stops a line of tanks in the middle of the street. The soldiers are not allowed to fire or touch the man. So, the man continues to shout and stand on the tank. After a while, someone hauls the man off the street and he is never to be heard of again. His action speaks to the rest of the world as he was recorded when he stopped the tanks. The government tries to cover up all evidence of their conflict with the citizens of Beijing, from the rest of the world. They state that, "not one person" was killed in Tiananmen Square and only 241 people died when PLA troops and "rioters" fought in the streets. Also, they sabotage original security regulations and require the rest of the country’s officials to watch a 5-hour documentary of their “perspective” on the conflict.