writing and bronze metallurgy. The Xia were thought to have been supplanted in north central China by the Shang around 1750 B.C. And the Shang in turn were conquered in 1100 B.C. by the Zhou, who ruled until 221 B.C., when the Qin monarch Shihuangdi united the Zhou and neighboring states into a Chinese empire.

But radiocarbon dating has enabled archaeologists to push back the origins of the Yangshao to 5000 B.C. More important, new digs have revealed the existence of another culture that followed that of China's preagricultural Old Stone Age hunters. Millet seeds, stone and bone hunting gear, and wild animal fossils heaped together at several scattered sites now strongly suggest that Chinese "cave men" developed agriculture on their own.

Specialists are now convinced that the Yangshao coexisted with two other cultures, the Dawenkou and the Qingliangang. Similarities in pottery and tool styles indicate that shortly after 5000 B.C., these peoples made up a single cultural entity—"early China." During the third millennium B.C., the Longshan culture emerged. This sophisticated new civilization gave China rigid social classes and organized, sustained warfare between "states." From the Longshan, the author believes, came the Xia, Shang, and Zhou cultures, which simply represented different periods of political supremacy.

These new discoveries are not only filling gaps in our knowledge of ancient China, writes Chang. By expanding the global data about ancient cultures, they will also strengthen or refute current notions about the origins and evolution of civilization around the world.

Guatemala Next?

"Guatemala: The Coming Danger" by Marlise Simons, in *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1981), P.O. Box 984, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737.

El Salvador has grabbed the headlines, but the real test of President Reagan's policy to check the growth of communist influence in Latin America will come in Guatemala, predicts Simons, a *Washington Post* correspondent. There, military rulers battling a growing leftist rebellion have disdained compromise and mounted a campaign of terror that has claimed thousands of lives since the mid-1970s.

Bordering on four countries (including oil-rich Mexico), Guatemala boasts Central America's largest population (6.9 million). In 1950, Jacobo Arbenz became the nation's first peacefully installed President in more than a century. But when he sought to buy up the U.S.-based United Fruit Company's vast land holdings at the corporation's own book value, the Eisenhower administration branded him a militant communist. In 1954, the Central Intelligence Agency engineered his overthrow. Since then, American arms and military advisers have helped a succession of Guatemalan strongmen fight small bands of guerrillas.

By the late 1960s, the government had crushed the rebels—at a cost

OTHER NATIONS

Crackdowns by Guatemala's military rulers have ignited a civil war, which could bring leftists to power.

of some 10,000 civilian lives. But after crooked elections in 1974, the guerrillas reappeared. Aided by Catholic priests, they mobilized the previously apolitical Indians (53 percent of Guatemala's population), who resented the military's seizure of lands and forcible conscription of village youths.

Surprisingly, repression eased between 1974 and 1978 under President Kjell Laugerud Garcia. But the rise of leftist guerrillas in nearby Nicaragua and neighboring El Salvador panicked Laugerud's successor, Romeo Lucas Garcia, who charged that the Carter administration's human rights policies were encouraging rebellion. He cracked down so hard on real and imagined foes that his own Vice President fled the country.

The Reagan administration would like to see Guatemala's 1982 presidential elections pave the way for liberalization and has encouraged the Christian Democrats to nominate candidates. But the centrists have been cowed by the right wing's death squads. The contest is likely to be dominated by Lucas, former President Carlos Arana Osorio, and Mario Sandoval Alarcon, whose rightist National Liberation Movement includes a 3,000-man paramilitary force and calls itself the "party of organized violence." Meanwhile, the guerrillas—who have received only token Cuban aid—have grown strong enough to attack government patrols and outposts almost daily.

U.S. options are limited, Simons contends. She urges the Reagan administration to drop its plans to resume military aid (cut off by President Carter) and to suspend funding for civilian public works projects. "The issue in Guatemala," she concludes, "is . . . not how to prevent change, but how to guide it."