The Cold War and Communist China

Life Under Mao Zedong
Do Now 05/10/19

Complete the Communist China Economy worksheet. You will CREATE the image, rather than finding one online.
Nationalism Leads the Way to Communism

In 1911, a group of nationalists had taken over China.

The Chinese Nationalist Party was able to overthrow the Qing Dynasty, which had been in power since the 1600s.

Unfortunately, the new government was failing to provide for the Chinese people and many were living in poverty.

Many Chinese were angry and became interested in the Communist Revolution in Russia.
Nationalism into Communism

In 1921, a group of young men met in Shanghai to form the first Chinese Communist Party, headed by Mao Zedong.

- The party promised to improve peasants’ living conditions and won the support of many Chinese people.

A civil war soon began between the Nationalists and Mao’s communist followers.

In 1933, Mao led over 600,000 people on the Long March through the mountains for over 6,000 miles to avoid being captured by the nationalist government.
"Revolution is not a dinner party, nor an essay, nor a painting, nor a piece of embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another."

~Mao Zedong 1927
The Long March
The Cold War was a conflict of rival ideologies between the USA & USSR that lasted from 1945 to 1991.

Early in the Cold War from 1945 to 1949, the focus of the conflict was on Europe.

The United States used the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, & NATO to successfully contain communism in Europe.
From 1930 to 1949, Nationalists (leader: Chiang Kai Shek) & Communists (leader: Mao Zedong) fought in a bloody civil war for control of China. Due to WWII, the two sides called a truce as both wanted to remove the Japanese from their country.
The civil war continued from 1946 to 1949, until the Communists, now called the Red Army, took control of China’s government.

- On October 1, 1949, Mao declared the creation of the People’s Republic of China, a communist country.
- At this point, containment seemed to fail as communism spreads to China, Korea, & Vietnam in Asia.

Mao was appointed head of China’s government and had almost complete control over China.

- He became popular with many Chinese people when he took land from wealthy citizens and gave it to peasants.
- He wanted to improve living conditions for the poor.
In 1949, the Communists won the Civil War & Mao created the Peoples’ Republic of China

Chiang’s gov’t fled China & set up in Taiwan

The USA was shocked when China fell to communism & only recognized the Nationalists as the gov’t of China
Activity 05/10/19

In small groups of 3-4, read and complete the Communism in China handout.
Do Now 05/13

Based upon this propaganda poster, what changes will Mao propose for China?
Mao was determined to reshape China’s economy based on Marxist socialism. He seized land from the rich & divided the land among the poor peasants. Mao followed Stalin’s example by creating collective farms & a Five Year Plan to improve China’s industry.
Based upon this propaganda poster, what two things will Mao’s “Great Leap Forward” focus on?
In 1958, Mao began a massive program to create agriculture & industry called the “Great Leap Forward”.

Millions of Chinese citizens were sent to work on large collective farms to grow food.

Other citizens were required to work on massive industrial projects like making iron & steel or building dams & railroads.

“Backyard furnaces” to make iron.
“Struggle hard for 3 years. Change the face of China. Catch up with Britain & America.” --Mao, 1958
Mao’s Great Leap Forward started well...
Women working together during “The Great Leap Forward”
...but, the it required forced labor & led to lots of suffering by millions of Chinese citizens.
The Great Leap Forward was a failure & led severe food shortages, famine, & poor quality industry.
Mao ended the Great Leap Forward after three years.
Based upon this image, what was purpose of Mao’s “Cultural Revolution?”
Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

- commitment to revolution and “class struggle”
- power struggle to succeed Mao

Phase I: the rise and fall of “red guards”

Phase II: the rise and fall of Lin Biao

Phase III: the rise and fall of the “Gang of Four”
Mao Resigns

- Mao resigned as President of China in 1959. He remained as Chairman of the CCP. China was now controlled by three leading Communists:
  - President, Liu Shaoqi
  - Prime Minister, Chou En-lai
  - The CCP General Secretary, Deng Xiaoping

- All three solved the problems created by the Great Leap Forward by re-introducing some central control of the economy and planning by ‘bureaucrats’.
Motives for the Cultural Revolution
Mao had several motives for carrying out the Cultural Revolution:

1.) **Power Struggle** – After the GLF, Mao’s own political position was weakened and his economic policies rejected. He wanted to defeat his opponents and regain political supremacy.

2.) **Purify Communism** – Mao hated the development of a new CCP middle class which he saw as corrupt. He also labelled the economic reforms of moderates as ‘capitalist’ or ‘Revisionist’. Chinese culture also had to change.

3.) **Education & Culture** – Education was attacked as it produced this ‘bureaucratic class’. It needed to be more revolutionary, less academic. Traditional Chinese culture was seen as ‘Bourgeois’.

4.) **Mao’s Comeback** – Mao was confident enough to launch the Cultural Revolution as from 1965 he gained the support of Lin Biao and the PLA. He created the ‘Red Guards’ and used propaganda to ensure support.
After the failure of the Great Leap Forward, Mao began the Cultural Revolution (1966 -1976)

The goal of the Cultural Revolution was to emphasize Mao’s strict socialist ideas & attack traditional Chinese ideas

Mao distributed to all Chinese citizens the “Little Red Book,” a book of his quotes that reinforced what was acceptable for Chinese communists
After the failure of the Great Leap Forward, Mao began the Cultural Revolution (1966 -1976)

Mao targeted young people & many joined the Red Guards, a group to protect the culture of the revolution.

Red Guards closed schools & universities; burned books; & humiliated, beat, killed people who opposed Mao’s ideas.
The cover of an elementary school textbook – shows 3 young Red Guard
Propaganda

“Destroy the Old World”
Cultural Revolution
Propaganda Poster 1967
Phase I: Red Guards (1966-69)
Phase I: Red Guards – 1966-69

- Purge of party squads
  - Deng Xiaoping
- Purge of intellectuals
Mao’s Little Red Book

• This was a collection of excerpts from past speeches and publications. It was required for citizens to read, memorize, and carry this with them at all times.
The Cultural Revolution unified the Chinese people but also led to the deaths or imprisonment of thousands of citizens.
Phase II: Lin Biao – 1969-71

- The assumed successor to Mao Zedong (tse-tung)
- In 1971 Lin allegedly tried but failed
  - to assassinate Mao
  - had to flee to Soviet Union
- His departure eroded the credibility of the entire leadership
Mao Dies and a New Leader Emerges

Mao Zedong died in 1976 and the Cultural Revolution finally ended.

China’s new leader, Deng Xiaoping, made many reforms to Mao’s rules, but the government still stuck to its communist roots.

Unfortunately, the Chinese people were still not given basic human rights like freedom of speech and religion or the right to a fair trial.

He began to allow farmers to own their own land and to make decisions about what they should grow.

He allowed some private businesses to open.

He opened China to foreign investments.
Phase III: the “Gang of Four”

- Power struggle between
  - The radical “Gang of Four”, led by Jiang Qing, Mao’s wife
  - Goal – to continue Cultural Revolution
    - failed when Mao dies and his power is gone
    - gang of 4 put on trial and convicted
    - Dang Xiaoping takes power
Reforms and Opening the Borders

- The 3rd Plenum of the 11th CCP Central Committee in 1978
  - Deng Xiaoping’s ascendancy
  - Economic modernization became focus
- US-PRC diplomatic relations in 1979
China’s Related Impact on Asia

- Russia (Soviet Union)
  - Growing split between USSR and China
    - “Peaceful coexistence” policy of USSR viewed as surrender
  - 1960 – end of Soviet economic aid
- Tibet
  - Seized in 1962
- Korea
  - Aided North Korea in the Korean War (1950-1953)
- Vietnam
  - Supported North Vietnam and aided Viet Cong during Vietnam War (1959-1975)
China Since 1975

• Once Mao dies in 1976, Deng Xiaoping comes to power.

• Deng institutes the Four Modernizations, which focuses on improving agriculture, industry, science and technology as well as defense.

• Deng was in power until his death in 1997
Tiananmen Square – 1989

• In 1989, communist governments were under siege in numerous places around the world – more Chinese citizens wanted greater political freedom.

• Over 10,000 Chinese students gathered to protest China’s corrupt communist government in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square.
  • They filled the square for seven weeks, peacefully speaking against communism and calling for a move toward democracy in China.

• On June 4, 1989, the Chinese government sent soldiers and tanks into the square, killing hundreds of innocent people.
  • Countries around the world condemned this violence and began urging China to improve the human rights of its citizens.
Reasons for Communist Success in China

- Mao gained support of the peasants – land
- Mao won the support of Women
- Mao’s army used guerilla tactics
- Many saw nationalist governments as corrupt
- Many felt nationalism allowed foreigners to dominate China
Communist China under Mao

- Industrialized China
- Increased literacy
- Class privilege ended
- Rural Chinese received health care
- One party dictator relationship
- Denied people basic human rights