Policies of Mao Zedong



- The Great Leap Forward
- The Cultural Revolution

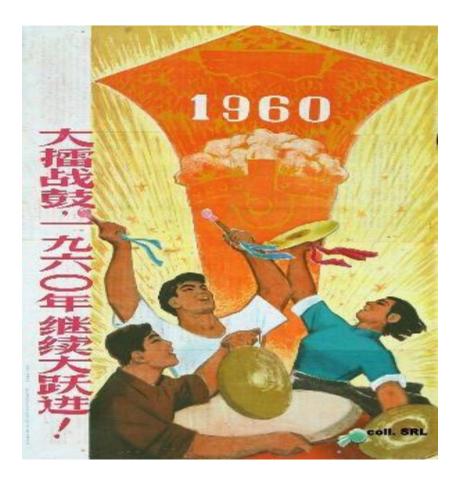
The Great Leap Forward



The Great Leap Forward

- GOAL: to modernize China's Economy
- Begins 1958 : Focus on Agriculture & Industry
- To LEAP decades ahead by focusing on large scale NATIONAL projects
- Water-conservation & dams
- Railroads
- Factories

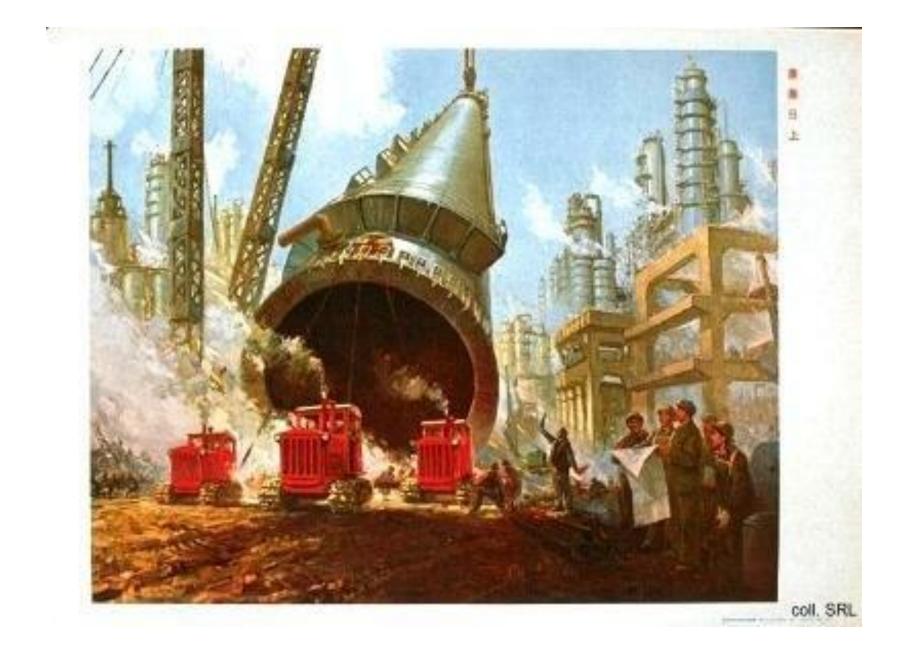
Farmland into Communes



- Communes about 5000 families each
- Life of individual controlled by commune
- Individual Property "given" to commune
- Communist Party members oversee efforts of each commune
- All jobs are assigned by party

The Commune

- Communes are self-sufficient:
- Schools & Nurseries
- "Houses of Happiness" for elderly
- Food & clothing
- Steel furnace in each commune
- Even entertainment is provided
- End of 1958: 700 million Chinese in 27,000 communes



Consequences

- Machinery built too quickly & poor quality falls apart in fields
- Steel furnaces: yield sub-standard steel
- Workers not trained properly
- Too many farmers taken from fields lower food production for country
- 100 million peasants work on national projects

Weather

- 1959 : drought & floods in China
- 1960 : weather was even worse
- Famine sets in
- 9 million die in 1960
- Up to 40 million die in 3 years
- Not enough food being grown for population
 & bad weather

End of Great Leap

- By the end of 1960: Great Leap was finished
- Seen as a failure for Mao and for the Communist Party
- Mao begins to lose power and respect
- Mao begins to be challenged for control of the Chinese Communist Party

You are a teenager in China during the time of Mao Zedong. Finish this paragraph...

The Great Leap Forward was supposed to help our economy by producing lots of things to export. Instead, ...

The Cultural Revolution



Cultural Revolution 1965 - 1968

- Mao needs to regain power & control of CCP
- Mao's failures blamed on lack of support for programs by "old" people – those around in China before 1949
- Focus on China's Youth the RED GUARD
- Get rid of traditions & beliefs
- Replace "family" with Communist Party
- No classes : all are equal

- Shut down schools: middle college
- Attack religious & historical sites
- No respect for authority or elders
- "Educated" were harassed & beaten
- Teachers, lawyers, engineers, doctors: forced to work in fields like peasants
- Leads to near ANARCHY
- Mao calls out Chinese army to stop the Red Guard