

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



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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