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