



Mao Zedong China

Section I

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Homework Questions:

- ★ In what ways has the economic systems of China either flourished or suffered as a result of Mao's control of China?
- ★ Why might it be argued that absolutism helped China better industrialize and become a stronger nation?
- ★ Based on the reading, do you think that Mao's actions were motivated by fear? Why or why not?

Timeline

1911: Collapse of the ruling Qing Dynasty

1921: Mao Zedong becomes one of the founders of the Communist Party of China (CCP)

1924: Formation of the First United Front between the CCP and GMD

1927: Shanghai Massacre (The White Terror)

1937: Japanese occupation of China

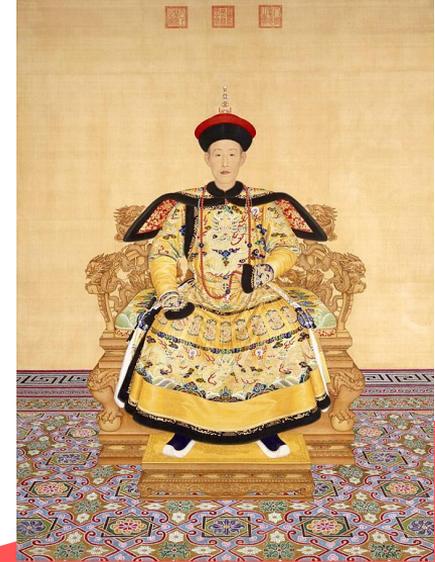
1945: Japan defeated at the end of Second World War

1946-1949: Civil War between the CCP and the Nationalists

1949: Communist victory and Mao declares the People's Republic of China (PRC)

1966: Cultural Revolution

Background



Conditions in China before 1911:

- Conservative nation: the emperor was the supreme ruler was at the top of a strict hierarchy.
- The people followed confucian values, the values were a way of building harmony and making people accept the social order without complaint.
- Peasant class (at the bottom), landlords, ruling clans, and the aristocracy (highest class)
- During the 19th century there was an increase of foreign imperialists in China, this provoked the people's resentment against the ruling Qing imperial rulers.
- The most serious rebellions were: Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864) and the Boxer Rebellion (1898-1900).

Before and After



Conditions in which Authoritarian States Emerged

Communist Party of China



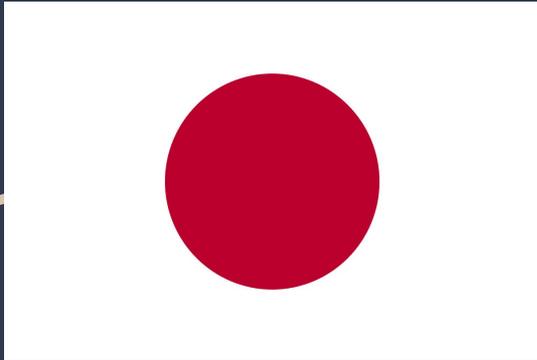
- Beijing University
 - Librarian
- 1921 joined the Communist Party of China.
- 1923 Chinese leader Sun Yat-sen (Sun De Ming) supported the Communist Party
 - Growing in numbers and strength
- Mao supported both the Communist Party and Kuomintang (Guomindang)
- In March 1925 Sun Yat-sen died and successor Chiang Kai-shek (jiang jieshi)
- April 1927 Chiang Kai-shek broke alliance with the Communists. (Purge)

The Long March



- Chiang kai-shek forced the Communists into the mountains.
- Mao and the Communists were forced into retreat by Chiang kai-shek.
- For the next 12 months the Communists (100,000) trekked from west to north.
 - Only 30,000 survived
- Advocated land reform and tax reform.
 - Significance: (Earned the hearts of the lower class)

Japanese-Chinese Conflict



- July 1937 the Japanese Imperial Army forced Chiang Kai-Shek to flee to Nanking (Nanjing).
- Chiang Kai-Shek lost control of control of coastal regions and major cities.
- Unable to fight the war he asked the Communist for truce.

Economic Factors

- Due to the GMD government receiving economic support from the US and Britain after the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, Mao accused the GMD of dependence on foreign allies, meanwhile advertising himself and the CCP as the only true Chinese Patriots.
- Heavy taxes were placed upon the people.
- Widespread poverty
- Significance: Earned the hearts of the lower class..

Social Advantages

- During the war against the Japanese and the GMD, the CCP kept gaining favor among the people living in rural areas for helping them with the agriculture, redistribution of land and rent control, while helping raise literacy and stamp out corruption (which the GMD had been by the CCP as), while constructing homes, schools, hospitals, and factories in cliff caves and huts.
- Widespread poverty
- Only 4% of the people controlled 50% of the fertile land.
- After Mao's 'Long March' rural people saw him as the "savior sent by heaven", which started his personality cult. (Perspective)

Impact of War



- During WWII GMD forces kept fighting against the Japanese invaders, meanwhile the CCP in order to maintain a strong force they retreated and avoided most fights against the Japanese.
- GMD forgot about the people.
- The CCP took this opportunity to earn the hearts of the people.

Nationalist

- Unwilling to alleviate the poor.
- Poor understanding of China's problems.
- Lacked effective control of the country.
- 1927-45 relied on shifting alliances with local leader and warlords.

Methods Used to Establish Authoritarian States

Mao's Way of Persuasion



- Used hatred and common enemies to persuade
 - Preparation speech for the raid into Sichuan Province Jan 1928: “The gentry and the landlords are stinking rich there, piles of silver dollars lie asleep under the floorboards, waiting for us to make good use of them.” (Oliver)
- Used force, appeals to self-interest and linking these to the commoners, as well as steady communication with the masses
 - Spoke well and eloquently and talked about patriotic devotion
- “Mao was Heaven (God) itself. On the strength of the all-prevailing propaganda apparatus, the Mao cult was firmly established. Fed on the ignorance and superstition of ordinary people, it became a religion and a way of life.” (Oliver)

Mao's Use of Coercion



- Mao had a step to step plan:

1. Persuade the masses especially peasants (lower class) through his own peasantry background and common interests

- His background: Born in Hunan into a farming family and his parents were illiterate

2. Army Troops: 3 principles:

- Establish unity among officers and soldiers (sharing benefits and rewards)
- Maintain unity of soldiers with people
- Seek unity even with enemy by attempting to win allegiance of soldiers who were captured

3. Recruiting intellectual elites (lawyers, journalists, teachers...)

- Mao persuaded them by using slogans and goals to show a potential good life in the future of China
- Public looks more into Mao's personality so they developed a personality cult for Mao

● Eliminate opposing ideas

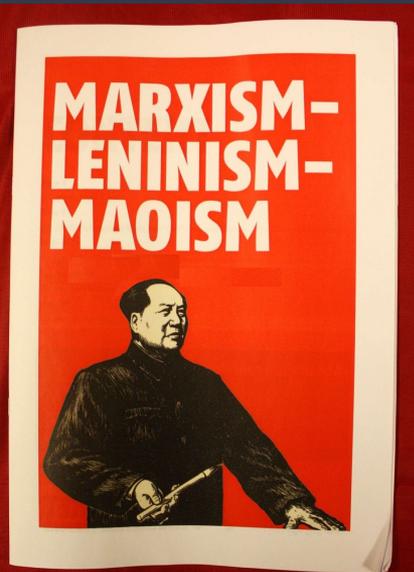
- He defined democrats as those who agreed with his policies
- Wrote a brochure on June 30, 1949, *On the People's Democratic Dictatorship*: he excluded civil rights from all who he considered enemies of the people

The Role of Leaders



- Mao's first appearance: after May 4th Movement-the emergence of the CCP
- Mao was one of the founding delegates and he also participated in the May 4th protest and was a Marxist convert (read Communist Manifesto)
- After the split of China, the situation was perfect for a peasantry revolution because the lower class were fed up with imperialism and China was so split between GMD and CCP and the land was so spread out with a large population that it was hard for one emperor to take over during that time

Ideology



- Mao Zedong Thought (Maoism) (the policies/ideology of the CPC)
 - **Marxism-Leninism** derived from Mao
 - “Political power comes from the barrel of the gun”- Mao
 - Maoism integrated **military with political ideology**
 - Mao believes that class struggle continues throughout the entire socialist period
- **Thought Reform**: gov offices, factories, workshops, schools, universities
 - **Re-education**: learning new party doctrine, developed **unity and loyalty** to communism
- Marxism
 - Mao argued that the **peasants could overthrow feudalism** and **create a socialist society** while Marx said that industrial proletariat were the most capable to revolt
- 1940, Mao published **On New Democracy**, defining the **Chinese communist revolution as a national one** not a social status movement
 - United the **urban and rural** against Japan

Mao's Use of Force



○ The Great Terror

- Household registration system
- Everyone was given a class label and ranked “good” “middle” “bad” based on loyalty to communist party
 - Children would inherit the same status
 - Ensured conformity
- People turned in neighbors for rewards
- Denunciation: method of turning in enemies of revolution
- 1949, 4600 vagrants in Beijing sent to re-education centers

○ Labour Camps

- Laogai (laodong guizao): reform through labor
- 1955, 2 million sent to the camps (9/10 were political prisoners)
- Judicial procedures eliminated so people didn't need legal justification to arrest
- Hunger and torture were common
- 10 million prisoners in camps each year under Mao
- 25 million people died in camps during Mao's rule

○ Mass Killings

- Shanghai and Guangzhou, CCP had a killing campaign where about 90,000 were killed (counter-revolutionaries)

○ Land Reform

- 2-3 million landlords killed as feudal china came under attack: tried to wipeout landlords

Mao's Propaganda



- **Goal: Get rid of enemies and spread ideology**
- Little Red Book:
- In 1949, the PRC made the "China Central Television" and the "Peoples Daily" newspaper
- **1951, 1.5 million propagandists**
- Media and Mao was everywhere
- Used songs: **Red Sun in the Sky**

Mao Zedong will give us a happy life 1954

毛主席給我們的幸福生活



幸福生活
1954年10月

The Life of Peasants is good after Land Reform 1951

土改完成農民生活好



Warmly Love Chairman Mao

1955 April



Moving into a New House

1953



Historical Concept: SIGNIFICANCE

- ❖ Propaganda helped Mao Zedong attract more supporters
- ❖ Mao's role as a leader with his communist ideology was significant in creating an authoritarian state with an extremely suppressed and controlled population especially with the use of force and violence to inflict fear on them

**Use of Legal Methods, Force,
Charismatic Leadership, and
Dissemination of Propaganda**

Party Purges



- Mao became more concerned about potential rivals within the party
 - Futian Incident of 1930: Mao turned on Gao Gang and Rao Shushi
 - Claimed they had abused their positions and established “independent kingdoms”
 - Led to a witch-hunt as other leaders were denounced and sent to prison camps for “treachery” and “splitting the party”

Hundred Flower Campaign



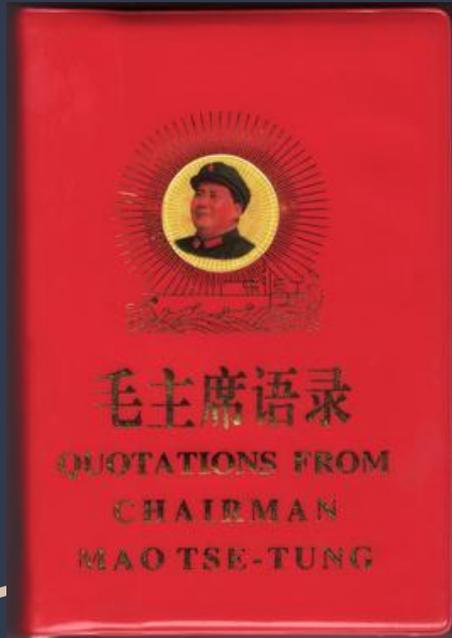
- 1957: “Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend” slogan
 - Mao encouraged open criticism in party and country
 - Criticism gradually became bigger → Attack on Mao
 - Accused of corruption and lacking realism
 - Mao launched the anti-rightist movement to force critics to redact criticisms
- Perspectives on reasons why Mao launched the campaign
 - Jung Chang:
 - Deliberate trick by Mao, Mao’s critics would be easily exposed so he could root them out
 - Control party and wider society better
 - Lei Feignon:
 - Mao’s motives were more pragmatic, attempt to encourage criticism against bureaucracy
 - Against growing influence, wanted inefficiencies to be publicly identified
 - Jonathan Spence:
 - Result of confusion within the party over pace of industrial and agricultural reform

Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)



- 1962: Mao slipped into background of party since reputation was damaged due to the Great Famine
 - Pres. Liu Shaoqi & CCP General Secretary Deng Xiaoping were to stop famine
 - Supporters reversed collectivization in Gansu & Qinghai
 - Became a threat
- 1966: Mao launched the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution to re-establish authority over Chinese govt
 - Resulted in genocide, class war, cultural destruction & economic chaos
 - Purges of those considered disloyal to principles of revolution

The Little Red Book



- Original title was *Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong*
- Written by Lin Biao in collaboration w/ Chen Boda
 - Compilation of thoughts and sayings of Mao since 1920s
 - Preface: “Study Chairman Mao’s writings, follow his teachings, and act according to his instructions.”
 - Became a secular bible
 - Sold over 750 million copies throughout China
 - Social necessity in schools and homes

Purge of Wu Han

- 1965: Lin Biao launched a series of attacks to blacken name of Wu Han
 - Playwright, critical of Mao
 - Known for *The Dismissal of Hai Rui from Office*
 - Story of a court official who defied orders of cruel emperor
 - Maoists interpreted the play as a critique of Mao's leadership
 - Eventually committed suicide in 1969

Gang of Four



Zhang Chunqiao



Jiang Qing



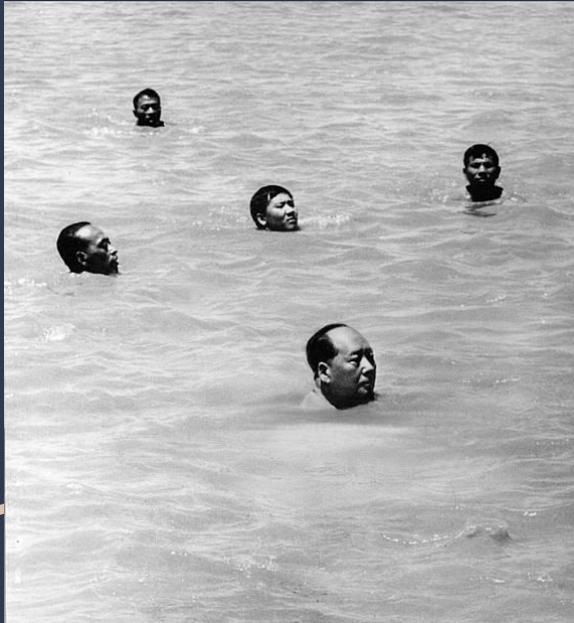
Wang Hongwen



Yao Wenyuan

- Faction of the CCP responsible for implementing most radical policies of Cultural Revolution
 - Made up of Jiang Qiang, Zhang Chunqiao, Yao Wenyyuan & Wang Hanwen
 - Launched attacks on artists and writers
 - Demanded that they should be removed from position for their disloyalty in Mao's revolution
 - Marked the beginning of the targeting of "counter-revolutionaries"

Events of Cultural Revolution



- Purges within party became part of national movement
 - Lin Biao used poster campaigns in universities to ignite students and radical teachers
 - Abandoned classes and attacked those who strayed from revolutionary path
- July 1966: Mao photographed swimming across the Yangtze River
 - Symbolic choice: Nation's greatest river regarded as life force
 - Filled newspapers and newsreels across the country
 - Inspired national admiration

Red Guards and Destruction of “Four Olds”



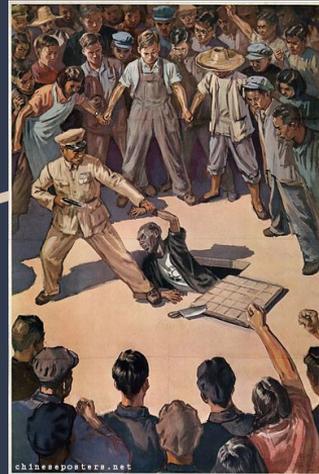
- August 1966: Mao galvanized students to target “enemies” of the revolution
 - According to Lin Biao, “four olds” identified as:
 - Old ideas, old culture, old customs, and old habits
 - Defending the revolution and leader who liberated China from foreign humiliation and oppression
 - Eventually became a paramilitary social movement known as Red Guards
 - Denounced parents, tore up any remnants of the past by destroying historical and cultural sites

Nature, Extent, and Treatment of Opposition

After the Creation of the People's Republic of China...

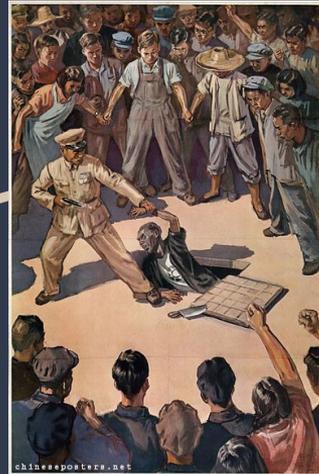
- The Communists and Mao faced stiff opposition within the country and internationally
 - Under high expectations from the people to quell any opposition, opposition parties within China posed a threat to the CCP's control
- Various opposing groups included: defeated Nationalist soldiers, landlords and capitalist businessmen, political moderates and democrats, warlords and provincial leaders, ethnic minorities, Christians and foreigners, and former backers of the Guomindang

The Suppression of Counter-Revolutionaries Campaign



- Launched in March, 1950 and sought to identify and eliminate remaining opposition to the CCP
- This focused mainly on eastern and southern cities in China, where the people had little interaction with communists and had no reason to support them
- In Chongqing, martial law was introduced, as this city housed many former Nationalists that had formed an insurgency and were attempting to sabotage CCP control by encouraging lawlessness and strikes
 - Party commanders responded by jailing 7400 former Nationalists and executing 361
 - By the end of 1950, order was restored to Chongqing

The Suppression of Counter-Revolutionaries Campaign



- After the success in Chongqing, Mao ordered the campaign to be extended to other cities
 - Used propaganda to urge cities to reject counter-revolutionary groups and ideas
- The CCP later banned dozens of political, religious, and semi-religious organizations
 - Leaders imprisoned, exiled, or executed
- July 1950 -- created the People's Tribunals for the official reason of land reform
 - Also had the authority to deal with "counter-revolutionaries and criminals"
- This escalated in 1951, driven by propaganda and popular action
 - As part of this, mass meetings were held in public and attended by thousands of people -- suspects were paraded, accused, beaten, humiliated, intimidated, and sometimes executed

The Suppression of Counter-Revolutionaries Campaign: Consequence



- According to Mao, 700,000 “class enemies” were executed during this campaign -- thought to be an underestimation by some historians -- about 500,000 people committed suicide (driven by shame, humiliation, or coercion), over one million people were imprisoned or held in labor camps
- Slowed in 1952, and eventually halted in July 1953
- Created an atmosphere of fear and paranoia in society, as everyone suspected one another of being an enemy of the state

The Three Antis Campaign



- Launched in November 1951 to eradicate the three evils: corruption, waste, and bureaucracy
- Targeted members of the CCP
- Cadres were encouraged to identify and criticize CCP officials who had taken bribes, shown leniency or favoritism towards business interests, or were deriving excessive benefit from their position
- Corrupt party members dubbed “tigers” and the group that sought them were dubbed “tiger-hunting teams”
- Ended in October 1952

The Five Antis Campaign



- Launched in early 1952, the five evils were: bribery, tax evasion, theft of state property, cheating on government contracts, and stealing economic information
- Targets were businessmen and capitalists
- Mao argued that corruption came from capitalism and the greed it nurtured -- thus, the answer was to target capitalists
- Five Antis cadres sought the help of ordinary people, enlisting thousands of spies and informants to monitor suspect individuals and businesses
- State rhetoric and propaganda encouraged clerks and workers to inform the government of suspicious activity

The Five Antis Campaign



- Many business owners were falsely accused by rivals or cadres
 - By 1953, around 450,000 private businesses had been charged with one of the five evils -- around 340,000 guilty
 - Thousands more were intimidated or terrorized into liquidating their business or surrendering it to the state
 - Some dragged to public meetings and subjected to accusations and humiliation before being fined and having their business seized -- many committed suicide after having lost their property and livelihood
- Enriched government funds and contributed to the climate of fear, especially among capitalists and small businessmen

Speak Bitterness Campaigns



- This involved **land reform**, as land was **confiscated from landlords and redistributed** among their former tenants -- violence was used to humiliate, punish, and wipe out landlords as a class
- Between 2-3 million landlords were killed as feudal China came under attack
- 1953: peasants organized into mutual-aid teams, land pooled into a cooperative, had only nominal ownership of their land, those that resisted labeled class enemies -- villagers locked into cooperatives at a rapid pace, made it easier for the party to requisition grain and develop a monopoly over supplies
- **Hunger and famine** -- state levies high

General Opposition

- English declared the language of foreign exploitation -- no transactions in English tolerated, foreign street names were renamed
- **Attack on intellectuals** gained pace as hundreds of thousands of books were burned because they were considered vestiges of the feudal past
- **Forced labor camps** were common -- counter-revolutionaries were sentenced to harsh labor, numbering about **2 million by 1955**
 - Throughout Mao's rule, it's estimated that around 25 million people died in these camps

Interactive Activity:

Take out a piece of paper and create a T chart with 3 columns (**Stalin, Castro, Mao**)

Write similarities and differences of each to compare them side by side

Our Comparison

Mao	Stalin	Castro
Re-education/Thought Reform	Indoctrination	Better Education System
Use of Force: Land Reforms, Mass Killings of People (counter-revol)	Enforced new technology and renovated cities in the Soviet Union	Emphasized importance of healthcare, made more resources readily available
Propaganda	Propaganda	Propaganda
Appeal to lower class	Appeal to middle class	Appeal to lower class
Marxist-Leninist Ideology	Marxist-Leninist ideology	Leninist Ideology

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