

Topic:
Focus Questions:

Communism in China
What Changes did Mao Zedong bring to China?
How did Deng Xiaoping reform the Chinese economy?
What were the results?
How has the Chinese government violated peoples' human rights?

1. What changes did Mao Zedong bring to China?
As a first step, all aspects of life were brought under the control of the Communist Party.
Mao dramatically changed life in China.

Elimination of the "Capitalist Class". Landowners, factory-owners, village leaders, and better-off peasants were considered to be the "capitalist class". The Communists said these capitalists exploited others. At least one million of these so-called "capitalists" were killed.

CHANGES TO CHINA UNDER MAO

Re-education. Communist beliefs became required learning in all universities and schools. Newspapers and books were brought under the control of the government and had to promote Communism. Even art and music came under the direct supervision of the government.

The Family. Family authority was replaced by the authority of the Communist Party. Children were taught to obey the state, not their parents. Ancestor worship, which had once promoted family tradition, was forbidden. This prohibition further weakened the father's traditional role as family leader.

The Cult of Mao

Mao, himself became a god-like figure, similar to the emperors of ancient China. His pictures and statues were prominently displayed throughout China. His sayings were prominently displayed throughout China. His sayings were published in *The Quotations of Chairman Mao (Little Red Book)*. Communist party members were expected to memorize them.

1. What rights did Mao take away after he became the leader of Communist China
2. How did Mao make himself and the Communist Party the only authority figure in China?

The Changing Role of Women

Traditionally, in China, women were treated as inferior to men. The only role for a woman recognized by the five Confucian relationships was that of wife. As a wife, a woman was considered inferior to her husband. The Nationalists did not change these policies greatly.

In Communist China, however, women gained some rights. Under the new Chinese constitution, women won equality under the law, were able to own property and receive an elementary education. They were now expected to work alongside men on farms and in factories as well as their duties at home.

Although Chinese women made progress, they did not have full equality with men. Only a few women had top jobs in government. Women were not always paid the

same wages as men for doing the same work. Even so, the position of women improved under the Communists.

Women in Communist China

Progress	Drawbacks
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

The Great Leap Forward

In 1958, Mao launched a program called the Great Leap Forward. It continued to develop heavy industry but also proposed the mobilization of peasants to increase agricultural production. He called on the people to increase agricultural and industrial output. To make farms more productive, he created communes, groups of people who live and work together, and hold property in common. Communes had production quotas, which were set amounts of agricultural or industrial output that they were to produce. Each commune was designed as a self-sufficient community with local industries, schools, housing, and childcare for working mothers.

As a result of peasant opposition to this extreme regimentation and poor planning, the Great Leap Forward failed. Commune-based industries turned out poorly made goods. At the same time, agricultural output declined. Bad weather added to the downturn, creating widespread famine.

The Cultural Revolution

The problems in agriculture led to divisions within the Communist Party and Mao felt that the party was under attack from reactionaries in the party. In 1966, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution to renew people's loyalty to communism and establish a more equitable society. Mao feared that intellectuals replaced revolutionary peasants and workers in running the country. He wanted to crush people with a bourgeois outlook. He shut down schools and universities throughout China and urged Chinese students to experience the revolution for them selves. Students formed groups of fighters called the Red Guards. They attacked professors, government officials, and factory managers, many were exiled to work as laborers in the fields or executed. China became so disrupted that Mao had to call out the army to control the Red Guards. In 1969, Mao sent the Guards home and brought the Cultural Revolution to a close.

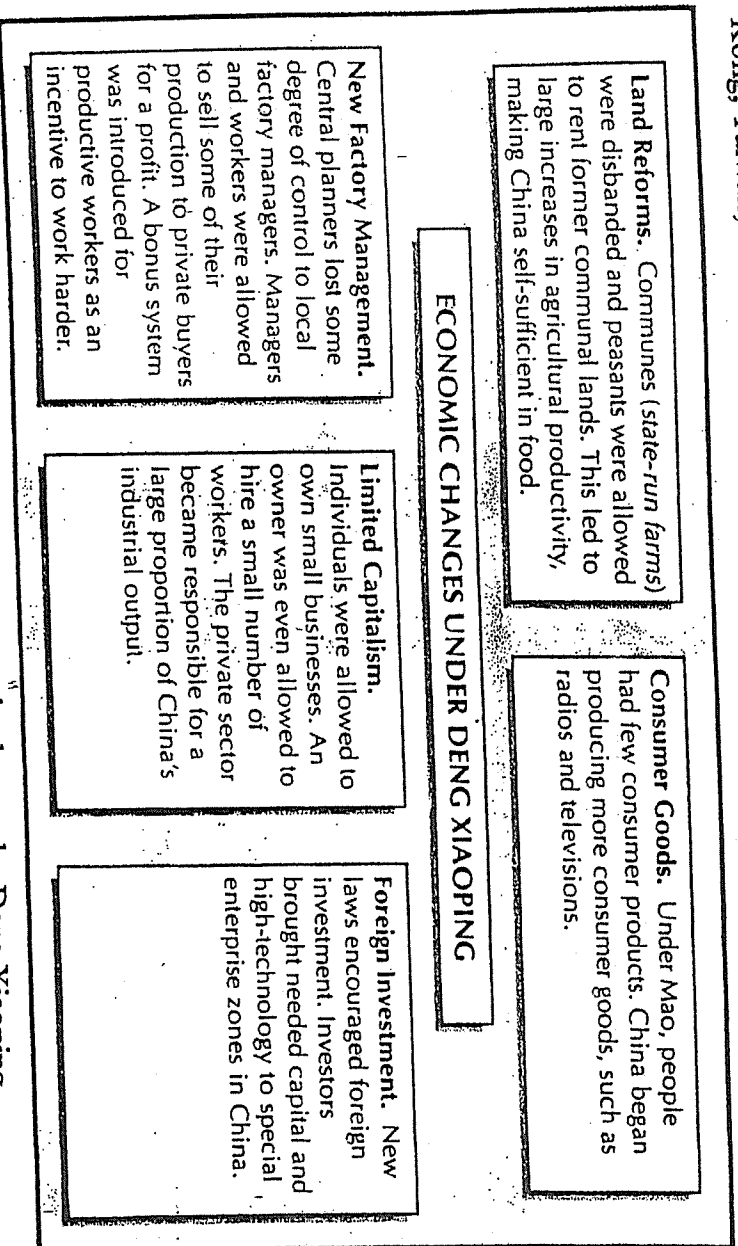
Mao's Program	Goals of the Program	Methods of achieving goals
Great Leap Forward		<i>Large Swards</i>
Cultural Revolution		

2. How did Deng Xiaoping reform the Chinese economy? What were the results? Economic Reform Under Deng Xiaoping

After the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, Deng Xiaoping became China's principal leader. Deng had opposed Mao's Cultural Revolution and once in power he set out making practical reforms. Deng's main goal was to modernize China by reforming its economy. China introduced a free market economy gradually without abandoning the Communist Party's monopoly of political power.

Deng opened China to new ideas by allowing many Chinese to study in the West and by easing restrictions on foreign investment. Agriculture remained a problem area. Deng

instituted the **Responsibility System**. Each family was responsible for its own livelihood. Part of its produce had to be sold to the government, but the rest could be sold privately on the open market. Capitalist incentives were used to increase production. Light or consumer industry was partially freed from state control. Deng's rules gave factory managers more decision-making power. Special Economic Zones were set up in southeast China. In these areas, foreign companies were allowed to own and operate businesses. Large amounts of foreign investment came from Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the countries of the West.



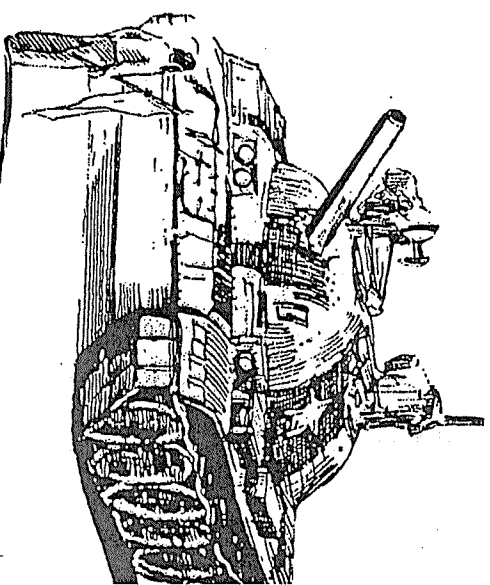
1. List and describe the reasons for three economic changes by Deng Xiaoping.

2. List and describe 3 rights that the Chinese people were granted under Deng Xiaoping.

Tiananmen Square Massacre

Concern over human rights in China continues to be a major issue. Beijing's Tiananmen Square became a focal point in 1989. Deng's reforms helped China's economy, but they were conservative. They unleashed demands for greater freedom among groups of students and workers. In May of 1989, these groups occupied Tiananmen Square, erected a "Goddess of Democracy" statue, and refused to leave.

The protest movement spread to other major cities. The participants used faxes to keep in contact because of government control of the media. On June 3rd and 4th, People's Liberation Army troops and tanks opened fire. In the Tiananmen Square Massacre, 800 to 1000 people were killed, and countless others were wounded. Later, the government imprisoned or executed many protest leaders. These actions were carried out on Deng Xiaoping's orders. The imprisonment of dissidents and the use of forced labor in factories producing goods for export continue to concern the international community. The incident showed how important it was for China's communist leaders to maintain control.



Compare and Contrast Party Chairman Mao Zedong and Party Chairman Deng Xiaoping.

<i>Categories</i>	<i>MAO ZEDONG</i>	<i>DENG XIAOPING</i>
View of Communism		
Economic Ideas and Policies		
Political Ideas		

Key Words: Communism/ Cultural Revolution/ Little Red Book, Great Leap Forward, communes, Red Guards, Tiananmen Square

3. How has the Chinese government violated peoples' human rights?

United States Recognition

There were foreign relations problems during Mao's rule. For twenty-six years (1949-1974), the United States refused to recognize the communist government of the People's Republic of China. It supported the Guomindang government in Taiwan. The U.S. led the debate to keep the People's Republic of China out of the U.N., using China's involvement in the Korean War as one of the main reasons. However, in 1971, the U.S. began to shift its policies. It ceased to block U.N. membership for Communist China. U.S. President Richard Nixon visited Beijing in 1972, and tensions eased between the two countries. The U.S. formally recognized the communist government in 1974. Since that time, relations between the two countries have fluctuated. Chinese human rights policies, copyright infringements, and market accessibility continue to be controversial. Despite these issues, President Jiang Zemin (1926-) visited the U.S. in 1997.

1. Why did the U.S. refuse to recognize China? Who did the U.S. support?

Return of Hong Kong

In 1842, Britain had gained the island of Hong Kong, off the northern coast of China. During the years that Hong Kong was under British rule, it modernized and became wealthy.

In the 1980s, Britain and China decided that Hong Kong would return to Chinese rule in 1997. The concern for rights and freedom was reflected in the anxiety over the return of Hong Kong to China. China agreed not to change Hong Kong's social or economic system for 50 years and to allow the island a degree of self-rule. The island was turned over to China on July 1, 1997.

1. What concerns almost kept Hong Kong from being returned to China?

1. What are the people asking for?

2. What 'food' are they receiving? Why?

