

UPHEAVALS IN CHINA

■ TEXT SUMMARY

THE BIG IDEA

The new republic of China was troubled by civil war and foreign invasion.

The new republic in China faced problems. There was upheaval in 1912 when Sun Yixian stepped down as president. The new leader tried to rule like an emperor. When he died in 1916, warlords from the provinces fought for power.

On May 4, 1919, students protested Japanese control of colonies in China. This began the May Fourth Movement. Its supporters aimed to make China stronger through modernization. Other groups looked to the revolutionary ideas of Marx and Lenin for answers.

By 1921, Chinese Communists had

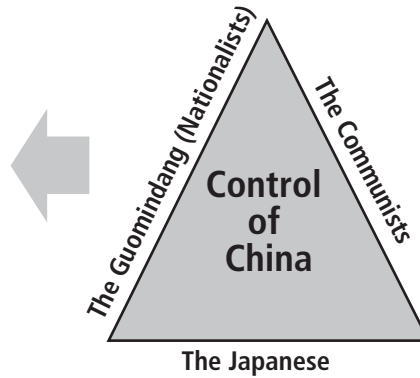
formed their own party. Meanwhile, Sun Yixian had formed a Nationalist party, the **Guomindang**. At first, the two parties worked together to beat the warlords and unite China.

When Sun died in 1925, Jiang Jieshi, the new head of the Guomindang, saw the Communists as a threat. He began a fierce, 22-year war. A new Communist leader, Mao Zedong, turned to the peasants for support. He saw strength in their large numbers.

As the Nationalists and Communists waged civil war, Japan attacked. Until 1945, the Guomindang, the Communists, and the Japanese fought to control China.

■ GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *Struggle for Control in China, 1931–1945*

- Leader: Jiang Jieshi
- Forces Communists into northern China in 1934
- Loses capital city to Japanese in 1937; moves inland to new capital



- Leader: Mao Zedong
- Flees Guomindang army in 1934
- Sets up base in northern China

- Invades Manchuria in 1931
- Attacks China in 1937 and seizes Nationalist capital

The Guomindang, the Communists, and the Japanese all struggled for control of China.

Questions:

1. When did the civil war begin in China?
2. What two (2) parties fought for control?
3. Why did the Nationalist Guomindang move their capital in 1937?



The Chinese Communist Revolution

Mao Zedong's Economic and Cultural Revolution

The Chinese Revolution and its Aftermath								
1950	1960		1970	1980		1990	2000	
1949 Mao's troops beat Chiang's nationalists; Chiang forms Republic in Taiwan	1953-58 Five-Year Plan; state to control industry & agriculture	1960 Alliance with Soviets ends 1964 China explodes atom bomb	1966 Mao launches Cultural Revolution 1968 Mao ends Cultural Revolution	1972 Pres. Nixon visits China 1976 Mao dies; Deng gains power	1979 China & U.S. form diplomatic ties 1977 Deng introduces economic reforms (Four Modernizations)	1989 Tiananmen Square massacre	1997 Deng dies; Jiang Zemin gains power 1997 Jiang allows state industries to sell stock	1997 Hong Kong reunited with China
1950-53 China aids North Korea	1958-60 Great Leap Forward; co-ops merged into huge communes; millions starve			1971 U.S. withdraws opposition & China admitted to UN				

In 1949, China's long civil war ended in victory for Mao Zedong and the Communists. Mao won over the people by his promise to reform land ownership, to end corruption, and to rid China of foreign meddling. The Communists modeled their regime on that of their Soviet allies. They set up two parallel organizations: the Communist Party and the government. Mao headed both. The party set policy; the government carried it out.

In 1950, China's landlords were dispossessed of their land—the million or so who resisted were killed. This land was divided up among the peasants. But then, during the first five-year plan, these small holdings were combined into collective farms of about 250 households each. In the Great Leap Forward, the collective farms were combined into communes containing about 25,000 people each. Peasants were organized into military-style units. Working, eating, sleeping, and child-rearing became communal activities. The people hated this regimented lifestyle, and years of crop failure caused famines that took 25 million lives.

The first five-year plan centralized planning for industry as well as agriculture. It nationalized all private companies and set production targets for steel and other goods.

It had modest success. But poor planning hampered further industrial growth.

During the early 1960's Mao took a back seat and new leaders issued incentives to encourage hard work. Mao decided that these changes weakened the revolutionary spirit. To regain control and revive the revolution, he encouraged youngsters to leave school and form military units called Red Guards. Their task was to search out individuals who criticized the government or had special privileges. This movement is known as the **Cultural Revolution**; it disastrously disrupted industry and agriculture and was ended in 1968.

The Chinese had many needs. Which needs did Mao satisfy and which did he fail to satisfy?

Why Did The Chinese Communist Revolution Succeed?

The following is based upon the true story of STONE WALL VILLAGE in China.

Five men brought the Communist revolution to Stone Wall Village. Their job was to overturn the political, social, and economic life in the village. The first step in doing so was to "struggle" against the wealthy landowners and divide the land. The five men who came to the village to "overturn" it were called CADRES (officials). When they arrived in the village, they put up signs announcing that every village has the right to elect its own officials and that land rents and the interest rates that peasants were being charged should be established fairly. There was no response from most of the people. Then they called a meeting to explain their ideas but people still kept their mouths shut. The cadres then tried to talk to the villagers individually but without any success.

Under these conditions, the cadre could not carry out their work, so they tried talking to the poorest men in village in private. One peasant, Ma, revealed that his family had been poor tenant farmers for the past hundred years, renting land and never having any of their own. Every year, he raised 8 bushels of wheat and had to give 4 bushels to landlord Wang. Ma could not afford medicine for his wife who he feared was dying. Two years before, his father had died, and he had been too poor to afford a coffin, so he wrapped his father in straw. Now Ma was 35, and he was poor, and it looked as if he would always stay poor. "I guess I had a bad brain." replied Ma, explaining the reasons for his poverty. One of the cadres would ask: "Are you poor because you had a bad brain or because your father left you no land?" Ma-"I guess it is because my father left us no land," he replied. "Is that really the reason?" said the cadres. "You pay 4 bushels of wheat to the landlord every year. Your family has rented land for 100 years. That is 400 bushels of wheat; if you had not given this wheat to the landlord, you would be rich. The reason that you are poor is because you have been **EXPLOITED BY THE LANDLORD.**"

They would talk like this for hours, and Ma finally agreed that he was exploited. For 15 days, the cadres had 33 talks with Ma. Slowly, Ma began to convince other poor peasants to join the struggle against the landlord Wang. Then suddenly a villager named Fortune Lee was found murdered. It seemed that the landlord Wang had decided to draw first blood. At a lengthy meeting after Fortune Lee's funeral, the villagers told each other stories of how landlord Wang had caused them suffering. Then they decided: "Let's get him tonight." Using guns and hand grenades supplied by the cadres, they went to landlord Wang's home and found him scared and shaking in an underground room.

Now the time had come for revenge. One man slapped Wang across the face. A low animal moan came from the crowd and they leaped into action. The crowd was on him like beasts. A big farmer swung his pig knife and plunged it directly into the landlord's heart. His body quivered. Even the trees shook, and he slumped. But still the farmer drew his knife in and out again and again and again...

THE VILLAGE OF STONE WALL HAS BEEN OVERTURNED

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION;

DIRECTIONS: Use the word bank below to fill in the correct answers below.

THE VILLAGE OF STONE WALL HAD BEEN OVERTURNED

1. Cadres 2. Peasants 3. Exploited 4. Quivered 5. Tenant 6. Bushels

1. _____ were poor farmers.
2. _____ means to shake violently in fear.
3. _____ is someone who rents land.
4. _____ were people who tried to spread communism.
5. _____ refers to a specific amount of crops.
6. To be _____ is to be taken advantage of.

Part II

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the reading.

1. Who owned most of the land in China before the Communist Revolution?

2. Why did Ma and his family live in poverty? (Use your own words)

3. How is communism similar to the deeds of Robin Hood?

4. Was the landlord a greedy lowlife or was he just trying to make a living? Explain your answer.

DID MAO ZEDONG'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION HELP OR HURT CHINA?

In 1966, Mao Zedong encouraged Chinese high school students to join the Red Guards and help bring about changes in Chinese society.

Red Guard leader **Wei**: “My fellow Red Guards, today we are going to help our beloved country by investigating reports that the local politician, Lo Fat, is corrupt. Since Chairman Mao has encouraged us to expose this criminal, I am sure that will find plenty of evidence.

Red Guard **Ying Lei**: Yes, the Cultural Revolution has begun. Let us show that corrupt weasel, Lo Fat, that Chairman Mao will not stand for corruption in our beloved China. Let's get him!!!

(Hundreds of Red Guards arrive at Lo Fat's residence, which occupied a large area. It had a fish pound, a little bridge, as well as a flower garden. They enter and find Lo Fat, trembling with fear)

Red Guard Leader **Wei**: Look at him, shaking with fear. Look at him, comrades. Have you ever seen someone that looked more guilty than him? (Everyone shouts No!! ! !)

Lo Fat: I am a loyal member of the Chinese Communist Party and a faithful Chinese citizen. Why have you come into my house?

Red Guard leader **WEI**: You are under arrest, you traitorous dog. You have betrayed Chairman Mao by stealing from the people. You are obviously guilty and will be taken out and shot along with your traitor wife and children.

Lo Fat: I have committed no crime. My family has worked very hard for everything here. We have never stolen from our beloved Chinese citizens and comrades.

Red Guard leader **Wei**: Liar!!! (Slaps Lo Fat). Chairman Mao warned us that we would find evil people like you. While you relax in your magnificent bathtub, or in one of your eight bedrooms, your fellow citizens live in one-room huts. YOU ARE A CURSE ON THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND WE RED GUARDS WILL MAKE YOU PAY!!!!

Lo Fat: *I repeat. I am not a criminal.* Yes, in the past I have questioned whether Chairman Mao's policies and programs were good for China, but that is all. Is it a crime for we, the people, to question our leader?

Red Guard leader **Wei**: SCUM!!!! (Slaps Lo Fat) How dare you even question Chairman Mao, hero of China!!! Most of China citizens have little or nothing. You have a huge house with many fancy decorations. Therefore it is obvious that you are a corrupt politician who steals from the people. You and your family will be immediately shot.

Lo Fat: You are making a terrible mistake. I have criticized Chairman Mao and the Communist Party in the past but I have not stolen from the people. You may kill me but I will die an innocent man.

1. According to Red Guard Wei, what was the purpose of the Cultural Revolution?

2. How did the Red Guards accomplish their goals?

3. Were the Red Guards qualified to judge whether Lo Fat was guilty or not? Why?

4. Why do you think Lo Fat was being arrested by the Red Guards?

5. Was there enough evidence to prove that Lo Fat was guilty of corruption? Why?

6. If Lo Fat was guilty of corruption, do you agree with the Red Guards' actions? Why?

7. What was Chairman Mao's "real" reason for starting the Cultural Revolution?

8. Would you have wanted to live in China during the Cultural Revolution? Why?

9. Would you have wanted to have belonged to the Red Guards? Why?



China in Revolution

1 According to this editorial, what was Chairman Mao Zedong's goal?

1. _____

2 What obstacle stood in the way of achieving this goal?

2. _____

3 Describe the editorial policy of the newspapers responsible for this editorial.

3. _____

Chairman Mao points out: "Before a brand-new social system can be built on the site of the old, the site must be swept clean. Invariably, remnants of old ideas reflecting the old system remain in people's minds for a long time, and they do not easily give way." We must continue to criticize the old system and old ideas...

Source: *People's Daily, Red Flag, and Liberation Army Daily* joint editorial, "Forward Along the Great Road of Socialism," 1974.

CHINA AFTER MAO ZEDONG

DENG XIAOPING

Mao Zedong died in 1976. As is the case in all dictatorships, after the death of the leader, there is a struggle to determine who the new leader will be. In the case of China, the new leader was Deng Xiaoping.

Deng's primary changes took place in economics and in the social structure of the nation. He planned to modernize agriculture, industry and defense. The production of food became the nation's highest goal. In order to convince peasants to produce more food, Deng introduced incentives to peasants. Many communes were ended and families were given land to farm. In addition, small private businesses were permitted in the cities, which would be owned by individuals. This new freedom in economics led to ideas of freedom in government. In the spring of 1989, thousands of pro-democracy students demonstrated in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. As the world watched, Premier Li Peng ordered tens of thousands of Chinese troops into the Square to break up the demonstrations. Many students were killed; others were executed after brief trials. Still other, were imprisoned or never heard from again. "The Tiananmen Square massacre" showed the world how brutal the Chinese government could be toward its people.

Questions for discussion.

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the reading.

1. Discuss how Deng Xiaoping tried to modernize China.

2. How did Deng's policies differ from those of Mao Zedong?

3. Why was the world shocked by the Tiananmen Square Massacre?

Population

Place	Population	Area Sq. Km.	People per Sq. km.
United States	301,139,947	9,161,923 sq km	33
China	1,321,851,888	9,326,410 sq km	142
World	See Below:	148,940,000 sq km	44

According to the United Nations, world population reached 7 Billion on October 31, 2011. The US Census Bureau made a lower estimate, for which the 7 billion mark was only reached on March 12, 2012.

Interesting Facts:

1. The US and China are about the same size.
2. China makes up about $1/5^{\text{th}}$ of the world's total population.

Using the maps to answer the following questions:

1. Is the population in China spread out evenly throughout the country?
2. If not, where does the majority of the population live?
3. Give 4 reasons the majority of the population live in that area? (look at all of the maps)
4. How do the physical features of China make much of the land unlivable?

Understanding the problems of large populations:

More than 1 billion people live in China. This large population has caused enormous problems for the rulers of China for centuries. What problems might a very large population cause? Think about the pressures a population puts on natural resources, on an economy, and on itself. Then work to complete the chart below.

Possible Problems Caused by China's Large Population	
Economic Problems	
Social Problems	
Environmental Problems	
Political Problems	

Imagine you are the leader of China. What would you have done to alleviate the population problems in China?

What problems do you think the one child policy could lead too?