



Mao Zedong

Communist China

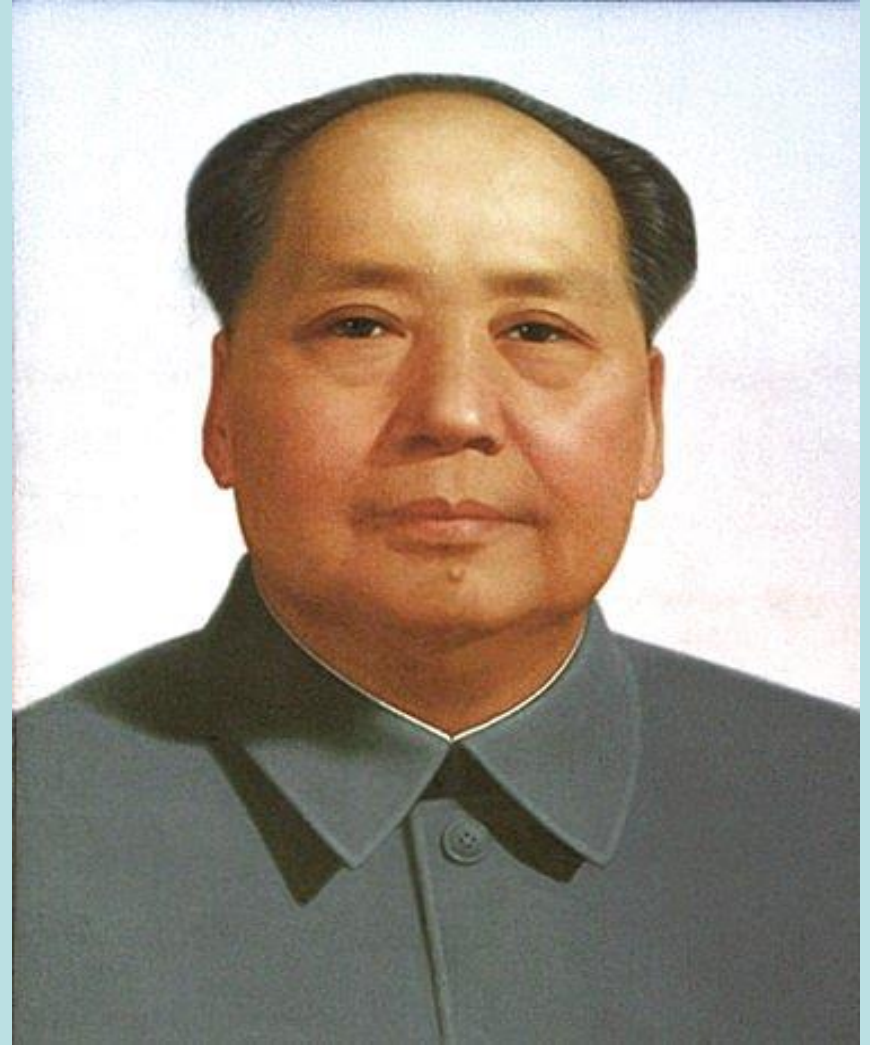
The Great Leap Forward

The Cultural Revolution

Tiananmen Square

Mao Zedong

- was a Chinese military and political leader who led the Communist Party of China to victory against the Kuomintang in the Chinese Civil War
- the leader of the People's Republic of China from its establishment in 1949 until his death in 1976.



- Regarded as one of the most important figures in modern world history
- However, many of Mao's programs, such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, are blamed from both within and outside China for causing severe damage to the culture, society, economy, and foreign relations of China, as well as a probable death toll in the tens of millions

Mao Zedong



兵 = Soldier

Mao Zedong – Forbidden City



Leadership of China

- The People's Republic of China was established in October 1949.
- The Communist Party assumed control of all media in the country and used it to promote the image of Mao and the Party.
- The Chinese people were exhorted to devote themselves to build and strengthen their country



Leadership of China

- In his speech declaring the foundation of the PRC, Mao announced: "The Chinese people have stood up!"



- More examples of his propaganda to change China

Mao Zedong

- Mao's first political campaigns after founding the People's Republic were land reform and the suppression of counter-revolutionaries, which centered on mass executions, often before organized crowds.
- Mao himself claimed that a total of 700,000 people were executed during the years 1949–1953.



- Following the consolidation of power, Mao launched the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1958). The plan aimed to end Chinese dependence upon agriculture in order to become a world power. With the Soviet Union's assistance
- new industrial plants were built and agricultural production eventually came to where industry was beginning to produce enough capital that China no longer needed the USSR's support.

Mao & Stalin



The Great Leap Forward

- The Great Leap Forward took place in 1958. The Great Leap Forward was Mao's attempt to modernize China's economy so that by 1988, China would have an economy that rivaled America.
- two primary tasks that he felt they should target was industry and agriculture



公共食堂, 社会主义

coll. SRL

The Great Leap Forward



- Families in a people's commune eating in communal dining hall

Communes during the Great Leap

- The Great Leap Forward planned to develop agriculture and industry. Mao believed that both had to grow to allow the other to grow. Industry could only prosper if the work force was well fed, while the agricultural workers needed industry to produce the modern tools needed for modernization. To allow for this, China was reformed into a series of communes.



- People in a commune gave up their ownership of tools, animals etc so that everything was owned by the commune.

Pictures of work on a commune



Dongjiao commune near Zhengzhou, Henan



Mao inspects "backyard furnaces" in Anhui



Guangdong peasants during the Great Leap Forward

Negative effects of the Great Leap Forward

- millions starved to death in what is thought to be the largest famine in human history.
- According to government statistics, there were 15 million excess deaths between 1959 - 1962



The Great Leap Forward - Consequences

- The Great Leap Forward is now widely seen, both within China and outside as a major economic disaster
- effectively being a "Great Leap Backward" that would affect China in the years to come
- Overall, the Great Leap Forward was a disaster.



Propaganda of the Great Leap Forward



把大跃进的战鼓敲得更响

BA DA YUE JIN DE ZHAN GU QIAO DE GENG XIANG



英雄黄继光

Propaganda of the Great Leap Forward



Propaganda of the Great Leap Forward



Propaganda of the Great Leap Forward



Mao and The Cultural Revolution

- Facing the prospect of losing his place on the political stage, Mao responded by launching the Cultural Revolution in 1966.
- One of the main focuses of the Cultural Revolution was the abolishment of the Four Olds: Old Customs, Old Culture, Old Habits, and Old Ideas.



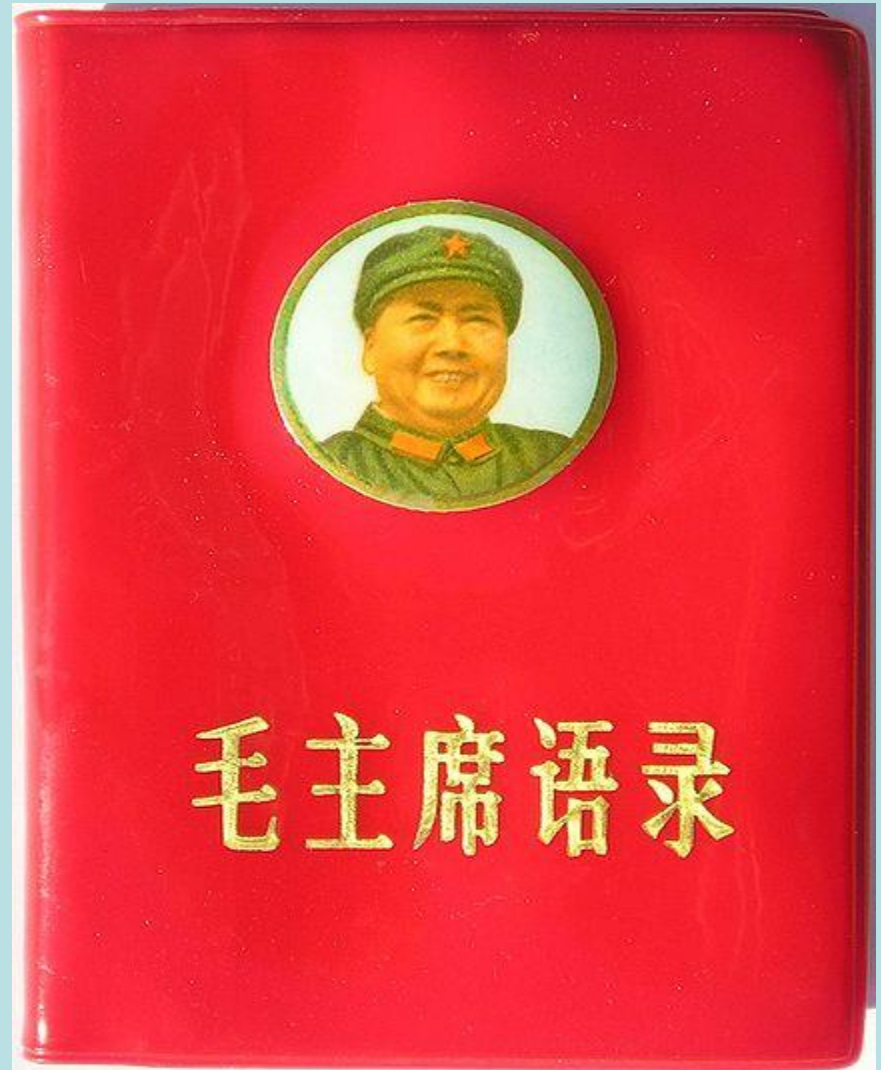
Red Guards Role in the Cultural Revolution

- Throughout the Cultural Revolution, the Red Guards traveled throughout China, going to schools, universities, and institutions, spreading the teachings of Mao.



Mao's Little Red Book

- was published by the Government of the People's Republic of China from April 1964 until 1976.
- collection of quotations excerpted from Mao Zedong's past speeches and publications
- requirement for every Chinese citizen to own, to read, and to carry it at all times during the later half of Mao's rule, especially during the Cultural Revolution.



Red Guards Role in the Cultural Revolution

- The role of Red Guard was mainly to attack the "Four Olds" of society, that is what is believed to be old ideas, cultures, habits, and customs of China at the time.
- Red Guards in Beijing and elsewhere in China had taken to the streets from their schools.
- They made posters, speeches, criticized Party leaders, and some committed violent acts in the name of the Cultural Revolution.



The Cultural Revolution

- The decision granted people the most extensive freedom of speech the People's Republic has ever seen, but this was a freedom severely determined by the Maoist ideological climate and, ultimately, by the People's Liberation Army and Mao's authority over the Army



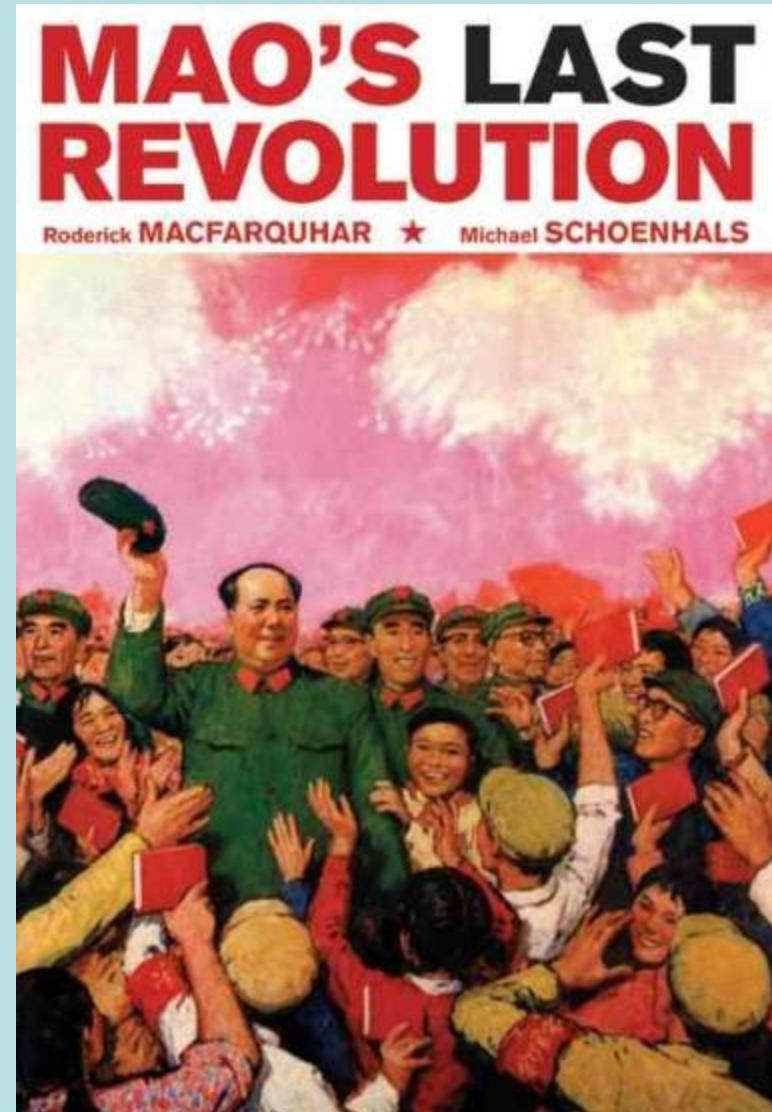
The Cultural Revolution

- Many religious buildings such as temples, churches, mosques, and cemeteries were closed down and sometimes looted and destroyed
- In August and September, there were 1,772 people murdered in Beijing alone. In Shanghai in September there were 704 suicides and 534 deaths related to the Cultural Revolution



The End of the Cultural Revolution

- In October 1968, Liu Shao-chi was expelled from the party and this is generally seen by historians as the end of the Cultural Revolution. Mao had witnessed the removal of a potential rival in the party and therefore saw no need for the Cultural Revolution to continue.*



Propaganda of Cultural Revolution



Tiananmen Square

- is the large plaza near the center of Beijing, China which sits to its north, separating it from the Forbidden City.
- It has great cultural significance as a symbol because it was the site of several key events in Chinese history





Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 - Background

- Since 1978, Deng Xiaoping had led a series of economic and political reforms which had led to the gradual implementation of a market economy and some political liberalization that relaxed the system set up by Mao Zedong.



Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 - Background

- Some students and intellectuals believed that the reforms had not gone far enough and that China needed to reform its political system.
- They were also concerned about the social and political controls that the Communist Party of China still had



Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 - Background

- The Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 were in large measure sparked by the death of former Secretary General Hu Yaobang
- "rapid reform" and his almost open contempt of "Maoist excesses"
- His sudden death, due to heart attack, 1989 provided a perfect opportunity for the students to gather once again



- Hu Yaobang

Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 - Background

- The protests were begun by Beijing students to encourage free-market reforms and liberalization.
- Protesters believed that China had not gone far enough in economic liberalization and privatization.
- They also believed that the social reforms made by Deng Xiaoping had not gone far enough and China needed to reform its political systems.



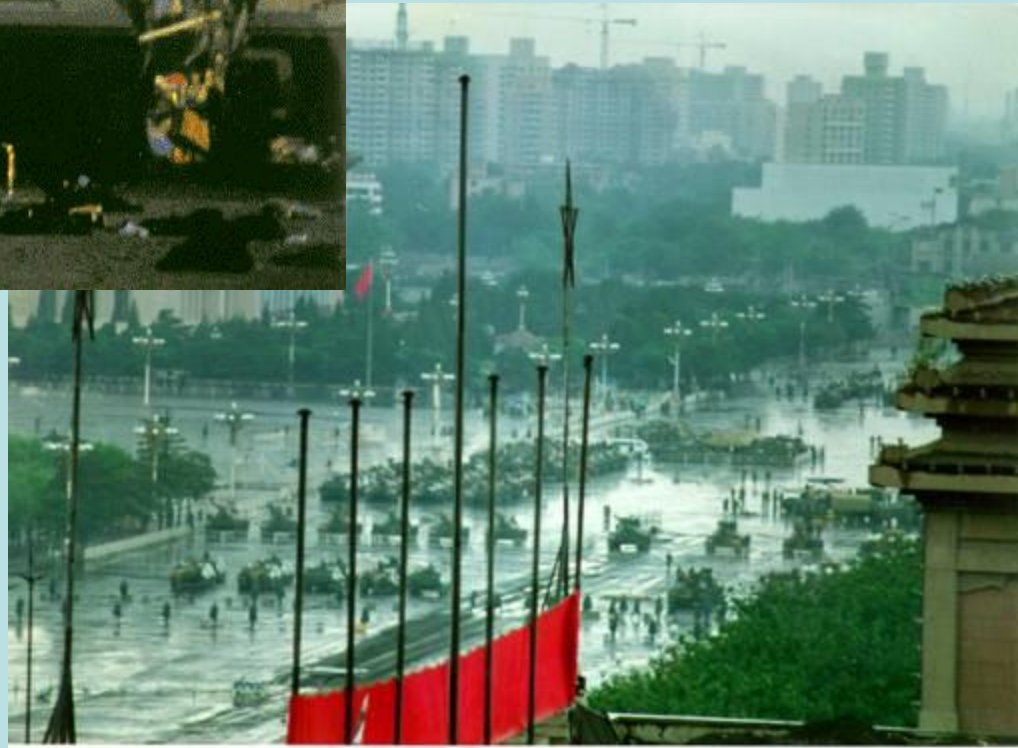
Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 - Protests escalate

- 100,000 students and workers marched in Beijing making demands for free media reform and a formal dialogue between the authorities
- The government rejected the proposed dialogue
- huge groups of students occupied Tiananmen Square and started a hunger strike



大屠殺

Protests
escalate



Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 - Protests escalate

- The number of dead and wounded remains unclear because of the large discrepancies between the different estimates. According to initial reports from the Chinese Red Cross, there were 2,600 casualties

