

# Teacher Overview Objectives:

## *Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution*

### NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification	Objectives
<p>10.7 DECOLONIZATION AND NATIONALISM (1900–2000): Nationalist and decolonization movements employed a variety of methods, including nonviolent resistance and armed struggle. Tensions and conflicts often continued after independence as new challenges arose. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GEO, SOC, GOV, CIV,)</p>	<p>10.7d Nationalism in China influenced the removal of the imperial regime, led to numerous conflicts, and resulted in the formation of the communist People’s Republic of China.</p>	<p>Students will investigate political, economic, and social policies under Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping and compare and contrast these policies.</p>	<p>1. Identify methods Mao Zedong used to gain, consolidate, and maintain power in China.</p>

1

# How did Mao Zedong and the Communist of China gain, consolidate, and maintain power?

Objective: Identify methods Mao Zedong used to gain, consolidate, and maintain power in China.

## Introduction

Directions: Examine the images of the leaders below and recall how they gained, consolidated, and maintained power in their nations.



Contextualize the image by answering the questions below.

- 1a. Who is pictured in the image?
- 1b. What nation did he lead?
- 1c. When did he lead that nation?
- 1d. What other information do you recall about this individual?

2. How did this person gain, consolidate, and maintain power in their nation?



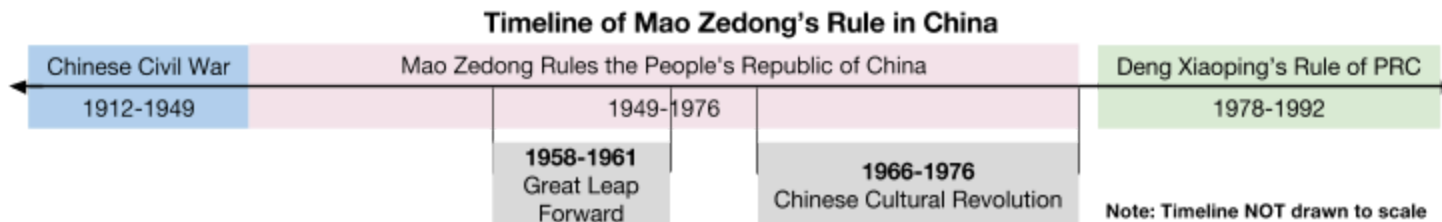
Contextualize the image by answering the questions below.

- 3a. Who is pictured in the image?
- 3b. What nation did he lead?
- 3c. When did he lead that nation?
- 3d. What other information do you recall about this individual?

4. How did this person gain, consolidate, and maintain power in their nation?

## Mao Zedong's Rule of Communist China

After decades of civil war, Mao Zedong and his supporters established the People's Republic of China, a Communist nation, in 1949. Mao was a totalitarian dictator whose methods for gaining, consolidating, and maintaining control are exemplified through his two most well known policies: the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.



**Directions:** As you read the information below, annotate it by placing a “G” next to examples of methods that Mao used to gain power in China, a “C” next to examples of methods he used to consolidate his power, and an “M” next to examples of methods used to maintain power. Then, complete the questions accompanying the documents. At the end of the activity, fill in the graphic organizer below.

<p><b>GAIN</b></p> <p><b>Gaining power</b> is the process of getting it and expanding it.</p>	<p><b>CONSOLIDATE</b></p> <p><b>Consolidating power</b> is the process of taking control from other people who also have power.</p>	<p><b>MAINTAIN</b></p> <p><b>Maintaining power</b> is the process of keeping one's power.</p>
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	<b>Great Leap Forward</b>	<b>Cultural Revolution</b>
<b>Methods Mao used to gain, consolidate, and maintain his power through each policy</b>		

## The Great Leap Forward (1958-1961)

▶ Watch [this video about the Great Leap Forward](#), examine the images below and read the text, then answer the questions that follow.

The Great Leap Forward was an economic and social plan used from 1958 to 1960 which aimed to use China's vast population to rapidly transform mainland China from a primarily agrarian (or farming) economy dominated by peasant farmers into a modern, industrialized communist society.

Mao Zedong based this program on the Five Year Plans used by Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union.

The Great Leap Forward is now widely seen—both within China and outside—as a major economic and humanitarian disaster, with estimates of the number of people killed by famine during this period ranging from a minimum of 14 million to as many as 43 million.

Source: New World Encyclopedia. "Great Leap Forward." [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Great\\_Leap\\_Forward](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Great_Leap_Forward)

### Video Questions

1. What were the goals of the Great Leap Forward?

### Document 1



In Xinyang county, Henan, during the Great Leap Forward era, commune members worked in the night, using lamps as light, 1959.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Xinyang\\_working\\_at\\_night.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Xinyang_working_at_night.jpg)

2. What was a “commune”?

3. What was the result of the attempt to have peasants make steel on their communes during the Great Leap Forward?

## Document 2



Backyard furnace to produce steel during the Great Leap Forward era, 1958.

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Backyard\\_furnace4.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Backyard_furnace4.jpg)

## Document 3

### Great Leap Forward Famine Death Estimates

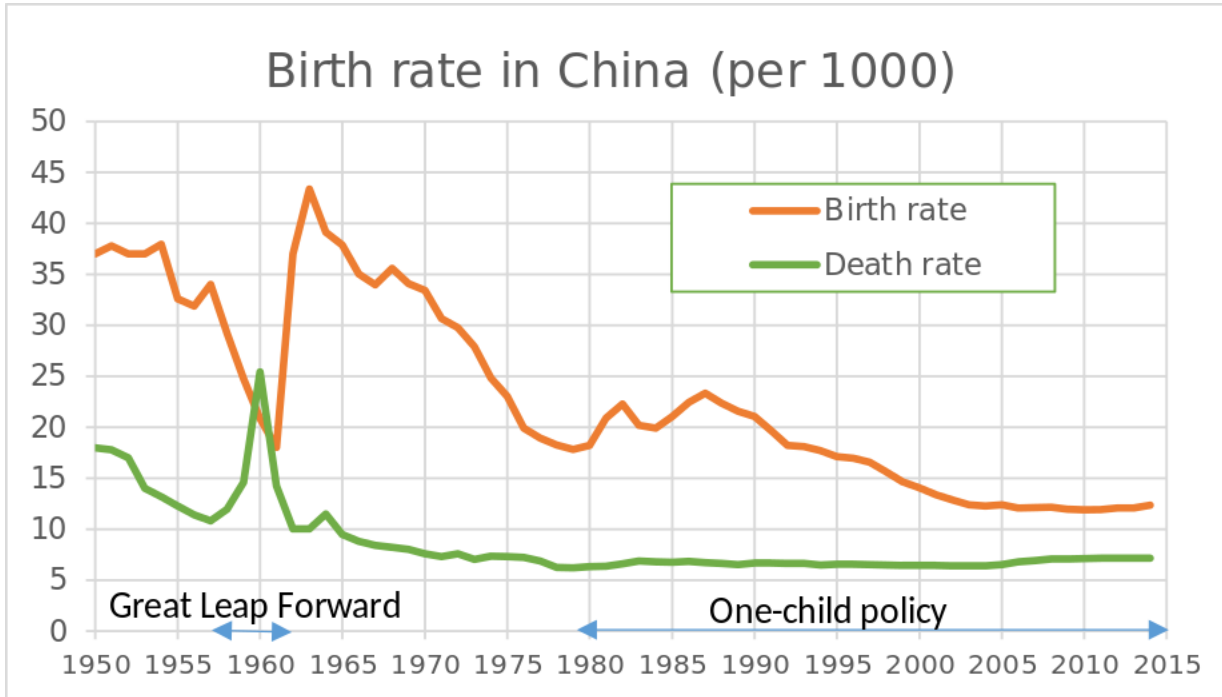
Deaths (millions)	Authors	Year
23	Peng	1987
27	Coale	1984
30	Ashton, <i>et al</i>	1984
30	Banister	1987
30	Becker	1996
32.5	Cao	2005
36	Yang	2008
38	Chang and Halliday	2005
38	Rummel	2008
42 min.	Dikotter	2010
43-46	Chen	1980

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Leap\\_Forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Leap_Forward)

4. Did the Great Leap Forward's policies lead to more food production in China? Why or why not?

5. What were the effects of the Great Leap Forward in China?

## Document 4



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Birth\\_rate\\_in\\_China.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Birth_rate_in_China.svg)

6. Was the Great Leap Forward successful? Explain.

## The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)

▶ Watch this [NTDTV video on the Cultural Revolution](#) and [this documentary about the Cultural Revolution](#), examine the images below and read the text, then answer the questions that follow.

The **Chinese Cultural Revolution** was a massive social upheaval from 1966 through 1976 brought on by a struggle for power within the Communist Party of China, in which at least half a million people died and the People's Republic of China was brought to the brink of civil war.

The Cultural Revolution was initiated by Party Chairman Mao Zedong in 1966 to reassert his leadership after the disasters of the Great Leap Forward. After the failures of the Great Leap Forward, other party members challenged Mao's authority. In response, Mao and his supporters purged the CCP of those who opposed him, trained Chinese youths to worship Mao and his sayings, and then empowered those young people to rebel against their elders to defend Mao's revolution. In the chaos and violence that ensued, much of China's artistic legacy was destroyed and millions were persecuted, some of whom lost their lives.

Source: "Cultural Revolution." New World Encyclopedia. [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Cultural\\_Revolution](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Cultural_Revolution)

### Document 1



The Chinese People's Liberation Army is the great school of Mao Zedong Thought, 1969. A poster from the Cultural Revolution, featuring an image of Chairman Mao, and published by the government of the People's Republic of China.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cultural\\_Revolution\\_poster.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cultural_Revolution_poster.jpg)

### Video Questions

1. What were the goals of the Cultural Revolution?

2. What were the *Four Olds*?

3. What methods did Mao use to change Chinese culture during the Cultural Revolution?

## Document 2



Red Guards on the cover of an elementary school textbook from 1971.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Red\\_Guards.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Guards.jpg)

## Document 3



Panchen Lama, a religious leader in Tibetan Buddhism, denounced during a struggle session, 1964.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Panchen\\_Lama\\_during\\_the\\_struggle\\_\(thamzing\)\\_session\\_1964.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Panchen_Lama_during_the_struggle_(thamzing)_session_1964.jpg)

4. How did Mao try to change education in China during the Cultural Revolution?

5. Who were the Red Guards?

6. Who was targeted and denounced by the Red Guards? Why did the Red Guards denounce these people?

7. What methods did the Red Guards use to denounce “counter-revolutionaries?”



## Document 4



A 1968 map of Beijing showing streets and landmarks renamed during the Cultural Revolution. Andingmen Inner Street became "Great Leap Forward Road", Taijichang Street became the "Road for Eternal Revolution", Dongjiaominxiang was renamed "Anti-Imperialist Road", Beihai Park was renamed "Worker-Peasant-Soldier Park" and Jingshan Park became "Red Guard Park." Most of the Cultural Revolution-era name changes were later reversed.

Source:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beijing\\_1968\\_1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beijing_1968_1.jpg)

## Document 5



A scene from the *Red Detachment of Women*, a play written during the Cultural Revolution that glorified Mao, 1972.

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Revolutionary\\_opera.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Revolutionary_opera.jpg)

8. Why do you think Mao gave young people so much power during the Cultural Revolution?

9. What ended the Cultural Revolution?

10. What were the effects of the Cultural Revolution in China?



## Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

1. During the Great Leap Forward, Chinese peasants were forced to

- (1) join communes
- (2) move to the cities
- (3) convert to Christianity
- (4) attack the Red Guards

2. What was an immediate result of the Great Leap Forward (1958)?

- (1) independence of Kenya from Great Britain
- (2) the breakup of the Soviet Union
- (3) the relocation of Bosnian refugees
- (4) increased famine in China

3. One similarity between Stalin's five-year plans and Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward was that both programs attempted to

- (1) increase industrial production
- (2) privatize the ownership of land
- (3) correct environmental pollution
- (4) strengthen international trade

4. In China the terms "Long March," "Little Red Book," and "Great Leap Forward" are most closely associated with the

- (1) economic policies of the Kuomintang
- (2) expulsion of foreigners during the Boxer Rebellion
- (3) foreign policy under Deng Xiaoping
- (4) leadership of Mao Zedong

Base your answers to questions 5 and 6 on the song lyrics below and on your knowledge of social studies.

### **East is Red**

The east is red, the sun is rising,  
China has brought forth a Mao Zedong,  
He amasses fortune for the people,  
Hurrah, he is the people's great savior.

Chairman Mao loves the people,  
He is our guide,  
To build a new China,  
Hurrah, he leads us forward!

The Communist Party is like the sun,  
Wherever it shines, it is bright,  
Wherever there is a Communist Party,  
Hurrah, there the people are liberated!

5. This 1960s Chinese song would most likely have been sung during the

- (1) return of Hong Kong
- (2) Cultural Revolution
- (3) Boxer Rebellion
- (4) Tiananmen Square incident

6. What is the main idea of this 1960s Chinese song?

- (1) The Sun will never set on Chinese communism.
- (2) Communist policies will liberate Mao Zedong.
- (3) The Chinese people will become wealthy under communism.
- (4) Mao Zedong will lead the Communist Party in building a new China.

7. One similarity between the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution and the Cultural Revolution in China was that both

- (1) limited the power of absolute leaders
- (2) illustrated the power of public opinion in forming national policy
- (3) established social stability and economic growth
- (4) used violent methods to eliminate their opponents

8. One way in which the Hitler Youth of Germany and the Red Guard of China are similar is that both organizations

- (1) required unquestioning loyalty to the leader
- (2) helped increase religious tolerance
- (3) hindered imperialistic goals
- (4) led pro-democracy movements