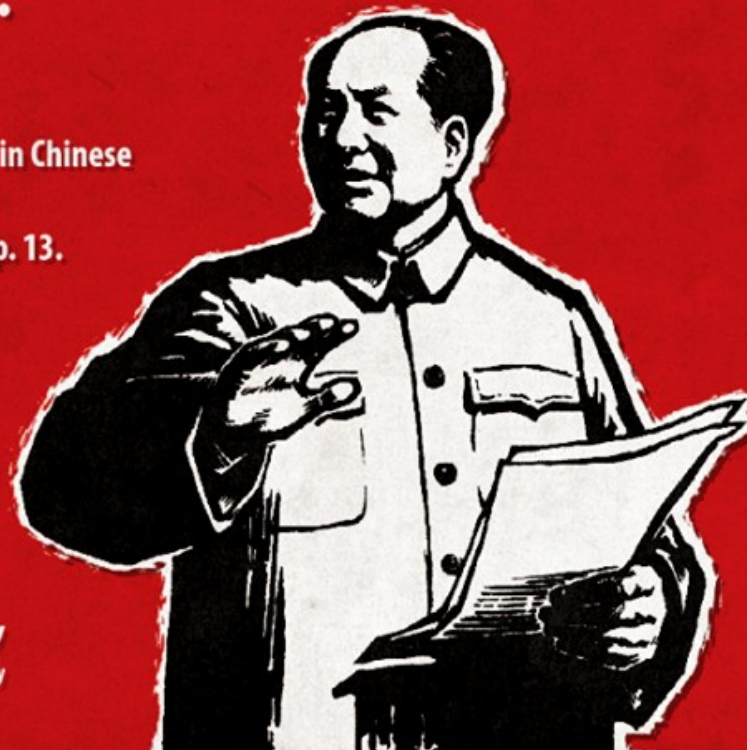


Mao's China

**"Who are our enemies?
Who are our friends?
That is a question of the first
importance for the
revolution."**

– Mao Zedong

"Analysis of the Classes in Chinese
Society" (March 1926),
Selected Works, Vol. 1, p. 13.



The Mao Zedong Society
www.facebook.com/TheMaoZedongSociety

Transition to new Communist Government

- Rather than a communist revolution the takeover was gradual.
- Chinese tradition believed new rulers gained the “Mandate from Heaven”. The right to rule because they had seized power.

Democratic Centralism

- Ruthless centralist control (Leninist)
- Total obedience to Communist leaders
- Agrarian Land Reform = redistributed land
- New Red government in China



The Communists First Plan

- Improve standard of living
- State controlled industry
- Peasants could sell some produce privately
- Receive aid from USSR
- Emphasize heavy industry
- Use 5 year plans (adopted from Soviets)

Mao opens criticism of the plan

- Those who spoke out to harshly were punished
- Mao recognized problems
- Land was collectivized into Agricultural Producer Co-operatives (APCs)
- Largely unpopular with people



Great Leap Forward

- Implemented because of criticism of 5 year plans
- They had emphasized one sector of the economy at the expense of another
- Big industry was successful, small industry starved



Great Leap Forward

- Great industrial and scientific activity
- Emphasis on muscle power and ingenuity
- Many small communal factories



Was the Great Leap Forward successful?

- Moderate success
- Dramatic increase in industrial production
- Many problems like famine and environmental damage remained



The Cultural Revolution

- Mao wanted to enforce a more pure type of communism
- China would move toward the utopian goals of Marxism



The philosopher king speaks

- Mao steps down as president and becomes the philosopher king (he is still Chairman)
- 'Going Down' : specialists should get their hands dirty doing manual labor
- Communist party was becoming merely an oligarchy
- He developed a unique version of socialism

Red Guards

- Bands of youths were organized into Red Guards who targeted government officials, capitalists, and specialists
- Carried little red book with Maoist sayings
- Bible of cultural revolution



Cultural Revolution - Significance

- Many government officials had been dismissed
- China went into the brink of civil war
- Red Army had been too zealous in their methods to establish true communism
- After, education became much 'redder'
- 'Going down' became common practice
- 'Barefoot doctors' became common