

# Edexcel iGCSE History

## Topic C6: Conflict, Crisis & Change: China 1934-89

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- The Triumph of Mao and the CCP, 1934-49
- Change under Mao, 1949-63
- The impact of the Cultural Revolution
- Change under Deng Xiaoping
- The Development of the Democracy Movement

## The Triumph of Mao and the CCP, 1934-49

### The events and importance of the Long March (1934-35)

#### Main Events:

- The long March was an epic retreat by the Three Red armies of China between 1934 and 1936 which took place during the Chinese Civil war.
- The Chinese communist forces were surrounded and trapped by the nationalist Kuomintang led by Chiang Kai-shek.
- The Kuomintang were better led and more numerous so communists fled west and north.
- In October 1934 the Red armies set out and marched about 9,000 km in a large arcshape ending in Shaanxi province in October 1935.
- In Jan 1935- meeting of CCP and leadership of march handed to Mao.
- En-route the Red army fought a disasterous series of battles. only 20% of men survived.

#### Importance of the Long March:

- The CCP found a new base away from the GMD & safe from the Japanese. This helped increase the CCP Standing in China.
- Mao hailed as hero of the march - unchallenged leader.
- Good propaganda tool for the CCP- spread ideas as they marched.
- Good behavior of red army during march impressed local people and made them want to join the CCP.
- Mao emerged as the clear leader of the CCP & influence of Russia declined.
- Ensured the survival of the Communists.

### The War with Japan

- In 1936 the Japanese took advantage of the civil war between the Guomindang and the Communists and advanced further into China.

#### The Second United Front:

- Japan invaded **Manchuria** in 1931 - after which Mao and the CCP declared war against them.
- Mao also called for the **GMD and CCP to unite** against the Japanese.
- Chiang Kaisehek saw the Japanese invasion as less of a threat to the GMD's power than the CCP and so initially **refused** to join forces with them.
- It was not until 1937 that the GMD agreed to join forces in a **Second United Front** against the Japanese.

#### How did the war with Japan affect the Chinese people?

- The war was **extremely brutal**. The Chinese people were subject to extreme terror.
- Chinese people were **raped, tortured and murdered** in extremely high numbers. Over 4 million Chinese were killed and 60 million made homeless.

How did the war with Japan affect the CCP?

- Because the Japanese controlled the coastal areas, the **GMD** government had to move to Chongqing. This was important for the CCP as it allowed them to move to northern areas and gain further support.
- The CCP's policy of driving the Japanese out of China was popular and attracted further support.
- The bravery and determination of the CCP also increased support.

How did the war with Japan affect the GMD?

- GMD officials shown to be very **corrupt** - only interested in their own positions and power.
- The power of the **warlords** increased, losing the GMD more support.

### Reasons for the Success of the CCP in the Civil War:

Why did the CCP win the Civil War?

- The CCP controlled Manchuria from 1946 - taking over GMD troops and weapons; plenty of raw materials such as iron - helped by the Russians, who obviously wanted the CCP to win.
- The CCP used guerrilla tactics effectively.
- The majority of peasants supported the CCP.
- The People's Liberation Army was well-disciplined.
- The CCP had tough, effective leaders.

Why did the GMD lose the Civil War?

- The **Americans** would not send in troops to help the GMD.
- In spite of a much bigger army at the start, the GMD was not successful at fighting. They were **badly organised**.
- The GMD army **treated its soldiers very badly** so they didn't want to fight.
- GMD officials were **brutal and corrupt** - they were only interested in making money.
- The GMD lost support in the **cities** as inflation soared and there were shortages of many goods.

### Change under Mao, 1949-63

#### Changes in Agriculture and Industry

The First Five Year Plan:

- It started in 1952 and was an attempt to improve China's **economy** (which was in a bad state) quickly.
- A **new currency** (the yuan) was introduced and prices and wages were fixed to reduce inflation.
- **Heavy industries** like coal, steel and oil were the focus and targets were set for their improvement.
- **Russia** sent thousands of expert advisers to help improve industry.
- Millions went to live in **cities** to find work in the new factories. In some cities, there was a shortage of housing and sometimes of food.

- Overall, it was a **success**. A very high growth of 9% was achieved and most of the production targets were met. Industry – especially heavy industry – significantly improved over the 5 years between 1952 and 1957.

#### The Agrarian Reform Law:

- In 1950 Mao introduced the Agrarian Reform Law. He sent his Communist Party workers into each village to enforce it.
- They shared out village land between the peasants.

#### Attack on the Landlords:

- He also encouraged peasants to put landlords on trial in so-called 'People's Courts'.
- At these trials landlords were accused of such things as charging high rents or mistreating their tenants.
- Though many of them were let off, others were imprisoned or executed.
- Party workers helped set up the courts but it was the peasants who ran them and made the decisions. This further increased support for Mao.

#### Collectivization:

- The **collectives** (or **communes**) were more efficient because modern machinery (e.g. tractors) could be shared. Peasants would not have been able to afford it on their own.
- Collectives also allowed the CCP to **control** the peasants. CCP members could keep a close eye on them in the communes and feed them with propaganda.
- It was also part of **communist ideology** – everything should be shared by the people and there should be no private property.

### The Hundred Flowers Campaign

Why did Mao start the campaign?

No-one really knows, but...

- Maybe he really wanted more **freedom** of discussion and for ordinary people to get involved in politics (and didn't expect much criticism).
- Maybe he wanted people to **criticise local communist leaders**, some of whom he had heard had not been treating the local people fairly.
- Maybe he wanted to catch out people who were against him (lure '**snakes out of lairs**').

#### Main Events:

- There was a lot of criticism of the Five Year Plan and its effects, especially by middle class people such as teachers, writers and artists.
- Party leaders and officials were criticised for being corrupt or inefficient.
- Even Mao himself was criticised by some people.

consequences of the campaign:

- Mao ended the campaign and punished people who had been critical.
- He began an 'Anti-Rightist' movement, which was directed by Deng Ziaoping.
- Most of the critics were arrested, lost their jobs and were sent to labour camps for 're-education'.
- Altogether, about 500,000 people were punished.

## The Great Leap Forward

### What was the Great Leap Forward?

- This was the name given to the **Second Five-Year Plan**, starting in 1957. It had two main aims.
- First, it was a plan to modernise China's **industry** and make it into a powerful industrial country within fifteen years.
- Second, it was meant to modernise Chinese **agriculture** so that enough food could be grown to feed the population.

### Key Features of the Great Leap Forward:

- Mao believed the key to its success was to use the **millions of peasants** in China to do the work – instead of machinery and experts, who he distrusted.
- Instead of building big factories in cities, the CCP encouraged peasants to set up small-scale industries in the countryside (called the '**industrialisation of the countryside**'). For example, they had to make steel in **backyard blast furnaces**.
- To improve **agriculture**, massive schemes of irrigation and dams were planned, to be built by enormous armies of labourers.
- People were forced to live in **People's Communes**, units of up to 30,000 peasants. In a Commune, peasants lived in barracks, ate in canteens and gave up their small plots of land. (see pages 10–11 for more details).
- **Targets** were set for every village, commune and factory. These targets were extremely high and people were too scared to argue with them.

### Why was the Great Leap Forward such a failure?

- The Great Leap Forward was a terrible **disaster**.
- The peasant industries **did not work** properly – no-one had the expertise to run them properly. E.g. the steel produced in the backyard furnaces was so poor it could not be used.
- People **lied** about the amount they had produced because they were scared of what would happen to them if they did not meet their **targets**. This meant that even crazier targets were set.
- **Foolish ideas** like ploughing deep, planting crops too closely together and killing birds led to poor harvests.
- Peasants **neglected the farms** to look after the industries and a disastrous famine began (1959–1961). At least 16 million people died of **starvation**. (see pages 12–13)
- **No-one dared criticise** the plan for fear of being labelled a 'rightist' or a 'counter-revolutionary'.

### What effect did the failure of the Great Leap Forward have on Mao and the CCP?

- Mao eventually admitted that mistakes had been made and had to **resign** as President of China – but kept his job as Chairman of the CCP.

- In 1962 **Deng Xiaoping** and **Liu Shaoqi** took over the running of the economy and changed it a lot. E.g. they allowed peasants to have their private plots of land again so that more food could be produced.

## The Impact of the Cultural Revolution

### Mao's Motives for the Cultural Revolution:

Mao **said** he started the Cultural Revolution because;

- He thought that China was becoming too **westernised** (following the capitalist road) and that CCP leaders were better off than ordinary people.
- There were **too many experts** in China and they were damaging the country .

However, the **real reasons** he started it were that;

- He wanted to regain the **power** he lost after the failure of the Great Leap Forward (he complained he was being treated like a 'dead ancestor').
- He wanted to get rid of **Deng and Liu**.
- He may have been influenced by his wife, **Jiang Qing**.

### Key Features of the Cultural Revolution:

What Happened?

- Mao knew that ordinary Chinese, especially the young, idolised him so he set up the **Red Guards**. These were groups of young people who studied his ideas (in the Little Red Book) and basically worshipped Mao almost like a god (or emperor!)
- Huge **demonstrations** were held in Tiananmen Square, Beijing and **posters** and pictures of Mao were put up everywhere.
- The Red Guards were told to attack **anyone in authority** - teachers, parents, intellectuals, scientists, civil servants, doctors... They were forced to confess to being 'class enemies' or 'capitalist roaders'. Many were **tortured and killed**
- Liu and Deng were **sacked** and humiliated; Liu died in prison in 1969. Many local CCP leaders and officials were attacked.
- The '**Four Olds**' (anything to do with traditional China) were attacked and often destroyed (e.g. temples, art, tea houses).
- Anything **western** was attacked (e.g. western music, plays, writing). Jiang Qing ordered new operas and plays to glorify the revolution instead

### Effects of the Cultural Revolution:

- **Schools and universities closed** for two years or more - a whole generation lost their education.
- **Industry** suffered and production almost stopped by 1968 - the economy was in ruins.
- Rival gangs of Red Guards began to clash and many old personal scores were settled.  
**Law and order** virtually broke down between 1966 and 1968
- Many CCP leaders were **arrested** and sent into the countryside to work as peasants
- Probably at least **a million people** died as a result of the Cultural Revolution

## Change under Deng Xiaoping

### Key Changes under Deng Xiaoping:

#### 1. Education

- Deng reversed the educational reforms of the cultural revolution.
- This meant that exams were brought out of boycott and it was now essential to be a success at academic subjects and to get into university.
- Key Schools were set up for the best students in China in order to provide them with the best education possible.
- This meant that less time and money was spent on political education & Manual Labour.

#### 2. Birth Control

- In 1979, Deng introduced the "one Child" family policy in an attempt to reduce China's rapid rate of population growth.
- The minimum age for marriage was set at 20 for women and 22 for men.
- Families had to take a written test in Family planning.
- Families with one child were given extra allowances such as ration coupons and better access to education to convince families to have only one child.

#### 3. Agriculture

- In 1978, Deng launched a responsibility system for commune land, which gave families a responsibility to cultivate areas of land within their commune.
- Deng also ruled that families were allowed to sell any surplus crops at a market for profit.
- By 1983, the income of Farmers had tripled since this law had been passed.

#### 4. Industry

- Deng's main focus was on Capital Construction and improving heavy industry.
- 55 Billion Yen was invested in steel, iron and coal.
- In 1981, Deng introduced the Industrial responsibility system, which meant that a percentage of the profit would go to the state.
- This improved the motivation of industrial workers which consequently increased productivity levels.
- Public ownership was not allowed, but the government gave more freedom to the management of state owned enterprises.

### The Emergence of Westernization:

- When Deng came to power, China became a much more open society.
- E.g. More range of television shows, foreign Music, Foreign "Western" Food.
- When Westernization occurred in China, the occurrence of Drug abuse rose higher than ever before as more people were getting into night life.
- The Number of Abortions in China increased.

## **The Treatment of the "Gang of Four"**

### **Rise of Gang of Four**

The Right suffered a real setback in 1976, when Zhou died and was succeeded by Deng. He had been a popular leader and thousands of people went to Tiananmen Square in Beijing to lay wreaths and put up posters in his memory. On 5 April 1976 visitors to the Square found that the wreaths had been removed and the posters taken down. 10,000 people rioted to show their support for Zhou and Deng, followed by about 200 arrests.

In other cities, such as Shanghai and Kunming, there were similar protests of support for Zhou. The Left, however, cleverly blamed the riots on Deng and removed him from the Party and government. They replaced Deng with Hua Guofeng (Hua Kuo-feng) who was a relatively unknown politician. Indeed he was nicknamed the 'helicopter' because of his rapid rise to power.

The Gang of Four now seemed in control of the Communist Party and the government. When Mao died, September 1976, the Gang of Four prepared to take full power.

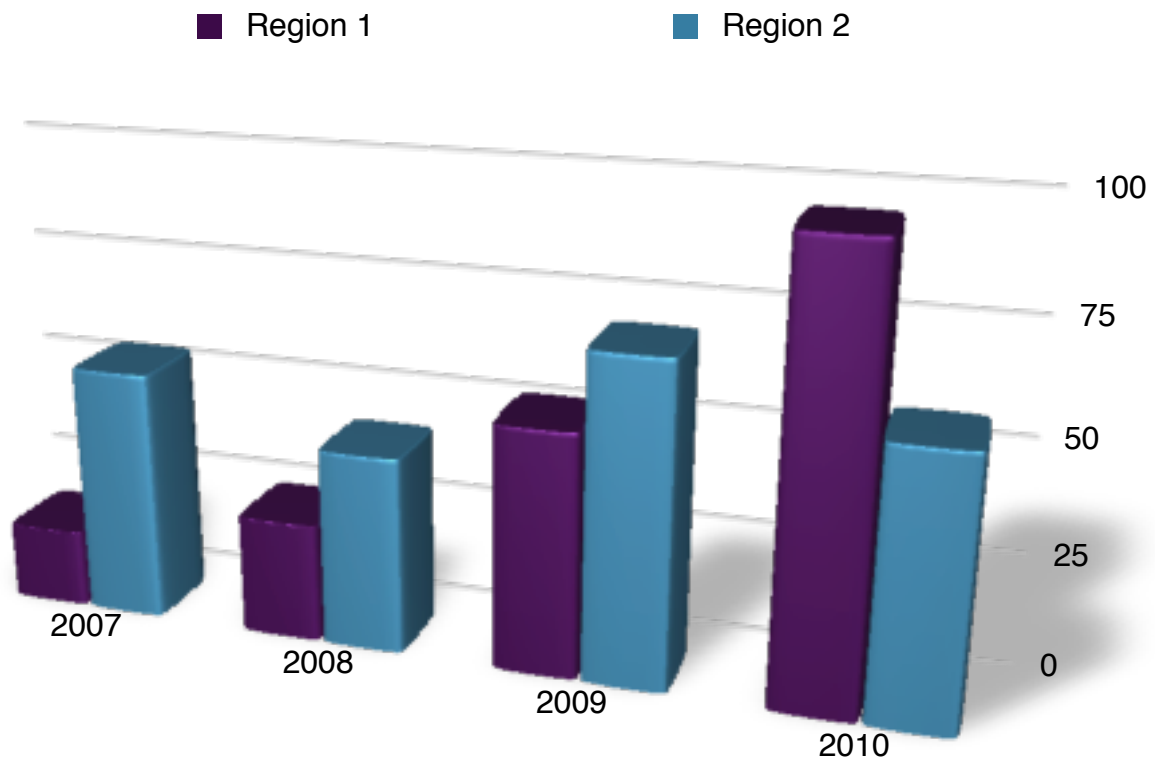
### **The fall of the Gang of Four**

The Gang of Four were out-manoeuvred by the Politburo, the central body of the Communist Party. The Politburo gave the post of Party Chairman, following Mao's death, to Hua Guofeng, the new Prime Minister. Hua was in a very powerful position as he now controlled the Party and the armed forces. He had the Gang of Four arrested in October 1976:

- There was some evidence that they had been plotting against Hua.
- The Gang of Four was hated by millions of Chinese for its brutal and extreme left wing views. Many demanded severe punishments of the Gang of Four.

Their arrest was followed by yet another political campaign. In the press, on the radio and in posters, the Gang of Four were criticised and attacked. Jiang Qing was even portrayed as a cruel, scheming pornographer. In the winter of 1980-81, the Gang of Four were put on trial. All four were found guilty and sentenced to long terms in prison.





## The Development of the Democracy Movement

### Causes of the Democracy Movement:

- Deng's economic reforms & Western methods led people to believe he was going to reform the political system.
- Thousands of Students who studied abroad returned home to a foreign china.
- The CCP was full of corruption.
- Inflation and unemployment in China was rising at a worrying rate.

### Key Features & aims of the Democracy Movement:

#### Aims of the Democracy Movement:

1. To uphold the leadership of the communist party.
2. To uphold Marxist Leninism and Maoism.
3. To uphold the people's democracy dictatorship
4. To keep to the Socialist Road.

#### Key Features of the Democracy Movement:

#### What Happened?

- In the early 1980's there were many protests in universities all around China.
- The movement was not organised and did not challenge the CCP.
- In 1980, the govnt. deleted article 45 from the constitution, which meant that the Chinese lost freedom of speech once again.
- The Govnt. "attacked" plotters who tried to go against this decision.
- This irritated students and Student unrest reached a peak in 1986 and 1987.
- Inflation and unemployment continued to rise.

### The Reaction of Deng Xiaoping:

- Deng Xiaoping tolerated the Democracy movement for a long period of time.
- However, after a while he decided to organise attacks on the protestors as a word of warning for the movement.
- In 1986, Deng insisted that genuine democracy was not an option for China.
- He thought that people should not have a say in the politics of China and that they should be content and let their enlightened government lead them.

### **Tiananmen Square, 1989**

#### **What Happened?**

- Student Protests occurred as students came to Tiananmen Square from 40 Chinese Universities.
- The government talked to the students to negotiate, but they refused to call off the protests.
- The government were forced to call off the mass Rally in Tiananmen Square.
- On 3rd June, the government ordered tanks to clear the square.
- Roughly 7,000 Students were killed and 1,000 were arrested.

#### **Effects of The Massacre:**

- In the following weeks, demonstrators who had escaped from the Square were rounded up and imprisoned. The ringleaders were given especially heavy sentences.
- CCP officials who had shown any support for the democracy movement were dismissed whilst those who had opposed the demonstrations were promoted.
- The Chinese authorities later disclosed that 23 students had been killed accidentally.
- The demonstration marked the end of the democracy movement in China. At the Fourteenth Party Congress of the CCP, held in October 1992, the dictatorship of the Communist Party was confirmed. No criticism or opposition was to be permitted.
- The massacre confirmed that the economic reforms of Deng would not be followed by political change.

### **Exam-Style Questions**

#### **Part B Questions**

- Describe the Key Features of the Long March. **(7 Marks)**
- Describe the Key Features of the change in industry and agriculture under Deng. **(7 Marks)**
- Describe the Key Features of the Gang of Four. **(7 Marks)**
- Describe the Key Features of the Great Leap Forward. **(7 Marks)**
- Describe the Key Features of the Cultural Revolution. **(7 Marks)**
- Describe the Key Features of the changes under Deng Xiaoping. **(7 Marks)**
- Describe the Key Features of the Democracy Movement. **(7 Marks)**

#### **Part C Questions**

- In what ways did support for Mao and the CCP change in the years 1934–70? **(15 Marks)**

**Mention:**

- The Long March
- The Civil War
- The Great Leap Forward
- The Cultural Revolution

- In what ways did agriculture and industry change in the years 1952-1957? (15 Marks)

**Mention:**

- The First Five year Plan
- Attack on the Landlords
- The Agrarian Reform Law
- Collectivisation

- How did the treatment of opponents of the CCP Change from 1949 to 1989? (15 Marks)

**Mention:**

- Attacks on the "Rightists"
- The Hundred Flowers Campaign
- The Cultural Revolution
- The Democracy Movement