**The Chinese Cultural Revolution Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Communism**

China became a communist nation in 1949 after the Chinese Civil War. The type of communism in China is often called Maoism after Mao Zedong.

The history of Communism began with the writings of Karl Marx who is considered the Father of Communism. Marx was a German **philosopher** and economist who in 1848 wrote about his ideas in a book called *The Communist Manifesto*. Marx listed several points of communism. Here are a few.

1. No private property
2. One single central bank
3. High income tax that taxed richer people more
4. All private land/real estate would beconfiscated
5. No rights to inheritance
6. Government owned all communication and transportation
7. The government owns and controls all education
8. The government controls all factories and farming

The original positive ideas of communism have not come true among the governments that have adopted it. In Marx’s theory, low class people were supposed to be helped by Marxism, but in reality the leaders of these governments have treated the poor horribly. In fact, during the era of Mao Zedong, the poverty rate was at 53%.

In addition, according to the “Black Book of Communism,” an estimated 65 million Chinese died as a result of Mao’s repeated, **merciless** attempts to create a new “socialist” China.  Chinese communism did not allow religious freedom, and people were trapped and not permitted to move to other countries. Also, people had to turn over all rights to their land and property to the government. As a result, the government officials became incredibly powerful, and the Chinese government was under fire for years for human rights **violations.** This included many **executions,** holding prisoners without trial, and wide-ranging **censorship.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Who is considered the Father of Communism?
   1. Vladimir Lenin b. Joseph Stalin
2. Mao Zedong d. Karl Marx
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following is **not** a part of communism?
   1. Government controlled farms
   2. No private property
   3. Freedom of religion
   4. Government controlled factories
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Make an inference.) Communist countries have Freedom of the Press.
   1. True b. False
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What happened to the poverty rate when Mao was the head of China?
   1. It was 6% c. It went up by 53%
6. It went down by 6% d. It was 53%
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How did the communist party take over China?
   1. By winning the Chinese Civil War
   2. By killing over 45 million people
   3. It was a concession of WWII
   4. The Chinese people voted to have a communist state
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ In reality communist governments have proven to be
   1. effective and good for the people
   2. helpful to the rich
   3. helpful to the poor
   4. ineffective and brutal
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ It is estimated that \_\_\_\_\_ people were killed in four years of Mao’s leadership.
   1. 65,000,000
   2. 65,000
   3. 6,500
   4. Mao was not responsible for any deaths.

**The Chinese Cultural Revolution**

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, 無產階級文化大革命, was a time of large [cultural](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Culture) change in [China](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/China), started by the leader [Mao Zedong](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Mao_Zedong). It occurred from 1966 to 1976 when Mao felt that the only way to change the Chinese government completely was by completely changing the Chinese culture.

To get rid of the old ways, he started the [Socialist](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Socialist) Education Movement. In redoing the school system, he made sure that students were able to also work in [factories](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Factories) and[**communes**](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Commune). In 1965 many fights were breaking out, and China faced [anarchy](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Anarchy). (Anarchy means a lack of any ruling government, which leads to disorder and lawlessness.)

So Mao tried to get support from young people in China by creating the book [*Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong*](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Quotations_from_Chairman_Mao_Zedong)*.* This book was also known as the Little Red Book, a collection of Mao's sayings. As the young people read his book, Mao was able to create the Red Guard. The young people of the Red Guard went around not just teaching Mao's sayings, but enforcing communist views and trying to rid the nation of the so-called "Four Olds" — old customs, old culture, old habits and old ideas. Mao used the Red Guard to beat people who disagreed with Mao. The Guard also destroyed homes, antiques, ancient texts, Buddhist temples, and museums. In addition, they almost destroyed the entire population of Pekingese dogs who were associated with the old imperial government. Very few of the dogs survived, and the breed nearly went extinct in its homeland of China.

The Red Guards also **publicly** **humiliated** teachers, monks, former landowners or anyone else suspected of being "**counter-revolutionary."** People even **suspected** of not being for the new government were sometimes paraded through the streets of their town with **mocking** signs hung around their necks.

**Effects**

The Cultural Revolution caused a lot of problems in China. **Production** in factories was lowered because the workers spent too much time on [political](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Politics) activities. It was also lowered because the people put in charge of the factories did not know how to run them. [In addition, transportation](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Transportation) was made worse because a lot of trains were being used to take Red Guards around the country.

Many [scientists](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Scientist) and [engineers](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Engineer) were put in jail or sent to work on the farms, which meant that their knowledge was lost. Because of these changes, the **industrial output** of China was reduced by 14 percent. The [education](http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Education) of many Chinese people was also cut short.

**1. Who was the head of the Communist Party in China at the time of the Cultural Revolution?**

A. Sun Yat-Sen B. Deng Xiaoping

C. Mao Zedong D. Zhou Enlai

**2. What years did the Cultural Revolution take place?**

A. 1966-1976 B. 1961-1979

C. 1949-2017 D. 1959-1967

**4. What were Mao's young activists called?**

A. The Defenders

B. Red Guards

C. Counterrevolutionaries

D. China's Fighters

**5. What was the name of the book of Mao's quotes?**

A. *Flowers From China*

B. *Communist China*

C. *The Little Red Book*

D. *The Great and Powerful Mao*

**6.  What was strictly criticized by the government during the Cultural Revolution?**

A. Karl Marx

B. Mao Zadong

C. Things from China in the past

D. All of the above

**7. What breed of dog was considered “Imperial?”**

A.  Chinese pug B. Great Dane

C.  Chinese setter D. Pekingese

**8. Which of the following is an inference you can make from the text?**

A. Communism will not last in China B. Communism is still in China today

C. Mao Zedong had many children D. Communism is not good for people

**Pick the better synonym.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **philosopher** | thinker | enemy |
| 1. **censorship** | cutting out | adding to |
| 1. **merciless** | happy | cruel |
| 1. **violations** | abuses | engagements |
| 1. **execution** | helping | killings |
| 1. **communes** | clubs for kids | communities for work |
| 1. **publicly** | openly | privately |
| 1. **humiliated** | embarrassed | proud |
| 1. **production** | destruction | manufacturing |
| 1. **industrial output** | production | comprehension |
| 1. **counter revolutionary** | against the revolution | for the revolution |
| 1. **suspected** | discussed | thought |
| 1. **mocking** | ridiculing | honoring |



21. Describe this poster using as many details as possible.

22. Why do you think propaganda\* posters like this were effective. Use information from the article and your own knowledge to answer this.

\* misleading literature or media to promote a cause

A 1968 Chinese poster urges Red Guards to smash anti-communist "dog heads."

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