Chinese Revolution of 1949

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What is it?

• The Chinese Communist Revolution or the Chinese Revolution of 1949 was the culmination of the Chinese Communist Party's drive to power since its founding in 1921 and the second part of the Chinese Civil War.
Key Leaders

- Mao Zedong
- Zhou Enlai
- Deng Xiaoping
Mao Zedong

- Emerged as the leader of the communists in the 1930’s
- Mao Zedong declared the creation of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on October 1, 1949.
Zhou Enlai

- Founded Peoples Republic in 1949
- Colossal figure in the Communist Party.
- In 1949, after the Communist Party won the civil war, became China's first premier and foreign minister.
Deng Xiaoping

- One of the first generation of Chinese Communist Party leaders
- Removed from office and imprisoned during the years of the Cultural Revolution
- Reemerged as China's paramount leader shortly after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976.
Chinese Communist Party

- Founded in 1921 in Shanghai, originally existed as a study group working within the confines of the First United Front with the Nationalist Party.
- The founding and ruling political party of the People's Republic of China.
Key Events

• Red war
• People's Republic of China
• Five Year Plans
• Great Leap Forward
• Great Chinese Famine
• Cultural Revolution
People's Republic of China

• Mao Zedong formally declares the People's Republic of China

  The People's Republic of China was founded on a land that was ravaged by a century of foreign invasion and civil wars. Both urban and rural communities as both agriculture and industry experienced significant growth between 1949 to 1959.

• Execution, deaths from forced labor and other atrocities resulted in millions of deaths under Mao.
Five Year Plans

• The country followed up on the Soviet model of Five Year Plans with its own first Five-Year Plan from 1953 to 1957.
• Went through a transformation whereby means of production were transferred from private to public entities, and through nationalization of industry in 1955
• The state basically controlled the economy in a similar fashion to the economy of the Soviet Union.
Great Leap Forward

- Great Leap Forward policy announced; All Soviet personnel expelled.
- Economic and social campaign by the Communist Party of China (CPC) from 1958 to 1961.
- Mao Zedong aimed to rapidly transform the country from an agrarian economy into a socialist society through rapid industrialization. However, it is widely considered to have caused the Great Chinese Famine.
Great Chinese Famine

• Referred to by the Communist Party of China as the Three Years of Natural Disasters
• between the years 1959 and 1961
• Drought, poor weather, and the policies of the Communist Party of China contributed to the famine, although the relative weights of the contributions are disputed due to the Great Leap Forward.
• 15 million excess deaths in this period. However, the Chinese government at this time was taken over by market reformers who were strongly opposed to the Great Leap Forward.
Cultural Revolution

- Mao introduces the Cultural Revolution
- Movement that took place in the People’s Republic of China from 1966 until 1976.
- Its stated goal was to preserve 'true' Communist ideology in the country by purging remnants of capitalist and traditional elements from Chinese society, and to re-impose Maoist thought as the dominant ideology within the Party.
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