

## Mao Zedong (1893-1976)

*Every Communist must grasp the truth, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."*  
—Mao Zedong in a speech delivered on November 6, 1938

As the head of the Chinese Communist party from 1931 until his death, Mao Zedong was one of the most powerful rulers of the 1900s. First as a guerrilla leader and later as the head of government, Mao transformed China from a country that had been ignored into one that was held in respect and even fear.

Mao Zedong was born in Shaoshan, a small village in Hunan province. Mao and his father often clashed, which may have been the source of Mao's rebellious nature. Mao's defiant attitude turned public when he was 18 years old. Influenced by the nationalistic ideas of the revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen, Mao enlisted in the revolutionary army during the Chinese Revolution of 1911, which overthrew the Manchu dynasty. In 1920 Mao's disillusionment with the warlords and the Chinese republic led him to become a Marxist. The following year, he helped establish the Chinese Communist party. Since such activities were illegal, Mao and his fellow Communists worked in secret.

From 1927 to 1934, Mao trained and massed about 300,000 Communist guerrillas to defend his camps against General Chiang Kai-Shek's



Nationalist party. When these attacks intensified, Mao led his troops north in a retreat called the Long March. This proved to be a decisive point in Mao's career. He spent 22 years in the countryside, winning it over. In 1949, Mao marched triumphantly into Beijing. He was the leader of the Chinese Communists—and the People's Republic of China.

Mao's attempt to create a Communist economy was not a success, and he retired from his role as the head of the republic in 1959. Mao regained his control of the country during the upheaval known as the Cultural Revolution, which began in 1966 and ended a decade later. During this time, he called on millions of young soldiers known as Red Guards to "rebel" and "strike out at anything old." Schools and universities were destroyed. Foreign trade and industrial production fell off sharply. Mao also used this time to eliminate his enemies and elevate his third wife, Chiang Ching, to great power.

Mao was able to develop links between the United States and China in the early 1970s, but soon thereafter his power fell off sharply. After his death in 1976, many of his policies were rejected.

ANALYZING A DBQ - MAO

1. WHAT DOES THE STATEMENT MEAN "POLITICAL POWER GROWS OUT OF A BARREL OF A GUN"? \_\_\_\_\_
2. WHO MADE THIS STATEMENT? \_\_\_\_\_
3. WHAT IS FILIAL PIETY? \_\_\_\_\_
4. DID MAO PRACTICE FILIAL PIETY? \_\_\_\_\_ DISCUSS YOUR ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
5. WHAT INDIVIDUAL INFLUENCED MAO TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF REVOLUTION? \_\_\_\_\_
6. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE LAST DYNASTY IN CHINA? \_\_\_\_\_
7. WHAT PARTY DID MAO HELP START? \_\_\_\_\_
8. WHAT POLITICAL PARTY DID MAO HELP DEFEAT? \_\_\_\_\_
9. WHO WAS THE ANTI-COMMUNIST LEADER THAT OPPOSED MAO? \_\_\_\_\_
10. MAO SPENT 22 YEARS WITH THESE PEOPLE AND THEY HELPED HIM TAKE OVER CHINA...NAME THIS GROUP. \_\_\_\_\_
11. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE YOUTH GROUP THAT MAO BACKED....THEY ATTACKED THE ESTABLISHMENT (ANYTHING OLD)? \_\_\_\_\_
12. WHAT WAS THIS PERIOD OF UPHEAVAL CALLED \_\_\_\_\_
13. NAME GIVEN TO THE TRIP THAT MAO MADE TO GET AWAY FROM THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS. \_\_\_\_\_
14. MAO WAS A COMMUNIST.... WHAT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR A COMMUNIST? \_\_\_\_\_

## ANALYZING A POLITICAL CARTOON -

1. WHO RULED CHINA FIRST MAO OR DENG? \_\_\_\_\_
2. WHAT ARE MAO SUPPORTERS HOLDING UP? \_\_\_\_\_
3. WHAT ARE DENG SUPPORTERS WAVING? \_\_\_\_\_
4. MAO'S REVOLUTION ....LIST ONE IDEA THAT CAME OUT OF HIS REVOLUTION.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. DEFINE THE "RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. THE "RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM" IS LINKED WITH WHAT INDIVIDUAL?  
\_\_\_\_\_

