The Impact of Communism In China
It was a time of revolution, upheaval and bloodshed. The events of that period, and the first decades of communist rule which followed, forged the identity of modern China...
The year the **Communists** took control of China, with **Mao Zedong** as the **supreme leader**.
Who was MAO ZEDONG?

- Founded the People's Republic of China
- Leader of China since its establishment in 1949 until his death in 1976.
- Mao’s ideas and philosophies regarding communism and Marxism are often referred to as Maoism.
Early Life

- Mao was born on 26 December 1893 into a well-to-do peasant family in Shaoshan, in Hunan province, central China.

- After training as a teacher, he travelled to Beijing where he worked in the University Library.
Based on these sources, what is one problem the Chinese were facing when Mao was growing up?
Introduction to Communism

- Moved to Peking in 1918 and worked for a Marxist thinker.
- Quickly became a strong believer in Communism and edited radical magazines, organized trade unions, and started schools of his own.
- Became one of the 50 founding members of the Chinese Communist Party.
Focus on the Peasants

- 80% of all Chinese were peasants who lived a life of extreme poverty.
- Mao’s idea was to turn the hidden peasant anger against the local rich as well as the foreigners, and “give guns to anger”
- He encouraged peasants to lead a revolution.
- The support from the peasants helped Mao rise as a leader in the Party.
Under **Chairman Mao Zedong** (as he was called) the government took **complete control of the media** and the **education system**. All **land** was taken away from the wealthy, and **distributed among the people**.
Mao’s Little Red Book

Collection of quotations excerpts from Mao Zedong's past speeches and publications

It was required for every Chinese citizen to own, to read, and to carry the Red Book at all times.
Great Leap Forward – 1958-1966

- Goal to modernize China’s economy.
- Develop agriculture and industry.
- Mao believed that both had to grow **to allow the other to grow**. Industry could only prosper if the work force was well fed.
Communes

- People were forced to live in communes.
- Most contained about 5000 families.
- People in a commune gave up their ownership of tools, animals etc., so that everything was owned by the commune.
- People now worked for the commune and not for themselves.
- Agriculture production declined.
The
Communes

Ammu Nair
The Great Leap Forward - to famine and death.

A manmade disaster ... starving children in Shanghai. Photograph: TopFoto

Photograph: Topography/TopFoto

Ammu Nair
The Great Leap Forward was held responsible for widespread famine and death in 1960 and 1961. About 30 Million people died of starvation.

The failure of the Great Leap Forward led Mao to lose power for a time. He was still part of the government, but no longer had absolute power.
Great Leap Forward
Or backward...
Cultural Revolution

- Mao needed a comeback
- He organized students and sent them throughout the country to spread his ideas and **wipe out** anyone who tried to oppose him
“The reddest, reddest, red sun in our heart, Chairman Mao, and us together”

Ammu Nair
Mao created an extremely effective propaganda campaign that again brought him back to power.
Cultural Revolution

- Revive the revolutionary spirit.
- Get rid of the "Four Olds" which included old customs, old culture, old habits and old ideas.
- Much of the cultural heritage was destroyed, including historical buildings.
Mao’s Red Guard

The Red Guards:
They're job was mainly to destroy the "Four Olds" so they destroyed antiques, books, buildings, monasteries, temples, etc. as well as killing or torturing teachers, school officials, intellectuals that taught old culture or didn't agree with Mao.
'The teacher takes the student as the enemy and uses examinations as weapons to attack the student' - Mao
Death

Mao ruled China until he died on September 9, 1976 from Parkinson's disease. He was 82 years old.
Cultural Revolution ended with Mao’s death.
China after Mao

Deng Xiaoping (pronounced - DUHNG SHOW.PHING)

- A new communist leadership led by Deng Xiaoping.
- Took China to a new economic direction.

“To get rich is glorious”
Deng Xiaoping
1980 Leader of China
RIDE THE CAPITALIST ROAD

ONE BILLION TICKETS, PLEASE.
China after Mao

- Allowed privatization of businesses.
- Technological advances
- Foreign investments
- More openness to western ideas

...leads to the birth of pro-democracy movements.

Deng Xiaoping
1989

Tiananmen Square Massacre
A Pro-democracy movement gone bad...

Chinese troops under the orders of Deng Xiaoping, stormed through Tiananmen Square in the center of Beijing, killing and arresting thousands of pro-democracy protesters.

Most were students....
ALL POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE
6000 Injured

2600 Dead
Today, People’s Republic of China continues its communist tradition.
...as it moves towards capitalism.
Current Leader
President Hu Jintao

“Obama shows China’s President around America...”

There it is! From sea to shining sea! As a visitor, what do you think?

What he doesn’t know is I own all of this!

An upcoming episode of “Undercover Boss”

Ammu Nair
People’s Republic of China

Today, for much of the population in China, living standards have improved dramatically and the room for personal choice has expanded, yet political controls remain tight. Since the late 1970s China has moved from a closed, centrally planned system to a more market-oriented one that plays a major global role.