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during the 1930s. Happy Boy's sufferings were not unique. Between 1911 and 1949, China experienced civil war and foreign invasion. For most Chinese, the turmoil led to hunger and injustice.

## CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

In 1949, the Chinese Communists won power by promising a new order. In the years that followed, they introduced changes that completely transformed China's political, economic, and social life.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ The Chinese Communists set out to revolutionize government, the economy, and society.
- ▶ During the 1950s, China tried to replace the old Confucian order with a new system of thought based on the teachings of Mao Zedong.
- ▶ After 1949, many obstacles stood in the way of China's becoming a modern world power.
- ▶ Because of its vast size and rapidly developing economy, China today ranks as a world leader.

## Literature Connections

In this chapter, you will encounter passages from the following works.

*Rickshaw Boy*, Lao She

*Quotations From Chairman Mao*

*Son of the Revolution*, Liang Heng

*Chinese Lives*, Zhang Xinxin and Sang Ye

*The People's Comic Book*

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

# 1

## THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### FIND OUT

Why did many Chinese people support the Communists?

What ideas influenced Mao Zedong?

How did the Communists achieve order?

**Vocabulary** proletariat, totalitarian state, propaganda

“A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle,” wrote the Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong in 1927. “A revolution is an . . . act of violence by which one class overthrows another.”

During the 1930s and 1940s, Mao rallied supporters to free China from the forces of oppression—greedy landlords, corrupt officials, and foreign imperialists. By 1949, the Chinese Communists had gained control. They then built a powerful state to push through revolutionary changes.

## Communist Victory

Even before World War II ended, the Nationalists and Communists had resumed their bitter struggle for control of China. Backed by the United States, Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist forces battled the Communists, who were led by Mao Zedong.

Mao's peasant armies were highly disciplined. The Nationalists, on the other hand, suffered from low morale. Soldiers were poorly paid and underfed. Massive corruption among Chiang's officials further undermined the Nationalist cause.



By 1949, the Communists had swept into Beijing. To throngs of cheering supporters, Mao Zedong announced the birth of the People's Republic of China.

Chiang retreated with his forces to the island of Taiwan, off the coast of China. There, he set up a government and vowed to regain control of the mainland.

**Appeal of communism.** Why did the Communists succeed? Mao preached a philosophy that appealed to China's poor. He promised to end many years of oppression by landlords and government officials. The Communists, he said, would set up a "dictatorship of the people" and introduce land reform. He denounced imperialism and called for China to industrialize so that it could take its place as a leading world power.

The Communists also won the support of many educated and middle-class Chinese. They welcomed Mao's pledge to end China's humiliation at the hands of the imperial powers.

**Marxism and Maoism.** The writings of Karl Marx, a German philosopher, shaped Mao's ideas about class struggle. During the mid-1800s, Marx had predicted that the **proletariat**, or industrial working class, would rise up against the ruling class. The proletarian revolution would spread around the world and create a new, classless society.

Mao adapted Marxism to Chinese conditions. He put his faith in China's poor, landless peasants to carry out the revolution, because China had only a small industrial working class. The 1917 Communist revolution in Russia also inspired Mao. It showed him that a strong Communist party could lead the people. (See Chapter 33.)

## Creating a New Order

Once in power, the Chinese Communists wrote a new constitution. On paper, it set up a National People's Congress, permitted free elections, and protected other democratic rights. In practice, China became a one-party dictatorship.

Communist party members held all the important jobs and controlled the government and the economy. Supported by the

People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Communists silenced critics and enforced their own views. As head of the Chinese Communist party, Mao Zedong became chairman of the People's Republic of China.

The new Chinese leaders faced many pressing political and economic problems. Years of war had created chaos and caused much suffering. In both cities and rural areas, millions of people faced starvation. Beggars and criminal gangs roamed the land.

To restore order and achieve their revolutionary goals, the Communists turned China into a totalitarian state. In a **totalitarian state**, the government controls every aspect of citizens' lives through a single-party dictatorship.

## Mao's Leadership

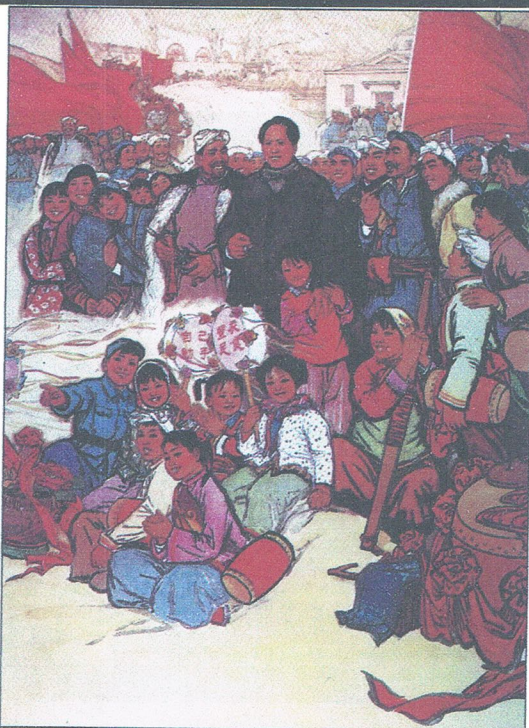
Through huge propaganda campaigns, the Communists made Mao Zedong a popular hero. **Propaganda** is the spread of ideas to promote a cause or damage an opposing cause. Children and adults were taught that Chairman Mao had all the answers to China's problems. They memorized his sayings from *Quotations From Chairman Mao*, better known as the Little Red Book.

In school, in the workplace, and at home, the Chinese learned obedience and loyalty to Mao. A three-year-old boy who ran away from a child-care center was scolded, "You are not Chairman Mao's good little boy. You haven't upheld revolutionary discipline." Years later, Liang Heng recalled how the scolding hurt:

“I had been taught that Chairman Mao was like the sun itself. At home, 'Mao' had been my first word after 'Mama,' 'Baba' [father], and 'Nai Nai' [grandmother]. . . . Later I had learned to say, 'I love Chairman Mao' and 'Long Live Chairman Mao.' ”

Under Mao, China restored order and ended foreign influence. Mao insisted that China become self-sufficient. He promoted programs to increase food production and protect people from periodic famines. Under Mao's leadership, the Chinese built schools





**End of the Long March** This poster, made in 1973, shows Mao Zedong at the end of the Long March in 1936. It glorifies Mao and other revolutionary leaders who survived The Long March. Since most of the Chinese people were illiterate, the Communist government made wide use of colorful posters. **Political System** How might propaganda such as this strengthen Communist control?

and extended basic health care services to the huge population.

Mao launched massive drives to build a "New China." In Section 2, you will read about the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, Mao's programs to transform China's economic structure and social attitudes. Both programs had ambitious goals—and both ended in failure.

## New Directions

Despite the growing discontent with his policies, the Chinese continued to honor Chairman Mao until his death in 1976. Then, in the late 1970s, China's new leader, Deng Xiaoping (duhng syow ping), turned away from some of Mao's ideas. Deng eased some of the government's strict economic controls. He also sent Chinese students to study

abroad, and he welcomed foreign investment in China.

Encouraged by Deng's moderate policies, many of the better-educated Chinese, especially those living in the eastern coastal cities, pressed for democratic reforms. In early 1989, students in Beijing and elsewhere organized huge rallies to demand political freedom.

At first, China's leaders allowed students to gather in Tiananmen Square in central Beijing. Then, in June 1989, the government ordered the students to go home. When the protesters refused, the army opened fire, killing or wounding several thousand. In a harsh crackdown, the government arrested, tortured, and even executed leaders of the pro-democracy movement. The "Beijing massacre" showed that China's leaders would not allow their authority to be challenged.

During the 1990s, the Chinese government pushed ahead with economic reforms but kept a tight grip on political power.

**Tiananmen Square Protests** In June 1989, Chinese students brought a large "goddess of liberty" into Tiananmen Square during pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing. This figure, modeled on the Statue of Liberty, became a symbol of the demands for greater freedom in China. **Human Rights** What freedoms did the Chinese government deny by suppressing this protest?





When supporters of democracy tried to organize political parties, they were arrested and jailed. Human rights groups criticized abuses in China. The government, however, rejected such pressure for change.

## SECTION 1 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Karl Marx, (b) People's Republic of China, (c) Deng Xiaoping.
- 2. Define:** (a) proletariat, (b) totalitarian state, (c) propaganda.
- 3.** (a) What goals did Mao support? (b) How did these goals appeal to different groups of Chinese?
- 4.** Describe two ways in which the Communists restored order in China.
- 5. Making Inferences** How did Communist propaganda about Mao Zedong help to unite China?
- 6. Writing Across Cultures** List three examples of propaganda about a person or event that you have seen on television or in a newspaper or magazine.



**Free Enterprise in China** Under Deng Xiaoping, citizens were allowed to operate small businesses. Many Chinese earned extra income by selling products at city market stands such as this one. **Choice** Why might people prefer to buy things from private businesses?

## 2

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### FIND OUT

What obstacles stood in the way of the modernization of China?

What were the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution?

How did economic policies change after Mao's leadership ended?

**Vocabulary** collective farm, commune, capitalism

**F**rom a street stall, Shang Jinxi (shahng jeen shee) sells tea broth to people passing by. "These last couple of years, while the nation's

been trying to rev up the economy, I've retired," Shang explained. "I thought about it awhile, then dug out this big old kettle of mine. . . . I can make over 100 yuan [\$20] a month from it, on top of my pension. I've got it made."

Under Mao, the government ended private ownership of land and businesses. People like Shang Jinxi worked at government-owned farms, businesses, and factories. During the 1980s, however, Deng Xiaoping introduced new economic policies. Some private businesses such as Shang's tea stall were allowed to flourish once more.

## Revolutionary Goals

As you have read, Mao proclaimed three main goals for China's Communist revolution. He promised a better life for the poor. He called for development of a modern economy. He pledged to restore China's position as a major world power.