

Power and Consequences

Assess how communist policies changed people's lives and rights.

SS.7.HC.1 "Assess the effects of communist governments."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two effects that benefited people, circle two effects that harmed people, and number two government actions that helped cause these effects. Use your marks to judge the overall effects of communist government.

State Power in the Soviet Union and China

- ① After the 1917 Russian Revolution, the Soviet government brought major industries, farms, and banks under state control. Leaders used central plans to decide what factories would make and how food would be distributed. Supporters hoped planning would speed industrial growth and reduce inequality. The government did build factories and expand schools. However, officials often set unrealistic production goals. When leaders forced many peasants into collective farms in the early 1930s, resistance and poor policies helped cause a devastating famine, especially in Ukraine.
- ② Communist governments also affected political rights. In the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin, the Communist Party controlled elections, newspapers, and public criticism. Secret police arrested many people accused of opposing the government. During the Great Purge of the late 1930s, many party members, military officers, writers, and ordinary citizens were imprisoned or executed. Fear made open disagreement dangerous. At the same time, state programs provided some workers with housing, health care, and education, though access and quality differed across places and years.
- ③ China's communist government, established in 1949, also used state control to change society and the economy. In the late 1950s, the Great Leap Forward pushed people into large communes and urged rapid steel and food production. False reports and damaging policies contributed to a massive famine. Later, China kept one-party rule but allowed more market activity beginning in the late 1970s. Economic growth lifted many people out of poverty, while the government continued to limit political opposition. These cases show that effects could include both expanded services or growth and losses of freedom and lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Soviet central planning lead to both a benefit and a harmful result?

2 How did Stalin's government affect citizens' political rights and safety? Use two details from the passage.

3 What policy change did China make beginning in the late 1970s, and what were two effects of that change or continued rule?

4 Which example from the passage best shows that the effects of communist government could change over time? Explain how it supports that idea.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose either the Soviet Union under Stalin or China after 1949. Write four sentences that assess its communist government by describing one benefit, one harm, and your judgment about the effects on people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two effects that benefited people, circle two effects that harmed people, and number two government actions that helped cause these effects. Use your marks to judge the overall effects of communist government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Soviet central planning lead to both a benefit and a harmful result?	It helped build factories and expand schools, but forced collective farms and poor policies helped cause a devastating famine.
2	How did Stalin's government affect citizens' political rights and safety? Use two details from the passage.	The Communist Party controlled elections, newspapers, and criticism. Secret police arrested accused opponents, and many people were imprisoned or executed during the Great Purge.
3	What policy change did China make beginning in the late 1970s, and what were two effects of that change or continued rule?	China allowed more market activity. Economic growth lifted many people out of poverty, while the government continued to limit political opposition.
4	Which example from the passage best shows that the effects of communist government could change over time? Explain how it supports that idea.	China is the best example. It first used strong state control during the Great Leap Forward, then later allowed more market activity while still keeping one-party rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Under Stalin, Soviet state control expanded schools and provided some workers with housing, health care, and education. However, the Communist Party controlled criticism, and secret police arrested people accused of opposition. The Great Purge imprisoned or executed many citizens, making people afraid to disagree. These effects show that government programs brought some services, but the loss of political rights and lives caused severe harm.

Accept accurate benefits and harms supported by the passage, including factories, schools, services, economic growth, famine, repression, and limits on opposition. A strong assessment connects government actions to effects and makes a supported judgment.