Power and Change

Trace turning points in modern China

WH.6.9 "Trace the rise of communism in China including its foundations, the Cultural Revolution, and modern day developments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conditions that helped the Chinese Communist Party gain support, and circle one action or policy in each paragraph. Number the dates 1949, 1966, and 1978 in chronological order to trace changes in China.

China's Changing Path

1. After China's Qing dynasty fell in 1911, rival military leaders fought for territory, and many farmers struggled to keep land. New ideas spread among students who wanted a stronger, fairer country. Inspired by Marxism and the Russian Revolution, activists founded the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1921. The party promised land reform and built support among rural people during years of war. Its forces also fought Japan after Japan's invasion expanded in 1937. After Japan's defeat, civil war resumed between the CCP and the Nationalist government. In 1949, the CCP won control of mainland China and established the People's Republic of China.

2. Under Mao Zedong, the new government redistributed land and brought farms and industries under state control. Its leaders claimed these changes would create a more equal society, but forced campaigns caused suffering, especially during the Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In 1966, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution, urging young Red Guards to attack people and ideas he called threats to socialism. Teachers, officials, and families faced public humiliation or violence; schools and workplaces were disrupted. The campaign also helped Mao regain political power. It ended after his death in 1976.

3. In 1978, leaders associated with Deng Xiaoping began reforms that allowed family farming, private businesses, and foreign investment. The government kept Communist Party rule while giving markets a larger role in the economy. Factories grew, cities expanded, and millions escaped poverty, though wealth remained uneven. The state did not permit competitive national elections to replace the CCP. In the 2020s, China has major technology firms and a large role in global trade, while officials closely regulate online speech and dissent. This mix of economic change and continued one-party control shows that China's communist system has changed without ending party rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did conditions after the Qing dynasty fell help the CCP gain rural support?

2. How did the result of the civil war change who governed mainland China in 1949?

3. How did the Cultural Revolution shift attention toward political attacks, and what was one result?

4. What changed in China's economy after 1978, and what feature of its government remained?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label with a title of your own. Trace China from the CCP's early support through the Cultural Revolution to the present, explaining one cause of its rise, two changes over time, and one political feature that continued.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Change

HIGH SCHOOL · WH.6.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conditions that helped the Chinese Communist Party gain support, and circle one action or policy in each paragraph. Number the dates 1949, 1966, and 1978 in chronological order to trace changes in China. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did conditions after the Qing dynasty fell help the CCP gain rural support?	**Farmers struggled to keep land amid fighting, and the CCP promised land reform.**
2	How did the result of the civil war change who governed mainland China in 1949?	**The CCP defeated the Nationalist government on the mainland and established the People's Republic of China.**
3	How did the Cultural Revolution shift attention toward political attacks, and what was one result?	**Mao urged Red Guards to attack people and ideas he called threats to socialism. People faced humiliation or violence, and schools and workplaces were disrupted.**
4	What changed in China's economy after 1978, and what feature of its government remained?	**Reforms allowed family farming, private businesses, and foreign investment, but the CCP remained in power.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Power and Change in China. After the Qing dynasty fell, land struggles and fighting helped the CCP gain rural support by promising reform. Its 1949 victory brought the party to power on the mainland. Mao's Cultural Revolution then used young Red Guards to target people labeled threats to socialism, disrupting schools and lives. After 1978, leaders allowed family farming and private businesses, changing the economy. Today, China plays a major role in world trade. Yet the CCP still holds national political power and restricts dissent, even as economic policies have changed.

Accept accurate paraphrases grounded in the passage. For the museum label, check that the response traces the sequence, explains a cause and two changes, and identifies continued CCP rule.