Growth and Dissent

Economic change and political protest in modern China

MWH.C.7.4.D "Explain the significance of pro-democracy movements such as Tiananmen Square and evaluate how economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping contributed to China's modernization, expanding global influence..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two economic reforms, circle one demand made by protesters, and number two details that show how China's relationship with the United States changed.

China's Two Paths

1. In 1978, Deng Xiaoping began steering China away from strict state control of the economy. Farmers gained more freedom to sell crops after meeting state requirements. The government also opened special economic zones, including Shenzhen, where foreign companies could invest and factories could produce goods for export. These policies brought technology, jobs, and rapid growth, although the gains were uneven. Shenzhen grew from a small border town into a major manufacturing city, a visible sign of China's modernization.

2. Economic change did not bring the same freedom to politics. In spring 1989, students and other citizens gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square to demand reforms, including greater freedom of speech and action against corruption. On June 3 and 4, troops used force to clear protesters from Beijing's streets, killing an unknown number of people. The protests showed that many citizens wanted a greater voice in government. The crackdown showed that China's leaders would use force to preserve Communist Party control.

3. The United States and China had established full diplomatic relations in 1979, opening the way for wider trade as China's reforms advanced. American businesses later invested in Chinese production, while U.S. consumers bought Chinese-made goods. After the 1989 crackdown, the United States imposed sanctions and criticized China's human rights record, yet trade continued to grow. As China's factories joined global supply chains, its influence over world commerce increased. The relationship mixed economic cooperation with sharp disagreements about political rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Deng's policies help modernize China? Use one example.

2. Why were the Tiananmen Square protests significant, even though the government stopped them?

3. How did China's economic reforms increase its influence beyond its borders?

4. Why did China's relationship with the United States become more complicated after 1989?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence exhibit caption explaining whether China's economic modernization brought political freedom. Use a detail about Deng's reforms, a detail about Tiananmen Square, and a detail about the U.S. response.

Growth and Dissent

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two economic reforms, circle one demand made by protesters, and number two details that show how China's relationship with the United States changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Deng's policies help modernize China? Use one example.	**Special economic zones attracted foreign investment, helping factories gain technology and produce goods for export.**
2	Why were the Tiananmen Square protests significant, even though the government stopped them?	**They showed that many citizens wanted political reforms and a greater voice, while the crackdown showed the limits of dissent under Communist Party rule.**
3	How did China's economic reforms increase its influence beyond its borders?	**Foreign investment and export production brought Chinese factories into global supply chains, increasing China's influence over world commerce.**
4	Why did China's relationship with the United States become more complicated after 1989?	**The United States imposed sanctions and criticized the crackdown, but investment and trade between the countries continued to grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

China's economic modernization did not bring matching political freedom. Deng's special economic zones welcomed foreign investment and helped expand factory production. In 1989, protesters demanded greater freedom of speech, but troops used force against them. The United States imposed sanctions after the crackdown, even as trade with China continued to grow.

Accept other passage-supported examples of modernization or global influence. Responses should distinguish economic change from political freedom and recognize both cooperation and conflict in U.S.-China relations.