Power After Office

Trace the difference between a leader's official posts and political influence.

TOT.C.10.2.A "retirement of Deng Xiaoping following the Tiananmen Square massacre,"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two dates when Deng gave up official posts, and number them in order. Circle one detail that shows his influence after he left those posts.

Deng Xiaoping's Staged Retirement

1. In spring 1989, students and other citizens gathered in Beijing to demand political reforms and protest corruption. After weeks of demonstrations centered on Tiananmen Square, China's leaders declared martial law. Deng Xiaoping was not the country's president or the Communist Party's general secretary, but he remained its most powerful leader and supported the use of force. On the night of June 3 and into June 4, troops entered Beijing and fired on civilians. Many people were killed, both near the square and elsewhere in the city. The exact death toll remains uncertain because authorities did not release a full, reliable accounting.

2. The crackdown reshaped the leadership. Zhao Ziyang, the Communist Party's general secretary, had opposed using force against the protesters. He was removed from power, and Jiang Zemin became general secretary in June 1989. Deng still chaired the party's Central Military Commission, a body that directed the armed forces. In November 1989, Deng stepped down from that chairmanship, and Jiang took his place. Deng also chaired a separate state military commission until March 1990, when Jiang succeeded him there as well. These departures ended Deng's remaining top official posts, but they did not erase the authority he had built over decades.

3. Retirement from office did not mean retirement from politics. Jiang now held formal leadership positions, yet many officials still listened closely to Deng. In 1992, Deng traveled through southern China and argued that economic reforms should continue. His remarks helped give renewed momentum to policies that expanded market activity. The contrast matters: the 1989 crackdown was followed by changes in who held official posts, not by an immediate break with Deng's influence. His withdrawal from those posts came in stages, months after the violence, while his ability to shape decisions lasted longer. A title and political power were not always the same thing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the crackdown affect Zhao Ziyang's position, and who took his place?

2. Why would it be inaccurate to say Deng gave up all his top official posts in November 1989?

3. What changed when Jiang succeeded Deng in the two military chairmanships, and what did not necessarily change?

4. What evidence from 1992 challenges the claim that Deng stopped shaping policy when he retired from office?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 70 to 95 words explaining how Deng's retirement after the 1989 crackdown changed his official position but not his political influence. Include at least two dated events from the passage and explain why calling him simply "retired" can be misleading.

ANSWER KEY

Power After Office

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.10.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two dates when Deng gave up official posts, and number them in order. Circle one detail that shows his influence after he left those posts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the crackdown affect Zhao Ziyang's position, and who took his place?	**Zhao, who opposed using force, was removed from power. Jiang Zemin became general secretary in June 1989.**
2	Why would it be inaccurate to say Deng gave up all his top official posts in November 1989?	**He left the party military chairmanship that November but remained chair of the state military commission until March 1990.**
3	What changed when Jiang succeeded Deng in the two military chairmanships, and what did not necessarily change?	**Jiang gained the official posts, but Deng did not necessarily lose his political influence.**
4	What evidence from 1992 challenges the claim that Deng stopped shaping policy when he retired from office?	**Deng urged continued economic reform during a trip through southern China, and his remarks helped renew momentum for policies expanding market activity.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After troops killed civilians in Beijing in June 1989, China's leadership changed. Deng Xiaoping left his party military chairmanship in November 1989, then gave up his state military chairmanship in March 1990. Jiang Zemin succeeded him in both roles, so Deng no longer held those top official posts. Yet retirement did not remove his political influence. During a 1992 trip through southern China, Deng urged continued economic reform, and his remarks helped renew support for policies that expanded market activity. Calling him simply "retired" hides the gap between losing a title and losing power.

Accept labels that distinguish Deng's staged departure from official posts from his continued influence. Responses should connect at least two correctly dated events to that distinction.