Power and Revolution

Compare how four communist leaders used power

TOT.C.9.3.A "Communist leadership (e.g., Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Mao Zedong, and Kim Il Sung),"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action taken by each leader: Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Mao Zedong, and Kim Il Sung. Circle a result of each action so you can compare their leadership.

Four Leaders, Different Paths

1. In January 1959, rebel forces entered Havana after the collapse of Cuba's dictatorship. Fidel Castro became the country's dominant leader, promising social change and national independence. His government expanded education and health care, took over many private businesses, and limited political opposition. Argentine-born Che Guevara helped lead the revolution and later held posts in Castro's government. Unlike Castro, Guevara did not remain to govern Cuba. He tried to spread revolution abroad, including in Bolivia, where he was captured and killed in 1967. Their partnership shows two paths within one revolution: building a new state and urging uprisings elsewhere.

2. In China, Mao Zedong led the Communist Party to victory in 1949 after years of civil war. As head of the new government, he oversaw land redistribution that broke the power of many landlords but also brought violence. His Great Leap Forward, launched in 1958, pushed villages into large farming communes and demanded rapid industrial growth. Disrupted farming, unrealistic production reports, and state grain policies contributed to a famine that killed millions. In 1966, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution, calling on young supporters to attack people accused of disloyalty. Schools closed, many people suffered persecution, and Mao strengthened his position.

3. North Korea offers another pattern of communist leadership. Kim Il Sung became its first premier in 1948 with Soviet backing and built a tightly controlled state. In 1950, his forces invaded South Korea, starting the Korean War. An armistice stopped major fighting in 1953, but it did not unite the peninsula. Kim's government restricted dissent and promoted a public image of him as the nation's indispensable leader. He stayed in power until his death in 1994, when his son Kim Jong Il succeeded him. Castro, Mao, and Kim all claimed to serve ordinary people, yet their decisions also concentrated power and shaped lives far beyond their capitals.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Castro's role after the Cuban Revolution differ from Guevara's later path?

2. What did Mao's Great Leap Forward try to accomplish, and what was one consequence?

3. What action by Kim Il Sung began the Korean War, and what did the 1953 armistice fail to do?

4. Name one way Castro and Kim Il Sung both exercised power. What is one different development described under each leader?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence label for an imagined museum newspaper about two leaders from different countries in the passage. Use at least two specific facts to explain one similarity and one difference in how they used power, and end with a question for visitors.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Revolution

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.9.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action taken by each leader: Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Mao Zedong, and Kim Il Sung. Circle a result of each action so you can compare their leadership. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Castro's role after the Cuban Revolution differ from Guevara's later path?	**Castro governed Cuba, while Guevara left to try to spread revolution abroad.**
2	What did Mao's Great Leap Forward try to accomplish, and what was one consequence?	**It sought rapid industrial growth and reorganized villages into farming communes. Disrupted farming and state policies contributed to a famine that killed millions.**
3	What action by Kim Il Sung began the Korean War, and what did the 1953 armistice fail to do?	**His forces invaded South Korea in 1950. The armistice did not unite the peninsula.**
4	Name one way Castro and Kim Il Sung both exercised power. What is one different development described under each leader?	**Both restricted political opposition or dissent. Castro's government expanded education and health care, while Kim's forces invaded South Korea.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This imagined museum newspaper places Mao Zedong and Kim Il Sung on its front page because each built a government that punished opposition. Mao called on young supporters to target people accused of disloyalty during the Cultural Revolution, while Kim restricted dissent and promoted himself as an indispensable leader. Mao's campaign disrupted schools, but Kim's decision to invade South Korea began a war that an armistice ended without reuniting the peninsula. How might citizens have experienced these different uses of power?

Accept other passage-supported comparisons. The museum label should have four sentences, identify leaders from different countries, explain a similarity and a difference with specific facts, and end with a question.