# Power and Daily Life

Trace how policies of the Chinese Revolution affected work and speech

**TOT.C.9.3.D** "Chinese Revolution (e.g., one-party dictatorship, collectivization, laogai prisons, Hundred Flowers Campaign, and Anti-Rightist Campaign),"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two shifts in control over farming, circle two consequences of criticizing the party, and number three linked details that help explain the famine.

### Promises, Policies, and Consequences

1. In October 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China after Communist forces won a long civil war. The Chinese Communist Party became the country's only governing party. Other political groups existed, but they could not compete freely for power. Party officials directed newspapers, schools, and local governments. In the countryside, land was first taken from landlords and redistributed to peasant families. Later, the state pushed farmers into collective farms, where families worked shared land under official plans. These changes promised greater equality, but they also gave party leaders growing control over work and public life.

2. In 1956, Mao called for people to express criticism in the Hundred Flowers Campaign. By 1957, students, writers, and others were speaking about censorship, unfair officials, and limits on freedom. That same year, the Anti-Rightist Campaign targeted many critics. Officials labeled them "rightists"; some lost jobs, were sent to the countryside, or were imprisoned. People who had heard a call for open discussion now had reason to fear speaking publicly. The campaigns showed a sharp divide between the party's invitation to criticize and its reaction when criticism challenged its authority.

3. From 1958, the Great Leap Forward pressed rural households into larger people's communes and demanded steep increases in farm and industrial output. Officials often reported inflated harvests, while the state continued taking grain. Crop failures and harmful policies contributed to a catastrophic famine from 1959 to 1961, killing millions. The government also used laogai, a network of prisons and forced labor camps, to hold people convicted of crimes as well as some people punished for political reasons. Not every Chinese person had the same experience, but these policies show how a one-party state could shape food supplies, labor, and the risks of dissent.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did collective farms change who made decisions about a family's work?

2. Why might someone who spoke during the Hundred Flowers Campaign have feared speaking publicly afterward?

3. How could inflated harvest reports and continued grain collection make the Great Leap Forward famine worse?

4. How did the Anti-Rightist Campaign and laogai both put pressure on critics? Name one difference in how they worked.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label with a title. Explain how two policies in the passage changed people's choices, and contrast a promised goal with a harmful result.

ANSWER KEY

# Power and Daily Life

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.9.3.D

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two shifts in control over farming, circle two consequences of criticizing the party, and number three linked details that help explain the famine. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did collective farms change who made decisions about a family's work? | **Families worked shared land under official plans instead of making those decisions for themselves.** |
| 2 | Why might someone who spoke during the Hundred Flowers Campaign have feared speaking publicly afterward? | **The Anti-Rightist Campaign targeted critics; some lost jobs, were sent to the countryside, or were imprisoned.** |
| 3 | How could inflated harvest reports and continued grain collection make the Great Leap Forward famine worse? | **Inflated reports made harvests appear larger than they were, while the state continued taking grain. That could leave less food for rural households.** |
| 4 | How did the Anti-Rightist Campaign and laogai both put pressure on critics? Name one difference in how they worked. | **Both could punish people for political criticism. The Anti-Rightist Campaign also cost some critics their jobs or sent them to the countryside, while laogai was a prison and forced labor camp system.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

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After 1949, China's Communist Party directed decisions far beyond elections. Collectivization moved many farm families from their own plots to shared land governed by official plans. Leaders promised greater equality, yet families lost control over how they worked. In 1957, the Anti-Rightist Campaign targeted people who had criticized officials. Some lost jobs, were sent to the countryside, or were imprisoned. Together, these policies show how one-party rule shaped both daily work and the risks of speaking publicly.

Accept other accurate pairs of policies if the label explains their effects on people's choices and contrasts a promised goal with a harmful result. The sample is 82 words, including its title.