Power and Daily Life

Trace how state campaigns changed lives in China and Tibet

TOT.C.9.3.E "China's genocidal conquest of Tibet, Great Leap Forward, and Cultural Revolution,"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one government action and circle one consequence in each paragraph. Number each action and its consequence with the same number to show how they connect.

Three Campaigns, Lasting Consequences

1 In 1950, troops of the People's Liberation Army entered eastern Tibet, where Tibetans had governed their own affairs. After China's military victory, Tibetan representatives signed a 1951 agreement that placed Tibet under Chinese sovereignty; they later said they had signed under pressure. In 1959, an uprising in Lhasa was crushed, and the Dalai Lama fled to India. Chinese rule brought arrests, deaths, and restrictions on Tibetan political and religious life. Many Tibetans describe this conquest and its aftermath as genocide, pointing to deaths and the destruction of their culture. Historians debate death totals and how to classify particular policies.

2 Meanwhile, Mao Zedong's government launched the Great Leap Forward in 1958 to speed up farming and industry. Rural families across China were moved into large communes. Officials demanded steel production and set high grain targets, even when crops fell short. Local leaders often reported false harvest figures, and the state took grain based on those reports. With too little food left in villages, famine spread; tens of millions died between 1959 and 1961. The disaster was not caused by a single failed harvest. Coercive policies, misleading reports, and grain collection made it far worse.

3 In 1966, Mao began the Cultural Revolution, calling on young Red Guards to attack supposed enemies and the "Four Olds," including old customs. Schools closed for long periods, and people accused of disloyalty faced public humiliation, imprisonment, or death. In Tibet, attacks on monasteries and religious objects intensified, adding to destruction that had begun earlier under Chinese rule. The movement lasted until Mao's death in 1976. Unlike the Great Leap's drive to remake production, this campaign tried to remake beliefs and loyalties. Both show how state power could transform daily life through fear and force.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did China's military victory change who held political power in Tibet?

2. How did false harvest reports help turn Great Leap Forward policies into a famine?

3. How did the Cultural Revolution add to changes already taking place in Tibet?

4. How did the goals and harms of the Great Leap Forward differ from those of the Cultural Revolution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label comparing China's conquest of Tibet with either the Great Leap Forward or the Cultural Revolution. Use one detail about each, explain a shared pattern and an important difference, and end with a question for visitors.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Daily Life

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.9.3.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one government action and circle one consequence in each paragraph. Number each action and its consequence with the same number to show how they connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did China's military victory change who held political power in Tibet?	**After the military victory, a 1951 agreement placed Tibet under Chinese sovereignty. Tibetan representatives later said they had signed under pressure.**
2	How did false harvest reports help turn Great Leap Forward policies into a famine?	**The state took grain based on inflated reports, leaving too little food in villages and worsening the famine.**
3	How did the Cultural Revolution add to changes already taking place in Tibet?	**Attacks on monasteries and religious objects intensified the destruction of Tibetan religious life that had begun earlier under Chinese rule.**
4	How did the goals and harms of the Great Leap Forward differ from those of the Cultural Revolution?	**The Great Leap aimed to increase farming and industry, but its policies worsened a famine. The Cultural Revolution aimed to remake beliefs and loyalties, bringing persecution and attacks on cultural and religious life.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

China's conquest of Tibet placed Tibetan political life under Chinese rule. After an uprising was crushed in 1959, the Dalai Lama fled to India. During the Great Leap Forward, the state took grain based on false harvest reports, leaving villages with too little food. Both episodes show the grave harm state power can cause, but one changed Tibet's political control while the other drove a famine across China. What should visitors ask when a government claims its actions will improve people's lives?

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations grounded in the passage. For the museum label, look for two distinct episodes, a specific detail about each, a defensible comparison, and a final question.