

POST-MAO CHINA

Mao Zedong was the founder and sole leader of the communist People's Republic of China from its inception in the Chinese Revolution of 1949 until his death during the Cultural Revolution in 1976. He is the only leader communist China has known.

Mao put China on a path to becoming a world power, but he enslaved the country by severely restricting people's rights and ruling through brutal force. The economy and education, as well as the morale of the country, was stifled and left in complete disarray.

Now there is a need to improve people's lives in China and improve the economy, and with Mao gone, it is a perfect time to start making some changes. How would you stimulate growth in the country and help China improve development? Remember, you are the leader of communist China, and you believe in communism, so your policies need to fit into that mold. Think about the pros and cons of the following possible changes that you could make to the country:

- start trading with the West
- allow foreign companies into China
- allow freedom of speech and freedom of assembly
- allow freedom of the press
- encourage people to start their own businesses
- allow other political parties to take part in the political process
- allow for free and fair democratic elections
- allow people freedom to own property and freedom to move
- re-open schools and universities
- criticize some of Mao's policies

Work with a partner and make a chart of the pros and cons of incorporating each of these possible reforms on a separate sheet of paper. Why would each help or hurt China? Can you implement any of these reforms and still be true to the communist ideology that you believe in? What is best for China and its population?



POSSIBLE REFORM	PRO	CON
start trading with the West		
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