

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Modern China - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Since 1644, the Manchus of the Qing Dynasty had ruled China. But in the 1800s, their power began to slip for a few reasons. People began to take advantage of the civil service test system. Wealthy people with money were able to bribe test examiners to get the best jobs. And once these cheating and bribing folks gained powerful and influential government positions, they also conveniently forgot about the fact that they were supposed to use their education to help those with less. Neglect of water systems caused massive flooding that destroyed farms. The destroyed farmland led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people from starvation and disease.

Taking advantage of the civil service test system ultimately

- A. helped people use their power to educate those with less.



B.

caused destruction of land and the death of many people.

*According to the text, the people who cheated their way into the best jobs and took advantage of the civil service test system “forgot about the fact that they were supposed to use their education to help those with less.” Their “neglect of water systems caused massive flooding that destroyed farms,” ultimately leading “to the deaths of hundreds of thousands.”*

- C. put a greater focus on water systems and farmland.

- D. hurt the test examiners more than anyone else.

2. China was struck with a huge drug problem: opium. In the early 1800s, when Britain was trading with China, they paid the Chinese in opium, an addictive and destructive drug, instead of in silver as they'd promised. Because it was so addictive, opium was extremely popular. In 1838, about 4 million Chinese people were addicted to it. This drug addiction was destroying the country, so China made importing opium illegal.

When China banned opium imports, the British declared war. The Opium Wars lasted through the 1850s when the British won and re-established the opium trade. They made the Chinese sign a treaty that favored British interests. Western missionaries moved into China.

Chinese people began to doubt the Ming Dynasty even more. The people wanted their leaders to make China self-sufficient again. In 1900, the Chinese army and a large group of peasants attacked Western merchants and missionaries in Beijing in the Boxer Rebellion. Western powers sent ships of soldiers to squash the rebellion, and they forced China to sign a treaty that made the Chinese pay a huge amount of money to the eight Western nations involved.

Which of the following best describes the relationship between Britain and China?

- A. Britain and China were allies during the Boxer Rebellion in Beijing.
- B. Britain and China had a peaceful relationship that centered on fair trade.
- C. China took advantage of Britain by forcing them to pay for Chinese goods in silver.
- ✓ D. Britain took advantage of China multiple times between the early 1800s and 1900.
- According to the text, Britain "paid the Chinese in opium, an addictive and destructive drug, instead of in silver as they'd promised" This caused the Opium Wars, which ended with the Chinese signing "a treaty that favored British interests." After the Boxer Rebellion, Britain was part of an alliance that "forced China to sign a treaty that made the Chinese pay a huge amount of money to the eight Western nations involved."*

3. Suddenly, people in China were not just calling for the elimination of foreign powers. They wanted to completely change society. In 1905, the Chinese government stopped giving civil service exams. This symbolically showed that the people no longer wanted to be ruled by an elite educated class. Finally, in 1911, Sun Yat-sen led an overthrow of the Qing Dynasty. Over two millennia of dynasties had come to an end.

Which of the following best describes what people in China wanted?

- A. educated, experienced foreign leaders      B. preservation of the current government  
C. a new way of life and leadership      D. a more elite, educated Chinese ruler



C.

a new way of life and leadership

*According to the passage, "People in China were not just calling for the elimination of foreign powers. They wanted to completely change society." They "no longer wanted to be ruled by an elite educated class."*

4. The Communist Party presented itself as a popular alternative to the current government. During the 1920s, the Chinese Communist Party grew in size, which the national government didn't like. In 1927, the Chinese Civil War began, and the government began mass arrests of communists. One person who escaped these arrests was a young communist named Mao Zedong. His view of communism was different from the USSR's. The USSR focused on the power of the working class, while Mao believed that communists should help the peasants take over the government. By helping the poor, Mao gained widespread support of the many poor people throughout the country.

But the Chinese government was still anti-communist. Communists had to hide or risk persecution. In 1934, about 100,000 hiding communists heard the news that the Chinese army was coming to attack or arrest them. Led by Mao, they marched 6,000 miles in one year across China on this Long March, evading the troops. Once at their destination, Mao continued to build the Communist Party. He empowered peasants by helping them gain land. He convinced people that the communists were serious about fighting against the Japanese, and thus gained even more support.

Which of the following best describes one way Mao Zedong differed from the USSR?



A.

He believed the poor should take over.

*According to the text, "The USSR focused on the power of the working class, while Mao believed that communists should help the peasants take over the government."*

B. He believed in helping the Japanese.

C. He believed in persecuting communists.

D. He believed the upper class should be in charge.

5. Even though people worshipped Mao, it was not truly a government of the people. With one person making big plans for almost a billion people, many things went wrong. Mao instituted a program called the Great Leap Forward in 1959. Since so many of China's problems in the twentieth century had come from foreign involvement in the country, Mao wanted China to be completely self-sufficient.

One idea was that instead of building factories like those in the West, every person should make steel in their backyards. This would raise China's steel production and make the country more competitive with other industrial nations. But people were melting down their possessions to make steel that was basically useless. And most dangerously, they melted down their farming equipment. Without being able to farm, having enough food became a problem.

As a result of poorly planned policies (and bad weather) during the Great Leap Forward, over 30 million people died from starvation. This was the most lethal famine in history.

According to the passage, the most negative effect of Mao's desire for China to be completely self-sufficient was that

A. people made steel in their backyards.



B.

millions of people starved.

*According to the passage, Mao's idea was that "instead of building factories like those in the West, every person should make steel in their backyards." To do this, people "melted down their farming equipment. Without being able to farm, having enough food became a problem... and over 30 million people died from starvation."*

C. China did not have factories.

D. China's steel production fell.

6. Mao had another large national plan that failed, called the Cultural Revolution. Mao was worried that people weren't as excited about the spirit of revolution as they had been in the 1940s. So in 1966, Mao created the Red Guard, which was a group of young people who had license to arrest anyone who didn't believe in communist values. As a result, millions of teachers, intellectuals, artists and anyone Mao thought had "bourgeois values" were killed or driven from the country. Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, who held great power, led a group that censored any art or written thought that didn't fit with the communist mission.

As a result of the establishment of the Red Guard,

- A. all art and written thought in China was destroyed.



B.

China lost millions of people who supposedly did not support communism.

*According to the passage, "Mao created the Red Guard, which was a group of young people who had license to arrest anyone who didn't believe in communist values. As a result, millions of teachers, intellectuals, artists and anyone Mao thought had 'bourgeois values' were killed or driven from the country."*

- C. the Cultural Revolution, a national plan, lost its steam.

- D. millions of teachers and intellectuals were hired to spread communist values.

7. Mao died in 1976. The government was still communist (and still officially is), but it made reforms that allowed foreign investment for the first time since Mao came to power. They began to gradually accept some capitalist business practices. Although still very poor, between 1980 and 1983, China's per capita output doubled.

As China became less cut off from the world, citizens began to learn more about democracy. And they wanted it. In 1989, people filled Tiananmen Square to protest the government. Chinese government sent tanks into the square to take down the protesters after weeks of standoffs. Hundreds of people died, and the protesters were arrested.

As China moved into the post-Cold War era, it continued to grow into a major player in the international scene. But censorship, the communist government and human rights offenses continued. Internet censorship in China prevents people from finding information or websites that the government doesn't want them to see. This has been dubbed the "great firewall" of China.

Which of the following best describes the relationship between China under Mao's rule and China after the Cold War?



- A.** Both before 1976 and after the Cold War, China was communist and censored its citizens.
- According to the passage, after Mao died in 1976, "the government was still communist (and still officially is)." Also, "censorship, the communist government and human rights offenses continued."*
- B.** Both before 1976 and after the Cold War, China was capitalist and continued to grow its per capita output.
- C.** Before 1976 China was obsessed with foreign investment, and after the Cold War, they became more focused on censorship.
- D.** Before 1976 China was a major player in the international scene, and after the Cold War, China cut off the outside world.