

Name _____

Date _____

The Chinese Revolution of 1949

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Presenting themselves as a popular alternative to the Nationalist-ruled Chinese government of the early 20th century, the Chinese Communist Party grew in size throughout the 1920s. 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 that of the Soviet Union, or USSR. 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 from 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 invading Japanese, and thus gained even more support.

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

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| A. He believed the poor should take over. | B. He believed in helping the Japanese. |
| C. He believed in persecuting communists. | D. He believed the upper class should be in charge. |

2. Even though people thought highly of Mao, his government was not truly of the people. With one person making big plans for almost a billion people, many things went wrong. In 1959, Mao instituted a program called the Great Leap Forward. Since so many of China's problems in the 20th century had stemmed from foreign involvement, Mao wanted China to be completely self-sufficient. One idea was that instead of building factories like those in the West, every person would make steel in their backyards—a huge change from China's agriculture-led economy—in order to increase 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. These poorly planned policies, along with unfavorable weather conditions, led to the deadliest famine in history. In the 1960s, Mao became concerned that people weren't as excited about the spirit of revolution as they had been decades prior. In response, he launched another national plan called the Cultural Revolution. The movement was led by the Red Guard, 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, and artists 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 align with the communist mission.

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

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| A. people made steel in their backyards | B. it resulted in widespread starvation |
| C. China did not have factories | D. China's steel production fell |

3. 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. The 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?

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| A. Both before 1976 and after the Cold War, China was communist and censored its citizens. | 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. |