

Chinese Foreign Policy 1949-1976

Background: Chinese Foreign Policy

China was the second great nation to undergo a successful Marxist Revolution.

The People's Republic of China had a dual aim after its inception on October 1, 1949:

1. Develop into a modern industrial nation
2. Lead the rest of the world towards an international proletarian revolution

The pursuit of the second aim was most problematic and raised several questions that China had to answer:

- Was it realistic for an economically backward nation to lead a world revolution?
- Would an aggressive revolutionary attitude towards the capitalists leave China friendless and unable to obtain resources?
- Where did China stand in the worldwide communist hierarchy? Did China have to follow the Soviet Union's path, or did China have an equal right to interpret Marxism for itself?

Problems Between China and the Soviet Union

Relationship was strained from 1949 onwards. There were occasional periods of harmony, but also periods of suspicion and outright hostility.

- **Border Disputes:** 7000-km border between China and the Soviet Union had been under dispute since Tsarist times. Bolsheviks seized Outer Mongolia in 1919, and at the end of the Pacific War in WW II, the Soviets liberated Manchuria from the Japanese and returned it to China, but not before stripping it of \$2 billion worth of plants, machinery and industrial resources.
- **Ideological Differences:** Mao thought China should interpret Marxism for itself, while the Soviet Union themselves as the only true interpreter of the Communist faith.
- **Clash of Personalities:** Mao and Stalin did not get along personally, which biographers suggest is because they were too similar to get along. Stalin expected that Mao would look to Stalin and the USSR for guidance and protection. Instead Mao was offended by the superior air exhibited by Stalin and the Soviet officials.

Problems Between China and the United States

Relations between the United States and China were often extremely bitter for the following reasons:

- The United States' support for the Nationalists and Chiang Kai-shek during the Civil War.
- American anger at the fall of China to Mao's communists in 1949.
- Ideological differences between capitalism and communism.
- Continuous Chinese propaganda attacks on "American Imperialism" and spreading the idea of "Death to the American imperialists and all their running dogs" amongst Chinese schoolchildren.

In this assignment determine how much tension each event in Chinese-Soviet and Chinese-American Foreign Policy caused. Before you begin, determine the characteristics and provide examples of each of the different levels of rankings. Keep in mind that a 1=Harmonious and 4=Great Tension

Characteristics of a 1 Ranking: Harmony

Characteristics of a 2 Ranking:

Characteristics of a 3 Ranking:

Characteristics of a 4 Ranking: Great Tension

Block: _____

For each of the following events in Chinese Foreign Policy:

1. Decide if they are about China-US Relations (US), China-Soviet Union (USSR) relations or both.
 2. Decide how much tension each event caused using your 1-4 scale. Write both of these in the column beside the event.
1. 1950: Sino-Soviet Treaty: Although Mao initially viewed this treaty as a success, he soon became to see it was exploiting the Chinese.
 - The \$300 million Soviet advance was a loan, not a gift, which the PRC had to pay in full plus interest.
 - China had to pay for the upkeep of 10,000 Soviet military and technical advisers in China
 - China had to give most of its gold bullion reserves to the Soviet Union.
 2. October 1950: When UN forces led by the United States crossed the 38th parallel of Korea, China declared war and began crossing the Yalu River.
 3. 1950: Korean War: Although Stalin encouraged the war, the Soviet Union did not get involved. Mao claimed that it was China that shed its blood for the cause of international communism. Stalin made sure that the PRC paid for all of the supplies the Soviets gave them during the war.
 4. 1953: When a truce was called ending the Korean War, the United States pledged itself to the defence of Taiwan and continued to support Nationalist China's membership in the UN.
 5. 1953: After Stalin's death the Soviet's began friendlier relations with China and provided further loans and technology.
 6. February 1956: Khrushchev launched a detailed attack on Stalin (De-Stalinisation speech). Alarm bells in China were raised that Stalin had put himself above the Party by perpetuating the Cult of Personality. Mao interpreted Khrushchev's denunciation of the cult of personality as an attack on his leadership style.
 7. November 1956: Mao saw the uprisings in East Germany, Poland and Hungary as indication that the Soviet Union had began deviating too much from Marxist revolutionary thought and were losing control of reactionary forces in the Soviet Bloc.
 8. 1957: At a conference in Moscow of the world's communist parties Mao let it be known that he was disappointed that the USSR were too accommodating to the West. He stated that the Soviet Union should abandon revisionism and fight the class war by supporting liberation movements around the world. Deng Xiaoping and Mao argued that world revolution could only be achieved by armed struggle and a final violent conflict (nuclear war even) between the international proletariat and the forces of capitalism.
 9. 1958: Mao ordered Chinese forces to prepare for attack against Taiwan. The United States prepared for war against China, and Mao backed down. Mao stated that he backed down from the United States over the Taiwan issue because the Soviet Union had declined any support for China. Khrushchev explained that he would not put the USSR at risk because of reckless actions on Mao's behalf.

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10. 1959: Mao was enraged when he found out the Soviet Union discredited the Great Leap Forward by calling it a major blunder.
11. 1960's: During the decade the United States CIA were involved in the Tibetan independence movement.
12. 1961: Mao offered money and technical assistance to Albania when Moscow withdrew support from the Albanian government after Albania wouldn't accept orders from the Soviet leadership.
13. 1961: At the Moscow Congress of the Communist Party, the Chinese delegation led by Zhou Enlai walked out after being criticized by Khrushchev. This led to the end of diplomatic relations between China and the Soviet Union. Soviet advisers and technicians were pulled out of China.
14. 1962: War broke out between India and China, and while the USSR was neutral, they supplied India with fighter planes and moral support.
15. October 1962: After the CMC Mao criticized Khrushchev for starting the CMC with his "adventurism" and also criticized him for capitulating to the American threat of war. Mao felt this was not the way to lead the international communist movement.
16. 1963: After the Soviet Union signed the Partial Test-Ban Treaty Mao criticized the Soviet Union's leadership of the communist world. Mao argued that leaders of communism should confront communism not collaborate with it.
17. 1964: China detonated its first atomic device. Mao repeatedly told Khrushchev that China was willing to use nuclear weapons (what he referred to as "paper tigers") with its enemies because China's population was so big that it could survive a nuclear war.
18. 1964-1973: During the Vietnam War China gave moral, diplomatic and economic support to the United States' enemies.
19. 1967: China officially became a superpower when they successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.
20. 1968: Brezhnev, the leader of the Soviet Union since Khrushchev's dismissal in 1964, rolled tanks into Czechoslovakia to stop counter-revolution. The attitude that the Soviet Union could invade neighbouring nations when communism was threatened became known as the "Brezhnev Doctrine." Mao did not believe that a revisionist country like the Soviet Union had a right to impose its wishes on another socialist state.
21. 1969: Brezhnev tried to outlaw China from the International Communist Conference. Border incidents between the two powers nearly led to full-out war, and each side aimed their nuclear-armed rockets at each other, rather than the West.
22. 1971: The parting of the "Bamboo Curtain." The United States recognized the PRC's right to replace Taiwan at the United Nations and recognized the PRC as the legitimate government of China.

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23. 1972: Ping-Pong Diplomacy, United States National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger begins talks with Zhou Enlai the Chinese Premier. These talks lead to a diplomatic gesture. The PRC invites the United States table-tennis team to play exhibition matches in China after they were touring Japan.
24. February 1972: US President Richard Nixon leader of the “number one enemy nation” was invited to visit Mao in Beijing. They issued a joint communiqué that expressed:
 - The hope that there would be continuing contacts between the US and China
 - That commercial, cultural and educational exchanges should begin
 - That both sides would continue to consider ways to solve the Taiwan situation
25. 1976: Mao’s death. Better relations between China and the Soviet Union occurred after Deng Xiaoping replaced Mao in power.

Activities:

1. Create a graph that charts American-Chinese Tension from 1949-1976 in one colour, and charts Soviet-Chinese Tension in another colour.
 - The bottom line of the chart should include every year from 1949-1976, the side of the chart should be built on a 1-4 scale.
 - For each event from 1949-1976 between the China-United States in one colour and China-Soviet Union in another colour you should determine how much tension the event caused using your 1-4 scale. Plot the event on the chart and then connect all of the dots when you have finished all of the events.
 - Number each of the dots on the chart so that it corresponds with the numbers on the sheet.
2. Write detailed and fully explained responses to the following questions:
 - Identify the major turning points in China-USSR Foreign Policy and explain why they were turning points
 - Identify the major turning points in China-USA Foreign Policy and explain why they were turning points
 - Describe the relationship between China-USSR Foreign Policy and China-USA Foreign Policy. What can you conclude about China and their relationships with the superpowers?