



Chinese Cabinet

CIMUN XV

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1. Topic 1 - Industrialization and Modernization

1.1. Introduction

The Great Leap Forward left China with famine and a strong need for industrialization. As such the government is in desperate need of creating and implementing a strategy to effectively vitalize China's economy. The people of China are demanding a cultural shift after the results of Mao's Great Leap Forward. Therefore, the government must ensure that they will remain in control of their nation.

1.2. Historical Background

Seeing a need for China to industrialize Chairman Mao Zedong in 1958 begins The Great Leap forward, which aimed to shift the Chinese economy into a socialist command economy. Thus, shifting the economy away from purely agriculture. This shift outlawed the private ownership of farms and mandated a national system of collective farming.

In efforts to enforce that the policies of The Great Leap Forward were being met, there was a widespread persecution of "counter-revolutionists". This persecution established a strong societal stigma against any counter-revolutionist. Struggle sessions and other forms of public humiliation and torture were just some of the ways that this stigma was inhibited in everyday life. For the four years that The Great Leap Forward was occurring China experienced a strong regression in the economy. This only complimented the fact that China was experiencing a detrimental famine.

One of Mao's campaigns during The Great Leap Forward was the "Great Sparrow Campaign". In this campaign Mao called for the eradication of flies, mosquitos, rats, and sparrows. To the surprise of the Chinese government the purge of the sparrows led to an ecological downfall. Therefore, in order to restore balance to the Chinese ecosystem the campaign to kill sparrows ended.

In 1962, after four years of the failed Great Leap Forward the movement ended. Along with the end of The Great Leap Forward came the end of Mao's strong grasp of the Chinese politics.

1.3. Current Situation

Today, the government of China is at a crucial defining point in deterring the future for their, newly nuclearized, nation. They must develop a strategy for how to industrialize the economy of China. However, even more pressing, the government needs to secure its position of power. The government cannot allow itself to fall and experience China collapse around it.

1.4. Industrialization

Currently, China is tending to the aftereffects of the failed Great Leap Forward, and how to industrialize the economy in a successful manor. As a direct result of the Great Leap Forward there was an estimate of up to forty-five million casualties due to the extensive drought and famine. As such, the government of China is in dire need of an economic plan that can serve to guide the direction of China's economic future. China is a newly formed nuclear force, and it is time for China as a nation to assert their power on the global stage economically in addition militarily. With a rising number of politicly involved young people, it is time for China to determine what their lives will be devoted to in order to better the economy of their nation.

1.5. Cultural Revolution

Two years ago, in 1966, Mao began his Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. This effort has been aimed mainly at influencing the young people of China.

Mao closed China's school has said that young people should instead take charge and influence the future of their nation. These young people have formed red guard units that use force to assist in achieving the change that they desire. Just recently, within the last few months, the former president Liu Shaoqi was removed from power and imprisoned. This is a direct result of the growing calls for change from Mao's revolutionist followers.

As a result of this rapidly growing movement, the government of China must ensure that they maintain control of their nation and must confront the revolution. If the government allows itself to seem weak in this troubling time, the fate of the nation will be in jeopardy.

1.6. Key Terms

- The Great Leap Forward
- The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
- Mao Zedong
- Liu Shaoqi
- Red Guard
- Industrialization
- Agrarian Economy
- Communism
- Socialist Economy
- Command Economy
- Nuclear Power

2. Topic 2 - Promoting Supremacy and Communism in Asia

2.1. Introduction

The People's Republic of China has been aggressively pursuing the Marxist and socialist dream since its defeat of Nationalist forces back by the United States in 1949. Through the overwhelming struggles and tragedies of the Great Leap Forward communes and work groups were eventually found to be unsustainable leading to the breakup of commune based farming in the early 60's. President Liu Shaoqi, Party General Secretary Deng Xiaoping, and Premier Zhou Enlai took over direction of the party and adopted pragmatic economic policies at odds with Mao's communitarian vision, and disbanded communes, attempting to rework the system to pre-Leap standards. Private handicrafts and street vendors were permitted, and peasants could sell surplus crops for profit after meeting their state production quotas. Living in semi-retirement, Mao continued to make occasional public appearances and voice his opinion on various issues, but played little active part in the daily management of the country from 1961-1964.

As the country and government bureaucracy attempted to recover from the failures of the Great Leap Forward Chairman Mao and with sidelined from decision making, and many policies were put in place that more closely mirrored the Soviet Union. However, as China started this recovery Chairman Mao began to chafe with his new position of figurehead only. Mao became convinced that his revolution was being betrayed, and that China was now being sold out to Capitalist principles and weaknesses. His vision of Red not Expert was being overturned. So Mao went swimming.

To counter the portrayal of himself as old and retired Mao went swimming to show his vitality and activity. He also appointed his wife Jiang Qing (an actress by trade) as Minister of Culture and put her to work purging art and literature of feudal and bourgeoisie themes. With allies placed in key positions he then started one of the most contentious periods in Chinese history, the Cultural Revolution.

2.2. Cultural Revolution

The Cultural Revolution was the first and only time, a section of the Chinese communist leadership has sought to rally popular opposition against another leadership group. The Cultural Revolution was formally inaugurated at a mass rally in Beijing, August 1966. Students wearing army uniforms were dubbed "Red Guards" and instructed to go through the country and eliminate capitalists and revisionists. Through 'Public Criticism' and revolutionary thought Red Guards began turning China's major population centers upside down as teachers, party officials, and anyone in power could be attacked.

Violence became so intense in 1966 and 1967, trains carrying weapons intended for Vietnam were looted, by the end of 1966, the army began intervening to restore order. Battles were fought, damaging cities and killing and injuring thousands. Mao restrained the Army, allowing the Red Guards rampage to continue.

There were many political repercussions of the Cultural Revolution. One of which was the Cult of Mao. The personality and words of Mao were elevated to almost god like status. Carrying a copy of 'Mao's little red book' became required in order to avoid Red Guards enforcement. All criticism of Mao ended and he became the undeniable leader of the PRC.

Another repercussion of the Cultural Revolution was that China divided fellow communist nations into three groups. Cuba, Romania, North Korea, and North Vietnam were classified as "mostly socialist with a few mistakes". The USSR, Mongolia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary, and Yugoslavia were classified as revisionists who pursued a false socialism. China itself and Albania were seen as the only true socialist countries in the world. This created an aura of purity and superiority for Chinese communism and influence within China, but it also created serious political issues because most of the communist world was stunned and horrified by the violence of the Cultural Revolution. This led directly into what would be known as the Sino-Soviet Split.

While the violence of the Cultural Revolution is now mostly ended, Chinese government has been gutted of its leadership and Red is now certainly more in power than Expert. The government systems for managing the country are still being rebuilt and any way of thought

other than Mao's version of communism have been thoroughly stamped out. While Mao is now again totally in control of the government, he warns "No one should think everything will be alright after one, or two, or even three Cultural Revolutions, for socialist society occupies a considerably long historical period."

2.3. Sino-Soviet Split

After observing the Cultural Revolution and enduring the Chinese preaching arguing that Khrushchev's emphasis on material development would soften the people and cause them to lose their revolutionary spirit Russian and Chinese relations quickly degraded. Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev was referred to as "the new Hitler" and during the late '60s, both nations accused each other of neglecting their people's living standards in favor of defense spending, being a tool of American imperialism, pursuing a false form of socialism, and of trying to get the world blown up in a nuclear war. Recent Soviet actions in the 1968 Prague Spring worried China deeply, as the Soviets now claimed the right to intervene in any country that was deviating from the correct path of Socialism. Since that time military buildup on the Sino-Soviet border has escalated with no sign of detente.

The war in Vietnam is also a source of contention for Chinese and Soviet relations. The political influence wielded by the Soviets in Vietnam is a point of serious concern for Mao and the Chinese as Vietnam falls into what the Chinese believe should be their sphere of influence. Mao in particular is affronted by this encroachment and while China has fewer resources than the Soviets are able to bring to Vietnam, he is still determined not to let the Soviets have Vietnam, almost as much as the Americans.

The United States has also made some indications that rapprochement with China may now be on the table. Seeing the differences between Chinese and Soviet policy as well as China's global isolation after the Cultural Revolution the United States sees this as an opportunity to crack open the Communist block and China could use the United States to keep the USSR from exerting as much influence or having as much power over China's development. Taiwan and the American backed government there, while defeated, are still clearly huge issues standing between the United States and China politically. While there are certainly serious barriers to working with the Capitalist Americans there are also some political benefits to which could

directly benefit China. This is an issue which will have to be handled with extreme care and deep strategy.

In the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution with government power being rebuilt, global isolation, but with a clarity of purpose and communist revolutionary vision, China is at a turning point as a country. Will it remain stuck in revolutionary chaos, be made a Soviet vassal state like Eastern Europe, or forge its own path and become the world leader that Mao envisions, only we can build this future for the good of all Chinese.