

# Cultural revolution

[History](#), [Revolution](#)



What Are the Major Impacts of China??™s Cultural RevolutionBy: Oanh

NguyenAndrew PontikesJoshua PhillipsIntroductionThe Cultural Revolution took place from 1966 to 1976. Mao Zedong was the leader of the Cultural Revolution.

He wanted to establish a more effective bureaucracy. Mao organized a group of young people, and their goals were to spread the idea of socialism around China. The Cultural Revolution, instead of creating a better China, left great negative impacts on the people and the economy of China, and also affected foreign countries as well. Chairman Mao ZedongMao Zedong was the former communist leader of China. About the Cultural RevolutionThe Cultural Revolution could also be described as the time when young Chinese citizens, called Red Guards, fought against the democratic society. Much respect and many rewards were given to the Red Guards; therefore Mao was able to gather many student volunteers.

The Cultural Revolution was based on the belief that school should be simpler, and the more books a person read, the more unintelligent they become. Mao wanted to brainwash Chinese society - especially young people - and create Chinese citizens who would grow up to become uneducated and mindless. A Young group of Red Guards Mao gathered to fight against democratic society. Mao & The Gang of FourMao Zedong (1893-1976)He was the communist leader of China during the Cultural Revolution. The Gang of FourThey were the four Chinese Communist Party Officials. Jiang Qing (1914-1991)Maos last wife and the leading figure of the group and her close associates whose were: Zhang Chunqiao (1917-2005)Sentenced to death, but sentence was changed to life imprisonment. Yao Wenyuan (1931-

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2005) Arrested and sentenced to 20 life imprisonment. Wang Hongwen (1936-1992) He was an important figure after Mao's death.

He was also arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. The Gang of Four  
Pictured Here are the original Gang of Four members. Impacts on Japan and Media  
Outside of China, the cultural revolution left the greatest impact on Japan. China had great control over the media at the time, therefore the cause and effects of the Cultural Revolution were forbidden to be published, and anyone who wrote about it were to be exiled. Chinese Government kept a tight seal over what went on in China.

People could only read about what happened through false and misleading facts approved by the communist regime. Only supporters of the Cultural Revolution could enter China. Even Chinese students and citizens had a hard time understanding what was going on due to the control of the media. Resulted in much confusion in Japan.

Despite that, Japan formed groups that reacted against the Chinese government. Since China and Japan were not able to communicate during the Cultural Revolution, groups of sympathy for the Chinese government soon ended. Impacts on Economy and Families  
The Cultural Revolution caused China's economy to collapse. The amount of rice grains produced a year decreased greatly and cotton production also dropped dramatically. Due to the decreased production, the price for rice increased, and the price for cotton fabrics and clothes also increased. Transportation also became a problem for the people of China, as industrial production dropped during the ten harsh years. The Cultural Revolution led many citizens to lose their

possessions. Politicians, landowners, and the high class society lost their jobs and properties.

The lives of many Chinese were changed for the worse. More citizens became peasants and worked in the farms in order to afford foods and earn money for their families. Due to the abandonment of the birth control programs, many families increased and birth rates went up. That made living arrangements harder for most families, as the expenses of living were already difficult. Impacts on Schools and Students Many Chinese students were not able to study during the Cultural Revolution. They were forced to farm and do manual labor. The government required that the values of the Cultural Revolution be taught in schools.

During 1966 and 1967, all graduates and current students were required to completed a course covering the ideals of the Cultural Revolution before graduating. The process blocked many students from completing school, and many students dropped out. For those children who could not afford to go to school, they worked in factories and farms to earn petty amounts of money for their family. For those who stayed in school until graduation, they were sent to the countryside, because Mao thought it was necessary for graduates to be re-educated by famers and peasants. Four million high school and college graduates and sixteen million students were sent to the farmland where they ended up working the farms and performing manual labor. Problems arose for most of the young people due to the scarcity of food, housing, and money. Many talented students talents were wasted, because they were stuck working in the fields until the revolution ended.

**Results**The death of Mao and the purge of the Gang of Four in 1976 marked the end of the Cultural Revolution. The Eleventh Party Congress officially ended the Cultural Revolution in December of 1977. Throughout the ten years, many people were left in poverty and for many, educational opportunity was forever over. The burden of the ten years known as Mao's Bloody Years left a burden on China that continued after the end of the Cultural Revolution.

The educational systems took many long years to repair. The greatest impact of all was that all educational opportunities and potential productive careers were denied to people who experienced the Cultural Revolution during their teens and early adulthood. For some people, their lives changed for the better as they were able to escape the hardships of the Cultural Revolution. As for most, the nightmares of the Cultural Revolution still linger and escaping that piece of reality is only hope, because the collapse of the economy and government had huge impacts on their lives which took years and years to restore. Nearing the end of the revolutionA gathering during the end of the Cultural Revolution in China.

**Conclusion**The corruption of the Cultural Revolution in the government and society left the Chinese people in fear. Traditional lifestyles were abandoned, as many people relied on bribery for ways of advancements. Although many people lost properties, wealth, jobs, lives, and much more, the end of the Cultural Revolution was a joyous time for the people.

As that meant their lives will get better, and many people picked up the pieces and began down the long road of recovery. As China's government

is reformed, and the economy is rebuilt, new educational opportunity opens doors for the young generations to form a better society. The impacts of the Cultural Revolution scarred lives, but the people regained a hope for a better tomorrow. Finally, the hope for a better life in China is being established, as many homes and families put the past behind them, as they head out towards a better future. Works Cited Websites Discovering China. Michael Galduroz, Yuki Satou and Alex Busetto. ThinkQuest.

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