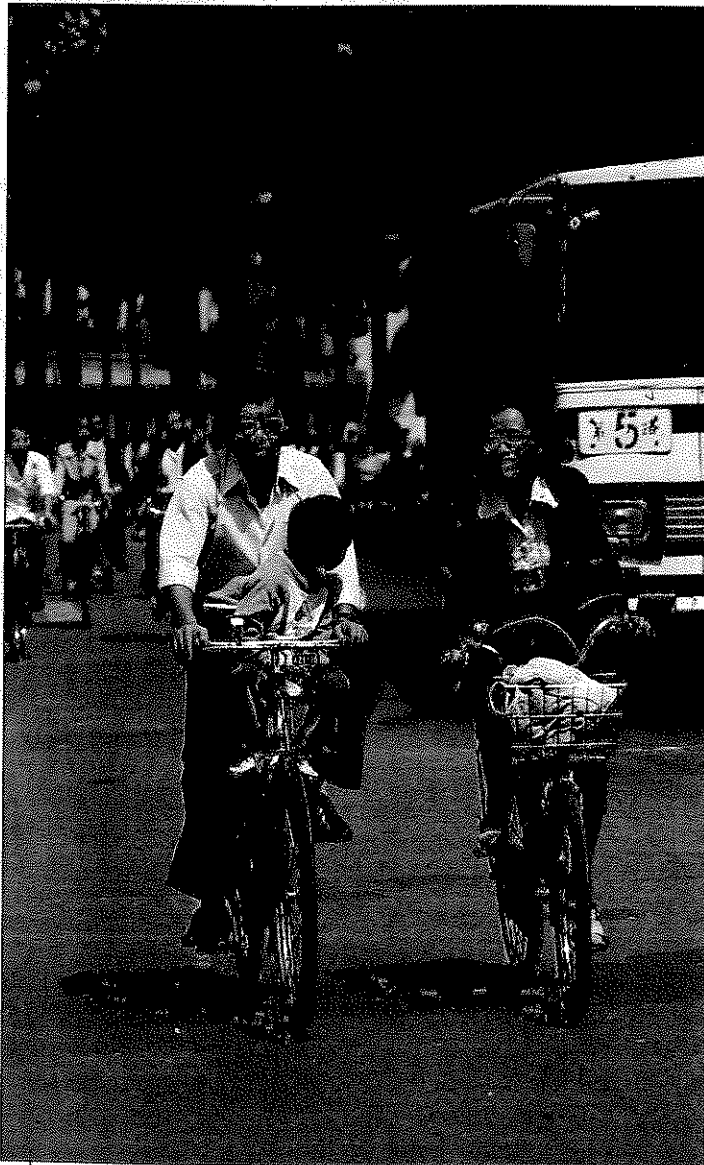


## Chapter 16

# CHINA TODAY



**The Changing Face of China** This scene dramatizes some of the great changes that are transforming China. China is becoming urbanized, women enjoy greater equality, and families are now smaller in size. Even the sea of bicycles conveys this sense of rapid change.

**Change** What features of traditional Chinese society do you think might hinder these changes?

## CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 The People's Republic of China
- 2 Economic Development
- 3 Changing Patterns of Life
- 4 China and the World
- 5 Literature and the Arts

**A**fter years of struggle, Happy Boy had finally saved enough money to buy a rickshaw. Now he could earn a living by pulling passengers through the streets of Beijing.

Happy Boy's joy did not last. Soldiers kidnapped him and forced him to transport them through the mountains. Everything he had was lost.

“The more Happy Boy thought of what had already gone by, the more he hated the soldiers who had taken him. They had robbed him of his clothes, his shoes, his hat, his rickshaw, and even of the strip of cloth that he wound around his waist as a belt. They had left him nothing but black and blue bruises.”

In *Rickshaw Boy*, Lao She tells the tragic tale of a young Chinese

during the 1930s. Happy Boy's sufferings were not unique. Between 1911 and 1949, China experienced civil war and foreign invasion. For most Chinese, the turmoil led to hunger and injustice.

## CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

In 1949, the Chinese Communists won power by promising a new order. In the years that followed, they introduced changes that completely transformed China's political, economic, and social life.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ The Chinese Communists set out to revolutionize government, the economy, and society.
- ▶ During the 1950s, China tried to replace the old Confucian order with a new system of thought based on the teachings of Mao Zedong.
- ▶ After 1949, many obstacles stood in the way of China's becoming a modern world power.
- ▶ Because of its vast size and rapidly developing economy, China today ranks as a world leader.

### Literature Connections

In this chapter, you will encounter passages from the following works.

*Rickshaw Boy*, Lao She

*Quotations From Chairman Mao*

*Son of the Revolution*, Liang Heng

*Chinese Lives*, Zhang Xinxin and Sang Ye

*The People's Comic Book*

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

# 1

## THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### FIND OUT

Why did many Chinese people support the Communists?

What ideas influenced Mao Zedong?

How did the Communists achieve order?

**Vocabulary** proletarian, totalitarian state, propaganda

“A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle,” wrote the Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong in 1927. “A revolution is an . . . act of violence by which one class overthrows another.”

During the 1930s and 1940s, Mao rallied supporters to free China from the forces of oppression—greedy landlords, corrupt officials, and foreign imperialists. By 1949, the Chinese Communists had gained control. They then built a powerful state to push through revolutionary changes.

### Communist Victory

Even before World War II ended, the Nationalists and Communists had resumed their bitter struggle for control of China. Backed by the United States, Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist forces battled the Communists, who were led by Mao Zedong.

Mao's peasant armies were highly disciplined. The Nationalists, on the other hand, suffered from low morale. Soldiers were poorly paid and underfed. Massive corruption among Chiang's officials further undermined the Nationalist cause.

By 1949, the Communists had swept into Beijing. To throngs of cheering supporters, Mao Zedong announced the birth of the People's Republic of China.

Chiang retreated with his forces to the island of Taiwan, off the coast of China. There, he set up a government and vowed to regain control of the mainland.

**Appeal of communism.** Why did the Communists succeed? Mao preached a philosophy that appealed to China's poor. He promised to end many years of oppression by landlords and government officials. The Communists, he said, would set up a "dictatorship of the people" and introduce land reform. He denounced imperialism and called for China to industrialize so that it could take its place as a leading world power.

The Communists also won the support of many educated and middle-class Chinese. They welcomed Mao's pledge to end China's humiliation at the hands of the imperial powers.

**Marxism and Maoism.** The writings of Karl Marx, a German philosopher, shaped Mao's ideas about class struggle. During the mid-1800s, Marx had predicted that the proletariat, or industrial working class, would rise up against the ruling class. The proletarian revolution would spread around the world and create a new, classless society.

Mao adapted Marxism to Chinese conditions. He put his faith in China's poor, landless peasants to carry out the revolution, because China had only a small industrial working class. The 1917 Communist revolution in Russia also inspired Mao. It showed him that a strong Communist party could lead the people. (See Chapter 33.)

### Creating a New Order

Once in power, the Chinese Communists wrote a new constitution. On paper, it set up a National People's Congress, permitted free elections, and protected other democratic rights. In practice, China became a one-party dictatorship.

Communist party members held all the important jobs and controlled the government and the economy. Supported by the

People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Communists silenced critics and enforced their own views. As head of the Chinese Communist party, Mao Zedong became chairman of the People's Republic of China.

The new Chinese leaders faced many pressing political and economic problems. Years of war had created chaos and caused much suffering. In both cities and rural areas, millions of people faced starvation. Beggars and criminal gangs roamed the land.

To restore order and achieve their revolutionary goals, the Communists turned China into a totalitarian state. In a totalitarian state, the government controls every aspect of citizens' lives through a single-party dictatorship.

### Mao's Leadership

Through huge propaganda campaigns, the Communists made Mao Zedong a popular hero. Propaganda is the spread of ideas to promote a cause or damage an opposing cause. Children and adults were taught that Chairman Mao had all the answers to China's problems. They memorized his sayings from *Quotations From Chairman Mao*, better known as the Little Red Book.

In school, in the workplace, and at home, the Chinese learned obedience and loyalty to Mao. A three-year-old boy who ran away from a child-care center was scolded, "You are not Chairman Mao's good little boy. You haven't upheld revolutionary discipline." Years later, Liang Heng recalled how the scolding hurt:

“ I had been taught that Chairman Mao was like the sun itself. At home, 'Mao' had been my first word after 'Mama,' 'Baba' [father], and 'Nai Nai' [grandmother]. . . . Later I had learned to say, 'I love Chairman Mao' and 'Long Live Chairman Mao.' ”

Under Mao, China restored order and ended foreign influence. Mao insisted that China become self-sufficient. He promoted programs to increase food production and protect people from periodic famines. Under Mao's leadership, the Chinese built schools





**End of the Long March** This poster, made in 1973, shows Mao Zedong at the end of the Long March in 1936. It glorifies Mao and other revolutionary leaders who survived The Long March. Since most of the Chinese people were illiterate, the Communist government made wide use of colorful posters. **Political System** How might propaganda such as this strengthen Communist control?

and extended basic health care services to the huge population.

Mao launched massive drives to build a "New China." In Section 2, you will read about the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, Mao's programs to transform China's economic structure and social attitudes. Both programs had ambitious goals—and both ended in failure.

## New Directions

Despite the growing discontent with his policies, the Chinese continued to honor Chairman Mao until his death in 1976. Then, in the late 1970s, China's new leader, Deng Xiaoping (duhng syow ping), turned away from some of Mao's ideas. Deng eased some of the government's strict economic controls. He also sent Chinese students to study

abroad, and he welcomed foreign investment in China.

Encouraged by Deng's moderate policies, many of the better-educated Chinese, especially those living in the eastern coastal cities, pressed for democratic reforms. In early 1989, students in Beijing and elsewhere organized huge rallies to demand political freedom.

At first, China's leaders allowed students to gather in Tiananmen Square in central Beijing. Then, in June 1989, the government ordered the students to go home. When the protesters refused, the army opened fire, killing or wounding several thousand. In a harsh crackdown, the government arrested, tortured, and even executed leaders of the pro-democracy movement. The "Beijing massacre" showed that China's leaders would not allow their authority to be challenged.

During the 1990s, the Chinese government pushed ahead with economic reforms but kept a tight grip on political power.

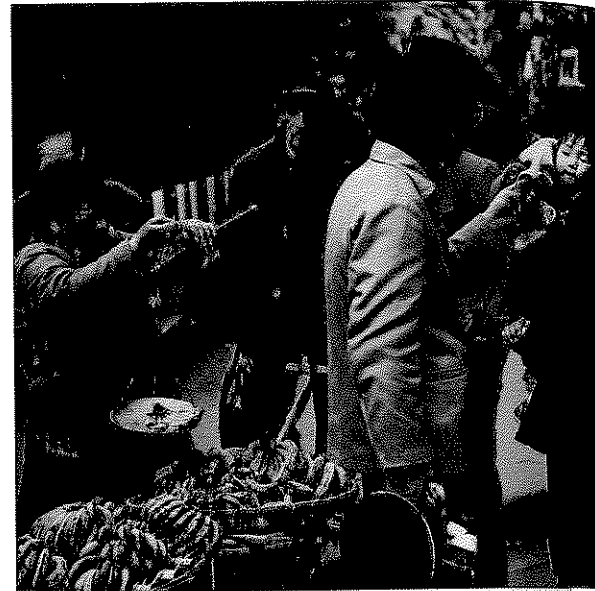
**Tiananmen Square Protests** In June 1989, Chinese students brought a large "goddess of liberty" into Tiananmen Square during pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing. This figure, modeled on the Statue of Liberty, became a symbol of the demands for greater freedom in China. **Human Rights** What freedoms did the Chinese government deny by suppressing this protest?



When supporters of democracy tried to organize political parties, they were arrested and jailed. Human rights groups criticized abuses in China. The government, however, rejected such pressure for change.

## SECTION 1 REVIEW

1. **Identify:** (a) Karl Marx, (b) People's Republic of China, (c) Deng Xiaoping.
2. **Define:** (a) proletariat, (b) totalitarian state, (c) propaganda.
3. (a) What goals did Mao support? (b) How did these goals appeal to different groups of Chinese?
4. Describe two ways in which the Communists restored order in China.
5. **Making Inferences** How did Communist propaganda about Mao Zedong help to unite China?
6. **Writing Across Cultures** List three examples of propaganda about a person or event that you have seen on television or in a newspaper or magazine.



**Free Enterprise in China** Under Deng Xiaoping, citizens were allowed to operate small businesses. Many Chinese earned extra income by selling products at city market stands such as this one. **Choice** Why might people prefer to buy things from private businesses?

## 2

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### FIND OUT

What obstacles stood in the way of the modernization of China?

What were the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution?

How did economic policies change after Mao's leadership ended?

**Vocabulary** collective farm, commune, capitalism

**F**rom a street stall, Shang Jinxi (shahng jeen shee) sells tea broth to people passing by. "These last couple of years, while the nation's

been trying to rev up the economy, I've retired," Shang explained. "I thought about it awhile, then dug out this big old kettle of mine. . . . I can make over 100 yuan [\$20] a month from it, on top of my pension. I've got it made."

Under Mao, the government ended private ownership of land and businesses. People like Shang Jinxi worked at government-owned farms, businesses, and factories. During the 1980s, however, Deng Xiaoping introduced new economic policies. Some private businesses such as Shang's tea stall were allowed to flourish once more.

## Revolutionary Goals

As you have read, Mao proclaimed three main goals for China's Communist revolution. He promised a better life for the poor. He called for development of a modern economy. He pledged to restore China's position as a major world power.

When the Communists took over in 1949, many obstacles prevented them from achieving these goals. China's huge population needed to be fed, clothed, housed, and educated. Yet years of war had destroyed China's few industries and disrupted its farming. China's geography, too, limited the amount of land that could be used to produce food. Floods, earthquakes, and droughts had further hampered its agriculture. As for modernization, China lacked the technology and capital to industrialize quickly. China's isolation from the world community added to its problems.

For the Communists, economic and political goals could not be separated. To build a strong economy, they believed, they had to destroy the old class system. In the past, landowners and other wealthy Chinese had controlled the means of production—that is, land, labor, and capital. The Communists wanted to place the means of production under central government control. In this way, they hoped to end inequality and increase output. As output increased, China could sell its goods on the world market and use the income to invest in industry.

## Reorganizing Agriculture

Once in power, the Communists quickly introduced land reform. They took land from large landowners and divided it among landless farm families. Many landlords faced harsh punishments for their past mistreatment of the peasants.

During the early 1950s, the government set up new programs, ending private ownership of land altogether. The government forced peasants to pool their land, tools, and labor to form collective farms. The members of collective farms worked for the state and received a share of the harvest. The rest of the harvest went to the government. The government believed that collective farms would be more efficient and result in greater food production.

**Great Leap Forward.** In 1958, Mao introduced another program. He called on the Chinese to make a superhuman effort to achieve modernization through one "Great Leap Forward." As part of this program, he divided China into communes. A typical commune included several villages, thousands of acres of land, and as many as 20,000 people.

**Working on a Commune**  
Under Mao, all Chinese farmers had to live and work in communes. More than 50,000 communes were established to produce the nation's crops. By the late 1970s, however, the government had begun to move away from commune farming. Peasant families were then allowed to lease farms. Farm output nearly doubled in value between 1978 and 1985. **Change** Why did communes fail to produce enough food?



The commune controlled the land and peasants' lives. At first, families were split up. Men, women, and children slept in separate dormitories and ate in large dining halls. The commune assigned jobs to each worker. In turn, it provided all workers with food, clothing, housing, medical care, child care, schooling, and even recreation.

The commune system was a way to mobilize the Chinese people to build bridges, dams, irrigation systems, and other projects needed for a modern China. Mao expected to increase food output through large-scale farming.

**Effects.** The Great Leap Forward led to disaster. Peasants resisted the commune system, sometimes even destroying crops. Food production fell because the government assigned millions of farm workers to projects such as building schools and roads. Since everyone was guaranteed a living, many workers did not work very hard.

Floods and droughts added to China's problems. Millions of people died in the famine that swept China from 1959 to 1961. Finally, during the early 1960s, Mao had to abandon the Great Leap Forward in favor of less ambitious plans.

## Cultural Revolution

Many Chinese blamed Mao for the disaster that followed the Great Leap Forward, and a power struggle broke out among the top Communist leaders. Mao grew concerned about factions, or rival groups, within the Communist party. He also believed that China's new generation had to experience revolution firsthand. In 1966, to renew the revolutionary spirit, he launched the "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution."

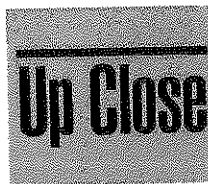
**Methods.** Mao stressed the class struggle. He urged young people to root out "capitalist roaders," or followers of capitalism, as he called his critics. Capitalism is another term for a free market economy, in which the means of production are owned and operated by individuals for profit.

Students and young factory workers responded to Mao's call by organizing the Red

Guards. The Red Guards held mass rallies to support Mao. They traveled around China attacking government officials and others who did not fully support the chairman.

Quoting the Little Red Book, Red Guards heaped abuse on people with "bad class backgrounds"—those whose families had been landlords, rich peasants, or supporters of the Nationalists before 1949. In public "struggle meetings," they forced teachers, factory managers, and even Communist party members to confess to "crimes" against Mao. Victims of the abuse were then sent to distant rural areas to do manual labor.

**Effects.** The Cultural Revolution created chaos in China. Schools closed. In factories, disputes between rival factions slowed production. Finally, in 1969, the Chinese army restored order, sending millions of young Red Guards to work in faraway rural areas. The emphasis on political struggle continued, however, until Mao's death. The Cultural Revolution left deep wounds. Many people had been tortured, imprisoned, or killed. The lives of millions of young Chinese had been disrupted. They never completed school. Many lost faith in their hero, Mao Zedong, and in the Communist party.



### A Doctor's Story

"I was not a Communist [in 1949]," the elderly Chinese man told a visiting journalist, "but I admired what they were trying to do. Old China was so backward, so poor, and so corrupt, there were beggars who starved to death in the streets every day."

In 1949, the man returned to China from the United States, where he had graduated from Harvard Medical School. Full of hope, he took a job in a Shanghai hospital.

The young doctor's optimism faded in the 1950s. In 1957, Mao encouraged people to freely express their suggestions for improvement. The doctor suggested that doctors themselves, not Communist party officials, should run the hospital. "I took Mao at his



word, I thought he was sincere," he explained. Mao soon changed his policy about openness, and the doctor was harshly punished.

Dragged before his colleagues, the doctor was beaten and accused of crimes against the revolution. "They called it a 'self-help meeting,' to help me improve my attitude," he said. The doctor was then sent to a labor reform camp, where he spent his time breaking rocks in a quarry.

After nearly 10 years, the doctor was released just as Mao launched the Cultural Revolution. The doctor was arrested again. His family suffered, too. Red Guards forced his wife, who was also a doctor, to sweep floors and clean toilets. They made his son leave medical school to work in a remote peasant village. His young daughter was expelled from junior high school because of her father's past.

Life improved for the doctor after 1976. He returned to his old job, where he worked with the people who had attacked him in the past. To the journalist, he confided:

“It’s funny, some of them now fall asleep at political study sessions from boredom. For all of us, the revolution is over. What is left is doubt and disbelief. It is very sad for China.” ■

## Four Modernizations

After Mao's death in 1976, a power struggle took place. On one side was the "Gang of Four," Jiang Qing (jee ahng ching), Mao's widow, and her top supporters. They favored the radical policies of the Cultural Revolution. On the other side were moderate leaders. The moderates, who made up the vast majority, won. They had Jiang Qing and her supporters arrested and put on trial. ( See Connections With Literature, page 806, "Homecoming Stranger.")

By 1978, Deng Xiaoping had emerged as China's leader. Deng's goals were similar to Mao's—to help China achieve wealth and power. However, he stressed economic reform instead of class struggle as the way to achieve those goals. Deng named his program the Four Modernizations. It called for modernizing agriculture, expanding industry, developing science and technology, and upgrading China's defense forces.

Deng wanted to increase mechanization, or the use of machines, in farming. He also hoped to make China self-sufficient in food production. To help achieve these goals, Deng introduced the responsibility system. Under this system, each farm family was responsible for making its own living. The government leased land to peasant households.

**Study Groups** During the Cultural Revolution, people everywhere, in cities and on farms, had to attend meetings to study and discuss the benefits of communism. The government supplied the approved texts to teach correct Communist thinking. Here, groups discuss their "lesson."  
**Citizenship** How were study groups an effective means of propaganda?





Each householder raised crops and sold a certain amount of the harvest to the government at a set price. Peasants could sell any surplus for profit—on the open market.

The new system used profits to encourage farmers to produce more goods. Private enterprise reappeared. Some peasants did well, and the standard of living in many areas rose. Although the profit motive replaced Mao's emphasis on moral goals, China had not adopted a capitalist system. The responsi-

bility system was simply a new program to raise production and strengthen the government's power.

Despite increased prosperity, the more conservative members of the government decided to restore some collective farming in 1991. They insisted that only collective farms could produce enough food for China's population. They also argued that only collectives could organize the work force needed to repair canals, dikes, and dams.

**The City of Shenzhen** The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Shenzhen, the largest in China, covers more than 130 square miles (337 sq km) near Hong Kong. Shenzhen spurred China's economy by bringing in foreign businesses. These businesses have invested more than \$2 billion in Shenzhen.

**Interdependence** How does China encourage foreigners to build businesses in SEZs?

### Building Industry

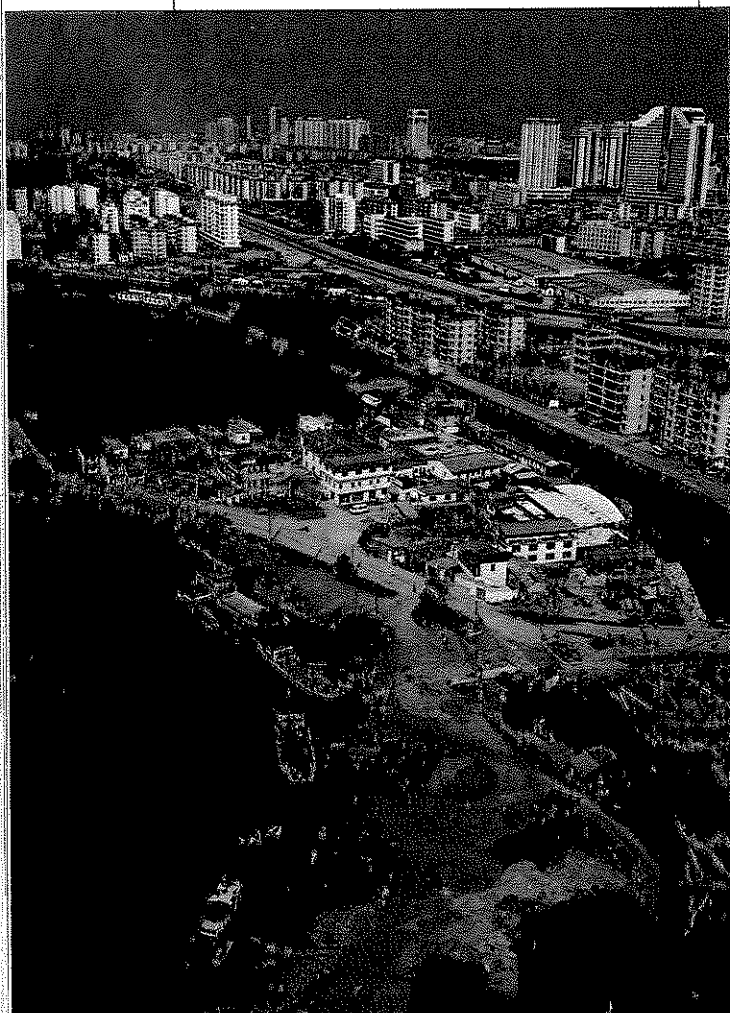
Under Mao, China poured resources into developing industry. At first, Mao stressed heavy industry, such as mining and military weapons. During the Great Leap Forward, he called on China to become self-sufficient. To meet this goal, communes built small factories to make farm tools, furniture, and clothing. Products made in these factories were often poor because managers emphasized quantity rather than quality. Many communes also set up "backyard furnaces" to make steel, but most of it was unusable.

Under Deng Xiaoping, China shifted its emphasis to light industry, such as manufacturing consumer goods. To make factory managers more efficient, Deng extended the responsibility system to industry. Managers were allowed to make decisions about what was produced, but they were also responsible for making a profit.

Although many factories remain inefficient, industrial output has grown. Today, China is one of the world's most rapidly developing countries. It has benefited from the discovery of new mineral resources. By developing its oil resources, China expects to increase economic growth and rival other major industrial powers. On the negative side, China faces serious pollution problems as it struggles to expand its industries.

### Opening the Door to Trade

Deng Xiaoping ended Mao's policy of self-reliance and isolation. He realized that China needed foreign technology and capital in



order to modernize. He called for an "open door" to foreign trade and sent Chinese students abroad to study science and technology.

To attract foreign capital, Deng set up Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in southeastern China. In an SEZ, foreign companies enjoy tax benefits and private free enterprise flourishes. The SEZ at Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, has grown from a small fishing village into a modern city. There, foreigners have set up about 600 businesses, ranging from toy factories to hotels and banks.

After the 1989 crackdown on student protesters, foreign investment slowed. China, however, kept its doors open. In the early 1990s, some foreigners, especially the Japanese, seemed ready to renew investment in China. China's poor human rights record, however, continued to hold back others.

## SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Great Leap Forward, (b) Cultural Revolution, (c) Red Guards, (d) Jiang Qing, (e) Four Modernizations, (f) responsibility system.
- 2. Define:** (a) collective farm, (b) commune, (c) capitalism.
- 3.** (a) List two economic goals that China has pursued since 1949. (b) What problems has China faced in achieving those goals?
- 4.** Describe two results of each of the following: (a) Great Leap Forward, (b) Cultural Revolution, (c) Four Modernizations.
- 5.** (a) Describe two ways in which the economic policies of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping were similar. (b) Describe two ways in which they were different.
- 6. Applying Information** Deng Xiaoping responded to critics of his economic reforms with this traditional saying: "It doesn't matter if the cat is black or white as long as it catches mice." What did he mean by this?
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Jot down some ideas about how the economy of the United States differs from that of China.

## 3

# CHANGING PATTERNS OF LIFE

### FIND OUT

- How does Communist ideology differ from Confucianism?
- What social changes did the Communists introduce?
- What is China doing to limit population growth?
- What role does education play in China today?

"My main worry was getting into the Communist Youth League. It looks good if you can. . . . Universities will judge you by whether you're a member and whether you're a 'three-good' student. That means good health, good politics, and good marks. "

In China today, as in the past, education is the path to advancement. As 17-year-old Wu Liyao (woo lee ow) points out, getting into a university takes more than good grades. Coming from a family of good Communists and supporting the Communist party are also key requirements. For the Chinese, education is an opportunity to help China, not the individual, to develop.

## A New Philosophy

When the Chinese Communists gained power, they tried to replace the old Confucian traditions with a new, revolutionary philosophy. That philosophy combined the ideas of Marx and Mao.

The new ideology, or official way of thinking, emphasized the values and goals of China's new leaders. *Quotations From Chairman*



**In a Shanghai Park** This group is practicing an ancient Chinese discipline called *tai chi*. Using *tai chi*, people combine slow, graceful body movements with silent meditation. The goal of those who practice *tai chi* is to increase and direct the flow of their natural energy to improve their health and well-being. **Culture** Why might a student like Wu Liyao practice *tai chi*?

*Mao* took the place of the Confucian classics. Instead of filial piety, the Communists called for loyalty and service to China. "Serve the People," declared posters and loudspeakers throughout the land. By stressing this idea, the Communists encouraged a sense of national unity.

China's new heroes were workers like Wang Qinxì, the head of an oil-drilling team who risked his life to limit the damage to an oil rig after an explosion. Children learned to admire the four-year-old boy who gave up his playtime to gather fertilizer for the commune vegetable fields. Traditional fairy tales were rewritten to teach the value of physical labor rather than riches.

## Social Changes

The Communists set out to build a classless society in which everyone was equal. They did away with the landowning class and mocked the scholars who had once ruled China. "Learn from the peasants," declared *Mao*.

The government tried to ensure equality by outlawing private property. In theory, everyone had equal access to education, health care, housing, and jobs. In practice, a new elite emerged. Communist party members and leaders of the People's Liberation Army lived in the best apartments. They had cars and drivers to take them to work and could buy hard-to-find consumer goods. Their chil-



dren won places in the universities and got good jobs.

By the 1980s, Deng's economic reforms were creating new differences in wealth. Some peasants and business people were making profits from private enterprise. With the money they earned, they bought luxuries such as refrigerators, television sets, and motorbikes.

Under Deng, the old division between rural and urban China also has deepened. Cities in eastern China modernized and adopted western technology and ideas. In remote rural areas, peasants had fewer opportunities to make money and move ahead. These areas remained less developed than the urban areas.

### Family Life

After 1949, China's leaders tried to weaken the influence of the family. They reversed the Confucian teaching of respect for elders and put their faith in young people. During the Cultural Revolution, Mao encouraged children to criticize their parents for clinging to the old ways. Today, institutions outside the family, such as day-care centers and schools, have great influence on the young.

The Communists also tried to destroy the traditional reverence for ancestors. To get more farmland, communes took over grave sites. Officials forbade families to hold traditional funerals or make offerings to their ancestors. During the Cultural Revolution, the Red Guards ransacked homes and destroyed family shrines. Even having a list of one's ancestors was considered a crime.

**Traditions survive.** Despite such attacks, respect for elders and other traditions survived, especially in rural areas. Families still scraped together enough money to bury their dead in expensive coffins. Although the old religions were banned, people hired Daoist priests to perform the required ceremonies. Even Communist party leaders sometimes held lavish funerals or memorial services for their parents or grandparents. Today, family members still get together to celebrate the Spring Festival, the traditional time for honoring their ancestors.

**Marriage.** In 1950, China passed a marriage law that provided for freedom of choice in marriages. Under the law, women and men were equal. In the family, therefore, the man was no longer dominant.

Young people no longer had to accept the marriage partner chosen by their parents. However, most young Chinese still rely on a third party, such as a co-worker or a family friend, to help them find a mate. (See the feature on page 362.)

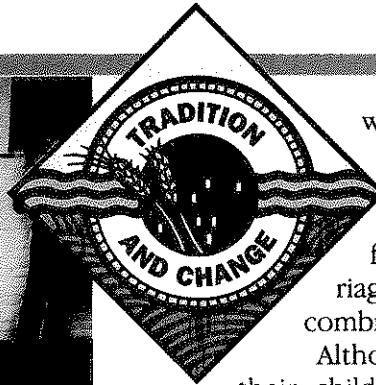
**Family size.** China's huge population is a major threat to modernization. In the years of Communist rule, the population has doubled. The government has taken strong measures to limit population growth. As part of its program, the government has encouraged young women and men to delay marriage until they reach their mid- or late twenties. It has also adopted a one-child-per-family policy. To enforce the policy, the government mixes penalties and rewards. Families that accept the one-child limit receive wage raises and other benefits, such as first chance at scarce apartments. Those who insist on having more than one child are fined or receive only limited food rations for the second child.

China's family planning program has had mixed success. In cities, where housing is scarce, many families follow the government's strict guidelines. In rural areas, however, peasant families still want large families. They can use the extra labor. Also, if the first child is a daughter, many parents will try again, hoping for a son.

"I've borne nine children," admitted one peasant woman in 1987. "The first was a boy, but he died. Then I had seven girls. . . . Only the ninth time did heaven send another son." She paid increasingly large fines for each child.

### A Changing Role for Women

Before 1949, women were considered inferior to men. They could not own property, and were expected to serve and obey their husbands and to remain secluded inside the home. Few received an education. "An ignorant woman is virtuous," advised an old saying.



## Chinese Marriage Customs

The wedding took place during the 1980s, but the wedding feast in the village of Maoping (mow ping) continued traditions that had been part of Chinese culture for centuries. Round balls of sweetened rice symbolized a life of harmony. Pieces of sugarcane stood for a sweet future. Fish signified abundance, and date soup meant hope for the early birth of a son.

After taking power in 1949, Chinese Communist leaders tried to end many traditional customs. They outlawed the binding of women's feet and encouraged women to work outside the home. They also tried to do away with religious rituals. Marriages, for example,

were performed in government offices or in the commune.

The Chinese, especially in rural areas, have resisted efforts to change traditional marriage feasts. Today, rural Chinese combine the old and new ways.

Although parents no longer arrange their children's marriages, most matches are still arranged with the help of friends or relatives. For example, the young couple in Maoping met at work and decided to marry. Still, they wanted the approval of the woman's mother. In accordance with custom, they hired a go-between to get the mother's permission.

The Chinese government has tried to convince people to be thrifty in planning weddings. Despite these efforts, the groom in Maoping spent about five years' income on the wedding arrangements. The couple were married first in a government ceremony. Then they held a traditional wedding ceremony and feast in their native village. In addition to the traditional foods, the groom provided cash, sweets, and other gifts for the members of the bride's family.

1. What changes did the Communists try to make in Chinese marriage customs?
2. **Evaluating Information** Why do you think the Chinese government has been unable to end many traditional customs?

Under China's 1950 constitution, the Communists introduced major changes for women. The constitution declared, "Women enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of political, economic, cultural, social, and family life. Men and women enjoy equal pay for equal work." China's marriage law also gave women the right to own property and to keep their family name.

Today, Chinese women have become more independent. Almost all women work

outside the home, and many hold high-level jobs in the Communist party or as factory managers. The government has set up day-care centers and nurseries so that young mothers can be free to work outside the home.

Although the law states that women and men are equal, most women do a greater share of housework as well as most of the shopping and cooking. An equal number of girls and boys attend elementary school,

but far fewer girls complete high school and enter college. Also, despite the law, men are usually paid more than women for the same job.

### Education and Technology

Since 1949, China's Communist leaders have emphasized literacy. They saw the need for educated workers in a modern industrial society. The government opened schools throughout China. It also set up adult education centers to teach older men and women to read and write. Through education, the government tried to mold people's beliefs. In political study classes, for example, students learn correct Communist thinking.

The government made Mandarin China's official language. It also took steps to make Chinese script easier to learn. Traditionally, each Chinese character was made up of a number of strokes. To become literate, a person had to memorize at least 3,000 characters, compared to 26 letters in the English alphabet. To promote literacy, the government

simplified 2,000 of the most commonly used characters.

The quality of schools varies throughout China. Schools in eastern cities are generally better than elsewhere. Students must take competitive exams to win places in the universities. Because they receive better training, city dwellers pass the exams more easily. Uneven education tends to widen the gap between China's rural and urban areas.

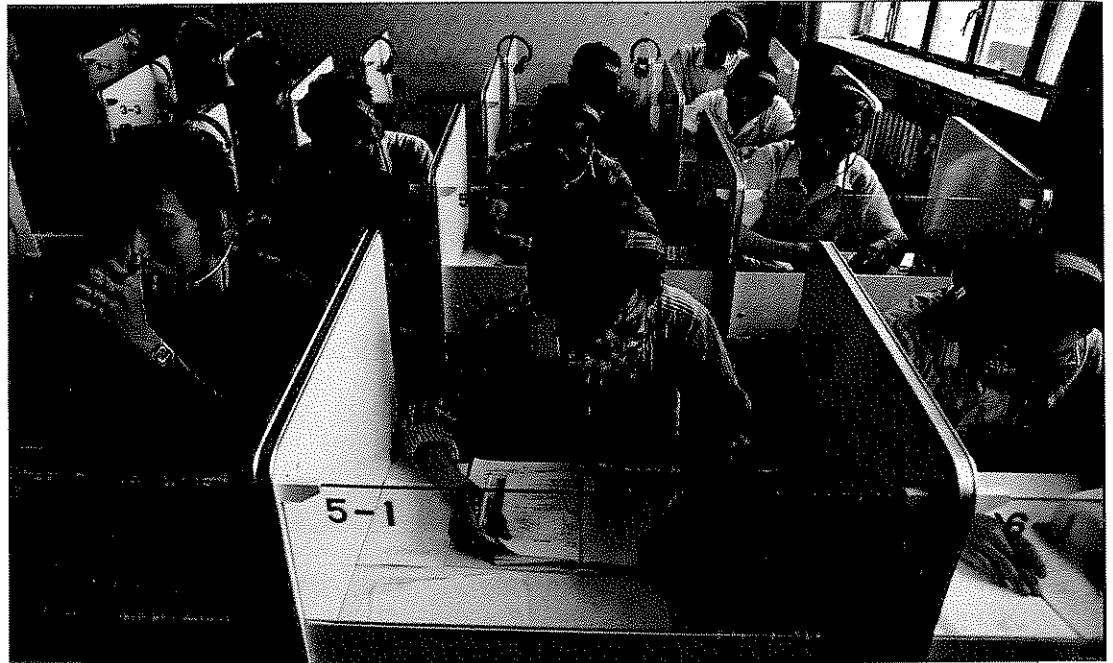
**Science and technology.** Throughout its long history, China has achieved an impressive record of inventions and scientific advances. (See Chapter 15.) Many of these Chinese ideas were later adopted by the rest of the world. By the 1700s, China fell behind the West technologically. Today, however, it is again putting great resources into scientific research.

The Chinese stress practical uses for science. For example, Chinese engineers have designed a small "walking tractor" that looks like a giant lawn mower. The "grasshopper," as it is called, is better suited to China's small fields and terraced farmland than are large tractors.

**Operating a "Grasshopper"** This handy machine, called a "grasshopper," is widely used in Chinese farming. Its chassis, or body, can also be separated and used as a form of transportation. China now manufactures 1 million of these machines each year. It exports many of them to Southeast Asia and Latin America. **Technology** Why might Chinese farmers prefer this machine to a full-size tractor?







**Studying a Foreign Language** Students like these at Beijing University use technology to study English and other foreign languages. However, only about 1 percent of all Chinese students attend college or receive higher education. Moreover, nearly 20 percent of all adults still cannot read or write. **Interdependence** Why is education so important in China as it prepares for the world of the next century?

### SECTION 3 REVIEW

1. (a) What actions did the Communists take to create a classless society? (b) Were they successful? Explain.
2. How has the Communists' effort to replace Chinese traditions met with mixed success?
3. (a) Why has China adopted a one-child-per-family policy? (b) How does the government enforce this policy?
4. (a) Why have the Communists stressed literacy? (b) What steps have they taken to make it easier to write Chinese script?
5. **Comparing** Describe two similarities and two differences between Confucianism and Communist ideology.
6. **Writing Across Cultures** On a sheet of paper, jot down one fact from Section 3 about each of the following: social classes, women, marriage, family, and education in China. Then, next to each item, jot down one fact about each in the United States.

## 4

# CHINA AND THE WORLD

### FIND OUT

How has China's role in the world changed since 1949?

Why did China regard itself as a model for developing nations?

What policies has China adopted toward its neighbors?

**H**erds of Asian elephants, sheep, and buffalo graze peacefully in the fields. Nearby, spectacular palaces and temples dot the land. The herds are mechanical, not real, while the palaces and temples are tiny copies of the

originals. All are part of a 100-acre park called Splendid China in Shenzhen.

In a joint venture with western companies, the Chinese developed this center to attract tourists. It features 20 villages that represent the cultures of ethnic groups from all over China. In addition, it displays—in miniature—the splendid monuments of China's past.

Shenzhen lies in one of the Special Economic Zones set up under Deng Xiaoping. In these SEZs, more than elsewhere, China's new "open door" policy is evident. Since

1949, China has moved from a policy of strict isolation to one of active involvement in the global economy. Because of its size, resources, and rapidly developing economy, China is emerging as a major power both among nations of the Pacific Rim and in the world.

### Relations With the Soviet Union

During the 1950s, the Soviet Union was the chief ally of the People's Republic of China. The Soviets had provided training and

#### MAP STUDY

Despite its rapidly developing economy, China remains a largely agricultural nation. It produces several major food crops. China also has important natural resources that strengthen its economy.

- 1. Region** (a) Name a food crop that is grown in many regions of China. (b) Where is most rice grown?
- 2. Location** What important food source is provided by China's location along the Pacific Ocean?
- 3. Analyzing Information** Give evidence to support this generalization: China has the natural resources needed to build basic industries.



weapons to the Chinese Communists during the civil war. After 1949, they helped China with loans and technical advice.

The alliance was an uneasy one. China's Mao Zedong and the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had different ideas about the best way to build a communist state. The Chinese and the Soviets had long been rivals for power in Asia. In the late 1950s, both also competed for influence in developing countries.

By the late 1950s, friendship between China and the Soviet Union had turned to hostility. China expelled its Soviet advisers. Border disputes along the Amur River in the northeast and in Mongolia threatened to erupt into war.

Gradually, relations between the two countries improved. However, the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 caused concern in China. China's northern and western regions are home to diverse ethnic groups who are related to peoples in neighboring states. As Soviet republics gained freedom, Beijing worried that its own minorities might demand independence.

### **Influence in the Developing Nations**

After 1949, China became a leader among the developing nations. Mao's outspoken anti-imperialism and his call for socialism found many supporters in these countries. At the same time, China supported nationalist movements in Africa and helped to arm and train communist guerrillas fighting in Southeast Asia.

China offered itself as a model to developing nations. Like them, it wanted to modernize its agriculture and build industry. Mao encouraged developing nations to set up collective farms, as China had. Few nations adopted the Chinese model, but China did send some aid, especially to Tanzania. An interest-free loan helped the Tanzanians to build an important railroad.

### **New Ties With the West**

Cold War attitudes shaped relations between China and the West. Mao condemned the imperialist nations and called for the

overthrow of capitalism. To western powers, Mao's victory in China was one more sign of the communist threat to democracy.

Led by the United States, most western nations refused to recognize the People's Republic of China. They supported Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government on Taiwan. The United States hoped to weaken the mainland government by isolating it. It also blamed China for supporting the aggressive wars waged by Communist North Vietnam and North Korea. (See Chapters 12 and 17.)

China remained isolated from the West until the early 1970s. Then, as the Cultural Revolution slowed, moderate Chinese leaders began to renew ties with western industrial powers. By 1971, the United Nations had recognized the People's Republic of China. A year later, the United States president, Richard Nixon, visited China. The two countries set up trading ties, and finally, in 1979, the United States officially recognized the People's Republic of China.

China has encouraged foreign investment and vastly increased its trade with the West and with Japan. However, the massacre of student protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989 soured relations. Western nations criticized China for human rights abuses such as using forced labor in factories. Chinese leaders rejected these criticisms as efforts by outsiders to interfere in China's internal affairs.

### **China and the Pacific Rim**

The nations of the Pacific Rim emerged as a force in the global economy during the 1990s. Relations between China and its Pacific Rim neighbors will shape developments in this region in the years ahead.

**Hong Kong.** In 1997, China regained control of Hong Kong, which Britain had acquired after the Opium War. This colonial outpost had long been a bitter reminder of western imperialism in China.


Under Britain, Hong Kong became a center of trade, manufacturing, shipping, and finance with a booming capitalist economy.



Many Hong Kong Chinese welcomed an end to colonial rule. Yet they were also uneasy about the future.

China promised not to change Hong Kong's economy for at least 50 years. Despite that assurance, many wealthy Hong Kong Chinese moved to other countries. Most of Hong Kong's 6 million people could not afford to leave.

China has interfered little in Hong Kong's economy since 1997, although its influence has been felt. The Asian economic crisis hit Hong Kong hard. By 1999, however, Hong Kong seemed on the road to recovery.

**Japan.** The Japanese invasion and occupation of China during the 1930s and 1940s left bitter memories among the Chinese. Since the 1970s, however, China and Japan have improved relations and developed many economic ties. (  See Connections With Literature, page 806, "My Old Home.")

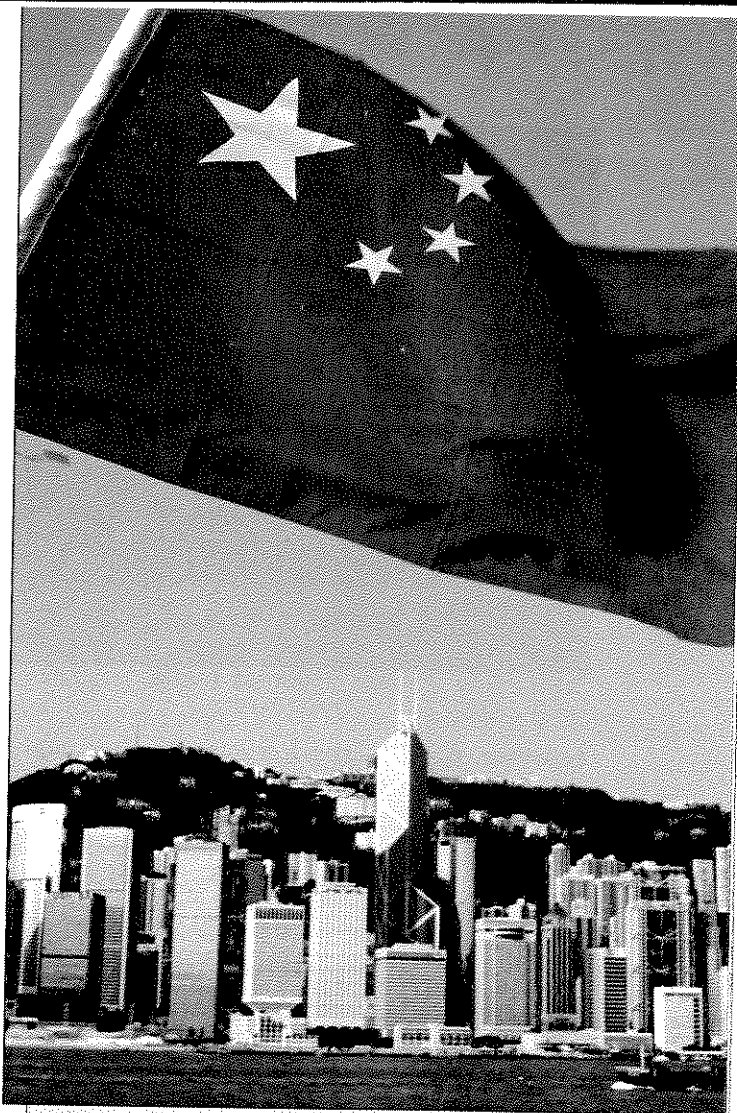
Both nations favor increased contacts. Through Japan, China gains access to advanced science and technology. At the same time, Japan sees China as both a vast new market for its goods and a source of much-needed raw materials.

**Vietnam.** China's relations with Vietnam have often been strained. In imperial times, China conquered and ruled much of present-day Vietnam. Many Chinese settled there, and Chinese cultural influences were strong.

During the Vietnam War, the Chinese provided North Vietnam with weapons and other supplies. After the war, old conflicts surfaced. China even invaded Vietnam briefly in 1979. Many people of Chinese descent fled Vietnam, claiming persecution by the Vietnamese government. Full diplomatic relations between Vietnam and China were restored in 1991.

**Taiwan.** Since 1949, the Nationalist government on Taiwan has feared invasion by Communist forces on the mainland. Today, economic and political changes on both the mainland and Taiwan have eased that threat, but China still claims Taiwan as part of its territory.

With military and economic aid from the United States, Taiwan prospered. Building on



**Chinese Flag Over Hong Kong.** While under British rule, Hong Kong became one of Asia's economic leaders. Then, in 1997, Britain returned the city to China. Many Hong Kong residents worried about the impact of Chinese communist rule. Others, however, celebrated their reunion with China after 155 years. **Human Rights** Why did some people feel threatened by the return of Hong Kong to China?

industries set up by the Japanese during the early 1900s, Taiwan developed a strong manufacturing economy. It exported goods around the world and achieved a high standard of living.

Taiwan's economic success has strengthened the long-standing desire of many of its people to remain independent. Others,



**China and Vietnam** China blamed Vietnam for numerous border clashes during the 1970s. In 1979, Chinese troops pushed 30 miles (48 km) into Vietnam. Two weeks later, China pulled back its troops, declaring that it had taught Vietnam a "lesson."

**Power** How did China's action in 1979 recall its earlier relationship with Vietnam?

however, want to see the island united with the mainland. Beijing favors that goal. Both sides are quietly working behind the scenes to explore ways to achieve closer ties.

## SECTION 4 REVIEW

- 1. Locate** (a) Taiwan, (b) Hong Kong, (c) Japan, (d) Vietnam.
- (a) How did the Soviet Union help China during and after the Chinese revolution? (b) Why do events in the Soviet Union cause concern in China?
- Why did China find many supporters in developing nations?
- (a) Why did the United States want to isolate China after 1949? (b) How did China's relations with western nations change in the 1970s?
- Why do the Chinese regard Hong Kong as an important symbol?
- 6. Synthesizing** List three adjectives that describe China's relations with its neighbors. Explain why you chose each.
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Some Americans believe that the United States should not trade with China until the Chinese government ends human rights abuses. Express your view in an editorial.

5

## LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

### FIND OUT

How have political changes affected the arts?

What traditions remain strong in the arts?

How do the Communists use the arts to teach values?

“Although Lei Feng's life is over, his spirit continues to shine forth undiminished. Rivers have their source, trees their roots. The source and the roots of Lei Feng's spirit lie in Mao Zedong's thought. . . . Let us forever remember Comrade Lei Feng's promises: to study for the people, to serve the people, and to fight for the people to the end.”

During the Cultural Revolution, millions of Chinese read the stirring story of Lei Feng in a comic book. As a child, Lei Feng w

cruelly beaten by the wife of a landlord. The Japanese killed his father during World War II. His brother died of starvation. By studying the thoughts of Chairman Mao, however, Lei Feng overcame his bitterness about the past. A truck driver in the army, this soldier-hero was killed while serving the people.

*Lei Feng* is propaganda literature. It shows how the Chinese Communist government used the arts to further promote their revolutionary goals.

### Old and New Traditions

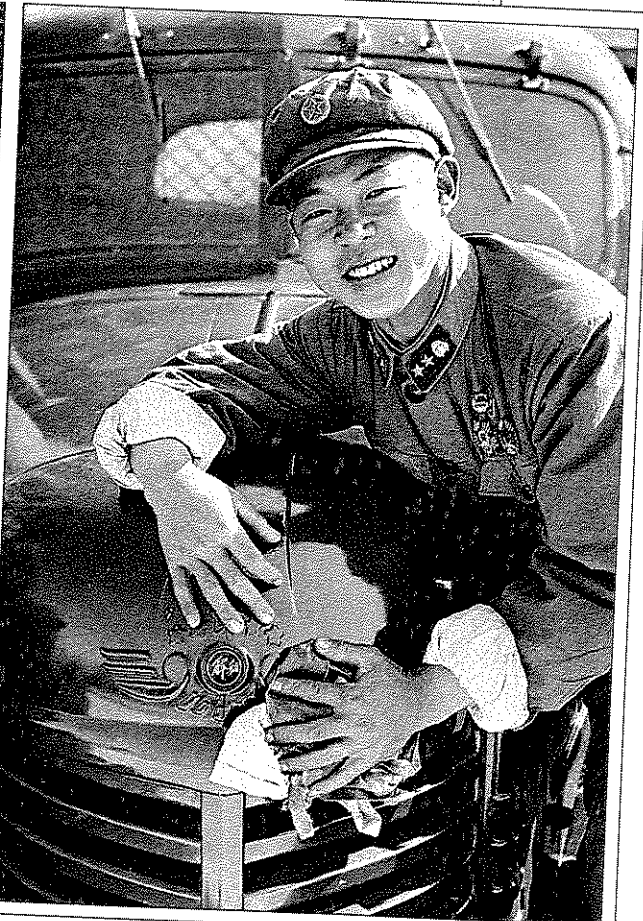
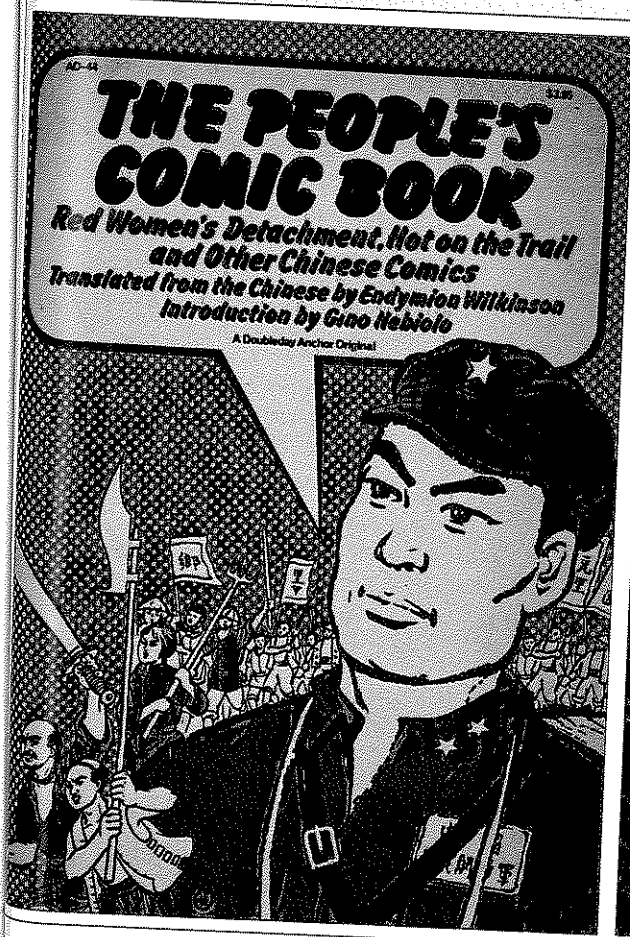
The Chinese have excelled in the arts, sciences, and technology for thousands of years. As you read in Chapter 15, several

traditions, including Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, influenced the arts and sciences in the past. During the 1800s and 1900s, the Chinese absorbed ideas from the West that produced new traditions. For example, to help modernize China, they adopted western approaches to science and technology.

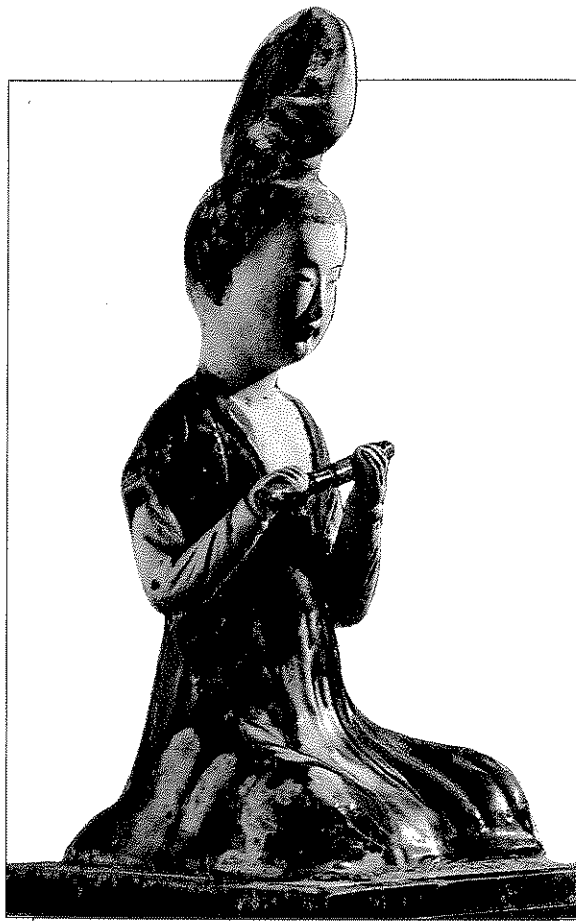
After 1949, the Communists set out to reform the arts. "All art is politics," declared Mao. He believed that the government must control painting, literature, and music and make the arts serve the people. He rejected much of China's cultural heritage because it reflected the old society, which was based on classes.

During the Cultural Revolution, the Red Guards smashed temples, statues, and other

**Serious Comic Books** Chinese of all ages like to read about heroes like Lei Feng. Although Lei Feng died in 1962, his memory lives on. After the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989, the government issued 300,000 copies of Lei's diary in order to encourage "a new upsurge in learning from Lei Feng." **Citizenship** What aspects of Lei's life make him a good propaganda hero?







**Porcelain From the Tang Dynasty** A kneeling woman at the imperial court holds a bamboo flute. Most of the ceramic art from the Tang dynasty has been found in tombs, some as far away as the Middle East. An Arab traveler in China during the A.D. 800s described the porcelain he saw as "vessels of clay as transparent as glass." **Fine Art** What does this figure suggest about China during the Tang dynasty?

works of art from the past. They burned books and family records. They did not destroy China's ancient culture, however. Interest in the past remained. In the arts and sciences today, the Chinese are seeking to create a new identity that blends old and new traditions.

### Visual Arts

Today, as in the past, the arts reflect how people see the world and their place in it. You have read that Shang craftworkers produced fine bronze vessels. The bronzes

were used to hold offerings of food or drink for the spirits of respected ancestors. Some of these bronzes were richly decorated. Among the most common decorations are monsters with curled tails and gaping jaws, tigers, snakes, birds, and elephants.

**Porcelain.** By the Tang dynasty, Chinese artisans had perfected the art of making porcelain. Porcelain is a hard, smooth, shiny pottery. Its special qualities are the result of mixing a pure white clay called kaolin with petuntse, a mineral found only in China. Objects made of the clay mixture are then baked at high temperatures. Tang artists made lovely porcelain figures of servants, musicians, dancers, camels, and horses. They colored these figures with distinctive yellow, green, and blue glazes.

Chinese porcelains were in great demand as articles of trade. Archaeologists have found Chinese pottery from Southeast Asia to East Africa. During the Ming dynasty, the Chinese produced the blue-and-white porcelains that later became popular in Europe and the United States.

**Painting.** In traditional China, painting was an art of the gentry class. They treasured works painted in ink on silk or paper scrolls. The scrolls were rolled up for storage and safekeeping. The wealthy brought out and unrolled their scrolls when they had time to study them at leisure.

Chinese landscape paintings reflected Daoist ideas. Many paintings showed rugged mountains and rushing rivers. In them, the artists conveyed the vastness of the universe and the harmony of nature. Painters used a wide variety of symbols. The plum blossom in winter, for example, suggested the hope of spring.

Under western influence, Chinese artists began to paint scenes that included realistic human figures. After the Communists won power, the government encouraged artists to use their works to promote the goals of the revolution. Painters depicted life on communes and in factories. Some artists still drew on scenes from nature, but in these paintings nature was simply a background for soldier-heroes and model workers. Such heroes, the

Communist party believed, would stir the masses to great deeds.

Modern Chinese artists use symbols from the past and the present. Red has long been a symbol of joy in China. Today, many paintings include a red sun rising to celebrate the victory of communism in China. (In the western world, red was a symbol of communism.)

## Literature

Confucianism influenced traditional Chinese literature. Among the educated, scholars wrote poetry that followed strict literary forms. The common people preferred legends and folktales recited by wandering storytellers. These tales of emperors, scholars, gods, demons, and magicians taught strict moral lessons. The disobedient son is always punished, and the good son is always rewarded. Many stories also carried the Buddhist message that people should accept their fate.

**Early novels.** For the most part, the Chinese have always regarded fiction as inferior to poetry. Despite this attitude, the Chinese have produced a number of notable novels.

An outstanding early novel was Wu Chengen's *Journey to the West*, written during the 1500s. In English, it is known as *Monkey*. A

fabulous and funny adventure story, it describes the pilgrimage of a Buddhist monk to India during the A.D. 600s. Monkey, the spirit guardian who protects the monk during the journey, is one of the most popular figures in Chinese literature.

Among the most famous Chinese novels is *A Dream of the Red Chamber*, written in the 1750s by Cao Xueqin (tsow shweh cheen). This popular novel describes the tragic decline of a large and wealthy family.

**Modern writing.** During the late 1800s, Chinese writers adapted western forms of literature to their own uses. Modern writers, such as Lao She in *Rickshaw Boy*, use novels to criticize society and call for change.\* Lu Xun's widely read *The True Story of Ah Q*, published in 1921, ridicules people who still accepted Confucian values.

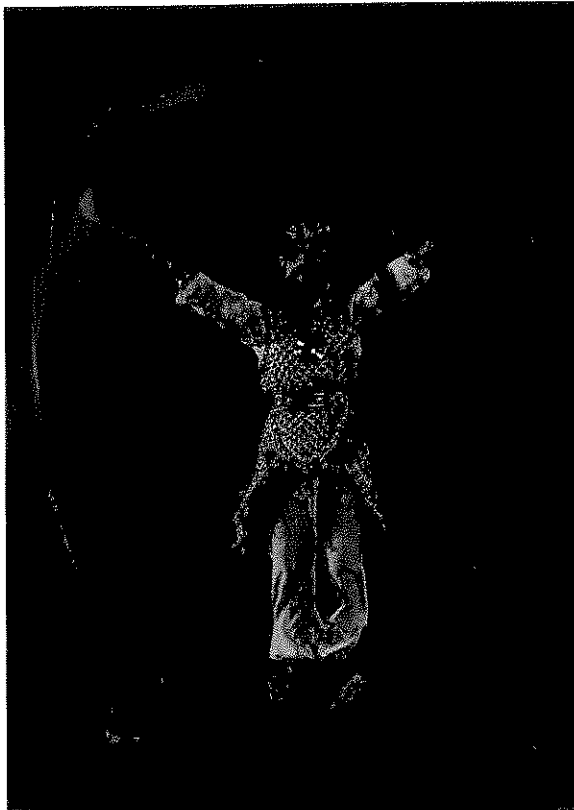
After 1949, Chinese writers emphasized new themes such as the dignity and strength of the common people. Their stories told of the superhuman efforts of peasants and

\* At first, the Communists praised the works of Lao She and encouraged people to read them. During the Cultural Revolution, however, the Red Guards drowned him in a lake.

### Peasant Painter at Work

Peasant painting emerged as a new form of art during the years of the Great Leap Forward. Mao strongly supported it, saying, "Everyone may participate in artistic creation." Peasant paintings, like those shown here, use bright colors and are highly stylized. **Political System** Why might the Chinese Communist government encourage peasant art?





**Classical Chinese Dance** China's most popular form of drama is opera, which combines singing, dancing, and the use of symbolic movements. This performer at the Beijing Opera is dancing while moving long ribbons of silk cloth to form constantly changing patterns. **Culture** Why do you think opera is popular in China?

workers who triumphed over evil. Using stories like that of Lei Feng, the government created positive role models and glorified the values of the Communist system.

### Performing Arts

China has a long tradition of opera, dance, theater, and other performing arts. In classical Chinese theater, elaborate traditions governed performances. Each movement of a dancer's head, hand, or arm expressed a particular action or suggested an emotion or attitude.

In Confucian China, actors and other performers had low status. They formed wander-

ing troupes that were regarded as rootless and lacking in family ties. Desperately poor families sometimes sold their children to acting troupes.

During the 1950s, China set new standards for performing artists. Actors, singers, dancers, and composers carried the message of revolution to audiences. The ballet *The Red Detachment of Women*, for example, shows the courage and cooperation of women soldiers during China's civil war. In operas like *Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy*, the Communists rewrote traditional stories. They set them in the modern period and used them to teach Communist ideology.

Chinese movies also build on colorful traditions from the past. They illustrate themes such as the conflict between good heroes and evil villains. Movies often portray rural life.

Government policy toward the arts has alternated between relative freedom and strict censorship. Recently, China entered the movie *Ju Dou*, about a family conflict, in an international film festival. The government later tried to withdraw the movie because it presented a negative view of Chinese life.

## SECTION 5 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Lei Feng, (b) porcelain, (c) *Monkey*, (d) Lao She, (e) *Red Detachment of Women*.
- (a) What Confucian traditions influenced Chinese arts in the past? (b) How do Communist values affect the arts today?
- Why did Mao reject China's old culture?
- How did Chinese artists promote the goals of the revolution in their work?
- 5. Applying Information** Mao Zedong once said, "Weed through the old to bring forth the new, and make things foreign serve things Chinese." Explain how China has applied Mao's advice to the arts.
- 6. Writing Across Cultures** Write the text for a story in comic book form that expresses an important value of American society. When you have finished writing, illustrate the comic book story.

# CHAPTER 16 REVIEW

## Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. proletariat        | a. market economy   |
| 2. totalitarian state | b. nation where the government controls every aspect of life      |
| 3. propaganda         | c. large state-run farm   |
| 4. collective farm    | d. spread of ideas to promote a cause or damage an opposing cause |
| 5. capitalism         | e. working class  |

## Reviewing the Main Ideas

1. Why were the Communists able to defeat the Nationalists in 1949?
2. (a) What steps did Mao take to modernize China's economy? (b) How did Mao's successors modify his policies?
3. Describe the goals and results of the Cultural Revolution.
4. How did the government respond to the call for democracy in 1989?
5. How did policies toward women change under the Communists?
6. (a) What values does traditional Chinese literature express? (b) What values does Communist literature promote?
4. China has moved from a policy emphasizing self-sufficiency to one of interdependence. (a) What steps has China taken to end its isolation? (b) How do China's policies reflect its acceptance of global interdependence?

## Thinking Critically

1. **Making Global Connections** In 1957, Mao noted: "There is a Chinese saying, 'Either the East Wind prevails over the West Wind or the West Wind prevails over the East Wind.' I believe . . . that the East Wind is prevailing over the West Wind." (a) What did Mao mean by this statement? (b) Do events today support this view? Explain.
2. **Solving Problems** Why are the performing arts a good way for a government to spread its message to the people?

## Reviewing Chapter Themes

1. The Communists set out to transform China. Describe one change they made in each of the following areas: (a) government, (b) economy, (c) society, (d) the arts.
2. The Communists' efforts to create an orderly society in China differed greatly from those of the Confucianists. (a) Describe three ways in which the Communists tried to establish order. (b) Describe how the two philosophies differ.
3. Deng Xiaoping instituted new economic reforms to meet the needs of Chinese society. (a) Describe the main features of the Four Modernizations program. (b) Discuss the extent to which the system was successful or unsuccessful in meeting its goals.

## Applying Your Skills

1. **Using Your Vocabulary** Use each of the following terms in a sentence about the economy and politics of modern China: *command economy*, *modernization*, *elite*, *land reform*. See the Glossary, pages 794–803, to review the meaning of the terms.
2. **Analyzing a Painting** Study the painting on page 353. Based on the painting, what conclusions can you draw about how the government wanted the people to view the Communist revolution? (See Skill Lesson 9, page 428.)