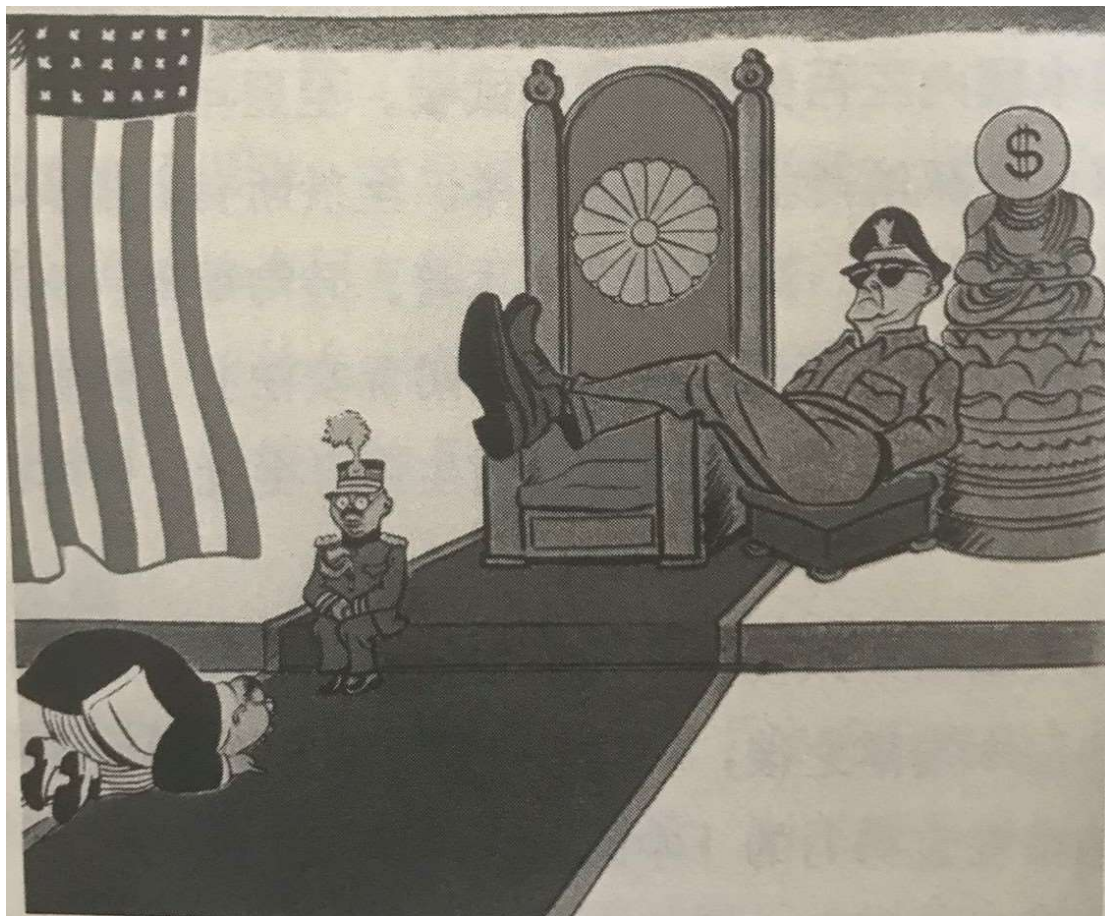


**30 Minutes.**

Study Sources A and B.

**SOURCE A**

The following cartoon was published in the Soviet Union after the Second World War.



**SOURCE B**

The following extract is adapted from a history book.

The pre-war Japanese land system can be concluded as a result of the deformed development of capitalism. Landlords owned more than half of all farmland and ordinary peasants led a miserable life. This system for parasite-like landlords, as one of the fundamental factors supporting Japan's economy under the imperialistic system, was on the verge of collapse due to the wartime food policy. The Second World War had a devastating effect on agriculture, in addition to the natural disaster in 1945. The government failed to provide enough food with the sharp decrease in food production and there were an increasing number of people dying of hunger. In the next year, 250,000 tenant farmers assembled in Tokyo and there were increasingly fierce controversy about landlords and calls for a ban on sharecropping. Solving land issues had therefore become the common goal of the SCAP government and all Japanese people inside or outside the Administration.

After the war, in order to stem the farmers' movement and secure food supply, the Japanese government put forward a proposal for land reform, under which the authorities compulsorily acquired land from landlords and resold it to tenant farmers. The agricultural reform eliminated the system for parasite-like landlords, transforming peasants into petty owner-farmers and tenant farmers into owners of small farms. However, the Administration monopolized rice and wheat under the existing food regulatory regime, which alleviated the pressing food crisis but was also used as a tool to stifle the farmers' movement. That is to say, the government used its power to determine the prices of rice as a chip to control farmers.

- (a) What do you think was the main message of the cartoon in Source A? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)
- (b) According to Source B, identify two characteristics of Japanese agriculture after the land reform. (4 marks)
- (c) Did the Second World War make Japan better? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge on the development of Japan until the 1950s. (8 marks)