

	First Five Year Plan (1953-57)	Great Leap Forward (1958-60)	Readjustment (1961-65)	Cultural Revolution (1966-76)	Reform and opening up (1978-2000)
Objective	<p>'One transformation'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accomplish socialist industrialization <p>'Three changes'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergo socialist transformation of agriculture, handicraft industry and private industry and business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to choose heavy industries as the key construction projects, promoting industrialization To boost up agricultural production and balance agricultural and industrial development To continued socialist transformation, consolidate and enlarge the shares of common ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readjustment: to try to balance economic development in agriculture and industry, wealth accumulation and consumption, etc Consolidation: to consolidate present economic foundation Filling out: to fill out light industries and handicraft industries which used industrial products as raw materials Raising standards: to raise the standards of enterprise management, productivity, products, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political: To reclaim the power Economic: To uphold socialism Ideological: To build up a cult of personality Diplomatic: To become leader of international communist movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve the 'Four Modernizations' of China. The four areas are agriculture, industry, national defense and technology' The last one was the key to success and education was the foundation of the 'Four Modernizations' China's GNP in 1990 should double that in 1980, so that people would be warmly clothed and well-fed; the GNP in 2000 should again double that in 1990, so that a moderately prosperous society would be attained; the GNP in 2050 should reach a level close to that of certain developed countries
Political aspect	<p>☹ Construction of road of socialism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of the Plan managed to exceed its targets for agricultural and handicraft collectivization By the end of 1956, more than 90% of peasants and handicraft workers joined the cooperatives, showing that collectivization was basically accomplished In addition, private enterprises were transformed into state-private joint enterprises or even state enterprises one by one On the whole, the 'three transformations' were achieved during this period. In 1956, Mao even announced earlier than planned that China had become a socialist state <p>☹ Created false optimism</p> <p>☹ Socialist transformation with reckless haste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mao Zedong once predicted that socialist transformation would take more than ten years to complete, but the First Five-Year Plan only spent 4 years to finish the 'three changes' Socialist construction was done swiftly, but not perfectly. Owing to limited time and lack of experience in collectivization, many problems arose E.g. the scale of cooperatives was too large that cadres faced problems with their management Worse still, the 'equalitarianism' bred laziness among members of the cooperatives, leading to a fall in gross output value in the last year of the Plan E.g. the Index of Gross Output Value of Agriculture increased from 103.1 to 107.6 during 1953-55, but soon decreased to 105 in 1956 	<p>☹ Building socialism in China</p> <p>☹ Sowing the seeds of the Cultural Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mao bore the full responsibility and admitted his mistakes. He 'retreated to the second line' Liu Xiaogi, Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping took charge of the government However, Mao was dissatisfied as he thought readjustment was 'right deviations' and would lead China to regression Moreover, Liu claimed that 'three-tenths (of the massive famine in the early 1960s) was natural calamity and seven-tenths was man-made'. Mao thought Liu was talking about him and his prestige was damaged Therefore, he was determined to reclaim the power, paving the way to the Cultural Revolution 	<p>☹ Sowing the seeds of the Cultural Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liu and his supporters kicked off the Readjustment and allowed individual production E.g. policies like 'three freedoms and one fixed quota' But Mao thought that such policies 'led China back to the road of capitalism', showed signs of 'right deviation' and was against the principle of 'politics in command, thoughts in the lead' Mao concluded that Liu and his partners were trying to restore capitalism Therefore, he started in rural areas the Socialist Education Movement in 1962 and specified that it was a must to purge the 'capitalist roaders' within the party, foreshadowing the beginning of a revolution 	<p>☹ Important lesson learnt at heavy cost</p> <p>☹ Paralyzing party and government institution, leading to lack of capable leaders and the 'San Xin Weiji'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purges made during the Cultural Revolution were irrational. No evidence was needed to purge others. It posed a great challenge to the rule of law Also, more than 2.3 million cadres were under investigation, paralyzing party, national and regional government institution Moreover, many capable leaders were purged, removed from power or even persecuted, including Liu Xiaogi, the former State President Worse still, many people swore that black is white during the revolution and praised Mao Zedong thoughts just for self-interests and power E.g. Lin Biao and the Gang of Four It led to continuous coups and struggled, and thus the 'San Xin Weiji' 	<p>☹ Stabilizing political environment and introducing liberal and democratic ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the Reform and Opening Up put an end to class struggles in China. The country then pursued unity instead and focused on economic development Moreover, the reform allowed the inflow of liberal and democratic ideas Big cities were opened up gradually and more students studied abroad. More than 60,000 officials and students visited or studied in foreign countries during 1978-88 These facilitated the spread of such ideas in China. The government tried its best to stop it. The June Fourth Incident in 1989 of which the protest in the Tiananmen was cracked down violently exemplified the efforts made However, they were in vain and the inflow of ideas became almost unstoppable owing to its increasingly frequent interactions with other countries. Such ideas promoted democratization and liberalization of China in the long run <p>☹ Corruption among cadres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reform and Opening Up encouraged cadre corruption The abuse of dual-track price system was a typical example. They bought raw materials and merchand at a low price for officials and state-owned enterprises, then sold them at a substantially higher price in the market and made a handsome profit In addition, corruption was very common Chen Xitong who was arrested in 1995 was a famous example

⊙ Laying foundation for industrialization

- ▲ Being the focus of the development plan, industry received many resources in the First Five-Year Plan and progress in industrialization was accelerated
- ▲ In 1957, the gross value of industrial output increased by 128.6% compared with that of 1952. The total output of heavy industries and that of light industries grew by 210.7% and 83.3% respectively
- ▲ Moreover, the output of coal, steel and other industries exceeded their production targets
- ▲ E.g. The output of steel in 1957 even increased by 98% (to 1310 million tons) compared with that of 1952. The output of steel was also triple the total output in the first half of the 20th century

⊙ Unbalanced economic development

- ▲ The development strategy of the First Five-Year Plan assigned top priority to heavy industry. Light industries would be developed later, and lastly agriculture
- ▲ Imbalance between agricultural and industrial development was thus created. The annual growth rate of industrial production was 19%, but that of agricultural production was just 4.5% in the same period
- ▲ Agricultural growth lagged behind industrial growth as a result of unequal distribution of resources. However, ignoring agricultural development worked against industrial development in the long run as industrial production requires raw materials from the primary sector
- ▲ In addition, stressing the development of industry at the expense of agriculture resulted in growing disparity between urban and rural regions
- ▲ Referring to the Engel's Coefficient and guideline set by the UNFAO, people in urban area of China had 'barely enough food and clothing' in 1956, whereas those in rural area still suffered from poverty

⊙ Industrial aspect : Wasting resources and disturbing agricultural production

- ▲ The nationwide iron and steel production campaign involved 90 million people. They were preoccupied with steel production and collected all iron objects in their houses for smelting
- ▲ By the end of 1958, the total steel output finally exceeded the target and reached 11.08 million tons
- ▲ However, half of it was below standard and about 1/4 could not be used at all
- ▲ Though great input was contributed to steel production, the outcome was not satisfactory. Most of the manpower and resources were wasted
- ▲ Worse still, the people were too busy with steel production to do farm work. Agricultural production thus declined.

⊙ Agricultural aspect : Fake reports on agricultural output which led to famines

- ▲ The government put heavy emphasis on production figures and production targets picked up continuously, ignoring the reality
- ▲ E.g. it increased the output target from 390 billion jin to 700 billion jin in 1958, and to 1050 billion jin in 1959
- ▲ Local cadres had no choice but to fabricate production figures. To everyone's surprise, the official newspaper The People's Daily kept reporting those lies. The news articles led to intense competition of output all over the state and many 'satellites' were thus sent
- ▲ However, there was not enough food left for the people in the rural areas after selling the required amount of output to the central government. Also, having the practice of 'everybody eating out of the same big pot', the peasants ate as much as they wanted
- ▲ Soon, China entered the difficult three-year period (1960-62). 15-30 million people died because of massive famines

⊙ Economic recovery and development

- ▲ The Readjustment promoted economic recovery and development gradually
- ▲ E.g. concerning the government budget, the budget deficit during 1958-61 was 8 billion yuan. After the implementation of the Readjustment, however, the government managed to balance its budget in 1962 and produced 800 million yuan of budget surplus
- ▲ E.g. from 1963 to 1965, the annual growth rate of industry and agriculture was 15%. The annual growth rate of industry was 18% and that of agriculture was 12%
- ▲ E.g. the difference between the gross value of industrial and agricultural output was reduced. Their ratio changed from 3.6 : 1 in 1960 to 1.7 : 1 in 1965
- ▲ In 1965, prices of consumer goods returned to the level in 1951

⊙ Serious hindrance to economic development

- ▲ True, China's economy still grew between 1967 and 1976
- ▲ E.g. the gross value of industrial and agricultural output and national income increased at the average annual rates of 7.1% and 4.9% respectively
- ▲ Nevertheless, most of the people were preoccupied with political movements and ignored economic activities during the Cultural Revolution. Also, Mao placed lopsided emphasis on 'redness' at the expense of 'expertise'. Knowledge and technology were neglected. These greatly hindered China's economic development
- ▲ E.g. it is estimated that the ten years of the revolution cost China 500 billion yuan of national income, which exceeded the total investment in capital construction in the first 30 years of the PRC
- ▲ The economic loss was the greatest in the early period of the revolution
- ▲ The gross value of industrial and agricultural output decreased by around 14% from 1967 to 1968

⊙ Development in the countryside

- ▲ It is estimated that about 16 million 'sent-down youth' had moved to rural or remote areas to work during the revolution
- ▲ They helped the construction of infrastructures and farming, promoting development in the countryside

⊙ Improving agricultural technology and production

- ▲ The party put forward the Household Responsibility System in 1978. Collectivized programs were ended and peasants could eat or sell the surplus. In addition, the government greatly assisted agricultural development
- ▲ E.g. she opened the Agricultural Bank of China in 1979 to provide loans to the peasants
- ▲ With the effort of decollectivization and encouragement from the government, the motivation and productivity of the peasants were boosted up. The total agricultural output increased by 50% between 1979 and 1984. The food production even reached 500 million tons in 1996

⊙ the rapid development of industry, commerce and trade

- ▲ After 1978, the party reformed such enterprises and encouraged the development of Township Village Enterprises (TVEs)
- ▲ It allowed the enterprises to be responsible for the economic decisions and self-financing. The unified purchase and marketing system was also abolished in 1985
- ▲ In addition, the party gradually opened up coastal cities to attract foreign investment and skills
- ▲ As a result, industry, commerce and trade of China grew rapidly. Its imports and exports was only US\$20 billion at the beginning of 1978. But the figure skyrocketed to US\$474.3 billion in 2000, showing a 23 fold increase. She ranked seven in the world
- ▲ The GNP of China was growing at an average annual rate of 9.6% during 1979-99, which was the highest among all countries. The GDP per capita also increased from 379 yuan in 1978 to 7,159 yuan in 1999

⊙ Continuation of the Three Rural Issues

⊙ Serious unemployment

⊙ Widen gap between the rich and the poor together with hyperinflation

			<p>⊗ Divided society and decline in morale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Class struggles led to division of the society. The Red Guards mobilized by Mao purged those ‘capitalist roaders’ and ‘revisionists’, many of whom were teenagers that admired Mao. They believed that ‘parents may love me, but not as much as Chairman Mao’ ▲ E.g. Bo Xilai who purged his father was a typical example ▲ These resulted in decline in morale and caused irreversible damage to the society <p>⊗ Disruption of traditional values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Cultural Revolution was an anti-traditional movement. Movements like the one to ‘destroy the “Four Olds” and create the “Four Olds”’ were started ▲ Many valuable antiques and monuments were damaged at the same time. The traditional values held by the Chinese also faced great challenges ▲ E.g. the Confucianism was criticized unreasonably ▲ E.g. the civilization and those values that took thousands of years to be accumulated were destroyed in just 10 years <p>⊗ Improving women’s status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ During the Cultural Revolution, Mao introduced the idea of ‘women hold up half the sky’ and it spread all over China ▲ Women took part in purges actively and constituted large part of the Red Guards ▲ Women also presented in much political propaganda, promoting gender equality and women's liberation ▲ Moreover, Jiang Qing, one of the leaders of the Cultural Revolution, became the role model for women to join political and social movements 	<p>⊗ the One-child Policy slowed down population growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The party wanted to reduce the pressure on resource and welfare by lowering the birth rate ▲ Therefore, it implemented the One-child Policy in 1980 which allowed each couple living in urban area to have one child only ▲ Expected result was obtained as approximately 250 million births were prevented during 1979-2000 <p>⊗ Drawbacks of the One-child Policy</p> <p>⊗ Serious environmental degradation</p>
--	--	--	---	---

Educational aspect	<p>☺ Development in science and technology</p>		<p>☺ Rising education level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ During the Readjustment, Liu rectified the lopsided emphasis on ‘redness’ at the expense of ‘expertise ▲ E.g. asked the economists to set economic policies aiming for profits and efficiency ▲ E.g. people who had been wrongly labelled as rightists were released, so that they could be back to work ▲ The government promoted education again, developing regular full-time education and ‘key’ schools ▲ The number of students studying in university increased from 440,000 in 1957 to 670,000 in 1965. Secondary schools also doubled the number of students, which finally reached 14 million <p>☺ Impressive result of scientific researches</p>	<p>☺ Creation of a generation lacking education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Education was regarded as unproductive and worthless ▲ People believed that ‘study is useless: the more you study, the more foolish you become’ and ‘the more knowledge, the more reactionary’ ▲ In addition, teenagers in cities were forced to leave school and work in rural areas owing to the ‘Up to the mountains and down to the countryside movement’ ▲ They lost the chance to study and thus lacked skills and knowledge ▲ Moreover, many intellectuals and professionals were labelled as ‘reactionary authorities’ or ‘stinking old ninth’, and purged ▲ As a result, education in China stopped ▲ E.g. in 1982, more than 200 million people were illiterate or semiliterate <p>☺ Development in the education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ In addition, the knowledgeable ‘sent-down youth’ set up schools in the rural areas and became the teachers, facilitating the development of basic education ▲ The primary school enrolment rate increased from 57% in 1963 to 96% in 1976 	<p>☺ Rapid enhancement in education and science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Education and science were regarded as the foundation of the ‘Four Modernizations’. Emphasis was thus placed on educational development ▲ The Compulsory Education Law was introduced in 1986, which required students to receive 9-year mandatory and free education ▲ The party also reactivated key universities and 28 universities were added to the list of key universities ▲ As a result, education in China developed at surprising speed. In 1999, the enrolment rate for children of school age reached 99% and there were 1071 universities in China ▲ The result of development of science was just as remarkable as that of education, and the most impressive achievement was shown in space technology ▲ E.g. the Chinese-built Long March rocket sent an American satellite to orbit successfully
Military aspect					<p>☺ Growing military strength</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The party streamlined the army to cut expenditure ▲ In 1984, the size of the PLA was reduced by a million so as to reallocate resources for alternative use, improving the quality of the PLA ▲ At the same time, the government made considerable effort to design and produce high-tech weapons ▲ E.g. the research and development of ‘Jian-10’ began in 1986
Diplomatic aspect		<p>☺ More serious isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ China developed hostile relations with the West after the beginning of the Cold War and her participation in the Korean War ▲ In addition, Sino-Soviet relations started worsening at the end of the First Five-Year Plan because of Mao’s discontent with the new Soviet leader Khrushchev ▲ During the Great Leap Forward, Khrushchev openly criticized the ‘rash advances’ of the Great Leap Forward in 1959, making the relations even worse ▲ In 1960, the inevitable Sino-Soviet split occurred. The Soviet Union withdrew over 1,000 experts from China and ended more than 600 construction projects. China became more diplomatically isolated 		<p>☺ More serious isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Mao incited people to struggle against ‘imperialism’, ‘revisionism’ and ‘capitalism’ ▲ This indirectly referred to Western countries and the Soviet Union ▲ It aroused anti-foreign feeling in China ▲ E.g. the Red Guards attacked foreign legations and assaulted ambassadors inside. Other foreigners in China were closely watched over. Also, Chinese people with foreign contact were persecuted as ‘capitalist roaders’ or ‘traitors’ 	<p>☺ Multilateral diplomatic strategy leading to increasingly superior diplomatic status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ China made an effort to improve her relations with other countries ▲ E.g. normalization of Sino-Soviet relations took place in 1985 and she established diplomatic relations with South Korea in 1992 ▲ Meanwhile, China played a more important role in international affairs as she became more willing to shoulder her responsibility after building up national strength in the Reform ▲ E.g. China mediated the North Korean Nuclear Crisis in 1992-94