

SJBC Curriculum Termly Plan: Y12 History – Mao’s China

Term	Topic(s) and links to other subjects	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary	Assessment	Resources
Autumn 1		1. By 1949, following years of civil war and Japanese occupation, China was economically devastated, with widespread destruction of industry, backward agricultural practices, and a collapsing national infrastructure, creating urgent conditions for Communist reconstruction. 2. The new Communist state established a centralized power structure where the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) held ultimate control, supported by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), a growing state bureaucracy, and the principle of democratic centralism that ensured Mao Zedong’s dominance. 3. To consolidate power, the CCP launched mass campaigns such as the ‘Three Antis’ (1951) and ‘Five Antis’ (1952), which targeted corruption, business elites, and perceived enemies of the state through public denunciations, forced confessions, and executions. 4. The regime enforced national unity through violent reunification campaigns in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Guangdong, and expanded the	1. Confucianism A traditional Chinese philosophy based on the teachings of Confucius, emphasizing hierarchy, respect for authority, filial piety, and social harmony. 2. Nationalism A strong identification with and pride in one’s nation. In China’s context, nationalism often promotes unity, sovereignty, and resistance to foreign influence. 3. Communism A political and economic ideology advocating for a classless society where the means of production are owned collectively. In China, this was adopted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) under Mao Zedong. 4. PLA (People’s Liberation Army) The armed forces of the Chinese Communist Party and the People’s Republic of China. It plays a key role in both national defense and political power. 5. Han Chinese The majority ethnic group in		Core resources: Shared lessons on One-Drive

		Laogai system—labour camps used for political repression and re-education—affecting millions of Chinese citizens. 5. China's intervention in the Korean War (1950–53) enhanced the CCP's domestic legitimacy by promoting nationalism and suppressing dissent, but it came at great human and economic cost, while simultaneously elevating China's international standing as a major power.	China, making up over 90% of the population. Han identity is often central in discussions of Chinese nationalism and unity. 6. Cadres Communist Party officials or loyal members who hold administrative or leadership roles, often enforcing party policies at all levels of society. 7. Democratic Centralism A key principle of Communist Party organization where decisions are made democratically within the party but must be followed unanimously once agreed upon—no open dissent is allowed afterward. 8. Laogai (Reform Through Labour) A system of labor camps used by the Chinese government to punish dissenters and reform criminals through forced labor, often involving harsh conditions and political indoctrination. 9. Cult of Personality When a political leader uses mass media and propaganda to create an idealized and heroic image of themselves. Mao Zedong developed a strong cult of personality in China. 10. Containment A Cold War policy used primarily		
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			by the U.S. to prevent the spread of communism, including attempts to limit the influence of communist China.		
Autumn 2		- Between 1949 and 1953, the Chinese Communist Party dismantled the landlord system through land redistribution campaigns, granting land to poor peasants before transitioning toward collective farming, culminating in the enforced collectivisation of agriculture by 1956. - In 1958, the establishment of rural communes abolished private farming, introduced communal living and labour, and applied pseudo-scientific agricultural policies inspired by Lysenkoism—contributing directly to the catastrophic Great Famine (1958–62), which caused tens of millions of deaths. - The First Five-Year Plan (1952–56), supported by Soviet financial aid and technical expertise, focused on developing heavy industry and national infrastructure, achieving notable industrial growth but			Core resources: Shared lessons on One-Drive

		neglecting consumer goods and creating urban-rural inequalities. • The Second Five-Year Plan, also known as the Great Leap Forward (1958–62), was driven by Mao's ambition for rapid industrialization and agricultural transformation through mass mobilisation, but resulted in widespread economic dislocation, inflated production figures, and the famine crisis. • Following the failure of the Great Leap Forward, Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping introduced pragmatic reforms from 1962, including partial restoration of private farming and local market activity, helping to stabilise the economy and improve agricultural output by 1965.			
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