

The Communist Party (CCP) and the Cultural Revolution

The Cultural Revolution ranks as one of the most chaotic events in world history. In 1966 Mao turned against many of his Communist Party allies and called on China's young people to revive the Revolution. Mao unleashed the energy of a new generation of Chinese who had been brought up learning to idolize him. Millions of high school and college students organized themselves into Red Guards and traveled to Beijing to participate in enormous rallies.

Massive Red Guard rallies in Beijing between August and November 1966 brought together 13 million (!) Red Guards from all over China.



IMAGE 12: Cultural Revolution poster; *The reddest, reddest, red sun in our heart, Chairman Mao, and us together*

1. Describe what you see in this propaganda poster?

2. Describe the mood of the people in this picture? Why do you think they felt this way?

3. The people around Mao are supposed to be students and carry "The Little Red Book", What do you think is contained?

4. Why does the poster show kids smiling at Mao, What is it trying to say?

1. What do you see in this picture? _____

2. Tell me two types of people are in the picture? _____

3. How is Mao shown above the crowd? _____

4. According to the poster, who did Mao want to be his leaders? _____

5. What types of people do you not see? _____

Students were not the only people who attended communist rallies during this period. Mao also received a lot of support from farmers, industrial workers, and soldiers. You can see members of these groups in the 1969 poster below, entitled *It is imperative that the working class must dominate*.



IMAGE 14: Farmers, industrial workers, and soldiers rally in support of the Cultural Revolution

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION: THE RED GUARD



IMAGE 13: Cultural Revolution Poster

The poster above is entitled *Long Live the Victory of the Revolutionary Cultural Line of Chairman Mao!* Most of the people shown are students and members of the Red Guard.

In the column on the right, list five different objects that they are holding and what you think each of these objects represents.

Objects and what the objects represent:

1)

REPRESENTS:

2)

REPRESENTS:

3)

REPRESENTS:

4)

REPRESENTS:

5)

REPRESENTS:

MAO ZEDONG GREETIS THE RED GUARD

- Have you ever been really excited to meet someone famous?
- Who?
- Why?
- How did you feel when you finally met that person?

For Chinese people, Mao was more than a political leader—he was China's biggest celebrity.

Listen to the story of *Rae Yang*, a member of the Red Guard:

At five o'clock, before sunrise, like a miracle he appeared out of Tiananmen onto the square and shook hands with people around him. The square turned into a jubilant ocean. Everybody was shouting "Long Live Chairman Mao!" Around me girls were crying; boys were crying too . . . Now I could see him clearly. He was wearing a green army uniform and a red armband, just like all of us. My blood was boiling inside me. I jumped and shouted and cried in unison with a million people in the square. At that moment, I forgot myself; all barriers that existed between me and others broke down. I felt like a drop of water that finally joined the mighty raging ocean. I would never be lonely again.

1. What were the members of the Red Guard shouting?

2. Why do you think the boys and girls were crying?

3. Why does Rae Yang say that she felt like "a drop of water that finally joined the mighty raging ocean"? What do you think she means?

4. Have you ever felt like this? When?