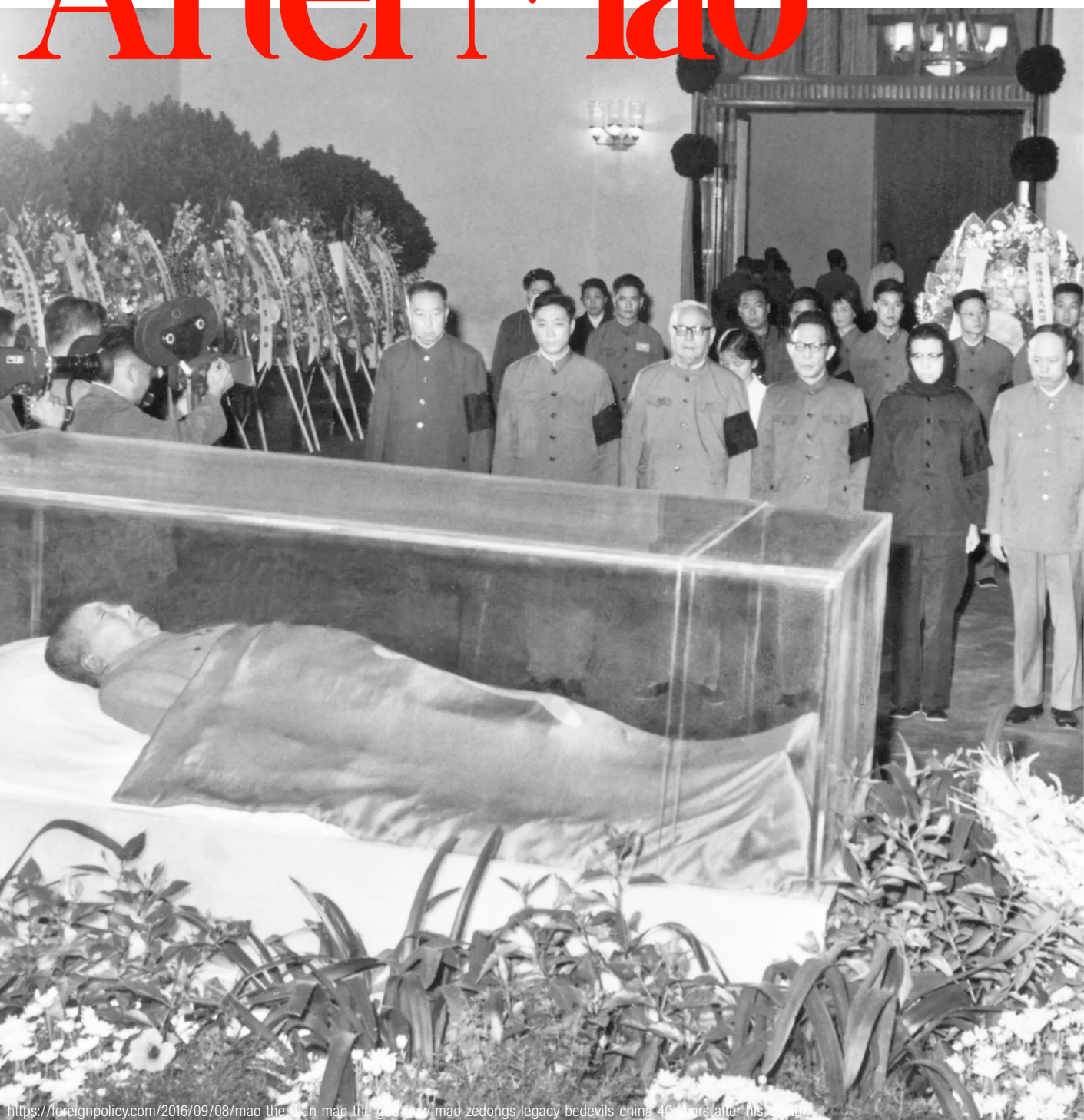


毛泽东逝世 After Mao

Georgia Tech Model of United Nations

Committee
The Aftermath of Mao Zedong's Death



Crisis Committees

October 14-15, 2024

www.gtmun.gatech.edu

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/09/08/mao-the-man-mao-the-god-how-mao-zedongs-legacy-bedevis-china-40-years-after-his-death/>



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BACKGROUND GUIDE / CRISIS



Letter from the Secretary General

Dear esteemed delegates,

Welcome to the twentyfifth edition of the Georgia Model of United Nations. I am incredibly excited to be your Secretary General for GTMUN 2024!

My first Model UN conference was GTMUN, six years ago, and it's given me a joy and passion for diplomacy that has lasted since. This year, the secretariat team has worked extraordinarily hard for months to assemble an incredible array of committees and topics to test your abilities and push you to grow as a delegate and as a future leader. As a person who was in your position six years ago, reading the GTMUN background guides, I know how it feels to prepare for a committee. Though this resource is invaluable, I encourage you to go beyond in terms of studying about your topic(s) and your country's diplomatic position. I firmly believe that the greatest moments in Model UN happen when you have resiliently prepared through different resources to bring your member state's view into the committee. It is a sincere hope of mine that you enjoy the conference, and take the fullest advantage of what GTMUN has to offer, from public speaking skills, to critical thinking and policy creation. It is opportunities like these when you can connect with fellow, like-minded delegates to bring ideas into the table and construct the progress that people across the globe need, and that only the United Nations can deliver.

GTMUN is an amazing chance to brainstorm to solve current issues creatively and practicing being the leader of tomorrow. I wish you the best in preparing for and participating at the upcoming conference!



GTMUN XXV Secretary General
Jonah Isaza

Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to GTMUN XXIV and introduce you to the Aftermath of Mao Zedong's Death committee! I am Sam Zhang and I am your Crisis Director for this committee. I was born in China, immigrated to Canada in my youth, and I'm now a sophomore studying mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech. I have been doing Model UN for six years in both Canada and the United States.

This committee is a Crisis committee, and you will represent a character instead of a country. You will face evolving challenges presented by crisis updates. To navigate through them, you must take collective action through frontroom directives and individual schemes through backroom notes. If you are new to Crisis, feel free to ask our staff members for help!

The characters in this committee consist of senior government officials in Communist China in 1976. By then, Mao had ruled China for almost three decades. The Cultural Revolution has been in effect since 1966, where the political opponents of Mao were brutally suppressed. Mao has carefully balanced the power of each faction to ensure his continued control, but now, his health has significantly declined. Who would win the struggle for power over China in the Aftermath of Mao Zedong's Death?

To give some tips to help you prepare, I recommend you to research on topics such as your character, Mao, the CCP, the Cultural Revolution, and other characters in your committee. I also recommend doing some creative brainstorming on what you want to do as your character—think about their resources, connections, and skills. Note that this is a historical Crisis committee, so I prefer creative yet historically accurate and true-to-character solutions.

In any case, I hope that you will enjoy this committee! If you have any questions, feel free to shoot us an email. Let's see what the dawn of a new era of Chinese history will bring as the Red Sun in the Sky sets into the dusk.

Best regards,



Tianyin (Sam) Zhang
Crisis Director, Aftermath of Mao Zedong's Death





Content Disclaimer

Model United Nations offers an opportunity for delegates to diplomatically engage with topics of global importance and meaningfully explore possibilities for conflict resolution. Many of the topics at hand may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter. We ask delegates to be respectful and professional when engaging with their committee and communicating with fellow delegates and GTMUN High School Conference staff. The below content warning is meant to warn you of potentially controversial topics that may appear in this background guide and other aspects of the committee (e.g. debate, speeches, directives) so that you can either prepare yourself before reading this background guide or opt-out of reading it entirely.

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In *Aftermath of Mao Zedong's Death*, delegates may be involved in discussions and may receive crisis notes and updates covering death, national histories, communism, classism, sexism, war crimes, torture, natural disasters, animal abuse, political suppression, and labor camps.

At GTMUN High School Conference, we take equity violations very seriously and require delegates to fully comply with our equity guidelines. Failure to do so will result in an immediate disqualification from awards and you may be asked to leave the conference. Please remain respectful in committee, avoid overgeneralizations, and take into account individual differences and contexts during your speeches. If you have any questions regarding our equity guidelines, please reach out to one of our staff members.

毛泽东逝世

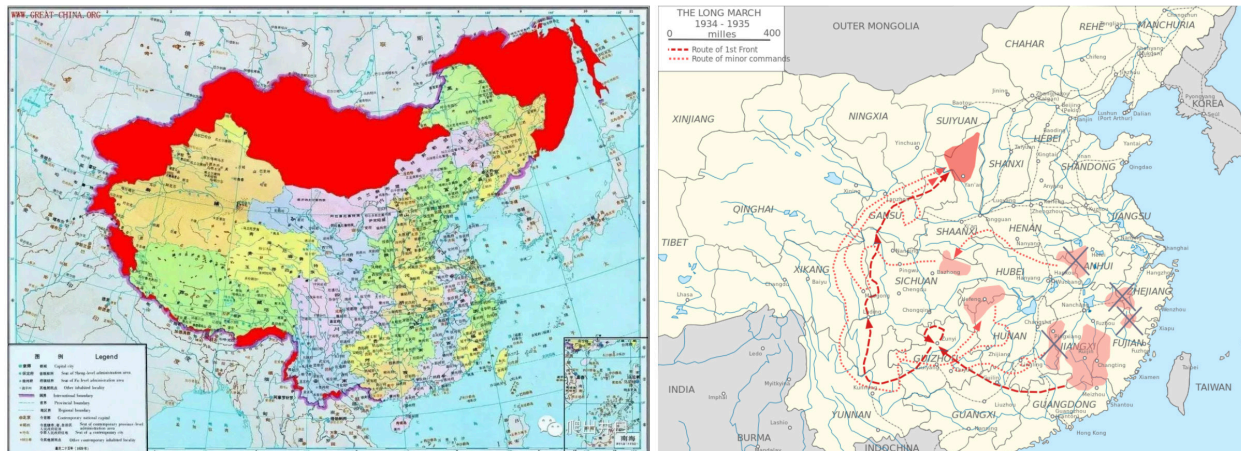
*The
Aftermath
of Mao
Zedong's
Death*

Historical Background

Century of Humiliation

For millennia, China has been a dominant world power. However, technological stagnation led to Western nations overtaking China economically and militarily in the 1800s, ushering in China's Century of Humiliation, where foreign colonial powers demanded Unequal Treaties, reparations, and territorial concessions from China. In 1911, the Qing dynasty was overthrown by the Kuomintang (KMT) led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen; this led to the creation of the Republic of China (RoC) with the goal of creating a democratic state. However, a short failed dictatorship by Yuan Shikai resulted in the fracture of the nation into warlord control.

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(left) Territories lost by China since 1841. (right) Routes taken by CCP forces during the Long March

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was founded in 1921 by Marxist intellectuals. It initially worked with the KMT as progressive allies, supporting its efforts during the Northern Expedition which partially reunited China. However, the Kuomintang turned on the CCP and massacred its members across China, igniting the Chinese Civil War. The CCP fled the cities and retreated into China's Western frontiers before regrouping in Shaanxi province, in a Long March that stretched 5,600 miles and killed 90% of its forces but ensured its survival. The Communist forces grew as it solidified its base in Yan'an. Mao Zedong emerged as the CCP's leader in the CCP and developed a focus on inciting rural peasants to revolt through guerilla tactics. However, Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China in 1937, forcing the CCP and the KMT to join forces in the War of Resistance. Japanese forces committed horrific war crimes against the Chinese people, prompting patriots across the nation to resist Japanese occupation,



(left) Colorized image of Mao proclaiming the People's Republic of China. (right) Villagers read the Land Reform Law passed by the PRC government

boosting the CCP's rank-and-file to 1.2 million members. The CCP used its experience in guerilla warfare against Japan, who surrendered to the United Nations in 1945.

After Victory over Japan, the CCP's forces saw further growth. The CCP and the KMT tried to negotiate a truce but were unsuccessful. Sticking to its long-used strategy, the CCP abandoned defending cities in favor of inciting rebellion in the countryside. Its promises of land reform led to mass defections from the KMT's peasant soldiers. The CCP defeated KMT forces in a number of key campaigns. The KMT then retreated their forces to Taiwan by 1949 and the People's Republic of China (PRC) was proclaimed by Mao on October 1st.

The Early Years of the People's Republic

Mao, who has already been the leader of the CCP for over a decade, was made Chairman when the PRC was founded. Mao instigated the Land Reform Movement across China; the CCP forcibly took land belonging to wealthy landowners and redistributed it to the farmers. Although the campaign brutalized landowners, it made poor peasants much wealthier and increased farm yields. Thus, the CCP won over support from many Chinese citizens' very quickly.

As Chinese society recovered from war, Mao sought to quickly industrialize China. The Great Leap Forward was launched in 1958, with the goal of rapid agricultural growth through collectivization and industrial development through metal making. The CCP established farming collectives, hoping to increase yields through the sharing of tools and knowledge. However, Mao demanded high quotas of grain to feed the cities, leaving little for the farmers

while they were forced to work for long hours in the fields. To increase steel production, the CCP encouraged citizens to give up their pots and pans to melt down for iron. Due to the lack of proper furnaces, peasants were told to set up backyard furnaces to cast iron. However, they made low-quality iron that was useless, and the diversion of workers from farming decreased grain production.

At the same time, the CCP encouraged citizens to kill sparrows, who ate farmers' grain, but this led to locusts (which sparrows also ate) multiplying uncontrollably and ravaging the fields. Also, many CCP officials exaggerated grain yield figures to appease Mao, resulting in grain being exported out of local provinces while people starved. These effects led to mass famines across China, killing 15-55 million people.



(left) "Everyone Hunts Sparrows," a propaganda poster during the Great Leap Forward
(right) Zhu De, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Deng Xiaoping, and Mao Zedong (from left to right) photographed together at the Seven Thousand Cadres Conference

By 1962, it was clear that the Great Leap Forward has been disastrous for China and its policies were quietly abandoned. This culminated in the Seven Thousand Cadres Conference, where Mao self-criticized on his mistakes during the Great Leap Forward. The far-left economic policies were abandoned in favor of a pragmatic approach led by vice-Chairman Liu Shaoqi, aimed at slowly developing the economy instead of creating unrealistic mass movements. Government price controls were abandoned and a limited free market was established.

Communal farms were also replaced by having families work their own plot of land. These policies saw the Chinese economy stabilize and start to grow again, but Mao believed that these policies abandoned Marxist principles, creating a hardline Maoist faction who supported Mao's revolutionary views and a reformist faction who supported Liu's pragmatic economics.

The Cultural Revolution

The Cultural Revolution was a mass political movement that was launched by Mao in 1966 and lasted through the remainder of his life. In theory, it aimed to rid China of "capitalist roaders," traditionalists, and fifth columnists to safeguard communism. In practice, the Cultural Revolution was used by Mao to cement his political power and rid the CCP of his rivals, particularly those who supported Vice-Chairman Liu and his more liberal policies.

The outbreak of the Cultural Revolution would begin on several fronts. Mao started by purging Peng Zhen, the mayor of Beijing. Peng's removal caused chaos across the capital due to the lack of leadership, leading to the formation of radical civilian and student militias known as the Red Guards. They enthusiastically supported Mao's policies and called for the elimination of Mao's political opponents. Mao then gave his support to the new movement while his political rivals such as Liu were caught off guard by the unfolding chaos. Quickly, CCP moderates were sidelined then purged altogether, with Liu and his ally Deng Xiaoping losing their positions; Liu was especially targeted by Mao and the Red Guards and eventually died in prison. Meanwhile, Mao held mass rallies attended by millions of his supporters to promote the Cultural Revolution. Mao's new second-in-command, marshal Lin Biao, encouraged Mao's supporters to destroy the four olds—customs, culture, habits, and ideas—resulting in the destruction of cultural artifacts, religious persecution, and book burnings. Radical Maoists seized control of municipal governments across China, and with the influence of Lin, control of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Mao's total control over China was fully cemented.

The Cultural Revolution focused on ridding China of supposed anti-communists and created a cult of personality around Mao. Maoist propaganda was distributed all over China and news was tightly controlled to praise Mao. Many intellectuals and moderates were publicly humiliated and sent to re-education camps. Also, many young adults, especially former Red Guards, were sent to the countryside to learn the "proletarian way of life."

The Cultural Revolution reintroduced hardline Maoist economic policies. Communal agriculture and price controls were reestablished. Agriculture and industry was politicized; factories were given new leadership under revolutionary committees that emphasized ideological commitment. Combined with the instability during the Cultural Revolution and the purging of many experts, the Cultural Revolution saw the economy stagnate.



(left) Young Red Guards marching while holding Mao's Little Red Book (right) A mango given by Mao to a work unit put on display. The mango was touted as a precious gift by the Chairman, a propaganda piece demonstrating his care for the people

Mao's Purges

Mao generally purged the cadres of those who posed a threat to his rule or disagreed with him. The rivals and opponents of the various groups that Mao supported also often found themselves in a precarious situation. The first purge that Mao instigated was the aforementioned purge of Liu and his allies such as Deng. They were mostly the moderates that set forward pragmatic economic policies of softening on collectivisation and reintroducing a limited free market after the Great Leap Forward.

By 1971, marshal Lin, Mao's second in command, had gained immense power in the Chinese government. Mao started seeing Lin as a potential threat and started to sideline him. Allegedly, Lin sensed this and plotted a coup against Mao; the plan failed and Lin tried to flee to the Soviet Union, but the plane crashed and he was killed. Afterwards, Mao purged thousands of military leaders in the PLA who supported Lin, and made the moderate but loyal Zhou Enlai his next right-hand man, giving Zhou the position of premier.

Apart from the moderate Zhou, Mao also elevated many hardline Maoists to prominence. This included Jiang Qing (Mao's wife), Wang Hongwen, Zhang Chunqiao, and Yao Wenyuan, collectively dubbed the "Gang of Four." They were given a high degree of influence over the CCP's press, cultural projects, and propaganda operations. Over time, they also became too powerful for Mao's good, leading Mao to rehabilitate many of the moderates he previously purged to create a counterbalance against the radicals. With premier Zhou's support, many reformists were given political positions, and as Zhou fell ill to cancer, the reformists ended up handling many of China's government positions to manage China's fledgling economy.

Shifting Geopolitics

China experienced a political split from the Soviet Union in the 1950s-60s known as the Sino-Soviet Split. Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin, the post-Stalin Soviet policy of "peaceful coexistence" with the West, Soviet ties with India (China and India have border disputes), and the Soviet reluctance to aid Chinese rocketry and nuclear weaponry led Mao to denounce the Soviets as revisionist. This led to China and the Soviets fighting with each other to establish themselves as the leader of the Communist bloc.

Also, the United Nations voted to change the seat of China from the RoC to the PRC in 1971, resulting in the seat changing hands from the KMT (which still controlled Taiwan) to the CCP. This meant that the CCP gained representation at the UN and a permanent Security Council seat with veto power. This change led to a sudden thaw in global attitudes towards the PRC, with it receiving recognition from many nations as the legitimate government of China. Notably, President Nixon visited the PRC in 1972, and by 1976, full diplomatic ties between the PRC had been established with, among others nations, France, Canada, Italy, Britain, Japan, and Spain.

Current State of the Committee

The start date of this committee is **August 1st, 1976**. Each committee session will represent a period of approximately **six months** of real time. **Mao is still alive at the start of the committee**, but his health is very poor. **Mao is guaranteed to die during the first committee session.**



Mao in May 1976. He is clearly very sick

China was recently shaken by the death of premier Zhou in January 1976. Zhou was loved by the Chinese public, and at the Qingming Festival in April 1976, two million people visited Tiananmen Square to eulogize him. Many eulogizers wrote poems attacking radical Maoists and the Cultural Revolution, leading security forces to forcibly remove the eulogists in an event known as the Tiananmen Incident. Deng Xiaoping, who delivered Zhou's official eulogy, was purged again, having been accused by radical Maoists of orchestrating the incident.

In a surprising move, Mao replaced the late Zhou with the moderate Hua Guofeng, selecting him as his premier and designated successor. However, Hua is still a relative newcomer to the national scene, and has yet to gain many of his peer's trust and respect. As Mao's health continues to decline, each faction is preparing for a fight and are secretly gathering their strengths for a showdown.

The committee needs to first address the economic strife currently present. Collectivization, lack of trade, corruption, and instability are some potential factors for the declining economy.

Also, China's future political direction should be addressed. There are no factions that currently control a majority of China's government. How factions might work together to form a working government will be crucial. Finally, how China conducts its foreign policy may be important. China currently has a tense relationship with the Soviet Union; meanwhile, gaining UN representation has led to new opportunities for the PRC to open up and develop relationships with nations such as the United States.

Special Mechanic: The Standing Committee

In Chinese politics, the Politburo Standing Committee is a small group consisting of the highest political figures within the CCP. To represent the heavy top-down control of China by Party leaders, we will also have a Standing Committee with certain powers. In this committee, the Standing Committee consists of five delegates. **If three or more Standing Committee members vote against any public directive, it will be vetoed** regardless of the final tally.

In this committee, **we will randomly select five Politburo Standing Committee members at the beginning of each committee session** (excluding the first one). If you are already a Standing Committee member, you will not be eligible for a second term so all delegates would get to be in the Standing Committee at some point.

The current members of the Standing Committee excluding Mao are below:

- Hua Guofeng
- Wang Hongwen
- Ye Jianying
- Zhang Chunqiao
- Deng Xiaoping

They will be the five members of the Standing Committee at the first committee session.

Characters in the Committee

Radical Maoists

The Radical Maoists enthusiastically support the Cultural Revolution and its policies. They believe in a strict adherence to Mao's principles and support mass movements to rid China of fifth columnists. Radical Maoists control China's news media and draw support from young students who were former Red Guards. However, they are generally unpopular with the general public because they are blamed for the chaos that occurred during the Cultural Revolution.

Jiang Qing

Jiang Qing is Mao Zedong's wife. She doesn't have high-profile government positions, instead deriving most of her power from her cultural influence and control of media and propaganda. Could she maintain her hegemony after her husband's death?

Zhang Chunqiao

Zhang Chunqiao is the first-ranked vice-premier of China. He is a strong speaker and has deep connections with Shanghai's municipal politics, having directed the Shanghai Revolutionary Committee prior to becoming vice-premier.

Wang Hongwen

Wang Hongwen used to be a labor activist and was instrumental in recruiting radical Red Guards. Now, he is a vice chairman of the CCP's Central Committee. Wang expected Mao to choose him to succeed Zhou, but was disappointed when Hua was chosen instead.

Yao Wenyuan

Yao Wenyuan is a famed literary critic and a devout Maoist, with particular experience writing scathing articles of political opponents. He became the editor of the Liberation Daily newspaper and is a member of the Politburo working on official government propaganda.

Moderate Maoists

The moderate Maoists are politicians who support Marxist economic principles but oppose the chaotic mass movements of the Cultural Revolution. They call for a centrally planned economy with a focus on heavy industry, mechanization, national defense, and energy production. Many moderate Maoists sit in powerful bureaucratic positions, but as a new political faction, they have little grassroots support. Moderate Maoists hope to play the two other political factions against each other and create a careful balance of power to maintain their authority.

Hua Guofeng

Hua Guofeng recently became the premier of China, placing second in the Party's hierarchy and in direct succession to Mao. Hua is new to national politics, having risen to prominence only years before, so he has yet to become respected by his more senior peers.

Wu De

Wu De is the First Secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee, and is effectively Beijing's mayor. He has a heavy hand in overseeing Beijing's daily management and maintaining public order. Also, Wu has personal conflicts with both Jiang Qing and Deng Xiaoping.

Li Xiannian

Li Xiannian is a senior politician who has served as a vice-premier for over two decades. Li advocates for a Soviet-style centrally-planned economic system with a focus on heavy industry and energy, and enjoys support from China's petroleum industry.

Ji Dengkui

Ji Dengkui is another vice-premier as well as the political commissar of the Beijing Military District. He has particular experience with agricultural policy in the past, promoting policies that avoided famines and supported rural development in Hunan province.

Reformists

The Reformists believe that the Cultural Revolution has been disastrous for China. They advocate for a "socialist market economy," where private and public enterprises would lead to innovation while open trade would incentivise growth. The Reformists enjoy popular support

from ordinary citizens who are tired of economic mismanagement and political repression, but many have been purged recently and lack power in China's central government.

Deng Xiaoping

Deng Xiaoping is a famed senior politician. His effective reformist economic policies resulted in him being purged and rehabilitated several times. However, he just got purged again after the Tiananmen Incident, so he is currently chilling somewhere in Guangdong province without a job.

Zhao Ziyang

Zhao Ziyang is the Party Secretary of Sichuan province, one of the most populous provinces in China. He introduced a series of successful market-oriented reforms in Sichuan, greatly improving livelihoods in the impoverished province. Thus, Zhao is beloved in Sichuan.

Hu Yaobang

Hu Yaobang is the most progressive politician even within the reformist camp, supporting liberal market reforms and Westernization. He once led the Communist Youth League and maintains heavy ties to it. Hu was recently purged alongside Deng and was sent to herd cattle.

Chun Yun

Chen Yun is a senior CCP politician. He is conservative reformist and supports a "birdcage economy" where market forces are given certain freedoms but ultimately contained and controlled to prevent market failures.

People's Liberation Army

China has one of the largest militaries in the world, and it would be impossible to govern China without the support of its military. Many Chinese military leaders also have political affiliations and conduct various actions to aid their allies or harm their enemies through the power of force.

Ye Jianying

Marshal Ye Jianying is the Minister of Defense. Despite having political disagreements with Mao, Mao highly respected Ye for his actions during the Chinese Civil War. Ye has a history of protecting reformist politicians from purges and thwarting plots against reformists.

Wang Dongxing

Wang Dongxing is the chief of Mao's personal bodyguard force and leads the protection of all senior CCP officials. He is very dedicated to his tasks and is extremely loyal and supportive of Mao even outside his bodyguard duties.

Chen Xilian

Chen Xilian is the commander of the Beijing Military Region. He has considerable influence with military academies, many of which are located within the military region. Additionally, Chen is the Party Secretary of Liaoning province and is a devout supporter of Mao.

Preparing for this Committee

Whether if this is your first Crisis committee or your tenth, here's a basic guide on how to prepare for this committee:

Tips

This committee has a lot of really complex nuances about 1970s Chinese politics that this background guide cannot cover in full detail, so we highly encourage you to do extra research about the political situation of this era. Take a look at Mao's political positions as well as those of the various characters of the committee. You can also use the historical developments of China after Mao's death; knowing what happened in real life might help you be more successful in this committee. Also, look up your own character in the committee and get to know their political stances. This will help you know who to work with and what you need to be careful of in committee. Overall, our tip to you is to research, research, and research; get to know this committee well and you will do much better!

At the same time, it might be helpful to plan out your actions throughout the committee; what do you want your character to do? What should they do in the first committee session? The second session? How about the third, fifth, or last session? Going into committee with a plan on what to do is very helpful as well. Below are also a few guiding questions to help you research and plan your course for your character:

Guiding Questions

- *What policies do your character support? Where do his/her alignments and loyalties lie?*
- *Who are your character's friends in this committee?*
- *Who does your character have conflicts with?*
- *What is unique about your character? What sets your character apart from everyone else in this committee?*
- *What special powers does your character have? Who can your character rely on?*
- *In your character's perspective, what kind of political and economic systems should China have after Mao's death?*
- *If everything goes perfectly for your character, where do you think he/she will be by the end of this committee?*

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