

MODULE-4 CHANGING WORLD

TOPIC- MAO-TSE-TUNG



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MAO TSE TUNG (1893-1976)



- Commonly **known as Chairman Mao**
- Chinese Communist revolutionary and founding father of Peoples Republic of China.
- He governed as Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party.
- Ruled China from its establishment in **1949 until his death in 1976**
- His Marxist-Leninist theories and strategies and policies are collectively known as **Marxism-Leninism- Maoism or simply Maoism or Maoist thought.**

- Born in a **wealthy peasant** family at shaoshan in Hunan province.
- Grown up with a Chinese nationalist and anti-imperialist outlook.
- Initially worked as **a librarian at Beijing University**, Mao turned to western ideas and became Marxist.
- He was **one among the founding members of the Chinese Communist Party** and participated and led its all activities.
- It was during the civil war between Kuomintang Party and Communist party, **Mao founded the “Red Army” and conducted the Long March.**

- The CCP under the leadership of Mao won the civil war.
- After breach with the Kuomintang, Mao brought about a radical change in Party's strategy.
- According to Mao, the peasantry was the main revolutionary force in China and **revolution would be carried over only by the peasants.**
- Hence he built up the strategy of bringing about socialist revolution with the help of peasantry.

- This was a theoretical deviation from orthodox Marxism which gave primary importance to workers in the revolution.
- By winning civil war, Mao proclaimed the foundation of Peoples Republic of China on 1 October 1949.
- Peoples Republic of China was a single party ruled state.
- In the following years, Mao solidified his control in party as well as in the government through land reforms against land lords and suppressing enemies of the state whom he termed as counter-revolutionaries.

- In 1957 Mao launched a campaign known as the “Great Leap Forward”. 
- Aimed rapid transformation of Chinese economy from agrarian to industrial.
- Great Leap Forward: campaign to reconstruct the country from an agrarian economy into a communist society through the formation of People’s commune.
- They hoped to develop labour intensive methods of industrialization.
- An experimental commune was established in the north-central province of Henan early in 1958

- Another reform movement launched by Mao was the **Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966**.
- Steps taken by Mao to remove counter revolutionary elements in Chinese Society.
- The cultural revolution lasted for ten years which was marked by violent class struggle, widespread destruction of cultural artifacts.