

Hello, fellow teacher!

Below is your reading passage; I hope it serves you well.

Print it out and it's ready to use. Or, if you want to differentiate for struggling students, use the highlight feature on the PDF to annotate what you want the kiddos to focus on.

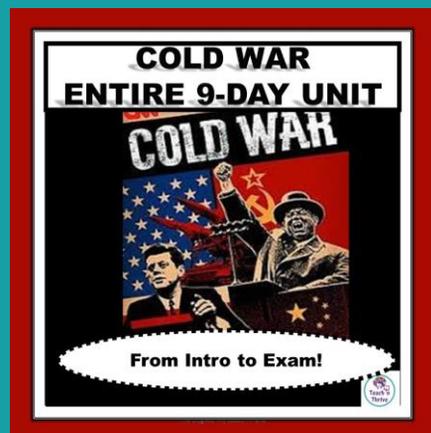
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Don't forget to check back to the site regularly and see what has been added!

Warmest Wishes,

Joan

If you want 9 days of done-for-you lessons check out my Cold War Unit [here](#)



If you are looking for some teaching ideas to use with this reading passage watch my video [here](#).

Chinese Revolution



The end of the Qing dynasty (1912) led to the Republic Era of China but not stability. The period that followed was one of divisions and war, internal and external. The end result was communist control of almost all of China.

Republic Era (1912-1948)

Revolutionary Sun Yat-sen became the first President of the Republic of China in 1912, but the fall of the Qing dynasty (rule by emperor) led to a divided China with many areas controlled by local warlords.

After World War I, the communist party, partially inspired by events in Russia, developed. Mao Zedong became a leader in the movement, early on joining forces with nationalists to unite the country. In the 1920s, a nationalist general, Chiang Kai-shek led a military campaign defeating the warlords.

Civil War (1927-1949)

Chiang Kai-shek, now a leader of the government, went after communists once defeating the warlords. This led to a ten year (1927-1936) civil war between the two groups, stopped only when Japan invaded the country. Near the end, the communists had a long retreat ("Long March") that took a year and was seen as an act of solidarity that cemented Mao Zedong's leadership of the communists.

Once Japan was defeated, the civil war started once more, the nationalists with support of the United States and the communists supported by the Soviet Union. The communists gained control of the capital (Beijing) in 1949, declaring a "People's Republic of China." The nationalists fled from the mainland to the island of Taiwan, still recognized as the true leaders of the country by the United States until 1979.

People's Republic (1949-Present)

Mao Zedong now was not only the party chairman but leader of the whole nation with the official ideology known as "Maoism." A collection of his sayings were collected in the *Little Red Book*. Opposition was crushed. China also supported the communists during the Korean War, helping the North Korean forces.

As part of a series of moves to modernize China, the Great Leap Forward was announced (1958), a policy of rapid industrial growth and agricultural collectivization. Collectivization is the uniting of small land holdings into large farms. Helped by fear of challenging the hierarchy, leading to false reports of success, natural disasters and not being ready for such large changes so quickly, the result was great famine, leading to millions of deaths.

Cultural Revolution

Maoism made a comeback in the 1960s, a social and political "cultural revolution" developing to revive communist ideals. Red Guards, largely made of students, led the way and opponents were suppressed, either killed or sent to farms to be "re-educated" with the right ideology. Four communist leaders (Gang of Four) gained control, Mao's power now in decline; they lost power after Mao himself died.

Post-Mao

President Nixon visited China in the 1970s, helping to cool United States and Chinese relations. Mao ruled China until dying in 1976.

Deng Xiaoping took power in 1978 and China underwent additional economic reforms, now supporting more private business. Student protests in Tiananmen Square (1989), suppressed by the government, showed there continued to be problems. Concerns about corruption and weak democratic institutions continue until today, communism mixed with a market economy a messy fit.



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