

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Perspective: Assistant to the Director of Cultural Affairs

**Description of Event** Mao Zedong has risen to power of the People's Republic of China in 1949. His powerful Communist Party of China drove the Kuomintang out of power and took over control of China in a bloody military battle. He has just completed his first five years in power which resulted in industrialization of China with assistance from Russia. Now, in 1958, Mao has developed his Second Five Year Plan which is also called 'The Great Leap Forward.' As part of his program, Mao has instituted a land reform plan whereby wealthy landowners must give their lands over to poor peasants. This plan was meant to help enrich the lives of the poor while decreasing the social status and clout of wealthy land lords. This is in keeping with communist ideas which state that a society exists for everyone's benefit. Therefore, under this type of government, rich and poor categories are discouraged so that everybody is equal and will be benefitted by helping their fellow country persons.

**Your Role** As the Assistant to the Director of Cultural Affairs you have been part of the team which has worked on the land swap. You could not be more proud with the work your team has done on this piece of legislation. You have lived long enough to know that China used to be a place where the wealthy dictated rights and privileges to the lower class, so you are excited to put the wealthy in their place. In addition, your family grew up poor so you hope to help out families which were like yours. You participated in the Communist Party of China military battles as a soldier so you have seen China be built into a glorious and prosperous nation because of the wise leadership of Mao. You think that the land swap will give much needed help to desperately poor families who have endured generations of poverty. You hope that those families are able to grow nourishing vegetables on their land which they can sell for a profit. You believe that this change will help all of China grow and develop into a better place for every Chinese, especially the poor.