Modern World History: Historical Trial #2

The purpose of this activity is to help you understand the positive and negative influences upon history of individuals AND to understand that what appears to be a clear-cut case of an historical “miscreant” is not always the case.

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| THE CASE |

MAO ZEDONG

Chinese Communist Party Leader, 1934-1976

Paramount Leader of China, 1949-1976

Charges:

* Deaths of more than a million landlords/land owners and other elites after 1949 Communist takeover of China
* Starvation of 30 million Chinese due to economic chaos of the 1958-59 “Great Leap Forward”
* Beatings, humiliation, and deaths of almost a million government officials, commune and factory managers, intellectuals (artists, writers, teachers), and other elites during 1966-68 Cultural Revolution