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.

|  |
| --- |
| THE CASE |

MAO ZEDONG

Chinese Communist Party Leader, 1934-1976

Paramount Leader of China, 1949-1976

Charges:

1. Deaths of ~90% of Communist Party members of 1934-35 Long March
2. Deaths of more than a million landlords/land owners and other elites after 1949 Communist takeover of China
3. Deaths of more than a million Chinese soldiers, after following advice/directions of Joseph Stalin and initiating 1953 war against American and United Nations forces in Korea
4. 1950 takeover of Tibet, deaths of hundreds of thousands of Tibetans, and subsequent destruction of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and Tibetan culture in general
5. Starvation of 30 million Chinese due to economic chaos of the 1958-59 “Great Leap Forward”
6. 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
7. Behaving like a corrupt, decadent emperor, including forced seductions of thousands of Chinese women