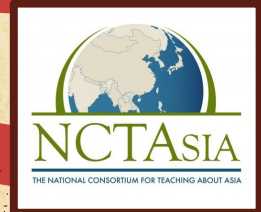




# THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION(S)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW &  
TEACHING RESOURCES  
FOR 7-12 EDUCATORS



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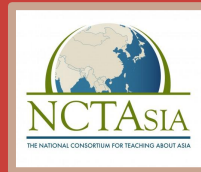
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01

# Learning Standards





# C3 Standards: The College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards, Grades 7-12

## ★ Civics

- D2.Civ.5.9-12: Evaluate citizens' and institutions' effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level
- D2.Civ.8.9-12: Evaluate social and political systems in different contexts, times, and places
- D2.Civ.14.9-12: Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies



## ★ Economics

- D2.Eco.3.9-12: Analyze the ways in which incentives influence what is produced and distributed in a market system
- D2.Eco.6.9-12: Generate possible explanations for a government role in markets when market inefficiencies exist
- D2.Eco.8.9-12: Describe the possible consequences, both intended and unintended, of government policies to improve market outcomes
- D2.Eco.15.9-12: Explain how current globalization trends and policies affect economic growth, labor markets, rights of citizens, the environment, and resource and income distribution in different nations



## ★ **Geography**

- D2.Geo.1.9-12: Use geospatial and related technologies to create maps to display and explain the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics
- D2.Geo.2.9-12: Use maps, satellite images, photographs, and other representations to explain relationships between the location of places and regions and their political, cultural, and economic dynamics
- D2.Geo.5.9-12: Evaluate how political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics of various places and regions

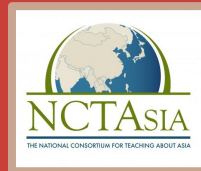


## ★ History

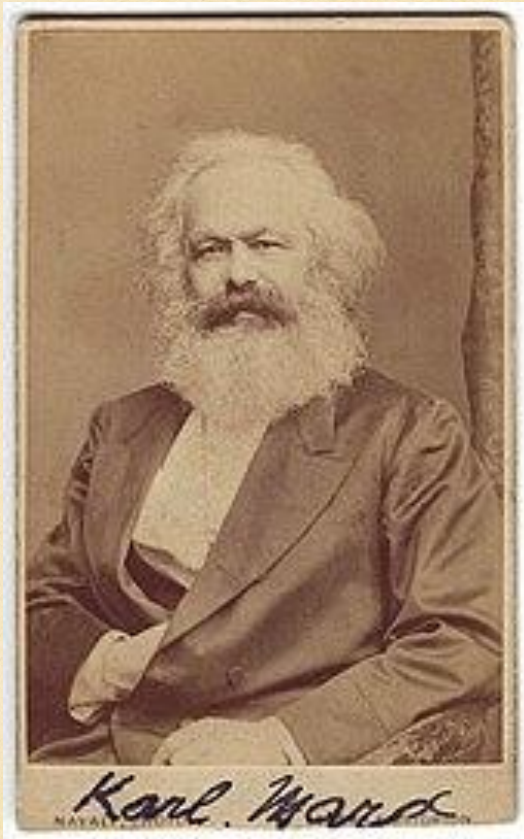
- D2.His.14.9-12: Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of events in the past
- D2.His.15.9-12: Distinguish between long-term causes and triggering events in developing a historical argument

02

**Overview:  
Marxism & Communism**







## Marxism

A political and economic theory where a society has no social classes. Every person within the society works for a common good, and class struggle is theoretically gone.



## Stage 1: Primitive Communism

Men perform the same economic function: hunter-gatherer. They work together in order to survive. There was no private property and no economic classes. Eventually, the most successful hunter gatherers gained power and control over the others.

## Stage 3: Feudalism

Land was owned by the aristocracy who exploited the peasantry who worked it. There was surplus of food which the aristocracy sold to others- creating a class of merchants and capitalists who wanted to share political power.

## Stage 2: Imperialism

The strong man ruled. He began by owning all of the land but when threatened by outsiders, he would grant land to others in return for military services. A new land-owning aristocracy was therefore created.

## Stage 4: Capitalism

The wealthy merchants and factory owners (bourgeoisie) obtained political power and exploited the workers (proletariat). As the proletariat became politically aware they would rise up and overthrow the bourgeois government.



# The 6 Stages of Marxism

## Stage 5: Socialism

There would be a dictatorship of the proletariat as workers organizations redistributed food, goods, and services fairly according to need, and profits were shared by all. The middle classes would come to understand that equality was superior to private ownership.



## Stage 6: Communism

Everyone would join together for the common good. Money and government would no longer be needed and society would be classless. As all countries reached this stage, the world would become stateless, and competition and wars would cease.

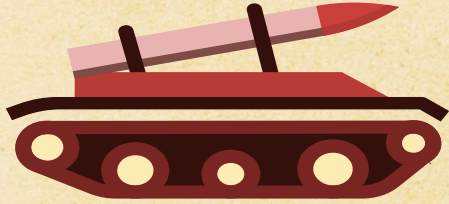


“History calls those men the greatest who have ennobled themselves by working for the common good; experience acclaims as happiest the man who has made the greatest number of people happy.”

—Karl Marx, *Reflections of a Young Man*  
(1835)







## “Revolution”

→ A revolution is a fundamental and relatively sudden change in political power and political organization which occurs when the population revolts against the government, typically due to perceived oppression or political incompetence

## “Communism”

→ A political theory derived from Karl Marx, advocating class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs

→ A philosophical, social, political, and economic ideology and movement whose ultimate goal is the establishment of a communist society, namely a socioeconomic order structured upon the ideas of common ownership of the means of production, and the absence of social classes, money, and the state







# Why Communism?


- ★ The Industrial Revolution(s) in the West brought the “history of class struggles” to the forefront of modern societies
- ★ The working and living conditions of the working class, “the proletariat”, were horrid and the time was ripe for Revolution




**CONDITIONS of the WORKING-CLASS**


 **DANGEROUS WORK CONDITIONS**

 **LONG HOURS OF WORK**

 **POOR LIVING CONDITIONS**

 **LOW-PAYING JOBS**

Boys and girls as young as 5 years old worked in factories and mines.



**CHILD LABOR**

Pay for the working class was so low, that most families needed their children to work and contribute to the costs of daily life.

**AVERAGE WEEKLY PAY IN ENGLAND**

<b>MEN</b>	10 Shillings
<b>WOMEN</b>	5 Shillings
<b>CHILDREN</b>	1 Shilling



# 03

## Communism

### Fast Facts



## Interesting Communism Facts:

- ✦ The word 'communism' is derived from the French word 'communisme' which originally was used to describe social situations as opposed to political or economic states.
- ✦ Hunter-gatherer societies were considered to be early forms of communist societies. The Bible refers to a type of common ownership that some consider to have been a type of primitive communism.
- ✦ Karl Marx is believed to be the founder of modern communism, and his theories have also been referred to as Marxism.
- ✦ Within Karl Marx ideas about communism he believed these practices would remove social classes, money, and the state.
- ✦ In theory communism would have put everyone on equal footing, but in practice communism allowed governments to control citizens because the fundamental basics were distorted.
- ✦ Governments that have used Marxism as a basis for their politics have used their power to treat citizens poorly, controlling them and even killing them when necessary to keep those who opposed the government from rising up against them.
- ✦ The first communist leader to come into power was Vladimir Lenin, following the 1917 Russian Revolution.





- China became a communist country in 1949, and Cuba became communist in 1959. Vietnam became communist in 1975.
- The types of communism that have been used by different leaders, countries, and groups include anarchist communism, anti-revisionism, Castroism, Council, Euro, Guevarism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, Juche, Left, Leninism, Luxemburgism, Marxism-Leninism, Christian Religious, Socialism with Chinese characteristics, Titoism, and Trotskyism.
- The Cold War began when the Western Allies (United States and NATO allies) and the Eastern Bloc (Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies) became engaged in a power struggle that resulted in several crises such as the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The struggle was essentially seen as a fight against communism by the Western Allies.
- Russia, China, North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and Laos are considered to be communist countries.

- ✦ Communism has failed in practice because the governments have forgotten about the democratic aspect of the ideology which results in the splitting of social classes - which was communism wanted to abolish in the first place.
- ✦ Communism in theory is a type of society where people are all equal. In reality it became a type of dictatorship as the fundamental basics of communism and removing social class became lost.
- ✦ Some of the most famous communist leaders and activists in history include Vladimir Lenin, Fidel Castro, Raul Castro, Leon Trotsky, Pol Pot, Nikita Khrushchev, Kim Il-Sung, Imre Nagy, Jiang Zemin, Ho Chi-Minh, and Joseph Stalin.



# 04

## The Communist Revolutions of the 20th Century

With Deep-Dive Learning Resources,  
Listed by Country



# The Communist Revolutions

1. **What:** A proletariat revolution usually inspired by Marxist Theory with aims of overthrowing Capitalist Systems and replacing them with Communism
2. **When:** The 20th Century
3. **Who:** Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Kim il-Sung, Ho Chi Minh, Fidel Castro
4. **Where:** Russia, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba
5. **Why:** Workers affected by the Industrial Revolution and the resulting alleged exploitation and economic inequality must “rise up” and overthrow the capitalist oppression that exploits them and create a society run by the working class



Cuba



Republic of  
Cuba, est. 1961

North  
Korea



Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea,  
est. 1948

Vietnam

Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam, est. 1976



## The Five Communist Countries of the World

Laos



Lao People's Democratic  
Republic, est. 1975

China

People's Republic  
of China, est. 1949



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER



## Russia

*Revolutionary Period:*

1917-1923

*First Communist Leader:*

Vladimir Lenin

[Backgrounder on Russia](#)



## China

*Revolutionary Period:*

1927-1949

*First Communist Leader:*

Mao Zedong

[Backgrounder on China](#)



## North Korea

*Revolutionary Period:*

1925-1945

*First Communist Leader:*

Kim il-Sung

[Backgrounder on North Korea](#)



## Cuba

*Revolutionary Period:* 1953-1965

*First Communist Leader:* Fidel Castro

[Backgrounder on Cuba](#)



## Vietnam

*Revolutionary Period:* 1930-1954

*First Communist Leader:* Ho Chi Minh

[Backgrounder on Vietnam](#)



**1923:**

**Soviet Union**

First country to become Communist after winning the Russian Revolution; Sparks Communist Revolutions throughout the World



**1950-1953:**

**The Korean War**

Kim il-Sung attempts to unify Korean Peninsula under Communism



**1953-1965:**

**Cuba**

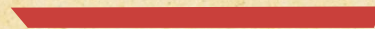
Fidel Castro is victorious in the Cuban Revolution; US-Cuba tensions rise



**1949:**

**China**

Mao Zedong wins the Chinese Civil War; China becomes Communist



**1975:**

**Vietnam**

The Country unifies under Communism after the American pull-out in 1973







# Significance: Were the Revolutions Successful?

**Even though Communist Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, 5 major countries in the world are still communist in 2021!  
Two of these countries in East Asia have significant economic and geopolitical importance with the United States continuing into the 21st Century:**

**China and North Korea**





# General Resources

- ★ **Article:** [The Difference between Communism and Socialism](#)
- ★ **Newslea:** [Comparing Economic Systems](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Karl Marx](#)
- ★ **Source:** [The Communist Manifesto](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Marxist Stage Theory](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Communism Timeline](#)
- ★ **Video:** [Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism Explained Simply](#)
- ★ **Lesson Plan:** [Capitalism and Socialism](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Red Century- 100 Years of Communism](#)
- ★ **Lesson Plan:** [East Asia Lesson Plans](#)
- ★ **Resource:** [World101](#)
- ★ **Vocabulary:** [Quizlet- Communism Vocabulary](#) (Flashcards, Set 1)
- ★ **Vocabulary:** [Quizlet- Communism Vocabulary](#) (Flashcards, Set 2)
- ★ **Study Source:** [The Rise of Communism](#)
- ★ **BrainPop:** [Communism](#)



# Russia → Soviet Union

- ★ **Article:** [Vladimir Lenin](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Russian Revolution](#)
- ★ **Video:** [The Russian Revolution and Civil War](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Fall of the Romanovs](#)
- ★ **Resource:** [Communism Timeline](#)
- ★ **Primary Source:** [The ABCs of Communism \(1922\)](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Soviet Wage System](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Communist Party of the Soviet Union](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Joseph Stalin](#)
- ★ **Art:** [Industrialization and Collectivization](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The 5 Year Plans](#)
- ★ **Literacy:** [The Power of One](#)





# Resources for China



- ★ **Article:** [The Chinese Revolution of 1911](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Chinese Revolution of 1949](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Backgrounder: The Chinese Communist Party](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Surprising Persistence of Chinese Communism](#)
- ★ **Biography:** [Mao Zedong](#)
- ★ **Video:** [The Chinese Civil War](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Cultural Revolution of Mao Zedong](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Mao Zedong Outlines the New Chinese Government](#)
- ★ **Resource:** [Communism Timeline](#)
- ★ **Article:** [China's Economic Rise](#)
- ★ **Article:** [3 Reforms in China](#)
- ★ **Charts:** [China's Economic Reforms Impact](#)
- ★ **Video:** [Why Chinese Communism Hasn't Collapsed](#)
- ★ **Video:** [How the Chinese Government Operates](#)
- ★ **Video:** [China's Economic 5-Year Plans](#)
  
- ★ **East Asia Focus:** [Lesson Plans on China](#)





# Resources for North Korea



- ★ **Lesson Plan:** [North Korea- The Dynasty of Communism](#)
- ★ **Lesson Plan:** [“One Korea?”](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Personal Accounts of the Korean Civil War](#)
- ★ **Lesson Plan:** [Timeline of the Korean War](#)
- ★ **Lesson Plan:** [Life in Korea during the Korean War](#)
- ★ **Video:** [Cold War- Korea](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Korean War](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Fast Facts- The Korean War](#)
- ★ **Website:** [38 North](#)
- ★ **Article:** [North Korean Economic Statistics](#)
- ★ **Video:** Life in North Korea- [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)
- ★ **Video:** [Inside North Korea](#)
- ★ **Video:** [The Hermit Kingdom](#)
- ★ **Video:** [DPRK- The Land of Whispers](#)
- ★ **Website:** [An Introduction to Korean History and Culture](#) (click the blue tabs for different resources)
- ★ **Website:** [North Korea History and Geography](#)
- ★ **Website:** [Official Website for the DPRK](#)
  
- ★ **East Asia Focus:** [Lesson Plans on Korea](#)





# Resources for Cuba



- ★ **Article:** [Batista Forced out by Castro](#)
- ★ **Biography:** [Fidel Castro](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Backgrounder: US-Cuba Relations](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Failure of Communism in Cuba](#)
- ★ **Book:** [Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel](#)
- ★ **Article:** [How the Castro Family Dominated Cuba for 60+ Years](#)
- ★ **Video:** [The Cuban Revolution](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Cuba After Communism](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Fidel's Cuba is Long Gone](#)
- ★ **Newsela:** [Unlocking the door to US, Cuba relations](#)
- ★ **Newsela:** [Family visits to Cuba inspires girl to become a poet](#)





# Resources for Vietnam



- ★ **Article:** [Vietnam Country Profile](#)
- ★ **Map:** [Vietnam](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Vietnam War](#)
- ★ **Documentary:** [Vietnam in HD](#)
- ★ **Biography** [Ho Chi Minh](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Geneva Conference](#) (1954)
- ★ **Timeline:** [The Vietnam War](#)
- ★ **Article:** [Vietnam 40 Years On](#)
- ★ **Article:** [The Vietnamese Communist Party](#)
- ★ **Video:** [The Vietnam War](#)
- ★ **Video:** [Vietnam War from the North Vietnamese Perspective](#)
- ★ **Infographic:** [The Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#)



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- <https://www.socialstudies.org/sites/default/files/c3/c3-framework-for-social-studies-rev0617.pdf>

## Lesson Plans:

- <https://u.osu.edu/eastasia/lesson-plans/>
- <https://u.osu.edu/k12korea/resources-and-opportunities-for-educators/>
- <https://u.osu.edu/eastasia/resource-guides/>
- <https://u.osu.edu/eastasia/online-links/>

## East Asian Web Resources Spreadsheet (OSU-Compiled):

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ITZSzhrr2aHhZj90m-mAT-kurNO4l3ap/view>





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