

The background of the slide features a large, circular red emblem of the Communist Party of China. It contains a yellow five-pointed star at the top, a yellow hammer and sickle in the center, and a wreath of yellow grain at the bottom. The emblem is flanked by grey, stylized horizontal bars on both sides.

# Can a NEW Communist Country Rise in Modern Times?

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Main Question

# Can a New Communist Country ► Rise Again?

In Modern Times



Secondary  
Question #1

Why Would a  
Country Choose to  
Convert to  
► Communism?



Secondary  
Question #2

# Would Communism in the Modern Era Be Different From ► What it Used to Be?

What would have to change for  
Communism to be able to exist today?



Section 1

► **What is Communism?**



## Communism Is...

- An ideology where everyone is equal economically
- In a communist country, there are no privately-owned businesses or property; everything is shared as a whole
- Problems: creates a very inefficient economy and restricted market, does not appeal to human nature (lack of motivation, jealousy).



## Section 2

# ► Notable Figures

Who were they and what did they accomplish?

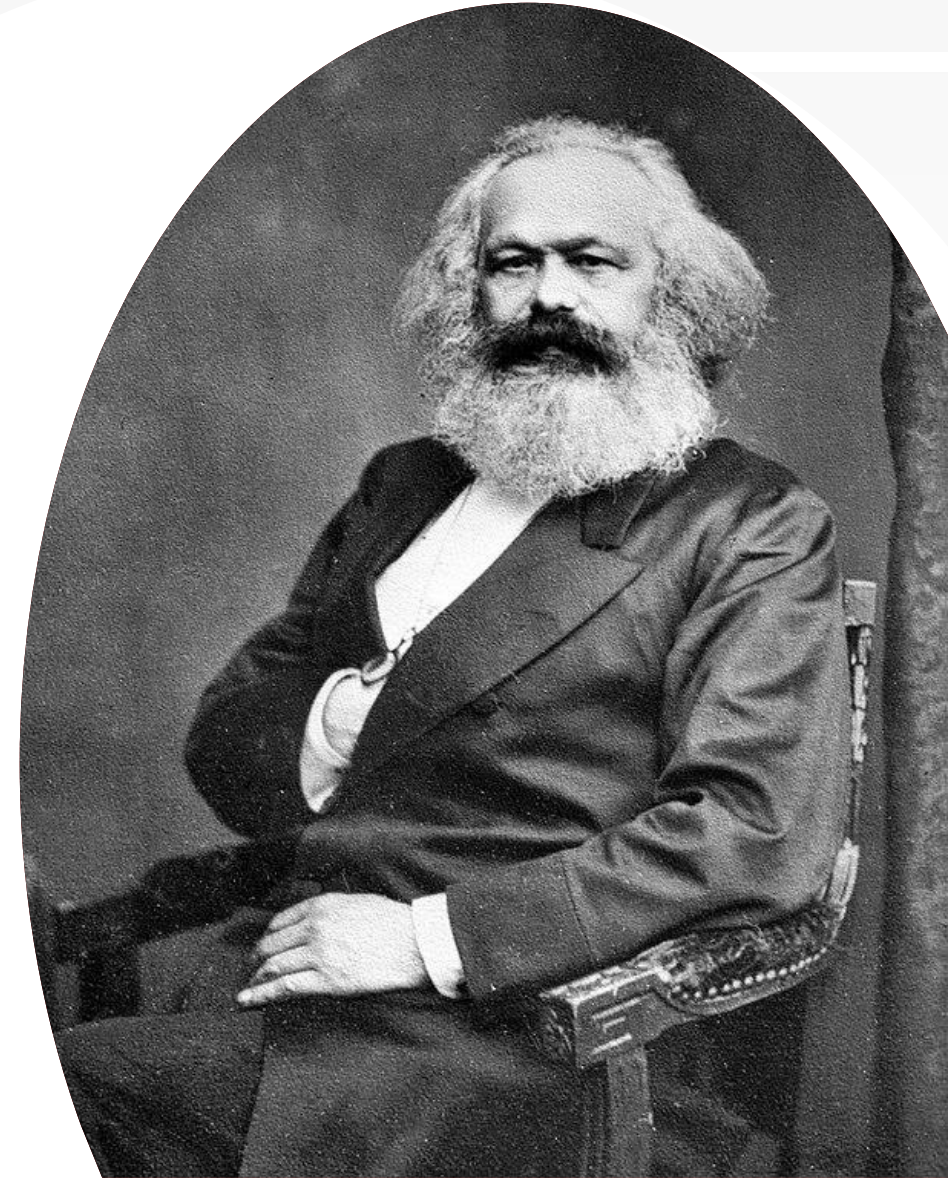






## 1. Karl Marx

- A German philosopher and revolutionary socialist
- Born in Trier, Germany 1818, died in London, UK 1883
- Fathered 7 children
- Created Marxism, the first step toward Communism
- Marx thought that human nature contradicted the way people had to act in a capitalist society
- Marxism sought to polarise the classes, essentially creating a classless society
- His political publication, The Communist Manifesto, got him exiled to London
- Karl Marx's publications and political theories are the foundation of communism







## 2. Friedrich Engel

- Born Nov. 28, 1820 in Barmen, Germany
- Died Aug. 5, 1895 in London, UK
- Coauthor of the Communist Manifesto along with Karl Marx
- Created modern communism with Karl Marx
- Converted to Communism in 1842 by Moses Hess
- Moved to England where he met Karl Marx
- Marx and Engel's permanent partnership started after a meeting in Paris in 1845
- Communist Manifesto published in 1848





### 3. Vladimir Lenin

- Born 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 1870
- Died 21<sup>st</sup>, January 1924 (age 53)
- Plotted an overthrow of the Provisional Government in 1917
- Lead the Red Army, and caused a three year civil war
- Established a secret police force to *deter political instability*
- Started a period of history called the “Red Terror”
- Had as many as 100,000 members of Russia’s upper class as well as their supporters executed.
- Formed the USSR between Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Transcaucasus (now Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan)
- Lost power due to declining health issues, paving the road for Joseph Stalin to take power



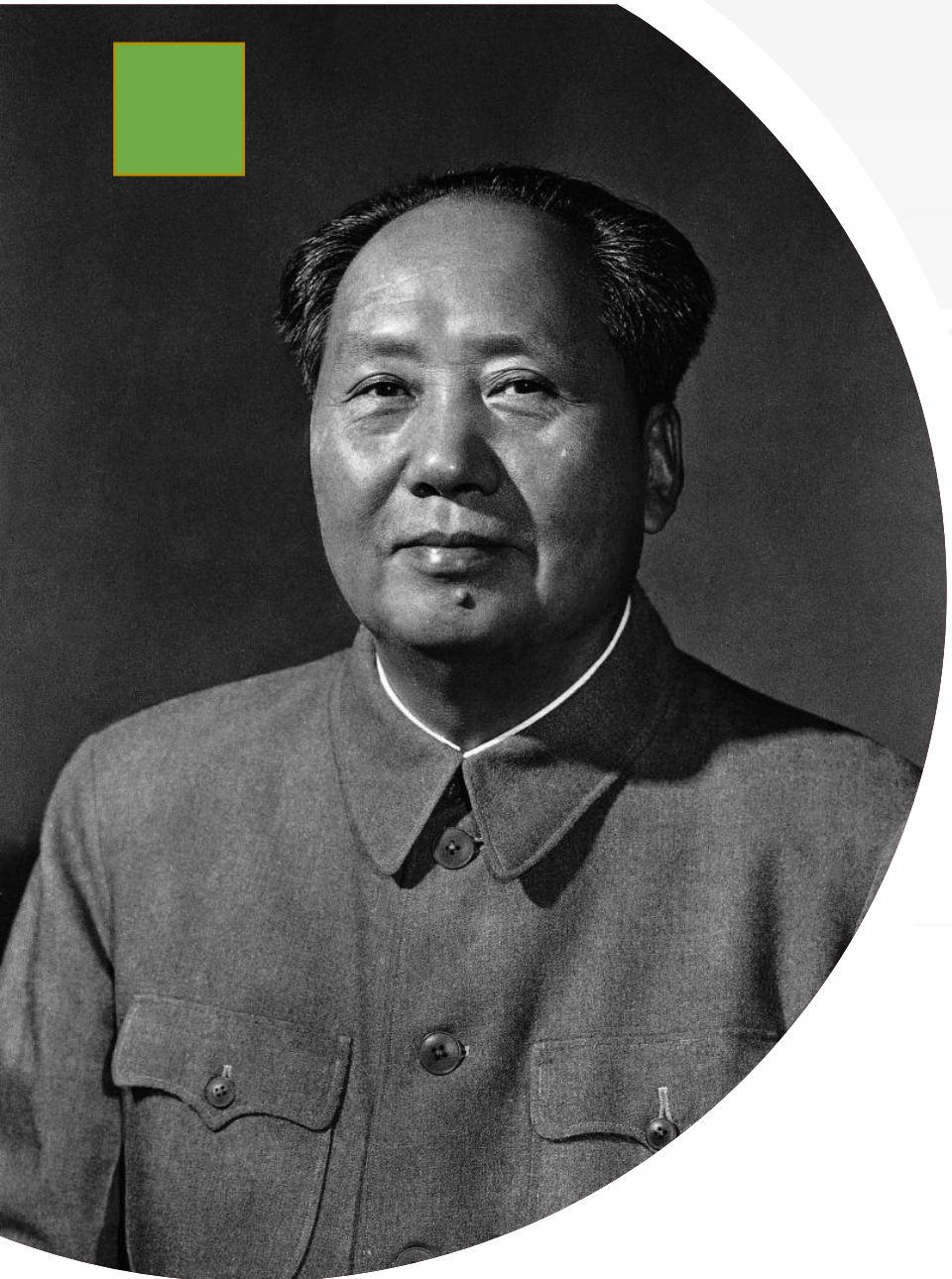


## 4. Mikhail Gorbachev

- Born 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 1931 (currently 88)
- Launched a new policy of “glasnost” meaning openness
- Increased personal freedoms in the Soviet Union
- Allowed freedom of the press
- Broke the history of totalitarian rule
- Started to allow a semi-free market in the Soviet economy
- Collapsed communism in Soviet-bloc countries.
- Tore apart the totalitarian aspects of Soviet government, and started making strides towards democracy
- Tried to balance the free-market with a centrally planned economy (but failed)
- Finally resigned as president, and took Soviet Union down with him







## 5. Mao Zedong

- Born: 1893
- Died: 1976
- Founding father of the People's Republic of China
- Ruled as Chairman of the Communist Party of China from its establishment (1949) to his death (1976)
- Lead his people over 4,000 miles in The Long March to keep Communism going
- The Long March was a military retreat by the Red Army of the Communist Party of China in an attempt to evade the Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party)
- The Communist Party would eventually defeat the Nationalist Party in 1949 [see: China]



## 6. Joseph Stalin

- Born: 1873
- Died: 1953
- His last name means “man of steel” in Russian
- Led the Soviet Union as General Secretary from the mid-1920s to 1953
- Literal “dictator” of his people
- Transformed the Union into a great industrial and military power by focusing on a government-run economy where all farms were collectivized
- Had a Gulag system of imprisonment where prisoners served as slave labour
- Began the Great Purge in 1936
- The Great Purge was a campaign to eliminate anyone considered a threat to the Communist Party
- More than 750,000 people were executed
- The Great Purge ended in 1938, but would continue to impact the country for many years.

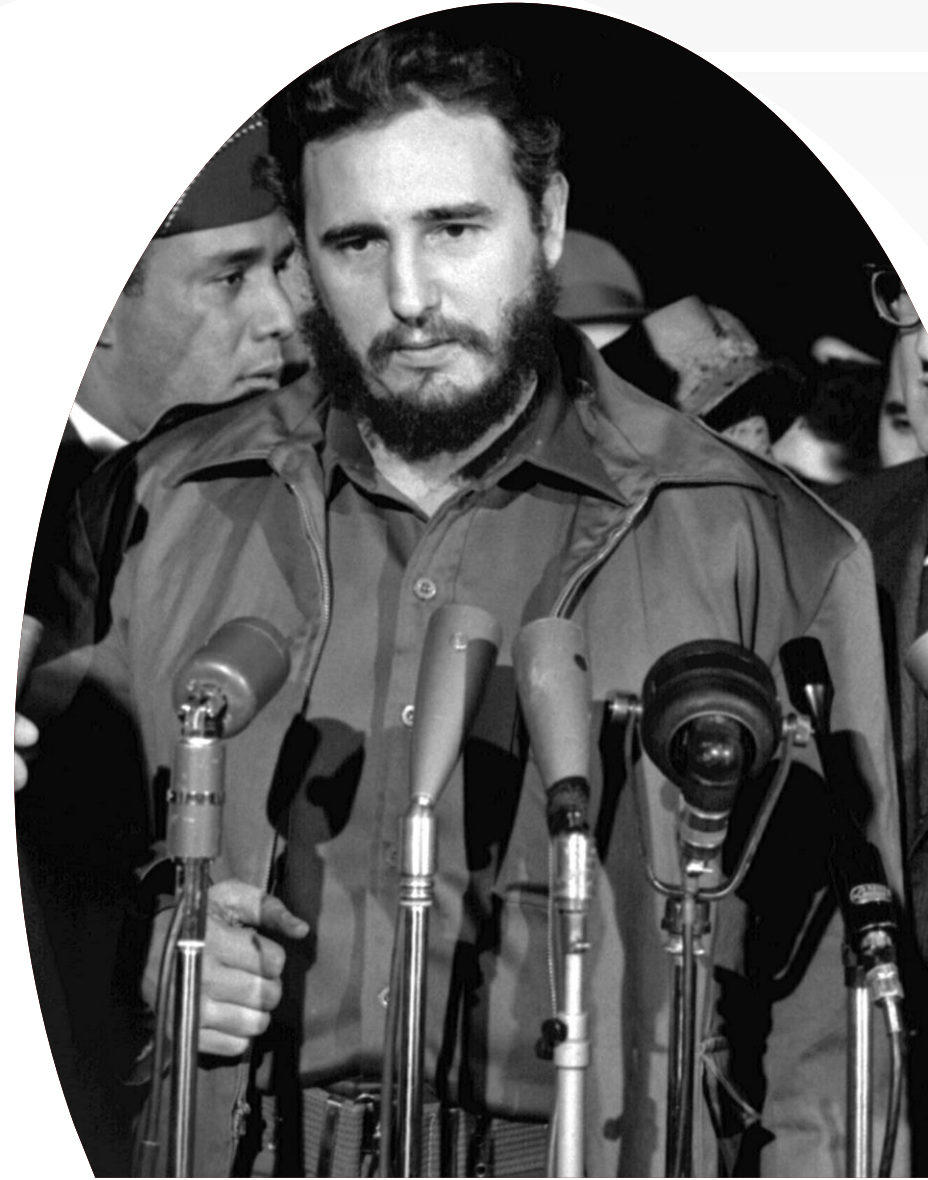




## 7. Fidel Castro

- Born August 13, 1926
- Established the first communist state in the western hemisphere (Cuba)
- During his rule he nationalized all US-owned businesses
- Brought electricity to the countryside
- America failed to overthrow him
- Declared himself a Marxist-Leninist in late 1961
- Died on November 25, 2016

Notable  
Figures





## Section 3

# ► Notable Countries

Which countries are/were Communist?  
Why did they choose Communism?



## Russia

- Russia had a communist political and economic system from 1917 to 1991
- Became communist after overthrowing Tsar Nicholas II in the 1917 February Revolution
- A provisional government was established, but was also overthrown by the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin
- The Bolsheviks were established in 1903 and took over in 1917
- Changed names to All Russian Communist Party, then to All Union Communist Party in 1925, and finally renamed to Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1952



# China

- Has been communist since October 1, 1949, after the Communist Party beat the Kuomintang during the Chinese Civil War and took control of mainland China
- Started in the year 1927
- Had a break during the 2nd World War Due to Japan's invasion of China
- Main actions started after WWII (1945)
- Currently the largest communist country
- Purely communist; does not utilize any other economic systems (At the beginning)
- Changed through time



#1

# Why would a country choose to convert to

## ► Communism?

What factors would lead to their decision?



# Why would a country choose to convert to communism?

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- Communism is a form of government that can function with scarce resources
- All people get the same amount, so the limited resources are distributed as evenly as possible
- Most countries that convert to Communism were poor beforehand
- The idea of equality in theory is also very appealing (key words in theory)
- In the past, communism was appealing to the lower class (Money)



#2

# Would Communism in the modern era be different from ▶ what it used to be?

What would have to change for  
Communism to be able to exist today?







## Would Communism in the modern era be different from what it used to be?

- The internet would have to be incorporated into the manifesto, as it would be a window into events that happen outside of the country.
- If there was a full-scale revolution in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it would quickly be covered by the media and spread globally.
- Any existing government systems cannot be done away with completely.



Main Question

# Can a New Communist Country ► Rise Again?



# Can a New Communist Country Rise Again?



- It is possible, although difficult.
- The new communist country would likely be a less economically advanced country
- It can "get started" (Come to power)
- Prospering = Difficult (to become communist)

# THE END

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# Bibliography

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