



Trofim Lysenko (Soviet agricultural expert) claimed changing crops' environment would alter their genetics - they could be trained to sprout at different times of year - this was incorrect and many crops died

- **Agrarian Reform Law (1950)** transferred land from capitalists to peasants (key part of communist ideology)
- Landlords tried in 'People's Courts' (Speak Bitterness Campaign)
- Red Army drove out and executed landlords
- **Collectivisation** sped up (1955) as agricultural surplus needed to invest in industry and military



The First Five-Year Plan (1953-57)

- Government controlled all businesses to plan production
- Aimed to improve steel, coal and chemical industries
- Exceeded targets: industrial output doubled
- USSR provided a \$300 million loan and technical advice
- Little improvement in living standards as light industries and consumer goods neglected

ECONOMIC POLICY, 1949-65



Approx. 30 million died during the Great Leap Forward

The Second Five-Year Plan / The Great Leap Forward (1958-62)

- Mao believed China needed another revolution, inspiring devotion to the communist state
- Wanted to accelerate industrialisation and agricultural collectivisation to put socialist principles (communal life and labour) into practice
- Encouraged growth of industry within communes
- Initial success as steel production doubled, though ultimately led to devastating famine
- Humiliated Mao



- Liu and Deng took control and dissolved Mao's People's Communes, removing pressure on peasantry to produce industrial goods, and imported grain to end the famine
- Industrialisation continued but less severely; communes continued on smaller scale; peasants were granted their own plots of land (reintroduced private farming); people encouraged to move to the countryside to solve overcrowded cities

