http://www.johndclare.net/China11.htm

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| http://www.johndclare.net/images/a_head_China.jpg | |
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| **China and the USSR** |  |
| **Summary**  **At first, China's relations with the USSR were close – they had to be, since China was weak, and the USSR was the only friendly world power.**  **By the late 1950s, however, relations had become strained, and even broke out in open warfare in 1969.** |  |
| **Link:**  The following website will help you complete the task:  **Sino-Soviet Relations**: • [Narrative account](http://countrystudies.us/china/128.htm) |
| **Why China forged close relations with the USSR, 1949-57** |
| **a.  Soviet Communism** |
| The USSR was the world’s first communist state, and Mao always recognised its unique place in history, and in communism; in the early years of the PRC, the USSR was China’s model for development |
| **b.  China needed Soviet economic aid** |
| Mao had no experience of industrialisation, and no resources for it, so in 1949, he signed the Treaty of Friendship; the Soviets sent experts, aid and loans – though Mao was later to feel that he had been exploited |
| **c.  Fear of the USA** |
| Especially in the early years of the PRC, Mao feared a US invasion to re-establish Chiang Kai-shek, and he needed the support of the USSR as a deterrent |
| **d.  Support in the United Nations** |
| In the UN, the USA recognised Taiwan as the legitimate government of China – only the USSR supported the cause of the PRC |
| **e.  Korea, 1950** |
| In the Korean War, China and the USSR both supported North Korea, though the cost to China was much greater, and Mao was later to feel that he had been exploited |
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| **Treaty of Friendship, Dec 1949** |
| **a.  $300m loans and aid** |
| Though 95% of the Soviet money was in the form of loans, at a high rate of interest, plus the PRC was forced to send a substantial portion of its bullion reserves to the USSR |
| **b.  20,000 experts** |
| Though the USSR did not supply its 20,000 economic experts free; the PRC had to pay for them. Also Soviet ‘experts’ did not give independent advice, they imposed Soviet ideology … some of their advice (e.g. Lysenkoism) was rubbish |
| **c.  80,000 students** |
| The Soviets agreed to receive and train Chinese students to study science and technology in Russia |
| **d.  Dalian and Lushun ports** |
| China ceded to the USSR use of two ports – Dalian and Lushun – in Manchuria |
| **e.  Xinjiang mineral rights** |
| China ceded mineral rights in Xinjiang to the USSR |
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| [**Korean War, 1950-53**](http://www.johndclare.net/cold_war10.htm) |
| **a.  Kim Il Sung, Jun 1950** |
| In 1949, Kim Il Sung asked permission of Stalin and Mao to attack South Korea, which he did in June 1950; the UN sent troops to defend South Korea |
| **b.  People’s Volunteers, Nov 1950** |
| By November 1950, the UN/US army under MacArthur had almost reached the Chinese border; after two warnings, 200,000 Chinese troops ('People's Volunteers') attacked – they had modern weapons supplied by Russia |
| **c.  Human Wave tactics, Dec 1950** |
| In December 1950, 500,000 more Chinese troops entered the war, drove the Americans back (using costly 'human wave tactics'); they advanced into South Korea, but the Americans fought back to the 38th parallel |
| **d.  Chinese losses and resentment** |
| The Chinese admitted to losing 390,000 men dead, modern sources put the figure at nearly a million casualties; Mao resented that the Soviets did not commit men and made the Chinese pay for all the weapons they supplied |
| **e.  Panmunjong Truce, 1953** |
| Only Stalin's influence was keeping China in the war; within a month of his death in 1953, the Chinese had signed a truce to end the fighting |
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| **Why did China break with the USSR?** |
| **a.  Mao’s Moscow visit, 1949** |
| Stalin treated Mao badly on his first visit to Moscow, housing him in a poor villa with no facilities |  |
| **b.  Treaty of Friendship, 1950** |  |
| Mao came to resent the high cost the Treaty of Friendship and came to believe that China had been exploited by the USSR |  |
| **c.  Korean War, 1950-53** |  |
| Mao came to resent the high cost of the war to China and came to believe that China had been exploited by the USSR |  |
| **d.  Ideological differences, 1957** |  |
| At the Moscow Conference in 1957, Mao disagreed forcefully with Khrushchev’s policy of peaceful coexistence; Khrushchev called the Great Leap Forward ‘harebrained’ |  |
| **e.  Khrushchev’s Beijing visit, 1958** |  |
| When Khrushchev went to Beijing to try to repair relations, Mao put him in a poor hotel without air-conditioning, and humiliated him by insisting on holding the talks in a swimming pool (Khrushchev could not swim) |  |
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| **China’s relations with the USSR, 1959-69** |  |
| **a.  Taiwan, 1958** |  |
| Mao prepared an invasion of Taiwan, but had to back down when the USSR refused to offer even moral support |  |
| **b.  Albania, 1961** |  |
| When the Albanian government refused to obey Moscow, the USSR withdrew its financial support; Mao stepped in and gave the Albanians money and technical aid |  |
| **c.  Moscow Conference, 1961** |  |
| The Chinese walked out of the Conference over Albania; Khrushchev called Mao an ‘Asian Hitler’, Mao called him ‘a useless old boot’ |  |
| **d.  Sino-Indian War, 1962** |  |
| When a border war broke out between India and China, the USSR gave fighter-planes to the Indians |  |
| **e.  Sino-Soviet Confrontation, 1969** |  |
| In 1969 there was a series of Sino-Soviet border clashes; China and the USSR reoriented their nuclear missiles away from the USA and at each other |  |
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| **Task**  In 1976, Kenneth G Lieberthal – an American scholar who became a Professor at Michigan University 1983-2009 – analysed [*Long Live Mao Zedong's Thought*](http://chineseposters.net/themes/mao-thought.php) (the selected writings of Mao Zedong). Read the following passage (his abstract of his conclusions) and write answers to the questions which follow:  **Kenneth G. Lieberthal, *Mao Tse-Tung's Perception of the Soviet Union*, 1976** The analysis of these documents reveals that Mao's core assumptions about the Soviet system changed dramatically during 1958-1962.  •  In 1955 Mao regarded the Soviets as a model for building socialism, if one to be evaluated critically.  •  In 1958 he stated that China would continue to learn much from the Soviet experience, but must take a selective approach to applying this experience.  •  In the fall of 1959 Mao stressed that it was intolerable to allow foreign Communist parties to meddle in Chinese Communist Party affairs.  •  During 1960 he hinted at concern about a Soviet armed attack.  •  In 1962 Mao claimed that the USSR had now become a reactionary fascist dictatorship.  By 1964 Mao introduced a new element into his analysis: referring to the threatening posture of colluding imperialist and revisionist forces, he mentioned a potential nuclear strike against China.  Thus he recognized the military threat posed by the USSR, although Moscow's large-scale troop and weapons deployments did not begin until 1965.  **How useful is this passage for an historian who wants to study the history of Mao Zedong's relations with the Soviet Union?**  **Explain why Mao initially sought close relations with the Soviet Union.**  **Explain why relations between China and the Soviet Union broke down.** |  |