Mao’s Great Leap Forward World History

**Instructions:** During the late 1950’s Mao Zedong tried to rapidly modernize China using a command economy approach. In order to pay for new industrial technology and military development, Mao attempted to drastically increase China’s agricultural output through a program called the Great Leap Forward. As we watch a video and read an article, use this chart to take notes.

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| What were the reasons for the Great Leap Forward? | What did they do during the Great Leap Forward? | What were the consequences of the Great Leap Forward? |
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Analyzing the Article

**Instructions:** Now that you have watched the video, read the article by professor Frank Dikotter and respond to the below questions.

1. What are some of the results of the Great Leap Forward that Dikotter was able to uncover? List 3 facts/examples from the article.

2. Why do you think the Chinese government is trying to hide the results of the Great Leap Forward from historians?

3. How should we remember the Great Leap Forward? Should we see it as a massive economic blunder or the intentional starvation of tens of millions of people? Justify your response with examples from the video and the article.