

Identifying Quotes About Historical Events

Directions: Carefully read each of the following quotes. For each quote, choose the historical event to which you think it refers and write the event in the blank space above the quote.

- Fall of Dynastic China
- Communist Revolution
- Influence of Soviet Socialism
- Great Leap Forward
- Cultural Revolution
- Economic Reforms of Deng Xiaoping
- Protest for Democracy in Tiananmen Square

1. _____

“Remember that big movement for making iron and steel? We made a lot of steel. That was when we cut down all the trees on the hills. As for the steel we made, well of course there was no use for it. Later on the family sent me a message: they were all well nigh starved to death. That was during the famine. So I forgot about the steelmaking and got home as fast as I could to feed all those mouths. The first people who starved to death in those days were buried in thin coffins, then bodies were put in a couple of vats joined rim to rim. Later on, when everyone was so weak with hunger they couldn’t move, whole families died and were just left where they lay.”

2. _____

“The whole [area] was in massive chaos. I’d never thought my fellow students could be so brave. Some started to push at the troop carriers. They were mown down. Others clambered over their corpses and pushed too. Finally they managed to push one or two carriers aside and open up a gap. I and 3,000 other students rushed through under a hail of fire.”

3. _____

“At meetings, the Red Guards used the Quotations of Chairman Mao no matter what was being discussed. Rewards given at all levels were copies of the Quotations or Mao badges and they were handed out year after year. Chairman Mao’s portraits and statues were everywhere, as well as a basket full of Quotations in every household whether people could read or not. We made Chairman Mao into a god, but how could he be aware of the minutest details of everything as he sat in his room in Beijing?”

4. _____

“We don’t beat people. We are a different army, we are one family with the poor. We will divide the landlords’ fields and give land to everyone.”

5. _____
“We had meetings about the Soviet Union, and at these, ganbus [communist officials] came and told us that we had learned from its experience how to make a revolution. The Soviet Government had also begun with only a few rifles. We had meetings at which we talked of how all humanity was to be freed of all oppression and all misfortune and need, and how all peoples were to become brothers and live as equals all over the world.”

6. _____
“From now on there will be more talk about economics and less about politics.”

7. _____
“The landlords, of course, had thousands of goats, donkeys and oxen, and they just gathered in their rent. They bought and sold grain and they always made money on everything. In autumn, when we had to sell grain to get the cash to pay our taxes, the price of corn was low; and in the spring, when we had to borrow or buy corn, the price of corn was high. We starved and toiled, but they lived in luxury and profusion and never worked. They ate pork every day; they had steamed wheaten bread and noodles.”

8. _____
“My neighbor to the east was raided. He liked paintings and calligraphy, and his [shop] was full of them. Nearly all of his stuff was fake,... but he had one Ming Dynasty painting by Qiu Ying that was the real thing.... The old woman from the street committee brought a whole mob of Red Guards in to raid his place, and they burned all his pictures, including the Qiu Ying. It was torture for him. He kept saying, ‘Don’t burn it, don’t burn it, I’ll give it to the state.’ But the Red Guards paid not a blind bit of notice. They just beat him up. ‘What would the state want with that “four old” of yours?’ the old woman from the street committee asked.”

9. _____
“In the old society we country women dared not go out, we didn’t go to plays or theaters or even to the market. Now that the Liberation had come no wonder all of us women were happy! We liked it. We came out. How we hated those who held us down! That’s why we were so active in struggling with the landlords.”

10. _____
“I go in for sideline production, because that’s the way to make money. I raise mink. I buy the kittens from the state. They cost eighty yuan each. If you buy a pair and look after them for a year or so you can sell them for 300 yuan. We’re poor and lower-middle peasants, we’ve got tens of thousands of yuan, and we can go anywhere we like.”