The Great Leap Forward

Key points

- The Soviet model of a planned economy required considerable technical expertise. The tensions that this created between the Communist Party and China’s intellectuals are the key to events during this period
- Implementing the Soviet model: the socialist transformation of the economy
  - Rural areas – collectivisation
  - Urban areas – factories, shops etc merged into large state-owned organisations
- The Hundred Flowers Movement
  - The Hundred Flowers Movement was intended to bring intellectuals into the state, but resulted in the Anti-Rightist Campaign which resulted in many being imprisoned
- The Great Leap
  - A campaign to promote mass mobilisation instead of technical expertise and capital
  - Resulted in severe famine
  - Longer term results
    - Loss of power for Mao Zedong among the top leadership
    - Bureaucracy more frightened and more politicised

Names
Liu Shaoqi (Liu Shao-ch'i)
Peng Dehuai (Peng Te-huai)

Dates
1953-56 From Mutual Aid Teams to Collectives in the countryside
1957 Hundred Flowers followed by Anti Rightist Campaign
1958 Great Leap Forward
1959-62 Famine

The Anti-Rightist Movement
"Only later did I learn that some of them hadn't written a single improper line or spoken a single improper word. It was just that in discussions about other people they’d expressed an opinion that "perhaps we needn't draw the line too rigidly between them and us", with the result that they, too, ended up at the Baigezhuang Farm. Others might have expressed their feelings about some minor political question in some short article, which, even if unpublished, was still used as evidence against them." (Hsiao Ch'ien, Traveller without a Map, 1990, p. 210)

Figures for the Great Leap
1. Grain production in Sichuan
   1957  21 million tons
   1961  11 million tons
2. Rural and urban death rates 1960
(The figures give the number of people who died per thousand)
NB before 1960 all these provinces had death rates below 15/1000

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<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
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<tr>
<td>Henan</td>
<td>39.60</td>
<td>44.15</td>
<td>19.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shandong</td>
<td>23.60</td>
<td>25.65</td>
<td>14.10</td>
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<td>Tianjin</td>
<td>10.91</td>
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