**Cultural Revolution Revision Nuggets**

**For notes on why Mao launched the Cultural Revision see revision notes on the website.**

Official start date of the CR was May 1966 when Mao announced the beginning of a party purge.

July 1966 – Mao swam in the Yangzi River – representing his return to public view.

18 Aug 1966 – 1st mass rally in Tiananmen Square attended by over a million people, the majority of whom were young – brought the CR to the attention of the Chinese people.

Rally organised by Lin Biao and Chen Boda

Aug 1966 – Mao presented students of Qinghai University with a banner ‘Bombard the Headquarters’ – an invitation to China’s young people to criticise and attack members in the CCP Mao wanted to remove.

Referring to his decision to use the young to lead the CR Mao used the expression ‘we need more monkeys to disrupt the palace.’

Lin Biao identified 4 olds as targets for the young to attack: old ideas, old customs, old habits, old culture.

Mao’s wife Jiang Qing was given the responsibility to re-make Chinese culture. Traditional Chinese opera was banned. Strict censorship was applied.

Aug - Nov 1966 – 8 mass rallies were held in Tiananmen Square.

Mao told the red guards: ‘To rebel is justified’. Temples, shrines, works of art, antiques were smashed.

Intellectuals, teachers were forced to undergo struggle sessions.

During a 2 day period in Daxing County, north of Beijing, 300 were beaten to death in public.

Deng Xiaoping and Liu Shaoqi were denounced and accused of being revisionists and were formally dismissed from their positions in government.

Liu later died in solitary confinement in 1973.

Deng’s son was thrown from an upstairs window by red guards that left him permanently paralysed.

Widespread disruption brought industrial production to a halt. Between 1966 and 1976 Industrial production fell by 14%

Schools and universities closed.

Between 1966 and 1970, 130 million of China’s young people simply stopped attending schools or university.

Children were told to look on Mao and the CCP as their true parents and, therefore deserving of their first loyalty.

Religion also came under attack. Clergy were attacked and imprisoned. Confucianism was denounced.

Doctors also came under attack. Surgeons were forced to cancel operations in order to show their solidarity with the workers by sweeping floors and cleaning toilet.

Millions were sent to Laogai.

Red Guard groups began to turn on each other.

**The PLA and the winding down of the Cultural Revolution.**

PLA ordered to bring the Red Guards under control.

‘Up to the mountains and down to the villages’ campaign’ 1967-72 – launched to rid Chinese cities of uncontrollable red guards.

12 million young people moved from the towns to the countryside to live alongside the peasants.

Most had a miserable time.

PLA led a campaign to ‘cleanse the class ranks’ 1968-71 – 1000s were arrested and killed.

Lin Biao, the nominated successor to Mao and the creator of the little red book, also became a victim. Tried to escape China and died in an air crash in 1971.

After 1973 the CR was less savagely enforced (with the return of Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping)