

The most important reason why the Communists won the Civil War was their relationship with the peasantry - do you agree with this statement?

NB Content below can be manipulated for use on any Civil War essay

#### INTRO:

Acknowledge the relationship with the peasantry and state it is important but unclear if most important. Perhaps start with a comment saying Mao's interpretation of Marxism was hinged on the support and empowerment of the peasantry etc etc?

List other reasons which are important

Suggest all are linked and the essay will explore if the relationship with the peasantry - or any other reason - was the most important.

#### PARA ONE: MUST BE DISCUSSION OF PEASANTRY

Should certainly discuss the peasantry and evidence of a good relationship and that influence on the outcome of the war

1. Mao had come to power in Yan'an and the surrounding by converting the peasantry through Land reform, education, improved economic outlook (relative to the country as a whole). The Red Army had been a propaganda tool.
2. The behaviour of the Red Army then and the PLA in the Civil war was notably 'decent and restrained' which engendered loyalty, this behaviour was guided by Mao. (unlike Jiang who was starved his troops and mistrusted their leaders thereby alienating them and instigating bad behaviour towards civilians/peasantry)
3. Examples of the positives of this relationship: Manchuria - in the struggle for Manchuria (1946-47) local peasantry uprooted railroads and airfields. In addition, Jiang failed to illicit any local support sending in 'cronies' from the South to govern. In the Huaihuai Campaign (1949-1949) not only did the Communist leader, Zhu De, fight a brilliant campaign, Deng Xiaoping rallied help from 2 million peasant labourers.

AFTER THIS, OTHER REASONS FOR COMMUNIST VICTORY CAN BE DISCUSSED IN ANY ORDER, must have point plus evidence to each reason:

FAILURE OF JIANG TO GAIN SUPPORT due to POLITICAL mis-steps eg failure to use local leaders effectively (not using Young Marshall in Manchuria) or SOCIAL POLICY MISTAKES eg corruption Linked to MAO'S SUCCESS IN GAINING SUPPORT not just with peasantry (discussed) but with land lords by being pragmatic with his Land Policy and by treating troops well, especially those who he encourage to become 'moles'. Mole were key to his success militarily (see below).

FAILURE OF JIANG AS A MILITARY LEADER eg decision to attack Manchuria  
Linked to SUCCESS OF MAO AS A MILITARY LEADER

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN CHINA: This is entirely a failure of the GMD but still feeds into Communist success as it the CCP were an alternative. (eg relative economic success of Yanan?)

HELP FROM USSR/LACK OF HELP TO GMD OF US: Discuss

#### CONCLUSION:

Decided whether you agree with the title. Remember not to use 'I'. Use 'It can be seen' 'it can be argued that'

