The government set a target for steel production to double to 10.7 million tons a year by 1959 and rise to 60 million tons by 1960.

**Results:**
- Overall China’s Gross National income increased by 8% in 1958 but fell by 30% by 1960.
- 600,000 backyard furnaces were built in 1958 and steel production more or less reached the target set by the government.
- However, the steel produced by these furnaces was so poor that it couldn’t be used.
- The program was abandoned in 1959.
- Despite these failures the GLF marked the industrialisation of the countryside.
- The 1958 harvest was good (200 million tons of grain) however the government published the inflated figure of 260 million tons and set unrealistic targets for 1959.
- 1959 and 1960 harvests were poor (170 and 144 million tons).
- China experienced a catastrophic famine.
- Death rate rose steeply in 1959 (from 1.08% to 1.46% of the population, 2.54% in 1960).
- 1959-61, the three biter years- approximately in excess of 20 million people died in the famine.

*The Great Leap Forward was both magnificent and absurd* - Michael Lynch

*The Great Leap Forward idea was some kind of madness but theoretically guided rationality* - Mobo Gao

**Hundred Flowers Campaign**

- **Aims:**
  - To identify and eliminate any of those who were willing to speak out against Mao and his government, especially intellectuals.
- **Methods:**
  - Encouraging Chinese citizens to openly express their opinions of the Communist regime.
  - Functioned as a trap to flush out rightist activists.
  - Led to the development of the anti-rightest movement which targeted intellectuals and others who challenged the CCP.
- **Results:**
  - Many were subjected to ‘struggle sessions’, they had to listen to many hours of accusations and inevitably apologise.
  - Given that the intelligentsia were decimated, China’s cultural development was severely impaired.
  - Some 5 million children had their schooling terminated.

*China’s intellectuals well knew that if you stuck your neck out you may lose your head. For a year they said nothing* - John Fairbank

**Cultural Revolution**

- **Aims:**
  - Regain support for Mao.
  - Re-establish his control over the party and people.
  - Remove the emerging bureaucrats.
  - Get rid of the four olds.