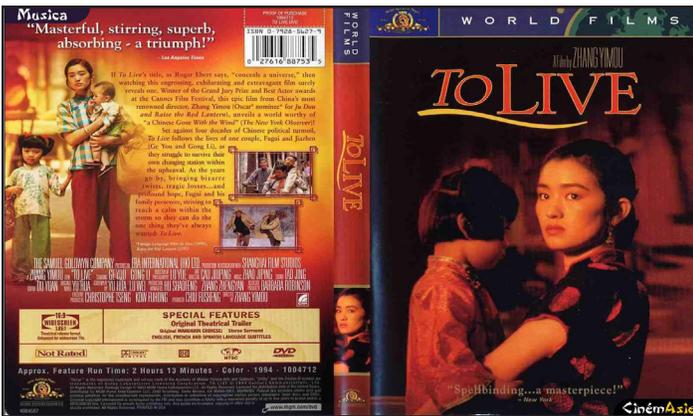


Teaching Resources for China's Great Leap Forward

By Clayton D. Brown



TO LIVE

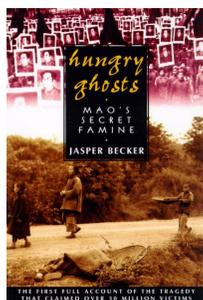
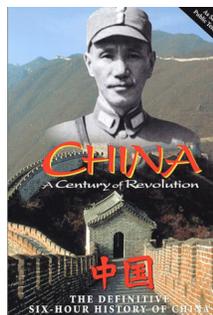
MGM WORLD FILMS, 2003, VIDEO AND DVD RELEASE, 2007
ENGLISH SUBTITLES, BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOR

Many insightful narratives of the Great Leap Forward exist that work well in the classroom. Although its scope is broader than the Great Leap Forward, the film *To Live* depicts both the enthusiasm and tragic consequences of the campaign. Directed by Zhang Yimou, *To Live* was released in 1994 under the title *Huoazhe*. Although it was banned in China, it received accolades abroad and is readily available with English subtitles, especially on [YouTube](#).

CHINA: A CENTURY OF REVOLUTION
ZEITGEIST STUDIOS, 2002

DVD, 360 MINUTES, ENGLISH

Part Two in the documentary series *China: A Century of Revolution* includes a one-hour segment on the Great Leap with an overview of the disaster supplemented with eyewitness accounts ranging from peasants to officials on [YouTube](#).



HUNGRY GHOSTS

BY JASPER BECKER

HOLT, 1998

416 PAGES, ISBN: 978-2844050342, PAPER-
BACK

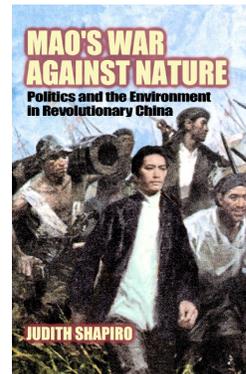
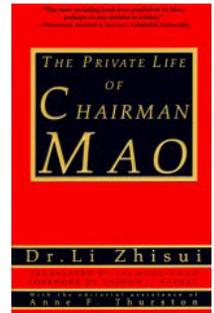
Chapter eight from Jasper Becker's landmark work *Hungry Ghosts* offers graphic descriptions of starvation and cannibalism in the countryside that contrast sharply with Mao's decadent lifestyle in the same period as revealed by his personal physician in chapter forty-five of *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*.

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF CHAIRMAN MAO BY LI ZHI-SUI

736 PAGES, ISBN: 978-0679764434, PAPER-
BACK

RANDOM HOUSE, 1996

For interested or advanced students, chapters thirty-one through thirty-nine of *The Private Life of Chairman Mao* gives readers a perspective of the Great Leap from within the highest ranks of the Party.



MAO'S WAR AGAINST NATURE:

POLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN
REVOLUTIONARY CHINA

BY JUDITH SHAPIRO

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2001

332 PAGES, ISBN: 978-0521786805,
PAPERBACK

Chapter two of Judith Shapiro's book *Mao's War Against Nature* explores the environmental consequences of the campaign, including the mobilization of schoolchildren to exterminate sparrows.

SOURCEBOOK ON CHINESE CIVILIZATION

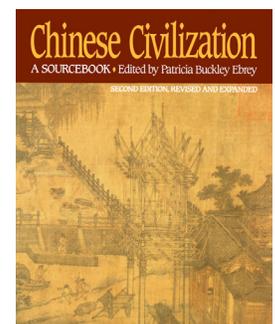
BY PATRICIA EBREY

PAPERBACK: 524 PAGES

FREE PRESS, 1993

ISBN: 978-0029087527

Patricia Ebrey's *Sourcebook on Chinese Civilization* includes an English translation of Peng Dehuai's letter to Mao.



These teaching resources accompany Clayton Brown's article "China's Great Leap Forward" in *Education About Asia* 17, no. 3 (2012): 29–34.

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