**ASIA Geography and History Study Guide KEY**

**Understand the key ideas of the following religions and philosophies:**

 **HINDUISM (religion):**

*Key Idea:* 80% of India’s population; the Vedas are the HOLY BOOK, multiple gods, but many believe the gods are all part of Brahma, All life is holy, CASTE system *(pyramid of social class based on inheritance)*

 **BUDDHISM (religion):**

*Key Idea:* Reincarnation and Karma; Siddhartha Gautama was founder, (BUDDHA), followed the FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS (no gods and no caste system)

 **SHINTOISM (religion):**

*Key Idea:* “Way of the gods,” No founder or holy book, worship nature spirits called “kami”

 **CONFUCIANISM (philosophy):**

*Key Idea:* Focused on 5 Specific Important Relationships, focused on respect, founder: Confucius

**Why did the United States help Japan rebuild after WWII?**

The United States had a desire to spread capitalism and stop the spread of communism from China to Japan, wanted input in Japan’s new government post-war, did not want another Germany *(financially unstable country)* and finally a future ally and trading partner. U.S. General MacArthur set up a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy in Japan. The emperor became a figurehead instead of the head of government.

**Describe the following events:**

 **MAO ZEDONG:** the leader of the Chinese Communist Party whose Red Army mainly removed the Japanese from China in WWII, which eventually ushered in the declaration of the People’s Republic of China on Oct. 1, 1949; Zedong took control of now-communist China and led the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution (died 1976)

 **THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD:** The Chinese autocratic and communist leader Mao Zedong’s five year plan to increase agriculture and industry (factories);

The plan failed due to poor quality products, poor weather which hurt agriculture thus leading to mass starvation.

 **CULTURAL REVOLUTION:** Mao wanted to industrialize China, increase literacy, and end class privilege. He wanted to restore the spirit of communism and bring Chinese culture back to the country. He used young people in his RED GUARD ARMY to enforce his new way of thinking.

 **TIANANMEN SQUARE:** Students wanting more freedoms and democracy led peaceful protests.

Gov’t responded with force; many students were killed. Protest failed. Government still in total control.

**Why did other countries *(US, Russia)* become involved in conflicts in Korea & Vietnam?**

**Korea:** At the end of WWII, the communist Soviets wanted to control all of Korea but the U.S. stepped in to South Korea to stop the spread of communism. A war lasting from 1950-1953 resulted in communist North Korea and non-communist South Korea with a boundary at the 38th parallel.

**Vietnam:** Also at the end of WWII, communists and a communist leader named Ho Chi Minh tried to take back Vietnam (had control of the northern part) in an effort to be independent of France. The U.S. stepped in to stop the spread of communism throughout the country, but after a long war, the U.S. had to leave, and communism prevailed in 1975.