Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents. (The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) This question is designed to assess your ability to work with and understand historical documents. After reviewing the documents, use these in answering the prompt. Your answer should be at least ONE and ½ paragraph (7-9 sentences) or longer in addressing how EACH of the documents can explain your answer to the prompt.

Prompt:
Using the following documents, analyze the relationship between Chinese peasants and the Chinese Communist Party between circa 1925 and circa 1950.

Document 1

Source: Chinese peasants at a struggle meeting. In the center stands a peasant woman with her former landlord standing in front of her. Struggle meetings were organized by the Chinese Communist Party as part of the land reform process. Photo circa 1950.

Courtesy of Xinhua news agency. Used with permission.
Document 2


The present upsurge of the peasant movement is a colossal event. In a very short time, in China’s central, southern, and northern provinces, several hundred million peasants will rise like a mighty storm, like a hurricane, a force so swift and violent that no power, however great, will be able to hold it back. They will smash all the chains that bind them and rush forward along the road to liberation. They will sweep all the imperialists, warlords, corrupt officials, local tyrants, and evil landowners into their graves.

Document 3

Source: Japanese Political Affairs Bureau for Occupied China, administrative office of the Japanese Army, report, 1941.

The Chinese Communist Red Army champions army-civilian integration and is continuously organizing local guerrilla units. As a consequence, it is extraordinarily difficult to separate the Communist bandits from the peasants in our efforts to destroy the Communists.

Document 4


In Japanese attacks on our villages, they killed 97 civilians, wounded 382, kidnapped 3, and raped 216 women. Japanese soldiers stole farm animals (734 oxen, 694 mules, 6 donkeys, 45 horses, 734 hogs, 6 goats, 106 ducks, 13,817 chickens); thousands of chairs and tables, kitchen pots and rice bowls, and stone grinders; thousands of peasants’ quilts and piles of clothing; over 6,000 bushels of grain; tons of straw; and 430,000 yuan.*

*yuan: Chinese currency
Document 5

Source: Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, instructions to local party officials, 1942.

Recognize that peasants constitute the basic strength of the Anti-Japanese War. Accordingly it is the policy of the party to assist the peasant, reduce feudal exploitation by the landlords, support civil liberties, political rights, and economic rights of the peasants in order to improve their living conditions and enhance their enthusiasm for the Anti-Japanese War.

Document 6


The arming of the people for resistance against Japan had placed the peasants in a position to challenge the landlords and money lenders in the countryside, and not even the tremendous prestige of the Chinese Communist Party or the critical situation of the country and the world could prevent this challenge from breaking out in one form or another. This increasingly explosive force transferred land from the landowners to the peasants. Now peasants demanded not only the correction of abuses but also repayment of overcharges and restoration of lands and property seized in default of debts. When grievances were totaled up, the charges almost always amounted to more than most landowning families could pay, and everything they owned was transferred from the landlords to the peasants for distribution.

Document 7


Article 1. The landlordship system of feudal exploitation by the landlord class shall be abolished and the system of peasant landownership shall be introduced in order to set free the rural productive forces, develop agricultural production, and thus pave the way for new China’s industrialization.

Article 2. The land, draft animals, farm implements, and surplus grain of the landlords and their surplus houses in the countryside shall be confiscated.