

A TRIBUTE TO MAO TSETUNG

OUR COMRADE HAS FALLEN

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"What a torch of reason ceased to burn,
What a heart has ceased to beat!"

Mao Tsetung died on September 9, 1976 at the age of 82. He spent all of his life at the service of the world's oppressed peoples. He died at his post-leading the Chinese people in defending their socialist land against Teng Hsiao Ping and others who attempted to restore the rule of capitalist misery to China. Mao personally led this and wrote over twelve directives regarding the course, the methods and the objectives of the struggle.

Mao became a revolutionary when he was a young university student. He participated actively in the May 4th Movement against the foreign imperialist powers. Very soon, Mao learned about Marxism and became an eager student of its teachings. He wasted no time in taking his knowledge into the Chinese working class by leading a number of mineworkers in a strike for their economic betterment and against imperialism.

It was in 1921 Mao helped to found the Communist Party of China which would grow from 70 to over 28 million members. It is not possible to detail all of Chairman Mao's contributions to Marxism - Leninism, but we would like to mention some of his outstanding achievements.



Mao Tsetung was the first one to correctly analyze the nature of the Chinese revolution. Proceeding from Lenin's teachings on the struggle for a revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry Mao developed the theory of New Democratic Revolution. This is a revolution aimed at destroying the power of foreign imperialism in oppressed, semi-feudal and semi-colonial countries. It also includes building a democratic state, led by the working class but including

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all democratic and anti-imperialist classes.

Such was the revolution lead by Chairman Mao. Today this revolution stands as a model for the entire 3rd World which is fighting for New Democracy from Colombia, to the Phillipines, to Zimbabwe.

Mao Tsetung led the Chinese people against the Japanese imperialists in the 1930's and 1940's. The Japanese were defeated. Mao Tsetung led the Chinese people in struggle against U.S. imperialism and its puppet Chiang Kai-shek. U.S. imperialism and Chiang Kai-shek were defeated. At last! At last the miserably poor Chinese masses had lifted the weight of centuries of oppression off their shoulders. And Mao led these poorly armed and poorly equipped people to these wonderful victories by simply relying on the Chinese workers and peasants.

Mao's life is a living confirmation that Marxism-Leninism belongs to the masses, means nothing without the masses. It does not belong to communists alone. Communists cannot be Marxists without the masses. Every victory of the Chinese people is a tribute to this simple but profound truth which Mao grasped like few other Communists in history have.

CONCRETE HANDLING OF CONTRADICTIONS

At a time when China's socialist revolution was very young (1957) and when many communists were confused about how to consolidate the new dictatorship of the working class, Mao explained that class struggle was the key link to the development of socialism in China. He explained simply and clearly that capitalists still existed in China who wanted to smash socialism.

Mao wrote that the proletariat must wage war against such elements, ON EVERY FRONT (ideological, political, philosophical, etc.). Otherwise, he explained, they will defeat the working class by deceit and treachery. These enemies represent no more than 5% of the Chinese population Mao said. Standing against them are the overwhelming majority of the workers and peasants and intellectuals of China. With

the enemy we must be ruthless, and we must draw the masses into the struggle against them.

With the people on the other hand, Mao taught us to use the method of education, discussion and persuasion to overcome all differences. Armed with the knowledge the Chinese communists and the Chinese people were to begin the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966

This was a movement of 100's of millions in which the Chinese workers, under Mao's personal leadership, kicked out fat cat bureaucrats in the state and in the Chinese Communist Party. These bureaucrats were either capitalists or were turning into capitalists. Fat with the power and privileges of their positions they began to see themselves as being above the masses, better than the masses. This outlook inevitably leads to exploitation of the masses.

Mao saw this, saw that it had led to the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union - and pointed it out to the masses. The initiative and power of a whole country were unleashed and the plot of the new capitalists were smashed as the ordinary laborer and farmer of China fought to defend socialism.

This revolution inspired hatred in every capitalist, every reactionary and every exploiter in the world. They could not stand to see the workers exercise political power. But it brought tears of joy to the billions of suffering humanity who watched with anticipation as their class brothers and sisters of China snatched the capitalists by the scuff of the neck and threw them in the trash. Here in the U.S. the Cultural Revolution was a bombshell inspiring particularly the revolutionary students and revolutionary nationalists.

We shall never forget those heroic Black Panthers who handed out Mao's Red Book to the enthusiastic masses in the Black Ghettos. We shall never forget the enthusiasm for Marxism created among the revolutionaries of this country by the Chinese Revolution of 1966. And Mao led this. This simple, self-sacrificing revolutionary taught us the meaning of relying on the masses. And the world will never be the same.

MAO EXPOSES THE REVISIONISTS

In the late 1950's the capitalists of the Soviet Union assumed control of the Communist Party of the S.U. From that position they began restoring capitalism and they soon turned the workers of the USSR into wage slaves.

Today the USSR is a fascist state, trying its best to promote a world war. Few communists realized what was going on when Khrushchov seized control of the CPSU. But Mao did. From the beginning Mao realized that the capitalists were taking power in the Soviet Union. Mao exposed them to the world.

Going against a huge tide of revisionism Mao pointed the finger at Khrushchov and said, "The man is a capitalist and a liar. He talks Marxism, but practices revisionism" (Capitalism with a Marxist Disguise). A shocked and skeptical world could not believe it. But very soon Mao's words rang like a clap of thunder as the social-imperialist tanks rumbled into Czechoslovakia.

Mao never stopped exposing the revisionists. Study their experience, he taught us, or we will follow their trail. Mao showed how these traitors had abandoned every principle of Marxism-Leninism. They substituted the nationalism of the imperialists for the internationalism of the working class. They preached reliance on the capitalists rather than class struggle against them. They tried to make us believe that we could take power peacefully from an enemy armed with everything from tanks to atomic weapons and which has used them all to defend capitalism.

The revisionists tried to tell us that we don't need a party of the working class to achieve socialism, but that we can have a "party of the whole people" (ie, exploiters and exploited). The revisionists told us that the working class did not need to defend socialism with its own dictatorship over the capitalists, rather they claimed that we could defend socialism in unity with these new capitalists.

Lies, all lies! Mao said. And he was right. Today an anguished world watches the glorious Soviet people being crushed by a fascist dictatorship- the victims of every lie and deception of the revisionists. But

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now the world knows the truth because Mao had the guts to stand up and speak it!

We shall never forget him. His example and his teachings are a new and everlasting development of our science, Marxism-Leninism. Mao Tse-tung Thought belongs to us, just as Mao belongs to us. Death can never take this away from us!

MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT WILL LIVE FOREVER!
ALL GLORY TO COMRADE MAO TSETUNG!
