

CONSTRUCTION BEFORE DESTRUCTION IS THE ERRONEOUS VIEW

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...Chairman Mao has clearly and correctly enunciated the question of destruction and construction. He has said, "There is no construction without destruction, no flowing without damming, and no moving forward without stopping. The struggle between them is a life-and-death struggle."

Chairman Mao has also said, "If bad things are not eradicated, nothing constructive can be achieved. Only by destroying these things can China be saved and national reconstruction begun. Otherwise, all talk about saving and building our country is nothing but talking in one's dream. Only by destroying old and decaying things can we build new and healthy things." ...

Whether we should advocate construction before destruction or uphold the view that there is no construction without destruction, construction in the course of destruction, destruction comes first and in the course of it there is construction. Since practice is the only yardstick by which to verify truth, we can in no way establish the dictatorship of the proletariat without first destroying bourgeois dictatorship. Similarly, it is impossible for the peoples of colonies and semi-colonial territories to achieve national independence without first eradicating imperialism. Only by thoroughly removing the "three towering mountains" [imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism] rising before them can the Chinese people establish a powerful, socialist new China. Similarly, only by thoroughly leveling another "three high mountains" -- imperialism, modern revisionism and reactionaries of all countries -- can the people of the world establish a new world in which there is neither exploitation nor oppression of man by man...

Countless facts bear proof that Chairman Mao's teachings to the effect that there is no construction without destruction, construction in the course of destruction, destruction comes first and in the course of it there is construction, conform to revolutionary dialectics and constitute revolutionary truth. In stubbornly advocating "construction before destruction," do bourgeois "authorities" really mean to establish socialism and eradicate capitalism? No, not at all. What they seek to establish is bourgeois hegemony and revisionism and what they want to eradicate is proletarian dictatorship and the thought of Mao Tse-tung.

Do bourgeois "authorities" really mean to practice the theory of "construction before destruction?" No, not at all. They have been uprooting this or that thing all the time and in any place. Rallying the black gang, running the gangster inn, planting poisonous weeds everywhere in every possible way and peddling black goods, they shoot poisonous arrows at the party, socialism and Mao Tse-tung's thought. Shouting that our party should promptly "step down" and "take a rest" and threatening to strike us down until we are unconscious, are they not going all out to destroy everything? Relying on their position and power, they have frenziedly attacked Mao Tse-tung's thought and accused the workers, peasants and soldiers of creatively learned and applied Chairman Mao's writings for the purpose of satisfying "vulgar," "over-simplified," and "pragmatic" desires. Are these not also the targets of their destructive tactics? They have even infiltrated the ranks of academic, educational, art and literary, press and publication circles so as to launch vehement attacks against the proletariat. Is this not also in conformity with their destructive moves?

Do these bourgeois "authorities" really think "there is construction as well as destruction"? No, not at all. It is precisely because they are apprehensive and resent our call for destruction and construction that they hastily clamor for "construction before destruction." In other words, they alone can attack us but we are forbidden to strike back; they can oppose the revolution but we should not wage revolution; they can bring about peaceful evolution but we are not supposed to oppose it; and they alone can establish bourgeois ideology, but we must not uphold Mao Tse-tung's thought.

Therefore, the slogan of "construction before destruction" is totally contrary to Mao Tse-tung's thinking -- an out-and-out counterrevolutionary slogan...