

## TRUST THE MASSES, RELY ON THE MASSES

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A great proletarian cultural revolutionary mass movement is now rising throughout the country. In response to the call of the CCP Central Committee and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the revolutionary masses in their tens of millions, with the force of a thunderbolt, have launched a sharp struggle against the antiparty, antisocialist representatives of the bourgeoisie. The monsters and demons have been engulfed in the great ocean of the broad masses and dealt extraordinarily heavy blows.

The fact that this great proletarian cultural revolution is being carried out by mobilizing the broad masses and employing the methods of mass movement is a tremendously creative thing.

The fundamental feature of this great proletarian cultural revolution is this -- hundreds of millions of people have risen up and are subjecting the old world to criticism.

Chairman Mao tells us: "The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them." This is a universal truth. It is true of revolutionary war, it is true of the whole proletarian cause, and, without question, it is true of the great proletarian cultural revolution. Without a mass movement, there can be no proletarian cultural revolution.

In the past, our party relied on the broad masses to wage the revolutionary wars that overthrew the rule of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. It was precisely the organized masses under the leadership of Chairman Mao who overthrew the old China dominated by the Kuomintang reactionaries and founded the new China under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Today, in carrying out this great proletarian cultural revolution, which touches the people to their very souls, our party must also rely on the broad masses. Whether the gun or the pen is used as the weapon with which to criticize the old world, reliance on the masses is essential.

The great proletarian cultural revolution is the revolutionary cause of the masses. Throughout its whole course it is essential to rely on the masses and boldly mobilize them. Only by a mass mobilization, an energetic mass movement, the use of big-character posters, and a full and frank airing of views and great debate will the great proletarian cultural revolution be able to develop in breadth and depth, expose and strike down all the monsters and demons, settle the question of who will win out in the ideological field, the proletariat or the bourgeoisie, and victoriously fulfill the tasks of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

History has proved that the broad revolutionary masses are the gravediggers of the reactionary state machine and the reactionary social system. And history will certainly prove the broad revolutionary masses to be the gravediggers of all exploiting class ideology.

A vast source of initiative for the cultural revolution resides in the broad masses of the people. In recent years, revolutionary cadres, revolutionary intellectuals, and especially, the broad masses of the workers, peasants, and soldiers have achieved great success in their living study and application of Chairman Mao's works. They have grasped Mao Tse-tung's thought. And they have made good use of Chairman Mao's writings in class struggle, in the struggle for production, and in scientific experiment. In the current great proletarian cultural revolution, too, they are making good use of Chairman Mao's works. They are the true wall of steel that guards the dictatorship of the proletariat. They are the main force for destroying the ideological and cultural positions in which the representatives of the bourgeoisie have entrenched themselves. To underestimate this would lead to a tremendous error.

The great proletarian cultural revolutionary movement which is now sweeping ahead magnificently has proved over the past few months:

That the broad masses who have grasped Mao Tse-tung's thought have the greatest ability to detect monsters and demons, see through them, and identify them;

That the broad masses who have grasped Mao Tse-tung's thought fight most effectively against the monsters and demons and deal them most accurate and heavy blows;

That the broad masses who have grasped Mao Tse-tung's thought are best equipped to fight and thoroughly repudiate the representatives of the bourgeoisie by citing facts and reasoning things out.

The great proletarian cultural revolutionary movement which is now sweeping ahead magnificently has proved over the past few months:

That the CCP leadership, armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought, is the fundamental guarantee of success in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Correct party leadership means to be skillful at applying the mass line and to take the unrestricted mobilization of the masses as the basis of the movement from beginning to end. Confidence in and reliance on the masses is the source of limitless strength for our party. Confidence in, reliance on, and unreserved mobilization of the masses, and the energetic development of the mass movement, constitute an extremely important policy for our party in the carrying out of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

The question of willingness to trust and rely on the masses and to dare to mobilize them freely marks the watershed between the proletarian world outlook and the bourgeois world outlook, and fundamentally differentiates a genuine Marxist-Leninist party from all the revisionist parties. Our party has strength because it trusts and relies on the masses and dares to mobilize the masses freely. The function of leadership can be exercised in the great proletarian cultural revolution only by marching at the head of the mass movement and mobilizing the masses freely. If, on the other hand, there is fear of the masses and mass movements, leadership is out of the question; besides, this goes against the principle of party leadership which Chairman Mao has often taught us.

Chairman Mao has taught us that in the great proletarian cultural revolution it is necessary to organize and expand the ranks of the proletarian left and to rely on them to mobilize the masses, unite with the masses, and educate the masses.

A resolute proletarian revolutionary left exists in every part of the country. The overwhelming majority of the members of the CCP and the Chinese Young Communist League are trustworthy and reliable. Under the correct leadership of the party, they form the nucleus of the proletarian revolutionary left.

Those of the proletarian revolutionary left follow most faithfully the teachings of the party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung. They are the bravest and the most resolute people in the revolution, they are the most capable in uniting with the great majority, and they have the ability to serve as models in the struggle. They are the vanguard in this great proletarian cultural revolution.

Our party must rely on the resolute left in all areas and all departments. It must not be restricted by erroneous stereotyped ideas about rank, past working experience, and age, but must organize the resolute left as the backbone of the movement and boldly and freely permit them to play the role of pacesetter in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Only by relying on the resolute left and by mobilizing the masses freely will it be possible truly to implement the instructions of Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee and distinguish genuine from sham revolutionaries, and revolutionaries from counterrevolutionaries. Only in this way will it be possible to lead the great proletarian cultural revolution and insure its healthy development.

According to Chairman Mao's teachings, it is a fundamental principle of the party's method of leadership that the leadership should be united with the masses. This principle must also be adhered to in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

The mass line is the fundamental line of the party in all work. The masses are the source of strength in all of our revolutionary work. By relying on the masses, we can overcome all difficulties, triumph over all enemies, and do all our work well. Once divorced from the masses, we shall become water without a source, a plant without roots, and we shall accomplish nothing.

Chairman Mao has said: "Every comrade must be helped to understand that as long as we rely on the people, believe firmly in the inexhaustible creative power of the masses, and, hence, trust and identify ourselves with them, no enemy can crush us while we can crush every enemy and overcome every difficulty."

In the great proletarian cultural revolution, we must follow Chairman Mao's teachings, trust the masses, rely on them, freely mobilize them, and be at one with them in order to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

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