

# MAO TSETUNG -

## GREAT LEADER OF THE WORKING CLASS



# DEATH A DEEP LOSS, LIFE A PROFOUND INSPIRATION

Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Communist Party of China, is dead at age 82. Who was this man, that even the rulers of the United States, after viciously reviling him and China for over 20 years, find themselves in a position where the President must say: "Mao Tsetung was a remarkable and great man." Who was he that the two most powerful countries in the world, the U.S. and Russia, have no leaders that compare with him in stature, either in love and respect from the people, or fear and hate from enemies.

Mao Tsetung, born a middle-level peasant in 1893, was, like millions of Chinese youth, rebellious. And why not? By the time he was ten, foreign garrisons were in every main city, British and American gunboats patrolled every river, propping up the decadent landlord government. They were there to keep China backward, to better profit off her resources and labor and to maintain their criminal empires.

It was in participating in great revolutionary struggles of the Chinese people against every outrage and abuse they suffered under foreign and landlord rule, and because of the inspiration of the victory of the working class in establishing its rule in the Soviet Union that he among many others, found his way to Marxism, the science of revolution. As he said, "...once I had accepted it as the correct interpretation of history, I did not afterwards waver."

In his own day, Marx had taken part in and analysed the struggles of the workers against exploitation and oppression, such as the movement for the 8 hour day, the U.S. Civil War, the Paris Commune, where for two months the workers held power. He had shown how the driving force in moving society forward throughout history was the struggle between oppressed and oppressor classes. He showed how modern society had created something new in history, the working class, which produces society's wealth working in common, even while that wealth is ripped off by a handful of vampires called capitalists. From this he showed that in order to put an end to all the miseries of capitalism, free themselves and move society forward, the workers in each country had to organize themselves against their capitalist rulers, overthrow them and replace their exploiting rule with the rule of the workers, and that to do this they needed the leadership of their own political party.

Like Marx and Lenin, who led the revolution in Russia, Mao Tsetung was no condescending savior, no social worker. He was a Communist. He taught coal miners (among the first worker members of the Chinese Communist Party) how to read, drawing letters in the sand. But he did not do this so a few of them could go off to school and leave the rest in misery. He did it so they could be better able to lead all to take matters in to their own hands and overthrow those who exploited and oppressed the masses of people.

In 1927, describing a peasant revolt in his home province, Hunan, he said:

"In short, all those whom the gentry (landowning tyrants) had despised, those whom they had trodden into the dirt, people with no place in society, people with no right to speak, have now audaciously lifted up their heads. They have not only lifted up their heads, but taken power into their hands...They have raised their rough, work-soiled hands and laid them on the gentry...They are issuing orders and are running everything. Those who used to rank lowest now rank above everybody else; and so this is called turning things upside down."

Such was the struggle of the Chinese people, and it was in this and many other and even more monumental struggles that the leadership of Mao Tsetung was forged. At that time, he was siding with the peasants, arguing against those who fancied themselves "revolutionaries" but who looked upon these events as "terrible". He argued that true revolutionaries should unite with, learn from, and politically lead the people, and that those events were "fine". He gave his heart to the people.

Always Stood with Working Class

Throughout the course of the Chinese Revolution, until the very end of his life, Mao Tsetung has kept his heart with the people and has not wavered from Marxism. He has always sided with those with rough, work-

soiled hands who are laying them on their enemies, their oppressors throughout the world, and he has shown us the way forward.

There were those who said that because the workers were a tiny minority of China's population, there could be no hope of working class revolution—of thoroughly, and throughout the country, “turning things upside down”. But Mao Tsetung, learning from the peoples' struggles and applying the science of revolution to conditions in China, argued that the *only* way forward for China, and countries like China, was for the working class Party to lead the workers and peasants to fight and overthrow the foreign imperialists and the landlords. The difference between China today and India today are searing evidence of this truth.

With the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, with Mao Tsetung as its Chairman, the Chinese people sent the Japanese invaders packing. Then, when the United States armed Chiang Kai-Shek to the teeth and hurled him at the base areas led by the Communist Party, again the Chinese people were victorious. And on October 1, 1949, Mao Tsetung, standing on a platform in the center of Peking, declared to the whole world, “The Chinese people have stood up.”

But it was after the working class was in power in China, and its Party, the Communist Party, led the government, that Mao Tsetung's greatest and most inspiring contribution to the struggle of millions of oppressed the world over was made.

In the 1950s, in the Soviet Union, a new capitalist class arose, from within socialist society; their leader, Khrushchev. With the greatest possible speed, they reinstated the capitalist society with all its evils. They resurrected unemployment, speedup, discrimination by nationality, domination of other countries, decadence—you name it.

These “New Czars” insisted that the Chinese Communist Party should follow their lead, and when refused flat out, they withdrew all support from China. They literally left with the blueprints for half finished factories! Could China, poor in agriculture, poor in industry, with very little discovered oil, etc., go on? Could she, with Russian troops massed on her northern borders, and with the U.S. spread throughout Southeast Asia, and enforcing an economic and political blockade, go on?

Once again the Chinese people emerged victorious. They have built a “poor and blank” country into a strong and prosperous, though still developing one. They have done this through their own self-reliance, but most importantly, they have done it by advancing at every point away from the old society and by building socialism to advance towards communism.

Mao Tsetung, summing up the bitter lessons of the defeat of the working class in the Soviet Union, developed the line that while the workers have the government in their hands under socialism, still classes exist and struggle against one another and will until class differences are eliminated and full communism achieved. Therefore, it is necessary for the workers to constantly fight to defend their power and to advance society. Otherwise, the old exploiting classes will stage a comeback.

Millions of Chinese people agreed with this, from their own experience. And they went into battle. It was called the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. They beat back traitors to the working class within their Party, the Communist Party itself, who advocated that workers should just work and keep their mouth shut about such things as running their factory, the country and should not concern themselves with the future of humanity. These traitors' goal was that the working class should not rule China.

#### Working Class Rules

For Mao Tsetung has never ruled China. In China the working class, in alliance with the peasants, rules. And Mao Tsetung, time and again, has led them forward. There is a big difference between a “ruler” and a leader. Until the day he died, he kept his heart with the people and used his knowledge to develop the ways for the masses themselves to solve problems in their lives and in advancing society. He relentlessly fought those who would betray our class.

Mao Tsetung was a man of great vision, a man who fought together with millions all his life—whether living in caves fighting guerrilla warfare or in Peking, the Chairman of the Party in power—for a future entirely free of classes and class exploitation...even if it would take a thousand years!

But he was no soft-headed idealist. His vision was based on reality; it is possible and as inevitable as the truth that wherever there is oppression there will be resistance to it.

He was a great Marxist-Leninist, a truly great leader of the working class, who was like the cap on the wave of the Chinese people's struggle.

And all this is why millions of people the world over and in every country deeply mourn his passing. And all this is why no matter who leads the capitalist countries, including the U.S. or the Soviet Union, they will never have his stature, for they are guardians of a vampire-like system, which thrives *only* on the blood of its victims and cannot otherwise survive.

And the struggle of those millions around the world is progressing, and that is the main reason why even the President of the U.S. must bow to necessity and praise the man our rulers have done everything they could, at one time or another, to destroy.

But no one can destroy what Mao Tsetung stood for—the emancipation of the working class and mankind. It will live in the hearts and minds and will eventually be realized by workers and oppressed people the world over and their children and their children's children. His whole life was in service to the people, and as he himself wrote on the death of a revolutionary soldier:

“All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. The ancient Chinese writer Szuma Chien said, ‘Though death befalls all men alike, it may be weightier than Mount Tai or lighter than a feather.’ To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather.”

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## MEMORIAL MEETING

THURS., SEPT. 16, 7:30 p.m., INTERNATIONAL CENTER (next to Michigan Union)  
REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT BRIGADE 995-8957