

Beijing leaders revert to true nature

by Linda de Hoyos

In his *Memoirs of a Chinese Revolutionary*, the great fighter for a “new China,” Dr. Sun Yat-sen, wages a bitter polemic against the 2000-year-old theory of Fu-kueh on “the difficulty of action and the easiness of knowledge.” “The theory of Fu-kueh is my enemy,” Sun Yat-sen states in his preface on the “Causes of China’s Stagnation,” “a thousand times more powerful than the authority of the Manchu dynasty. The power of the Manchus could achieve only the killing of our bodies, but it could not deprive us of our will.” In reality, as Dr. Sun proceeds to develop by examples in the next 100 pages of his memoirs, it is knowledge that is difficult; once the knowledge has been attained, then action is easy. “Mind is the beginning of everything that happens in the world.”

Dr. Sun’s struggle on behalf of knowledge and truth is but one indication that the Maoist Revolution was not the great reform of the “old China,” but a *counterrevolutionary* throw-back aimed at the destruction of Sun Yat-sen’s republicanism and ideas for economic construction (see *EIR*, Sept. 1, 1989, “Sun Yat-sen’s program and China’s development today.”)

Nowhere was this more explicit than in the orgy of self-destruction known as the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, led by Mao Zedong from 1966-76. The crushing of the “Hundred Flowers Campaign” in 1957—in which intellectuals who were promised freedom of thought and expression were then ruthlessly repressed—was the dress rehearsal for the Cultural Revolution, in which the nation’s universities were completely shut down and intellectuals were killed, tortured, driven into isolated countryside areas to perform the hardest manual labor, or driven to suicide.

The Cultural Revolution conjured up one of the worst eras of Chinese history, the Ch’in dynasty, whose legalist philosophers introduced book-burning to China. As Simon Leys points out in his book *Broken Images*, Han Fei-tzu, the theoretician of the legalist school, wrote, “The people must not fall into the way of prizing knowledge, which would lead them to neglect agricultural production. A people which despises knowledge stays ignorant, and in that state of ignorance it remains immune to outside influences, which is altogether to the advantage of the State’s security.” This was precisely Mao’s prescription for the Cultural Revolution.

The new assault

It should not be surprising, then, to find that despite the last decade of “reform” and the “opening of the door,” carried out by Deng Xiaoping, once the Communist Party leadership feels itself under the slightest threat, it reverts hysterically to its true nature and carries out the repression of intellectuals and a policy of stifling the mind—all in the name of the “four cardinal principles” of the Maoist Revolution. As the vice minister of Education, He Dongchang, stated, a “screen” must be placed over China’s windows to the world, to keep the “flies and worms” of Western ideas from infesting the country.

Accordingly, steps reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution are now being taken:

- Cuts in student enrollment. University enrollment for this academic year will be reduced by 30,000. Most of these cuts are in the fields of science and technology, and especially in the Beijing universities. The government is also cutting back on subsidies to students. Students seeking university education will first have to go through a training period, lasting as long as a year, with the People’s Liberation Army.

- A new crusade against books was launched at the National People’s Congress July 6, a month after the Tiananmen massacre, by Xinkiang representative Seypydin Aizezi, who decried “a non-theoretical, nonsocial, and nonethical ideological trend [that] has spread unchecked within literary and art circles. Books are written without regard to the social benefits of the proletariat. Bookstalls on the streets have become bastions spreading bourgeois liberalization. . . . All this is a new expression of class struggle under the new situation. However, fearing that they might commit the leftist mistake of taking class struggle as the key link, many comrades let the situation develop, and the term ‘struggle’ has almost disappeared from our vocabulary.”

Books and magazines are being ripped off the shelves. The search is thorough, as this July 25 report shows: “In Hefei, Anhui province, an inspection of 208 private bookstalls and 18 book wholesale departments has found 5,300 books advocating violence and 57,000 books in violation of the state publication regulations.”

- Purges and expulsion to the countryside. On Aug. 22, Politburo member Song Ping declared that the Communist Party has been forced to carry out a purge down to the “grass roots” in order to cleanse the party of “bourgeois liberalization.” Song Ping indicated that the purged cadre would get the same treatment as their predecessors during the Cultural Revolution—return to the countryside. Song Ping stated: “I would like to talk a little more about the system of cadre participation in labor. This is an effective measure that can help a cadre maintain the flesh-and-blood ties between cadre and masses.” An order has already been transmitted that all national-level Communist Party cadre who graduated from college after 1985 are to be transferred to low-level jobs in the provinces for at least one year.