

CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG ON PARTY BUILDING

The force at the core leading our cause forward is the Chinese Communist Party.

The theoretical basis guiding our thinking is Marxism-Leninism.

Opening address at the First Session of the First National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (September 15, 1954)

If there is to be revolution, there must be a revolutionary party. Without a revolutionary party, without a party built on the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary theory and in the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary style, it is impossible to lead the working class and the broad masses of the people in defeating imperialism and its running dogs.

Revolutionary Forces of the World Unite, Fight Against Imperialist Aggression! (November 1948)

A well-disciplined Party armed with the theory of Marxism-Leninism, using the method of self-criticism and linked with the masses of the people; an army under the leadership of such a Party; a united front of all revolutionary classes and all revolutionary groups under the leadership of such a Party — these are the three main weapons with which we have defeated the enemy.

On the People's Democratic Dictatorship (June 30, 1949)

Without armed struggle neither the proletariat, nor the people, nor the Communist Party would have any standing at all in China and it would be impossible for the revolution to triumph. In these years [the eighteen years since the founding of the Party] the development, consolidation and bolshevization of our Party have proceeded in the midst of revolutionary wars; without armed struggle the Communist Party would assuredly not be what it is today. Comrades throughout the Party must never forget this experience for which we have paid in blood.

Introducing "The Communist" (October 4, 1939)

The Party organization should be composed of the advanced elements of the proletariat; it should be a vigorous vanguard organization capable of leading the proletariat and the revolutionary masses in the fight against the class enemy.

Quoted in "Ushering in the All-Round Victory of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," 1968 New Year editorial of *Renmin Ribao*, *Hongqi* and *Jiefangjun Bao*

Definitely and beyond all doubt, our future or maximum programme is to carry China forward to socialism and communism.

Both the name of our Party and our Marxist world outlook unequivocally point to this supreme ideal of the future, a future of incomparable brightness and splendour.

On Coalition Government (April 24, 1945)

The victories of the revolution and construction in our country are victories of Marxism-Leninism. It has been the consistent ideological principle of our Party to closely integrate Marxist-Leninist theory with the practice of the Chinese revolution.

Opening address at the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China (September 15, 1956)

The united front, armed struggle and Party building are the Chinese Communist Party's three "magic weapons," its three principal magic weapons for defeating the enemy in the Chinese revolution.

Introducing "The Communist" (October 4, 1939)

Armed with Marxist-Leninist theory and ideology, the Communist Party of China has brought a new style of work to the Chinese people, a style of work which essentially entails integrating theory with practice, forging close links with the masses and practising self-criticism.

On Coalition Government (April 24, 1945)

Who is it that gives us our power? It is the working class, the poor and lower-middle peasants, the labouring masses comprising over 90 per cent of the population. We represent the proletariat and the masses and have overthrown the enemies of the people, and therefore the people support us. Direct

reliance on the revolutionary masses is a basic principle of the Communist Party.

Quoted in "Absorb Fresh Blood From the Proletariat," editorial of *Hongqi*, No. 4, 1968

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.

On Coalition Government (April 24, 1945)

Another hallmark distinguishing our Party from all other political parties is that we have very close ties with the broadest masses of the people. Our point of departure is to serve the people whole-heartedly and never for a moment divorce ourselves from the masses, to proceed in all cases from the interests of the people and not from one's self-interest or from the interests of a small group, and to identify our responsibility to the people with our responsibility to the leading organs of the Party.

ibid.

Opposition and struggle between ideas of different kinds constantly occur within the Party; this is a reflection within the Party of contradictions between classes and between the new and the old in society. If there were no contradictions in the Party and no ideological struggles to resolve them, the Party's life would come to an end.

On Contradiction (August 1937)

Guard against revisionism, and especially its emergence in the Central Committee of our Party.

Quoted in "Grasp the Principal Contradiction, Hold to the General Orientation of Struggle," by *Hongqi* Commentator, *Hongqi*, No. 7, 1967

Revisionism is one form of bourgeois ideology. The revisionists deny the differences between socialism and capitalism, between the dictatorship of the proletariat and the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. What they advocate is in fact not the socialist line but the capitalist line. In present circumstances, revisionism is more pernicious than dogmatism. One of our current important tasks on the ideological front is to unfold criticism of revisionism.

Speech at the Chinese Communist Party's National Conference on Propaganda Work (March 12, 1957)

History tells us that correct political and military lines do not emerge and develop spontaneously and tranquilly, but only in the course of struggle. These lines must combat "Left" opportunism on the one hand and Right opportunism on the other. Without combating and thoroughly overcoming these harmful tendencies which damage the revolution and the revolutionary war, it would be impossible to establish a correct line and win victory in this war.

Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War (December 1936)

A human being has arteries and veins through which the heart makes the blood circulate, and he breathes with his lungs, exhaling carbon dioxide and inhaling fresh oxygen, that is, getting rid of the stale and taking in the fresh. A proletarian party must also get rid of the stale and take in the fresh, for only thus can it be full of vitality. Without eliminating waste matter and absorbing fresh blood the Party has no vigour.

Quoted in "Absorb Fresh Blood From the Proletariat," editorial of *Hongqi*, No. 4, 1968

Without democracy there cannot be correct concentration, because it is impossible to establish centralism when people have divergent views and don't have unity in thinking. What is meant by concentration? First, there must be concentration of correct ideas. Unity in thinking, policy, plan, command and action is attained on the basis of concentrating correct ideas. This is unity through concentration.

Quoted in "Place Mao Tse-tung's Thought in Command of Everything," 1969 New Year editorial of *Renmin Ribao*, *Hongqi* and *Jiefangjun Bao*

A Communist should have largeness of mind and he should be staunch and active, looking upon the interests of the revolution as his very life and subordinating his personal interests to those of the revolution; always and everywhere he should adhere to principle and wage a tireless struggle against all incorrect ideas and actions, so as to consolidate the collective life of the Party and strengthen the ties between the Party and the masses; he should be more concerned about the Party and the masses than about any individual, and more concerned about others than about himself. Only thus can he be considered a Communist.

Combat Liberalism (September 7, 1937)

The exemplary vanguard role of the Communists is of vital importance. Communists in the Eighth Route and New Fourth Armies should set an example in fighting bravely, carrying out orders, observing discipline, doing political work and fostering internal unity and solidarity.

The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War (October 1938)