

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution 1966-1976

‘Without destruction there can be no construction; without blockage there can be no flow; without stoppage there can be no movement.’--Mao Zedong (8-6-1966)

‘No need to be afraid of tidal waves; human society has been evolved out of ‘tidal waves’.’--Mao Zedong (26-7-1966)

‘Wind will not cease even if trees want to rest.’ Mao Zedong (2-6-1966)

Main Questions:

What were the aims of the Cultural Revolution? How were they to be achieved?

Who were the main participants? Main targets/victims?

Why did youth play such a prominent role in the Cultural Revolution? (Think of this both ideologically and in practical terms)

Were the “Red Guards” simply loyal servants of Mao? Were they really a unified group?

Readings: (All of this week’s readings are available as scanned course extracts through the library course extracts page for the module: sign in to access <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/main/electronicresources/extracts/hi/hi168>)

--MacFarquhar, R. (2006) *The Red Guards*. In: *Mao's last revolution*. 1st ed., Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Ch.6, pp.102-116

--Chen, J. (1979) ‘The Execution of Mayor Yin’

--Selections from the primary documents, oral history, and source materials in Michael Schoenhals, Ed. *China’s Cultural Revolution: Not a Dinner Party* : **(Note: Have a look at these, they are short, and most importantly, primary sources from the time)**

Guancheng, B. (1996) "I Saw Chairman Mao!!!" In:Schoenhals, M. (ed.) *China's Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969: Not a Dinner Party*. 1st ed., New York: M.E. Sharp, Ch.26, pp.148-149

Schoenhals, M. (1996) "As We Watched Them Beat Him...". In:Schoenhals, M. (ed.) *China's Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969: Not a Dinner Party*. 1st ed., New York: M.E. Sharp, Ch.31, pp.166-169

Schoenhals, M. (1996) *One Hundred Items for Destroying the Old and Establishing the New*. In:Schoenhals, M. (ed.) *China's Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969: Not a Dinner Party*. 1st ed., New York: M.E. Sharp, Ch.44,

pp.212-222 (**Note: Fun stuff here—look at what some of these “revolutionary” kids are on about**)

Schoenhals, M. (1996) "In Another Twenty Years, The World Will Belong to Us!". In:Schoenhals, M. (ed.) China's Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969: Not a Dinner Party. 1st ed., New York: M.E. Sharp, Ch.36, pp.183-184 (**prophetic, angry piece written by kids of the Party elite, weakened at the time but plotting a come back**)

If you are interested in more on the Cultural Revolution:

Take a look at the Website: <http://www.morningsun.org/>

This is a wonderful site, play around with the links and you can see multi-media sound an image clips, read quotations from Mao’s “Little Red Book”, and more.

“Little Red Book” of quotations of Chairman Mao—(Essentially the bible for Red Guard Youth)

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/index.htm>

There are also numerous personal memoirs, documentaries, and other materials available on this topic, check the module reading list for a good start.