

# Capture the Positions in the Field of Historical Studies Seized by The Bourgeoisie

**T**HE great proletarian cultural revolution is pounding the reactionary fortresses in every sphere of ideology, including those in the field of historical studies.

The representatives of the bourgeoisie have made historical studies an important position of theirs in opposing the Party and socialism. They have distorted history and used the past to satirize the present with a view to deceiving the masses and preparing public opinion for the restoration of capitalism. However, the broad masses of workers, peasants and soldiers, revolutionary cadres and revolutionary intellectuals are using the weapon of the materialist conception of history to reveal history as it really was and analyse the present trends of different classes, and they are waging a fierce struggle against the reactionary conception of history in defence of the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism.

The revolutionary materialist conception of history, i.e., historical materialism, and the reactionary idealist conception of history, i.e., historical idealism, are diametrically opposed to each other. The former holds that

the history of mankind is the history of the working people, whereas the latter holds that the history of mankind is the history of emperors and kings, generals and prime ministers. The former holds that revolution can change everything, whereas the latter holds that the favours granted by emperors and kings, generals and prime ministers determine everything. These two diametrically antagonistic conceptions of history can never coexist in peace.

Proletarian revolutionary fighters arm their minds with historical materialism and use it to observe and change the world. All reactionaries are historical idealists who invariably attempt to turn back the wheel of history in violation of the laws of historical development. As the socialist revolution deepens, those who cling fast to historical idealism inevitably degenerate, one batch after another, into anti-Party and anti-socialist elements. This is an objective law independent of man's will.

That is why the bourgeois "authorities" entrenched in a number of positions in the field of historical stud-

ies, as well as the bourgeois representatives backing them, have set themselves against the people. Some of these "authorities" have already become anti-Party and anti-socialist elements, while others have degenerated and are on the verge of becoming anti-Party and anti-socialist elements.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung says, "The people, and the people alone, are the motive force of world history."

He also says, "The class struggles of the peasants, the peasant uprisings and peasant wars constituted the real motive force of historical development in Chinese feudal society."

Comrade Mao Tse-tung also points out by way of summing up that "classes struggle, some classes triumph, others are eliminated. Such is history, such is the history of civilization for thousands of years. To interpret history from this viewpoint is historical materialism; standing in opposition to this viewpoint is historical idealism."

It is precisely these scientific theses of Comrade Mao Tse-tung's that the bourgeois "authorities" in the field of historical studies are opposing. They stubbornly deny that the thousands of years of the history of civilization are the history of class struggle. They use their so-called historicism, i.e., the idealist conception of history, to oppose and adulterate the Marxist-Leninist teachings on class struggle. They stubbornly deny that the people are the motive force of world history, and they spare no effort to smear the working people and the peasant wars. Clamouring that the "policy of concession" of the reactionary ruling classes is the motive force of historical development, they altogether write off the great role of the working people and of peasant wars. They eulogize only emperors, kings, generals and prime ministers who rode roughshod over the people. They are the "royalists" in the field of historical studies.

These "royalists" in historical studies do not want revolution themselves and forbid others to make revolution. The revolutionary historians must take Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung's thought as their guide and re-write the whole of history. The great revolution in the science of history has incurred the rancorous hatred of these "royalists" in historical studies, who feel their approaching doom. Hence they have been doing their best to resist and undermine this revolution.

In carrying out all kinds of activities against Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung's thought, these bourgeois "authorities" in the field of historical studies are catering to the needs of the bourgeois and landlord classes in their resistance to socialism. What these "royalists" are doing is nothing but protecting the old system, the conservatives and the old ideology, that is, protecting the ideological positions in preparation for the restoration of capitalism. Moreover, some of them have made use of the corpses of historical figures to

launch direct and virulent attacks on our great proletarian Party and socialist system.

The battle between the two opposing forces in the field of historical studies is decided by the law governing the class struggle in socialist society.

In our new era of great changes, Comrade Mao Tse-tung has developed the Marxist materialist conception of history and raised it to a new peak. He has systematically and comprehensively put forward theories on contradictions, classes and class struggle in socialist society and given a penetrating explanation of the motive force of the development of socialist society. He points out that the progressive development of socialist society must take as its key link the class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and the struggle between the two roads of socialism and capitalism.

This holds true in the various spheres of activity of our Party and state, and of course in the field of historical studies too. Innumerable facts prove that the field of historical studies is replete with fierce class struggle. This position of historical studies will be seized by the bourgeoisie, the moment the proletariat relaxes its efforts to hold it. In this field, either the materialist conception of history is applied to interpret history in the service of proletarian politics and the socialist revolution, or the idealist conception of history is applied to interpret history in the service of bourgeois politics and the restoration of capitalism. In historical studies, as in other sciences, the materialist and idealist conceptions of history can never coexist in peace. Nor can proletarian ideology and bourgeois ideology. Between them there can only be a struggle of "who will win," a life-and-death struggle.

While insistently denying the existence of class struggle, the bourgeois "authorities" in the field of historical studies have in fact been waging a flagrant class struggle against the proletariat by their numerous reactionary ideas and activities.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung says, "Make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again . . . till their doom; that is the logic of the imperialists and all reactionaries the world over in dealing with the people's cause, and they will never go against this logic. This is a Marxist law." This law is completely applicable to our domestic class enemies. The landlords, rich peasants, reactionaries, bad elements and Rightists will never go against this logic, nor will such gangsters as the "Three-Family Village" clique and the anti-communist intellectuals in the field of historical studies.

Historical science is an important ideological battlefield where a fierce class struggle to foster proletarian ideology and liquidate bourgeois ideology is going on. In the great proletarian cultural revolution we must capture, one after another, the positions seized by the bourgeois "authorities."

The bourgeois "authorities" who have seized a number of positions in historical studies have exercised a dictatorship over the proletariat in some departments. Taking advantage of their power, they have produced great numbers of poisonous weeds and suppressed the counter-attacks by the proletarian Left. They use contemptible means of all kinds to deal blows at revolutionary historians. Behaving like profiteers, they try to monopolize historical data. Even after Wu Han, the eager vanguard of the "Three-Family Village" anti-Party clique, had been exposed, they still hid the background materials concerning him and shielded this old anti-communist hand. In the field of historical studies, they are virtually like the "eastern despots" and "western despots" of pre-liberation days.

These "authorities" regard historical science as a domain under their monopoly. When other people published articles criticizing them, they even shouted publicly that this was an "aggression against history." We want to tell these lords: we must occupy your anti-Party and anti-socialist positions in historical studies.

As you see it, this is "aggression." As we see it, this is "seizure of power." What we are doing is precisely to regain the leadership you have usurped from the proletariat and to re-establish the dictatorship of the proletariat over the domain in which you are exercising the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

In this great proletarian cultural revolution, we must completely destroy the reactionary bourgeois positions in historical studies and smash the counter-revolutionary idealist system of historical studies which serves the restoration of capitalism. Armed with the newest, highest and militant historical materialism of our times developed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the broad masses of workers, peasants and soldiers and the proletarian fighters in the cultural revolution can undoubtedly win great new victories and firmly hoist the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought over the positions in historical studies.

*("Renmin Ribao" editorial, June 3.)*