

STUDY MAO COURSES MUST BE RUN WELL
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[Full text of an editorial entitled "Make Great Efforts to Run Study Course in the Thought of Mao Tse-tung Well."]

The nationwide mass movement for the living study and application of Chairman Mao's works is now sweeping forward with tremendous momentum. The widespread running of courses to study the thought of Mao Tse-tung in factories, villages, army units, offices, schools and residential quarters throughout the country has greatly accelerated the victorious advance of the great proletarian cultural revolution. This is an important indication that the great proletarian cultural revolution in our country is going better and better.

The running of courses to study the thought of Mao Tse-tung by revolutionary mass organizations of two or more groupings jointly are something new and of great political significance that the revolutionary masses of our country have created. It is a good form for the masses to educate themselves, a good form to help old cadres, new cadres, young revolutionary fighters and the revolutionary masses to take "fight self, repudiate revisionism" as the guiding principle in the living study and application of the thought of Mao Tse-tung, in the practical struggle of the great proletarian cultural revolution. It is a good method to promote the revolutionary great alliance, consolidate the revolutionary three-way alliance, and strengthen close relations between comrades at higher and lower levels.

As regards the ways to run these courses well, many advanced units in various parts of the country have had a lot of valuable experience. One very important point in running the study courses well is the need to develop the fine Marxist-Leninist revolutionary style of study which Chairman Mao advocates.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "It (style of study) is a question of the method of thinking of comrades in our leading bodies, of all cadres and party members, a question of our attitude toward Marxism-Leninism, of the attitude of all party comrades in their work. As such, it is a question of extraordinary, indeed of primary, importance."

The most important thing in a fine revolutionary style of study is the integration of theory with practice. Running study courses well means using Chairman Mao's "five constantly read articles" and his new instructions as ideological weapons and Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line as the guiding principle, to solve the questions of the revolutionary great alliance and the revolutionary three-way alliance, and to push ahead vigorously with the revolutionary mass criticism and the struggle-criticism-transformation in each unit.

We must seriously implement Chairman Mao's new instructions, carry out every point, and apply every sentence. Study of these instructions must be combined with application so as to get quick results. This is a question of one's attitude toward Mao Tse-tung's thought and a basic quality that a genuine proletarian revolutionary must possess. It is entirely wrong if one studies but refuses to make an application or speaks but refuses to act.

Another important aspect in achieving a fine revolutionary style of study is to make serious self-criticism.

Referring to the five requirements of worthy successors to the revolutionary cause, Chairman Mao has said: "Having committed errors, one should make a self-criticism." "One must not always think himself in the right, as if he had all the truth on his side. One should not always think that only he is capable and everybody else is capable of nothing, as if the earth could not turn if he were not there." What profound and heartfelt advice! Doesn't this touch some leading members in our revolutionary organizations to the quick?

Chairman Mao recently instructed us: "The two factions should talk less about each other's shortcomings and faults, and let each other talk about its own. They should make more self-criticism and seek common ground on major questions while reserving differences on minor ones."

In the great storms and waves of class struggle, it is often hard to avoid that some of our comrades have shortcomings or make mistakes. When shortcomings and mistakes arise, there should be self-criticism and earnest efforts should be made to correct them. One hallmark of a genuine proletarian revolutionary is that he corrects mistakes consciously. Claiming credit for himself and shifting blame onto others is a decadent bourgeois style. In a revolutionary movement, reversals are inevitable. The revolutionary mass organizations of both factions should sum up their experience and draw the lessons from the twists and turns of the great cultural revolution during the past year and more, but they should not endlessly try to fix the responsibility of the other side. This is the way conducive to the revolutionary great alliance and the common fight against the enemy.

It is not at all easy to make genuine self-criticism, rather than perfunctory self-criticism. One must take the initiative and make conscious efforts to fight self-interest, and must not make light of it or gloss over it while at the same time bombarding other people when they make mistakes and exaggerating the mistakes to the maximum.

We advocate a fine revolutionary style of study in which the cadres and the masses -- in the army, the commanders and fighters -- study together, inspire each other, help each other, teach and learn from each other.

The cadres should join the masses in fighting self and repudiating revisionism, lay their ideas before the masses and get help and sustenance from the masses. This is an important measure to strengthen close relations between higher and lower levels and to promote the revolutionization of the thinking of the cadres. In judging cadres, the masses should divide one into two, enthusiastically help them and at the same time learn from their merits and strong points. The masses should make efforts to help more revolutionary cadres step forward and take part in the leading groups of the revolutionary three-way alliance.

Running the study courses in the thought of Mao Tse-tung well with the revolutionary style of study Chairman Mao advocates will be a factor of far-reaching effect indeed in organizing and educating our class ranks and pushing ahead with the great proletarian cultural revolution.

All areas, departments, and units should carry forward the fine revolutionary style of study, make great efforts to run the study courses in the thought of Mao Tse-tung well, and develop on a still greater scale the mass movement for the living study and application of Chairman Mao's works throughout the party, the army and the country. This is the fundamental guarantee for winning all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution in the coming new year.