

ARTICLES CRITICIZE OPPOSITION TO EMPIRICISM

Anhui Group in RED FLAG

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[Excerpts of an article by the Anhui Provincial CCP Committee mass criticism group: "The Crux of Vigorously Opposing Empiricism Is To Usurp Party and State Power"-- published in RED FLAG No 12, 1976]

[Text] The 'gang of four' which wrecked the country and ruined the people has collapsed, much to the satisfaction of the party, the army and the people. Under the wise leadership of the party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, a revolutionary upsurge in vigorously studying Marxist-Leninist and Chairman Mao's works and thoroughly exposing and relentlessly criticizing the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao antiparty clique is surging ahead throughout the country. Seriously analyzing the reactionary nature of the "gang of four" in vigorously opposing empiricism is an important aspect in penetratingly criticizing and thoroughly repudiating politically and ideologically their crimes in usurping party and state power and in subverting the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In spring, 1975 when the whole party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country were deepening the study of the theory on the dictatorship of the proletariat in accordance with the great leader Chairman Mao's directive, the "gang of four," after much secret scheming went all out in stirring up a gust of evil wind in vigorous opposition to empiricism.

Yao Wen-yuan was the first one to don his costume and appear on stage. In an anti-party article which he wrote, he ranted about opposing empiricism. On the same day when this antiparty article appeared, Chang Chun-Chiao clamored about combating the danger of empiricism at an army conference and declared that opposition to empiricism should be taken as the key link.

Later, using the mass media under his control, Yao Wen-yuan published editorials and short commentaries vigorously opposing empiricism. He repeatedly gave instructions that the question of opposing empiricism should be discussed at length in order to clearly explain its meaning in more concrete terms. Between the end of March and early April, Chiang Ching, who longed to be an empress, appeared everywhere and uttered bellicose and preposterous remarks alleging that empiricism is the archenemy at present and that one must keep his eyes open to recognize clearly the danger of empiricism and must maintain a high degree of vigilance. She also bluffed people menacingly: You are finished if you practice empiricism.

During that period of time, the "gang of four" also dished out the so-called "ten accusations" of empiricism instructing some places to call mammoth oath-taking rallies in criticism of empiricism. In short, between March and April last year, the "gang of four" raised a hue and cry for a while in opposing empiricism.

Did they really want to oppose empiricism? No, not at all! Under the signboard of opposing empiricism, they went all out for a fight by pointing the spearhead directly at the great leader and teacher Chairman Mao, at the invincible Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, and at the large numbers of leading party, government and army cadres of the central authorities and other localities so as to create public opinion for this usurpation of the top party and state leadership.

The great leader Chairman Mao discerned all this with great insight. In reference to the criminal deeds of the "gang of four," he pointed out clearly on 23 April 1975 in a marginal note on a report:

"It seems the formulation should be: Oppose revisionism, including empiricism and dogmatism. Both revise Marxism-Leninism. Don't mention just one while omitting the other." "Not many people in our party really know Marxism-Leninism. Some who think they know it, in fact do not know very much. They consider themselves always in the right and are ready at all times to lecture others. This in itself is a manifestation of a lack of knowledge of Marxism-Leninism."

This illuminating statement of Chairman Mao's is a scientific summing-up of the historical experience of the two-line struggle in our party and the international communist movement. It is a sharp ideological weapon in the fight against revisionism, including the fight against empiricism and dogmatism. It is a penetrating exposure and criticism of the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao gang in practicing revisionism and splittism and engaging in intrigues and conspiracies.

"The 'gang of four' antiparty clique is deathly afraid of and mortally hated Chairman Mao's illuminating marginal note. They took great pains and played all kinds of tricks in continuing criminal activities to oppose Chairman Mao's criticism against them."

1. Energetic blockade: After Chairman Mao made the marginal note, the "gang of four" employed all tricks and means not to convey or let others study Chairman Mao's just marginal note.

2. Stifled mass criticism of vigorous opposition to empiricism: The broad masses of cadres and people at that time found out and opposed tampering with Chairman Mao's directive, "Revisionism is the main danger," by the "gang of four." Some comrades wrote articles on Chairman Mao's teaching that revisionism is the main danger. However, Yao Wen-yuan angrily chopped the articles down by brandishing a slaughter knife. At one time he said: Since Chairman Mao's directive has not yet been officially relayed, it is not appropriate to cite it in articles. At another time he said: This question has already been mentioned before. How to present it now should be further studied. In fact, "to study it further" is a false trapping; the real intention is to prohibit its publication. When some comrades publicized in their articles Chairman Mao's directive that "they are ready at all times to lecture others. This in itself is a manifestation of a lack of knowledge of Marxism-Leninism," Yao Wen-yuan angrily deleted all relevant passages.

3. Denied facts and fought back: At a meeting of responsible persons of 12 provinces and regions which she convened on her own last March, Chiang Ching attempted to say: I only spoke of the criticism of empiricism occasionally and under the condition of lack of sleep. All has now become my responsibility. This was a lively show of her reguism features. In addition, she ranted that in the chairman's note empiricism is given first priority, exposing her ugly features in continuing to distort and counter Chairman Mao's note. Until the eve of the downfall of the "gang of four," she still directed some units to print and distribute anti-empiricist materials and persisted in countering Chairman Mao's instructions.

What the "gang of four" did about Chairman Mao's brilliant note was an ugly exposure of their betrayal of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. It further indicates that their strenuous opposition to empiricism was an out-and-out premeditated, organized and planned criminal act to usurp party and state power.

These fellows--Wang, Chang, Chiang and Yao--are always characterized by wild ambitions for power and personal gains. With ulterior motives they used the Great Cultural Revolution in an attempt to obtain good profit.

In the latter half of 1974 when the central authorities were preparing to convene the Fourth National People's Congress, they thought that their good opportunity had arrived; therefore, they ferociously opposed our esteemed and beloved Premier Chou in a vain attempt to organize their own cabinet. Seeing through their scheme, Chairman Mao pointed out incisively: "Chiang Ching has wild ambitions. She wants Wang Hung-wen to be chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and herself to become chairman of the party Central Committee."

In December of the same year, the great leader Chairman Mao issued the instruction on the question of theory to further educate the whole party and the people in the entire country to persist in the struggle to combat and prevent revisionism and to be on the alert against Lin Biao and the probably return to power of restorationist capitalism. This hit the vital point of Wang, Chang, Chiang and Yao and struck them where it hurt. With guilty consciences, the "gang of four" intensely feared that they would reach a disastrous end after their scheme failed and was revealed thoroughly. Therefore, they tampered with Chairman Mao's instruction that revisionism is the main danger and unfurled the banner of opposing empiricism--a very insidious step in usurping party and state power.

In the entire historical period of socialism there are still classes, class contradictions and class struggle, and revisionism is the main danger--this is Chairman Mao's scientific summing up of the historical experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat at home and abroad. It is a starting point for us to combat and prevent revisionism, persistently take class struggle as the key link, keep to the party's basic line and persevere in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Openly countering Chairman Mao's consistent teachings, the "gang of four" negated that revisionism is the main danger and advocated that empiricism is "the formidable enemy at present." This just revealed that they attempted to twist the orientation of our revolution and remit the people's vigilance against revisionism so that they could achieve their criminal aim of usurping party and state power, subverting the dictatorship of the proletariat and restoring the capitalist system.

In our country, attempting to usurp the supreme leadership of the party and state as Khrushchev did, the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao antiparty clique are bound to meet with opposition from the whole party, the army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country. Revolutionary leading cadres, nurtured by Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, tempered in the protracted revolutionary struggle and richly experienced in struggle, are a great obstacle for them in usurping party and state power. By advocating that empiricism is the main present danger, the "gang of four" was trying to use empiricism as a big cudgel to knock down a large number of responsible party, government and army comrades in both the central organs and in various localities.

Under Chairman Mao's wise leadership, vast numbers of our party cadres, especially many leading revolutionary cadres, have accumulated rich experience in the long struggle against the class enemies at home and abroad, inside and outside the party. They have experience in both democratic revolution and in the socialist revolution and construction; both in fighting the covert enemies with and without guns and in struggling against the intraparty bourgeoisie wearing the Marxist-Leninist cloak. They have also gained experience and drawn lessons, both positive and negative, from the numerous two-line struggles. They are very valuable for our party and people. Historical experience proves that the victory of the revolution would be impossible without this large number of leading cadres with rich experience in revolutionary struggle in order to resolutely implement Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and lead the people to carry out the struggle.

With bitter hatred for the cause of proletarian revolution, however, the counterrevolutionary elements--Wang, Chang, Chiang and Yao--negated in every way the several decades of revolutionary history and the glorious revolutionary tradition of our party. They regarded the vast number of cadres, especially the leading cadres with rich experience in struggle, as a thorn in their flesh; they were happy with nothing less than the destruction of these cadres.

During the Great Cultural Revolution, Wang, Chang, Chiang and Yao engaged in "overthrowing all" in collusion with the Lin Biao antiparty clique in an attempt to eliminate a large number of leading cadres. During the movement to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius, they stirred up troubles, fabricated rumors and distributed sinister materials everywhere behind the backs of Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee, playing their old trick of "overthrowing all." During the campaign to study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, they flaunted the signboard of opposing empiricism and ridiculously called the practical experience in participating in the three great revolutionary movements as empiricism, and vilified large numbers of leading cadres who persisted in taking part in revolutionary practice as empiricists. In the struggle to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping and repulse the right deviationist wind to reverse verdicts, they again opposed the directives issued by Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee, went their own way and engineered schemes to ferret out people level by level.

Brandishing the big stick of empiricism, the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao antiparty clique frenziedly directed their spearhead of attack against those leading cadres who uphold Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. This is nothing new. Renegade and traitor Wang Ming did the same thing long before. At that time, showing himself as 100 percent bolshevik, Wang Ming did not know Marxism-Leninism at all, nor did he understand the actual conditions of the Chinese revolution. He depended on nothing but labeling and attacking others. He openly and viciously attacked Chairman Mao's integration of the universal truth of Marxism with the concrete practice of the Chinese revolution as narrow empiricism. He vilified Chairman Mao and the broad masses of cadres who followed Chairman Mao to make revolution as narrow empiricists, waged cruel struggle and launched relentless attacks against them in a vain attempt to permanently place the leadership of the central authorities in his hands. By so doing, he almost doomed the Chinese revolution.

The great leader Chairman Mao waged a resolute struggle against Wang Ming, thoroughly liquidated his opportunist line ideologically, politically and militarily and corrected the sailing course of revolution, thus saving the revolution and the party. At that time, Chang Chun-chiao and Chiang Ching were the faithful followers and feverish trumpet-ers of Wang Ming's opportunist line and were also capitulationists who curried favor with and turned their arms to the enemies. Today, picking up again Wang Ming's tattered flag, Wang, Chang, Chiang and Yao did not oppose revisionism but flaunted the signboard of opposing empiricism to vigorously oppose Marxism in a vain attempt to crush our party and the dictatorship of the proletariat of our country. They were daydreamers.

Carrying out Chairman Mao's behests, our party's wise leader Chairman Hua led the whole party, the whole army and the people of various nationalities throughout the country to smash the "gang of four" with one stroke, thus saving the revolution and the party and enabling our proletarian revolutionary cause to continue to advance triumphantly along the course charted by Chairman Mao.

The Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao antiparty clique did all kinds of evils, were not the least popular among the people and committed countless crimes against the party and the people. A number of facts show that they are big overlords riding roughshod over the heads of the working masses, bloodsuckers who cruelly exploited the workers and poor and lower-middle peasants and a group of counterrevolutionary elements full of iniquities. Our contradiction with them is one with the enemy; our struggle against them is a life-and-death one between the two classes, two roads and two lines. We can never be kindhearted toward this bunch of reckless and vicious class enemies because any mercy shown to them means committing a crime against the people.

At a time when the people of the whole country are thoroughly exposing and criticizing the towering crimes of the "gang of four," we must conscientiously study the series of important directives issued by Chairman Mao concerning the criticism of the "gang of four," thoroughly expose the criminal plot of the "gang of four" to vigorously oppose empiricism and wipe out their pernicious influences. Under the leadership of the party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, we must carry forward the revolutionary spirit of the proletariat, continue our triumphant pursuit, advance courageously, thoroughly expose and scathingly criticize the counterrevolutionary crimes of the "gang of four" in usurping party and state power, and carry through to the end this great struggle which concerns the destiny and future of our party and country.

PLA Article in PEOPLE'S DAILY

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[Report on a PEOPLE'S DAILY 11 December page 5 article by the theoretical group of the political department of the Peking PLA units: "To Oppose Empiricism Is All Pretense While the Fact Is To Oppose the Party and Socialism"]

[Text] The article points out: The antiparty "gang of four" fanned up the evil wind of opposing so-called empiricism, wantonly distorted and tampered with Chairman Mao's instructions, gave great publicity to the fallacy "Empiricism is the main danger" and wanted to take opposing empiricism as the key link. They used the power they had usurped to fan up evil winds, stir up trouble and deceive the people. They bellicosely attacked by both overt and covert means.

The article refutes their fallacy and says: The antiparty "gang of four" blustered about opposing empiricism. In fact, they wanted to oppose the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought and Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. By taking opposing empiricism as the key link, they radically negated taking class struggle as the key link, negated the party's basic line and betrayed our effort to continue the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The article says: Chairman Mao has told us that the main danger in the historical period of socialism is revisionism. The "gang of four" refused to admit that revisionism is the main danger. This shows that they are a bunch of pseudo-Marxist political swindlers and ultrarightists who oppose the party and socialism. Their heinous political objective was to direct the spearhead of attack at the great leader Chairman Mao and the esteemed and beloved Premier Chou. They attempted to overthrow a large number of party, government and army responsible comrades in the central organs and various localities, usurp the top party and state power, abolish the socialist system and completely restore capitalism.