

# Quotations

This second stage [i.e. of strategic equilibrium] will be the transitional stage of the entire war; it will be the most trying period but also the pivotal one.

-Mao Tse-tung, "On Protracted War", May 1938.

That the war will be protracted is certain, but nobody can predict exactly how many months or years it will last, as this depends entirely upon the degree of the change in the balance of forces. All those who wish to shorten the war have no alternative but to work hard to increase our own strength and reduce that of the enemy.

-Mao Tse-tung, "On Protracted War", May 1938.

It is not enough to be a revolutionary and an adherent of socialism or a communist in general. You must be able at each particular moment to find the particular link in the chain which you must grasp with all your might in order to hold the whole chain and to prepare firmly for the transition to the next link; the order of the links, their form, the manner in which they are linked together, the way they differ from each other in the historical chain of events, are not as simple and not as meaningless as those in an ordinary chain made by a smith.

-V. I. Lenin, "The Immediate Task of the Soviet Government"

Whoever wants to reach socialism by any other path than that of political democracy, will inevitably arrive at conclusions that are absurd and reactionary both in the economic & political sense.

-V. I. Lenin, "Two Tactics of Social Democracy...."

We must bring about a political climate which has both centralism & democracy, discipline & freedom, unity of purpose & ease of mind for the individual, and which is lively and vigorous.

-Mao Tse-tung

Stereotyped forms & uniformity imposed from above have nothing in common with democratic and socialist centralism...

The Paris Commune gave a great example of how to combine initiative, independence, freedom of action and vigour from below with voluntary centralism, free from stereotyped forms. Our Soviets are following the same road.

-V. I. Lenin, "How to Organize Competition?"

Democracy is a method, and it all depends on to whom it is applied and for what purpose. We are in favour of great democracy. And what we favour is great democracy under the leadership of the proletariat.

-Mao Tse-tung, **Selected Works**, Vol. V, Peking, 1977, p.343.

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