

# Struggle by Reasoning, Not by Coercion or Force

COMRADE MAO TSE-TUNG has repeatedly told us that the great proletarian cultural revolution is a great revolution that touches the people to their very souls. He has also said that in carrying out this great revolution, the struggle should be conducted by reasoning and not by coercion or force.

By the "soul" of the people is meant their ideas, their ideology, the culture prevailing in a society, and the various customs and habits associated with the ideas and ideology of the people. All these are things in the minds of the people.

This being the case, the proletariat, in remoulding the world in its own image, must conduct its struggle by reasoning in order to solve these questions that exist in the minds of the people. This is also true for the struggle against those in authority who are taking the capitalist road and for the struggle against landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and Rightists.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung and the Party's Central Committee have advocated the fullest use of big-character posters and the carrying out of great debates for the purpose of arguing things out in the great cultural revolution. These make necessary the use of either pen or tongue.

When tongue or pen is used, the brain has to be used, and the masses must be allowed to display their initiative, their wisdom and talent.

The simple method of conducting the struggle by coercion or force can only touch the skin but not the soul. It cannot expose to the full before the masses the ugly features of ghosts and monsters and cannot clear out their reactionary poison.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung has said: "All erroneous ideas, all poisonous weeds, all ghosts and monsters, must be subjected to criticism." "However, the criticism should be fully reasoned, analytical and convincing." This means that it is necessary to use one's brains and carry on the struggle by reasoning.

It is extremely important that, in the course of the great proletarian cultural revolution, we should learn to conduct the struggle by reasoning and to use our brains.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung has always told the revolutionary people that they must be good at using their brains. He has pointed out: "We must encourage our comrades to think, to learn the method of analysis and

to cultivate the habit of analysis." This instruction of Comrade Mao Tse-tung's is of equally great importance for our present great proletarian cultural revolution.

We know that our enemies are never lenient with the people. When we advocate struggle by reasoning, it is not to pardon the enemies for their criminal activities, but in fact to hit the enemies of the people hard, pull them down and completely discredit them politically and ideologically, so that shorn of their prestige, they will never rise again.

Struggle by reasoning means a full exposure and searching criticism, bringing the reactionary words and deeds of all ghosts and monsters into the light of day, and using such negative examples as teaching materials for the education of the masses and the younger generation. Only in this way is it possible to bring about a great enhancement of the class consciousness of the broad masses, unite all those who can be united and isolate to the maximum the enemies of the proletariat and of the people. This method of struggle by reasoning is what the enemies of the proletariat and of the people fear most.

The great proletarian cultural revolution is an extremely sharp and complex class struggle. To win victory in this revolution, the vanguards of the proletariat must, in the course of the struggle, creatively study and apply Comrade Mao Tse-tung's works and the 16-point decision concerning the great cultural revolution and must learn how to carry on the class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The enemies of the people will not step down from the stage of history of their own accord. We stand for struggle by reasoning, because we rely on the masses and trust the masses and believe that the method of struggling by reasoning is sufficient to conquer the enemy, since truth is with the proletariat. At the same time, the powerful state machine is in the hands of the proletariat, so we are not afraid that the enemies of the people will make trouble. Should they dare to resort to force, thus violating the criminal law under the dictatorship of the proletariat, stern punishment will be meted out in accordance with the law.

Struggle by reasoning instead of by coercion or force is an important policy of the Party in the great proletarian cultural revolution. We must persist in this policy, abide by it and implement it.

(*"Renmin Ribao"* editorial, September 5.)