

I - 50. Lecture Notes - Undated - Untitled - 7 pp.

Before the war,

The first thing that a foreign resident of China used to notice about the Chinese was their ~~intense~~ intense national feeling, which often expressed itself in deep hostility to foreigners. Foreigners with vested interests in the country regarded this as nothing less than perfidy. Most of them hated the Chinese, ~~saying their~~ saying their characteristics were ignorance and arrogance. They despised the slogan-shouting/^{radical} student class, and ~~with hostile~~ ^{read} with hostile dislike the ceaseless demands of the ruling Party, the Kuomintang, for the abolition of extra-territoriality and every other foreign restrictions based upon the unequal treaties. ~~which~~ The very words "unequal treaties" were enough to start a violent argument in any foreign ~~gathering.~~ gathering. ~~A strike in a factory nearly always brought out the~~ ~~armed police or troops in force, and woe to even the smallest Chinese~~ ~~factory children who dared strike in demand for two cents a day raise in~~ ~~wages. Foreign business interests who dominated the economic and banking~~ ~~life never failed to point to the paved streets,~~ ~~electric lights~~ ~~plumbing system and modern buildings in Shanghai, Hongkong, and other foreign-~~ ~~controlled territory. With this they contrasted the shambles,~~ ~~the dirt and poverty of Chinese-controlled territory. When the Japanese~~ ~~occupied Manchuria, and when they~~ ~~attacked~~ ~~Shanghai in~~ ~~1932, there were very many Foreign business interests who declared that at~~ ~~last the Chinese were getting what was coming to them, and that the Japanese~~ ~~would bring peace and order and make the country~~ ~~worth living in.~~

The Chinese were indeed hostile to foreigners, but not ^{merely} because they were foreigners. There were ~~many~~ periods in Chinese history when foreigners were welcome, and when missionaries ~~were~~ from Europe were welcome guests at the Chinese courts; ~~and~~ In fact, such foreign ~~priests~~ were granted an income from the Governments, living off the bounty of the country. But the

first ~~mx~~ foreigners to make contact with the Chinese and other Asian countries from the 17th Century onward were either ~~xxxx~~ full-fledged ~~xxxxxx~~ or half pirates engaged in the slave trade, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the opium ~~xxxxxx~~ traffic, or in the frank conquest ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and subjection of countries. Methods in the conquest and exploitation of peoples ~~China's independent China is~~
~~Modern China~~ changed with the ages, but its character ~~xxxxxx~~ remained about the same.

Nationalist China's memory seemed to begin with the British Opium Wars ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ which ended in China's defeat by the British and the signing of unequal treaties ~~xxxxxx~~ by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842. These treaties, which ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ reduced China to a semi-colonial status hung around China's neck until October 10th, 1942, when our Liberty Bell rang out in Philadelphia, announcing their abolition by Britain and ^{two great} America. The ^{surrender} Anglo-Saxon powers who boasted of their democracy, were the last to ~~xxxx~~ exter-territorial and other unequal privileges in China, and even these were not surrendered until the Japanese wave of conquest forced them to take this action. Germany and Austria were forced to make new, equal treaties with China after the first World War, ~~xxxx~~ but the Soviet Union as the only country that voluntarily relinquished all unequal treaties and acknowledged China as an equal. ~~xxxxxx~~ The Russians were hated for this action and were called by ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ some British and American writers as the "enemy within the gate" of the white world. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The Germans lived for the day when they could regain equality in exploitation and superiority with the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Anglo-Saxon world and get back their territory in Shantung Province with Tsingtao as the port.

So China's revolutionary attitude goes back to the Opium Wars. The great Taiping Rebellion in the 18th Century threatened to overthrow the corrupt and degenerate Manchu Dynasty which kow-towed to the powerful foreign powers. "Chinese Gordon" and Frederick Ward, Britisher and American, commanded an army of foreign adventurers organized into the so-called

"Ever Victorious Army", helped the Manchus defeat the ~~Taiping~~ Taipings who constituted the most modern force of the period. Until the Japanese invasion brought it to an end in 1937, Americans used to make pilgrimages to the grave of Frederic Ward ~~Smith~~ near Sungkiang, along the coast, and ~~held~~ ~~ceremonies~~ lay flowers on the grave of a man whose troops acted in China exactly as the Japanese are acting today.

Many Chinese revolutionary leaders of the modern age received their first revolutionary impulses from the Taiping rebels. The Boxer Uprising of 1900 was diverted by the Manchu Dynasty against which it was directed, to the hated foreigners who came to China as exploiters, and who ruled by gun-boat diplomacy. This Uprising was also crushed by foreigners, and the corrupt and moronic Manchus put back on the throne with the help of the foreign powers. New shackles were rivetted on China's neck after this uprising.

The 1911 Revolution, of which Dr. Sun Yat-sen was the father, and the Republic which was founded, then struggled for life against the combined hostility of powerful foreign powers who began to finance Chinese war-lords who served their interests. For two decades China was laid waste by civil wars, and only the Great Revolution from 1925-27 brought them to an end. This Revolution had been made possible by an alliance between Dr. Sun Yat-sen's party, the Kuomintang, and the Soviet Union. Russian military and political advisers helped build up the first modern Army, and opened the doors of the nationalist party, the Kuomintang, to the young and weak Communist Party, the trade unions and peasant leagues. With this reorganization of the Kuomintang in 1924, the basis was laid for the great social revolutionary wave that followed. The split in the Kuomintang which followed Dr. Sun Yat-sen's death ~~in 1925~~ led to a decade of civil war in which ~~foreign~~ ^{foreign} banking and business interests again played a decisive role.

Foreign powers hated the very name of the Chinese Red Army which took command of the great agrarian revolution from ~~1927~~ 1927 onward.

The Communist-led revolution, even from the first months of its inception, was recognized by the foreign powers as a danger to their continued exploitation of China. They had recognized a "purified" Kuomintang which ~~had~~ established the Nanking Government as the one ~~legitimate~~ and only government of the country. Not that the foreigners loved the Kuomintang; but they hated ^{and feared} the Communists and the common people more. For the Kuomintang, "cleansed" of its revolutionary elements, ~~remained~~ represented a tiny fraction of the wealthy classes--business men, bankers, landlords. ^{economic} The/interests of these classes and of foreign business interests coincided to a certain extent. But even the "cleansed" Kuomintang demanded the abolition of the unequal treaties which had placed all natural resources under the control of foreigners. ~~The~~ ~~had~~ ~~mounted~~

The Kuomintang ~~was~~ a tiger and did not know how to get off. Beyond the territory which it controlled was a vast area in revolt, with landlords and rich merchants streaming to Nanking, Shanghai, Hankow and other cities of refuge. In the territory controlled by the ever-growing Red Army, the Communists had confiscated and distributed land to the peasants, organized schools, public health systems, hospitals, and had introduced a revolutionary political-military system intended to free China not only of foreign imperialist control but of native exploiters-- great landlords, usurers, opium traffickers and others who lived off the labor of the dispossessed.

The Red Army suffered a temporary defeat in 1934 was was driven from its stronghold in Kiangsi Province, then from other regions. The Kuomintang armies which accomplished this out-numbered them a hundred to one, ~~had~~ were armed with foreign weapons and financed partially by foreign funds. The strategy and tactics ~~of~~ that led to their defeat was the work of a large staff of Germany Military Advisers, headed by General von Seeckt, until recently the Nazi Military Governor of the Low Countries. The Chinese Gestapo, ~~known~~ or secret police, known as the "Blue Shirts",

was organized in part by German Nazis, and many of the methods and organizations which grew up in Nanking owed their inspiration to either Mussolini or Hitler's ~~counterparts~~ counterparts in Italy or Germany.

During all these decades, China was a babble of voices, ^{reflecting} ~~with~~ ideas and schools of thought from every part of the globe. Dr. Sun Yat-sen ~~had been~~ had been influenced by British and American capitalist democracy, and his political principles, known as the "Three People's Principles" were an attempt to direct China toward national liberation, democracy, and ~~the~~ an improvement in the people's livelihood. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, Dr. Sun became greatly influenced ~~by Soviet principles~~ by Soviet principles, as his last will and testament bear witness. The revolution was not complete, he wrote, and his colleagues should continue the struggle until it was. They were also enjoined to ally themselves with nations that treated China as an equal.

The ~~Kuomintang~~ "cleansed" Kuomintang, claimed ~~the robes~~ the robes that fell from the shoulders of Dr. Sun, but Dr. Sun's widow, Soong Ching-ling, cast her lot with the common people and went abroad after the counter-revolution 1927 rather than have her name or the name of her dead husband associated with a party and a government that waged war on the masses. She was not a Communist, but the program and policies of the Chinese Communists were revolutionary and democratic; they were ~~sweeping~~ sweeping feudalism and semi-feudalism into the dust bin, they fought for the liberation of China from every form of foreign exploitation, and they were effecting a gigantic revolution in the minds of not only the masses of the people, but of the intellectuals. They were the midwives of history, and if they made mistakes, it was not their fault alone. It was not they who started bloodshed, but the rich and powerful allied with foreign interests. They were the inheritors of the ancient revolutionary traditions of the Chinese people which had overthrown one ^{corrupt} /dynasty after another. ~~They were~~ They were different from their progenitors in that they sought to create a cooperative

society with the means of life ~~firmly established in the~~ owned and managed by all, instead of by a small ~~exploiting class~~ predatory class.

From the very inception of the Chinese Communist movement, expressed in trade unions and peasant leagues, they were ~~feared and hated~~ ^{feared and hated} by the rich and powerful of ~~both~~ China, Japan, and western countries, There can be no concealment in such great historical movements of this nature. The Communists drew their strength from the poor and dispossessed on the ~~other~~ one hand, and from the intellectuals on the other. From eighty to eighty-five percent of the Chinese population consists of peasants, and of these the majority were poor or dispossessed. It was from their ranks that the mercenary armies of the war-lords had been recruited or commandeered. They entered these armies to get their bowl of rice. Or they swarmed the great cities, dominated by foreign trade and industry, as factory workers or coolies, working for little more than a bowl of rice. Instead of a mere bowl of rice and an unnamed grave in the ground when they died from exhaustion, the Communists of China, with their ever-growing Red Army, offered them a new and decent human ^{land,} society, with food, clothing, and knowledge for all. The romantic fiction in the western world that the Chinese are all pacifists who want no more than just enough to eat and wear, has been disproved ~~by~~ throughout Chinese history. The Chinese are an intelligent, militant people who want peace only upon decent terms. The Chinese Red Army existed ~~because~~ and exists today as the 18th Group and New Fourth Armies because they offer these to the common people. For these the Chinese people are willing to give their lives. The Soviet Union has been a light in the darkness for them. Its achievements fortify them. They have their own problems to solve in their own way, ^{but} ~~and through their broad educational system~~ through their broad educational system they have learned and learned well what a ~~people's~~ people's government can accomplish. They will not turn back.

In innumerable ways, no Chinese wishes to turn back to the past. A brief glance over the ~~history of China for the~~ past century proves that the Chinese have nothing to gain by remaining as they are, or by returning to the past. Only the future offers them hope and gives them faith. And this fact makes them one of the most revolutionary nations in the world today. This is ~~the~~ the main reason why they have fought for over six years, and why they can and will fight for another six or ten times six years. The Japanese claim that they are freeing Asia from white-man imperialism makes no impression on any save the most reactionary and mercenary. Informed China know that the Japanese merely ~~plan~~ plan to have Japanese imperialism take the place of white imperialism. Instead of a semi-colonial position which China occupied under white imperialism, the Japanese offer a full colonial position to all Chinese, and to all Asia. Japan's social structure, ~~and~~ ideology, and its plans for the future of Asia, are feudal. China has had all that and therefore rejects it. Since the Chinese are ~~more~~ more politically mature than the Japanese, Americans, or British, and since they have guns in their hands, they will not also/ ~~accept~~ accept any form of imperialism