

EDUCATION IN COMMUNIST CHINA WITH EMPHASIS UPON
the
TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE EDUCATIONAL LADDER

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Since their seizure of power in China, the Chinese Communists recognized the importance of changing the thinking of the Chinese people so that they would support the Communist regime. It is necessary to know that to the Communist, education is the same as indoctrination and propaganda. The Communists, immediately after they gained control of China, completely reorganized the educational system, particularly at the higher levels.

At the time this study was made teachers were selected and placed not according to their academic qualifications and accomplishments, but according to their political beliefs. If an instructor's ideas and views conflicted with those of the Communist regime, he was either influenced, through Communist brainwashing techniques to support the Chinese Communists, or he was eliminated.

At the college level, each student began by writing a detailed account of his past, including as much information as possible. The student was encouraged to criticize himself of past sinful deeds which conflicted with the new regime's policies.

The students had daily classes and group discussions that took place under the guidance of skilled Party men. There were few textbooks and the students kept notebooks that contained detailed reports of information gathered from lectures and discussions. Each discussion group was controlled by the Party leader, and ideas contrary to the regime's

policies, were criticized. The students were encouraged and practically forced to express ideas that they and their fellow students could criticize. This self-criticism was deemed necessary so that each student might develop the proper attitude and think in the proper manner. All discussions and self-criticism meetings were controlled by the Party leader, and only when all the members unanimously agreed upon the conclusion to the topic discussed, were they terminated. In addition, free discussion or continued discussion of a topic or problem, after a conclusion that had been unanimously approved, was prohibited.

After a student completed the desired course, he was obliged to write an examination self-criticism paper which would determine his future. His thought conclusions were weighed by a council. If the findings of the council were favorable the student would be accordingly placed. The emphasis, on this revamping of the higher educational program, was placed upon the development of personnel who could be trusted and would be loyal to the regime.

The Chinese Communists believe they must brainwash the entire population, according to their long range plan, so the ideas of the people and their thought conclusions will be in accord with those of the regime. The Chinese Communists have been experimenting with a simpler alphabet. The Communists wish to eliminate illiteracy so that all the Chinese people will be able to receive Communist propaganda, which will of course, influence their ideas and ways of thinking.

The Chinese Communists have made available to the people, material that is favorable to their regime and have all but eliminated any other material from other nations except the Soviet Union.

In conclusion, the Chinese Communists have revised the educational system in China to include the education of the masses through simplification, after revisions at higher levels to produce loyal leaders, so that the people may be constantly bombarded with material praising the Chinese Communist regime, and degrading the free world and in particular the United States. In essence, the Chinese Communists feel that the masses must support the regime, or they must be controlled by the Communists if the regime is to survive.