



BCHigh Model UN Conference 30
Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
(Chinese Economic Reform Committee, 1978)



Chair: Donald Le | Co-Chair: Malcolm Flaherty

Table of Contents

Chairmen Letters: pg.1

History: pg. 2-4

Current Situation: pg.4-5

Key Questions to Consider: pg.6

Delegate Positions: pg.7

Bibliography: pg. 7-9

!!!!!!*We invite those who want to be considered for the *Ben Maher Award* to email their position papers to d.le22@students.bchigh.edu prior to the conference* !!!!!

Greetings Delegates,

My name is Donald Le '22 and I will be your chair. Throughout my past 4 years doing Model UN, I have become a more skillful speaker, open-minded collaborator, and creative thinker. The length of this guide may seem daunting, but the majority of it involves background setting up the scene and committee positions. I trust that this committee will foster insightful and nuanced discussions about China's economic future post Cultural Revolution. I look forward to a great day! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email: d.le22@students.bchigh.edu.

Thanks,

Donald Le

Good Morning Delegates,

My name is Malcolm Flaherty, I am a senior at BCH and will be your co-chair today. While at BC High I have had the opportunity to captain the soccer team and lead an ESL program. These experiences have helped me strengthen my public speaking, my listening ability, and overall collaboration. I'd like to thank everyone for making it today and remind you that the relationships you build, skills you develop, and thinking you foster will make this conference an unforgettable experience. I have no doubt that the committee will lead a bright and progressive conversation, which I look forward to observing. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via email: mt.flaherty22@students.bchigh.edu.

Thank you,

Malcolm Flaherty

Committee Overview:

After the death of Mao Zedong and the arrest of the Gang of Four in 1976, the Cultural Revolution came to an end. In the aftermath, there were many views on where China should go next. More conservative members of the Communist Party of China believed that China should continue as a communist state, whereas reformists such as Deng Xiaoping supported a free market and privatization of certain industries.

History:

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was formally announced with Mao Zedong as its leader. The PRC assumed power after a bloody civil war against the Nationalist Party of China (KMT), whom they expelled to Taiwan. The Nationalists were no longer in control, despite being backed by foreign allies such as the United States. With Mao as head chairman, Liu Shaoqi as chairman of the Standing Committee, and Zhou Enlai as premier of the State Council, the Chinese



Communist Party (CCP) seized control over China.

However, Mao's conservative ideologies soon weakened his position within the Chinese Communist Party. He felt as though China needed to consolidate their economy, heavily emphasizing the peasant populations. Mao was an extreme

Marxist; he believed in a communist society where no social classes exist. This, in turn, meant no socioeconomic disparities. Unsurprisingly, Mao was very adamant against the CCP's shift from ideological purity (consolidated society) to modernized expertise. He also saw an increase in

revisionists amongst the current party, which made him even more angry. (Revisionists were those who had an adapted take on Marxism that emphasized gradual reforms through a capitalist system). However, Mao believed that revisionists only sought to uplift the elite bureaucratic class (aka the “bourgeoisie”) while belittling the peasant class. Mao’s disagreements against the common consensus caused him to lose influence within the party.

Thus, in order to reassert his power and attack the current “corrupt” party, Mao, with his wife Jiang Qing and defense minister Lin Biao, issued a document known as the ‘May 16 Notification,’ which warned of the “counter-revolutionary revisionists,” who sought to destroy China’s sphere of influence.



This led to the start of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Mao shut down all schools in China and denounced chairman Liu Shaoqui along with vice premier Deng Xiaoping. Mao’s party then released the infamous “Little Red Book,” which contained propaganda and quotes from Mao. This



book was read by millions of young Chinese students who became indoctrinated by Mao, venerating him as though he were some hero.

This gave rise to the “Red Guards”

The Red Guards were gangs of teenagers, farmers, and military fatigues who wore red armbands and roamed around the streets, seeking to destroy the “four olds” (old ideas, old customs, old habits,

and old culture) and any threats to communism. They targeted party leaders who weren’t

“sufficiently revolutionary,” the upper class who wore fancy clothing, and intellectuals. They also

burned down any traces of imperialism and anti-communism. Mao began to recognize the bloodbath

and anarchy that ensued so he stopped the Red Guards by issuing “re-education” camps where he moved all teens to the countryside. He then restored the army and imposed a military dictatorship. On September 9th 1976, Mao passed. Before he passed, Mao declared Hua Guofeng as his successor. Mao’s radical wife Jiang and her allies sought to carry on Mao’s radical communist agenda but were soon caught and arrested since they were the masterminds behind the revolution’s chaos.

Current Situation

With Mao now out of the picture, where does China go from here? The revolution caused ten years of turmoil, bloodshed, hunger, and stagnation. Millions were imprisoned, tortured, and humiliated. 1.5



million people lost their lives due to the violent conflicts. The economy has plummeted. Exponential decreases in agricultural output has led to famines. Industrial production has also dropped by 12% compared to pre-revolution times. Socially, animosity still exists between Mao’s radical followers and those who seek a more peaceful, capitalist route. Rival factions constantly seek to find ways to undermine one another. Also, people are losing faith in

their own government as the scarcity of goods has led to internal corruption.

Mao’s Communist, Centralized Vision



Followers of Mao believe that communism is the only solution to China’s problems. Using a centralized economic system, China could focus all its efforts towards the agriculture sector since it’s fundamental to their society (not wanting to re-do the mistakes of the Great Leap). China could

also call upon fellow communist nations such as the Soviet Union, who have focused on improving their agricultural sector using policy and technology. The Lysenkoism movement is an example of the USSR's emphasis on agricultural innovation. Furthermore, Mao's followers want to focus their efforts on domestic consolidation and internal stability. This implies a centralized, planned economy that limits outside influence.

Deng's Open, Decentralized Economy



On the other hand, Deng Xiaoping has risen in prominence and is set to assume his power once again. Deng's vision contradicts those of Mao and his conservative followers. Deng seeks to liberalize China's economy by initiating free trade and facilitating interactions with foreign investors.

Deng ultimately wants to create a decentralized, free market economy. Using exclusive economic zones that specialize in different productions, Deng wants to encourage domestic and international trade. Furthermore, Deng has greater aspirations for China: aspirations that involve surpassing fellow nations. In order to achieve China's world-wide prominence, Deng seeks to modernize four key industries (agriculture, industry, science, and technology).



Key Questions to Consider:

China now has two disparate viewpoints. Should China choose to follow a communist or decentralized economy? Or should China adopt a combination of both? Or are both of these proposed viewpoints flawed all together? It's up to you delegates to decide the right path.

- 1) How will you re-educate the millions of teenagers who were deprived of an education during the revolution?
- 2) What should be done about the Red Guards who were sent to isolated camps? How will you re-integrate them into society?
- 3) Should China seek foreign aid? If yes, how will you ensure that China doesn't lose control to foreign powers? China is especially vulnerable at this time.
- 4) What economic policies should be initiated in order to restore the crippled economy? Should emphasis be placed on agricultural or industrial innovation?
- 5) What type of market should China adopt? Mao's centralized market, Deng's decentralized market, or neither?
- 6) How will the government re-gain the people's trust and root out corruption?
- 7) How will you alleviate the growing tensions between rival factions?
- 8) Many of the intellectuals were either killed or driven to suicide. How will you seek to restore China's innovative and academic culture?
- 9) Thousands of shops and homes were destroyed. Millions of innocent people were either killed or beaten. How will you rectify these disasters?
- 10) Should China stay true to its communist ideals, or privatize certain industries?
- 11) What should the role of government be? Should they yield little, moderate, or heavy control over the economy?
- 12) What sectors of the economy should China focus on?

Delegate Positions:

- 1) **Lin Fengmian**: a painter who focused on blending Eastern and Western influences. He was director of the National Art Academy. During the Cultural Revolution, he was persecuted, targeted, and imprisoned.
- 2) **Deng Xiaoping**: Appointed leader of China post Cultural Revolution. Want China to have a decentralized economy that heavily emphasizes industrial innovation, private industries, and foreign engagement.
- 3) **Hua Guofeng**: Mao's successor who wants to continue Maoist doctrines, which entail a centralized, communist government.
- 4) **Kang Sheng**: Labor organizer for the CCP and became director of the party's intelligence bureau. Rose in ranks during Mao's communist takeover. Linked with the intelligence and security operations of China during the Cultural Revolution.
- 5) **Ye Jianying**: Communist general and member of the National People's Congress. During the Cultural Revolution, he used his military influence to provide support and protection for Zhao Ziyang and Deng Xiaoping. Eventually became defense minister who arrested Gang of Four.
- 6) **Lin Ligu**: son of Communist leader Lin Biao. However, he had ideas that conflicted with Mao. He was considered a "revisionist".
- 7) **Nie Yuanzi**: Top leader of the red guards. Chinese administrator who criticized Peking University for being infiltrated by bourgeoisie. Called for revitalization of communist beliefs.
- 8) **Peng Zhen**: mayor of Beijing whom Mao stripped of power. Claimed dissenting cultural ideas should be solved by academics not violent revolutions.
- 9) **Qi Benyu**: CCP propagandist who gained significant influence during the Cultural Revolution. Close aid to Mao and Qiang.
- 10) **Wang Dongxing**: Mao's principal bodyguard during the Revolution. However, sought change and became instrumental in the coup against Gang of Four after Mao's death.

- 11) **Zhang Chengzhi**: First person to call himself a “Red Guard” and eventually started a group called “Mao Zedong’s Red Guards”. Openly denounced school officials and intellectuals since he claimed they detracted from Maoist beliefs.
- 12) **Zhao Ziyang**: prominent political figure and wealthy landlord in China. Supported moderate policies and was persecuted by the Red Guards.
- 13) **Chen Boda**: Secretary to Chairman Mao and prominent interpreter of Maoist thought. Head of Cultural Revolutionary Group.
- 14) **Zhou Enlai**: Chinese Foreign Minister who worked under Mao. Against the Cultural Revolution and sought to mitigate its effects.
- 15) **Zhu De**: Military leader who aligned himself with Mao during the Republic’s early struggles against Nationalist threats. However, a rift between Zhu and Mao formed, since Zhu was unwilling to denounce De Xiaoping during the Cultural Revolution. Zhu still had a genuine belief in Marxism and supported the Red Guards.
- 16) **Chen Xilian**: General of the People’s Liberation Army who was appointed by Mao. However, in an unlikely turn of events, he denounced the Red Guards and meddled within Mao’s political party structure.
- 17) **Li Wei**: Chinese peasant farmer who has suffered substantial losses in produce output; he wants to elevate the amount of crops produced on his farm.

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