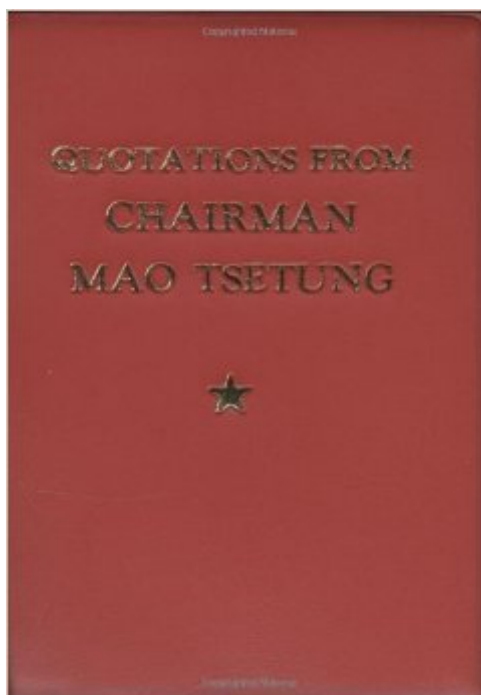


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Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-Tung



Synopsis

This collection of quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung forms an intriguing series of political ideas – all from one of the world’s most notorious leaders. Chairman Mao was born in 1893, and was the founding father of the People’s Republic of China. He governed the country from its establishment in 1949 until his death. He is, of course, a deeply controversial figure yet a highly important individual in world history. There are as many who celebrate as deplore him; most of the former praising his modernisations and improvements in housing, health care and education, whilst others have labelled him a dictator who has systematically abused human rights and caused the death of millions through starvation, executions and forced labour. This text forms the thoughts of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung on issues as varied as ‘the communist party’, ‘classes and class struggle’, ‘socialism and communism’, ‘women’, ‘the correct handling of contradictions among the people’, ‘war and peace’, ‘the people’s war’, ‘political work’ and the ‘relations between officers and men.’ --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

This is the famous/infamous "Little Red Book" that has been a handbook of far-left political activists around the world. It’s also essential reading for anyone who wants to understand Chinese history in the 20th century and Chinese society today. Having just had the opportunity to stroll through Tiananmen Square, I can state without hesitation that Mao’s influence is still a powerful force in modern China. The collection of quotations is organized into chapters on specific subjects such as

"Class and Class Struggle", "The People's Army", "Serving the People", and "Criticism and Self-Criticism". My first impression of Mao's writing was how much he loved to categorize. Mao had to fit everything into its own little box, and he had plenty of boxes to go around. He would invent subcategories for his categories, distinguishing the "industrial proletariat", "semi-proletariat", "petty bourgeoisie", and "middle bourgeoisie". As an organizer, Mao seems in love with the very act of organizing, and he feels the need to explain and lay out his organizational schemes for his audiences. The Little Red Book also contains a fair amount of practical military and political strategy, the former clearly influenced by Sun Tzu, who is actually quoted at one point. Interestingly, a great number of quotes are devoted to the qualities of humility, self-criticism, and mercy. Mao repeatedly admonishes soldiers against looting and mistreatment of prisoners, just as he warns officers against the use of corporal punishment on their troops. Knowing the history, it is easy to feel a sense of irony reading these statements, as Mao clearly refused to accept criticism of himself during his long reign.

Well, maybe not the most read (although still read very much), but probably the most red. Puns aside, this book is a very important read for us today. I think the best way to show this is to make the kind of list that Mao likes to. 1. It contains the central doctrine of a superpower. 2. It is written by a great conqueror and a successful military and civic dictator. 3. It teaches us practicable and useful rules for working with or against others. 4. It indoctrinates the reader with noble ideals. 5. It teaches us about modern Chinese thought and culture. 6. It helps us understand communism: a very influential movement in history. 7. It contains a strong model of rhetoric, proven effective! I am not a communist, and I am strongly opposed to communism, but by looking past the communism I was able to get a lot of knowledge and wisdom out of this book about other things, such as concepts of social motivation and organization, and also of strategy, and of course a persuasive rhetorical model. Mao was very conversant with the Chinese classics such as the Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Lao Tzu, Confucius and the Art of War. His book of quotations is clearly modelled on the pithy, aphoristic writings of the classical Chinese philosophers and strategists. In a guarded way, I feel that Mao has written a book of that tradition and of that status. It is clearly styled after the great Chinese classics and is even more relevant than them for us today who are interested in these classics since Mao actually put his philosophies and principles to the test on a grand scale and was successful at least in his objectives of taking and keeping power, and he is closer to us in time than they are.

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