

英 語 課 本

English

Part Two

2

江 苏 师 范 学 院 外 语 系

Foreign Languages Department of Kiangsu Teachers' College

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The Chinese Communist Party is the core of leadership of the whole Chinese people. Without this core, the cause of socialism cannot be victorious.

We the Chinese nation have the spirit to fight the enemy to the last drop of our blood, the determination to recover our lost territory by our own efforts, and the ability to stand on our own feet in the family of nations.

This is an obligation. You have such a big population, such a vast territory and such rich resources, and what is more, it has been said that you are building socialism, which is supposed to be superior; if after much ado for 50 or 60 years you are still unable to overtake the United States, what a sorry figure you will cut! You should be read off the face of the earth. Therefore, to overtake the United States is not only possible, but absolutely necessary and obligatory. If we don't, we the Chinese nation will be letting the nations of the world down and we will not be making much of a contribution to mankind.

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WORKING MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

-- The Communist Manifesto

Lesson One

Joe Hill's Songs Still Fan Flames

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,
Alive as you and we.
Says I, "But Joe, you're ten years dead."
"I never died," says he.

The copper bosses killed you, Joe.
They shot you Joe, says I.
"Takes more than guns to kill a man,"
Says Joe, " I didn't die."

"Joe Hill ain't dead," he says to me,
"Joe Hill ain't never died.
Where workingmen are out on strike,
Joe Hill is at their side."

"From San Diego up to Maine,
In every mine and mill,
Where workers strike and organize,"
Says he, "You'll find Joe Hill."

"Joe Hill" is a song about an American labor martyr framed on a murder charge and executed in Utah, U.S., on November 19, 1915. One day, almost sixty years later, this song about an American worker was being sung to a deeply moved audience in the People's Republic of China. The singers were Chinese students of

the English language. The audience was a delegation of progressive Americans visiting China.

Who was Joe Hill and why are his name and this song about him known and loved not only by American workers but by the Chinese people thousands of miles away from the land in which he lived and died?

Joe Hill was born in Sweden on October 7, 1879, and his real name was Joel Hugglund. His father was a railroad worker. Joe came to the U.S. in 1902 at the age of 23, looking for work. He changed his name to Joseph Hillstrom and became generally known as Joe Hill.

Joe Hill worked on the docks, dug copper, laid pipes, stacked wheat, went to sea, was a mechanic and a janitor. He loved his class, hated the rich parasites who were the cause of the workers' misery, and vowed to devote his entire life to the emancipation of the working class.

In 1910, he joined the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in California. The IWW was a revolutionary workers' organization which declared: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system."

The IWW organized workers regardless of differences in trade or skill, nationality or sex, etc. It was soon

known for its militant tactics, such as sending its members from all over the country into a town where a particularly sharp strike or other struggle was occurring, to support their fellow workers.

It was just such a struggle that took Joe Hill to the area of Salt Lake City, Utah, where the IWW was organizing a strike at the Utah Construction Co. in 1913. The company hired gunmen and imported scabs to threaten the workers. But with the support of the railroad workers, who refused to let the scabs ride into town, the workers won the strike. The construction company, as well as the local copper bosses, who had defeated a similar strike a year earlier, then began an all-out campaign against the organized workers, breaking their street corner meetings and jailing and beating their leaders. Hill went to Utah to help fight these attacks.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, 1914, two armed men entered a grocery store in Salt Lake City and killed the grocer and his son. Hill was arrested, tried and convicted for the killings, even though there was no evidence against him. The local bourgeois press convicted him even before the trial, mainly on the grounds that he was a labor movement activist. And they also pointed with horror to one other significant fact about Joe Hill: 'he wrote songs!'

To Fan the Flames

Yes, he wrote songs. He was famous among his fellow workers for his revolutionary songs, written and sung on picket lines, at meetings and in jail -- wherever the workers organized. His songs, along with those of others, were gathered together and published in the "Little Red Songbook," designed, as it said, "to fan the flames of discontent."

Joe Hill had no musical training. What he knew he had picked up on his own. Yet the words and tunes of his songs made the copper bosses of Utah and bosses everywhere else tremble with fear and horror. The songs stripped bare the hypocrisy, cruelty and evils of capitalist society, explained its nature in the clearest and simplest words, and called upon the workers to fight and destroy it once and for all.

Hill's songs recognized nothing about capitalist society as "sacred." The capitalists are always quick to employ "God" to justify their wars or priests to tell the workers it's wrong to organize and struggle. So Hill wrote "The Preacher and the Slave":

Long-haired preachers come out every night,
Try to tell you what's wrong and what's right;
But when asked about something to eat,
They will answer with voices so sweet:
 You will eat, bye and bye
 In that glorious land above the sky;
Work and pray, live on hay,
You'll get pie in the sky when you die.

Workingmen of all countries, unite!
Side by side we for freedom will fight;
When the world and its wealth we have gained,
To the grafters we'll sing this refrain:
 You will eat, bye and bye
 When you've learned how to cook and to fry;
 Chop some wood, 'twill do you good,
 And you'll eat in the sweet bye and bye.

"Neath the Red Flag I Would Fight"

And as the imperialist powers moved toward the first World War (1914-18), to redivide the world, setting workers of different countries against each other on the battlefields, Hill wrote "Should I Ever Be a Soldier,"

We're spending billions every year
For guns and ammunition
"Our Army" and "Our Navy" dear
To keep in good condition.
While millions live in misery
And millions die before us,
Don't sing "My Country, 'tis of thee,"
But sing this little chorus:
 Should I ever be a soldier,
 'Neath the Red Flag I would fight;
 Should the gun I ever shoulder,
 It's to crush the tyrant's might.

Join the army of the toilers,
Men and women fall in line....

When Joe Hill was sentenced to be shot to death, he argued that money to be spent to save him could be better used for organizing the workers. But the revolutionary American Trade unions and working people overruled him and organized mass demonstrations, and protests came from working people of faraway lands.

"I'm not afraid of death," Joe said, "though I'd like to be in the fight a little longer." But the state officials, Supreme Court, etc. ignoring the appeals and protests, determined that Joe Hill had to die. On his last day alive, he wrote his will:

My will is easy to decide
For there is nothing to divide.
My kin don't need to fuss and mean --
"Moss does not cling to a rolling stone."
My body? Ah, if I could choose,
I would to ashes it reduce,
And let the merry breezes blow
My dust to where some flowers grow.
Perhaps some fading flower then
Would come to life and bloom again.
This is my last and final will,
Good luck to all of you.

-- Joe Hill

He also told a delegation from his defense committee:
"Tell my fellow workers to waste no time in mourning for me, but to organize our class and march to victory." As

he was led to his death, he said, "I die with a clear conscience. I die fighting, not like a coward. But mark my words, the day of my vindication is coming." He faced the firing squad bravely, crying out, "Yes, aim! Let her go. Fire!"

His body was taken to Chicago. Three thousand people crowded into West Side Auditorium where the funeral ceremony was held and 30,000 stood in the streets surrounding it. The red flag draped the coffin. And in place of prayers or hymns, the people sang Joe Hill's songs.

On the first anniversary of the funeral, Joe Hill's ashes were given to delegates attending an IWW convention, including visitors from other countries. By this means, the last will of Joe Hill would be carried out. The breezes would carry his ashes to where some flowers grew, and these, revived and nourished, would bloom all the fairer, and the world would be that much brighter. His ashes were deposited in forty-seven U.S. states and in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, parts of Europe and Asia, and every country in South America.

The Future Is Bright!

Joe Hill's name, his fighting spirit and his songs remain a proud heritage of the working people everywhere. What was so important about Joe Hill and his songs was that they emerged from and were part of

the working class struggle. They vividly expressed, in the language of the workers, defiance of the ruling class and the determination to struggle on until final victory. Even today his songs still call workers to battle against injustice and class oppression. They still make the rulers tremble with fear, for they speak joyously of what is to be:

Workers of the world, awaken!

Rise in all your splendid might;
Take the wealth that you are making,
It belongs to you by right.
No one will for bread be crying
We'll have freedom, love and health
When the grand red flag is flying
In the Workers' Commonwealth.

Adapted from an article in
Revolution, Nov., 1974

Word List

labor martyr	['mɑ:tə(r)]	activist of labor movement put to death for one's beliefs or a noble cause
frame	v.	put together a false charge against (somebody)
		Cf. frame-up n. a plan or plot to make an innocent person guilty

execute ['eksikjut] v.t. carry out punishment by death on (somebody)

Utah ['ju:tɑ: (U.S.) 'ju:tɔ:] 犹他 (州) a state in the West of the United States)

Sweden ['swi:dn] n.瑞典(a country in north Europe)
Joe Hill was a Swede by birth.

mechanic [mi'kænik] n. skilled workman, esp. one who repairs or adjusts machinery and tools

janitor ['dʒænitə] n. doorkeeper; (U.S.) person hired to take care of a building or an office

parasite ['pærəsait] n. person supported by another and giving him nothing in return 寄生虫

vow [vaʊ] v.t. promise or declare solemnly
the employing class 雇主阶级

want [wɒnt] n. lack; poverty or scarcity

The earthquake victims in Tangshan area did not suffer for want of food and medical supplies.

The plants died from want of water.

Salt Lake City 盐湖城 (the capital of Utah)
construction Co. 建筑公司 (Co. = short form of "company")

gunman ['gʌnmən] n. (pl. -men] man who uses a gun to rob or kill people
持枪的歹徒

scab [skæb] n. workman who refuses to join a strike or who takes a striker's place; blackleg 工贼

ride v. [rode, ridden] 乘, 骑

grocery ['græusəri] n. store where tea, sugar, butter, tinned food, soap, etc. are sold 副食品店

convict [kən'vikt] v. (法院) 判决, 宣判

The spy was convicted of murder.

['kɒnvikt] n. 犯人

picket line 纠察线 position held by line(s) of workers stationed at the gates of a factory, dockyard. etc., during a strike, to try to persuade others not to go to work.

discontent [ˌdiskən'tent] n. dissatisfaction
不满(意); 埋怨

hypocrisy [hi'pɒkresɪ] n. 虚伪(性)

sacred ['seɪkrɪd] adj. 神圣(不可侵犯)的

justify ['dʒʌstɪfaɪ] v.t. show that somebody or something is right, reasonable or proper 证明为正确(有道理)

You can hardly justify your conduct/behaviour.

priest [pri:st] n. (基督教)教士; 牧师; 神父

preacher ['pri:tʃə] 传道士; 说教者

grafters 'grɑ:fts, (U.S.) 'græfts n. 贪污者, 受贿者

refrain [ri'freɪn] n. (诗歌或乐曲的) 迭句; 副歌

billion ['bɪljən] n. (Brit.) million millions
(10¹²) 万亿

(U.S.) thousand millions
(10⁹) 十亿

overrule [ˌəʊvə'ru:l] v.t. decide against

Supreme Court (U.S.) 联邦最高法院; (本课作) 州最高法院

defense (= Brit. spelling: defence) committee

a committee working to defend
or to set free an accused
person

vindication [ˌvɪndɪˈkeɪʃən] n. (被) 证明为正确;
雪耻, 平反

prayer [preɪ] n. 祈祷文 (usu. pl)

hymn [hɪm] n. song of praise to God 赞美诗(歌)

convention [kənˈvenʃən] n. conference of members of
a society or a political
party, devoted to a parti-
cular purpose 年会; 大会

deposit [diˈpɒzɪt] v.t. lay (buried) or put down;
store

revive v. bring or come back to life, strength,
health or an earlier state (使) 复醒; 复活;
再生; 复兴; 恢复精力

heritage [ˈherɪtɪdʒ] n. 遗产

defiance [diˈfaɪəns] n. 挑战(衅); 蔑视; 违抗

Hsiao Chao jumped into the river to save the
child in defiance of the icy water.

小赵不顾冰冷彻骨的河水跳到河里去救小孩。

Idioms and Expressions

1. fan the flame (figuratively) increase excitement
or emotion
 2. go to sea become a sailor
(Cf. go down to the sea/ country, etc.; pay a
visit to the seaside, countryside, etc.)
 3. have something (nothing) in common 有(无)共同之处
 4. so long as = as long as
 5. take/ get possession of something succeed in
getting it 获得, 支配
 6. regardless (adj.) of paying no attention to
 7. all out adv. (colloq) using all possible
strength, energy,
etc. (竭尽全力;
全力以赴)
- all-out adj. 全力的, 没有保留的
- e.g. go all out/ make an all-out effort
(鼓足干劲)
- all-out support (全力支持)
8. on the ground(s) that 以..... 为理由
- He was excused on the ground(s) that he was
young.
- (Cf. He was excused on the ground(s) of youth.)