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**THE BRILLIANCE OF
MAO TSE-TUNG'S THOUGHT
ILLUMINATES
THE WHOLE WORLD**

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS
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THE BRILLIANCE OF MAO TSE-TUNG'S THOUGHT ILLUMINATES THE WHOLE WORLD

By Hsinhua Correspondents

"People's Daily" Editor's Note: The revolutionary peoples of the world express, each in their own tongue, their boundless love for Chairman Mao Tse-tung and their infinite admiration for his thought. They say, "Mao Tse-tung is the great helmsman of the world revolution"; "the brilliant light of Mao Tse-tung's works illuminates the revolutionary path of the people of the world"; and "Mao Tse-tung's thought is the never-setting sun."

Mao Tse-tung's thought is the thought by means of which all the oppressed nations and oppressed people in our era are seeking to liberate themselves. It is Marxism-Leninism creatively developed throughout the long practice of the Chinese revolution. It is Marxism-Leninism creatively developed during the present great struggle of the people of all countries against imperialism, modern revisionism and all

reaction. It is the acme of Marxism-Leninism in our era.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung is the greatest genius of our times. Rarely has history seen such a revolutionary leader as Comrade Mao Tse-tung, a leader who has gone through struggles of such duration, such complexity, such intensity and such many-sidedness. Comrade Mao Tse-tung stands on the most commanding height and sees the farthest. He makes the most penetrating analysis of problems, is the first to detect new problems and to work out the most thorough solutions. Mao Tse-tung's thought is not only the greatest treasure of the Chinese people, it is the common treasure of the revolutionary people of the whole world.

Wherever the bright light of Mao Tse-tung's thought reaches, the people find their bearings in the struggle for liberation and take hope in the victory of their revolution. Mao Tse-tung's thought gives them strength, wisdom, courage and confidence in their struggle. As it becomes more and more widely disseminated throughout the world, the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed and exploited people will grow with increasing vigour. The days of imperialism are numbered.

Wherever we went in the world in the course of reporting the news, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, from Asia, Africa and Latin America to Europe, we witnessed the profound friendship of the people everywhere for the Chinese people. But what was especially heart-warming and unforgettable was the sincere love of the peoples of the world for our great leader, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and their infinite love for his works. The first thing most of the friends we met abroad did was to inquire after Chairman Mao's health, and they wished him long life. They said, "It is a blessing for the revolutionary people of the world that Chairman Mao enjoys good health." Many of them asked for such mementoes as the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung or a silk portrait of the Chairman which they regarded as a most precious gift. Many said they had read his Selected Works over and over again and would never tire of reading them for the hundredth time. They would gaze fondly at the Chairman's portrait and were reluctant to put it away. They told us with deep emotion, "You are the luckiest of people because you have such a great leader as Mao Tse-tung! We are also very lucky because we have made friends with the Chinese people who are taught by Mao Tse-tung! Mao Tse-tung belongs to you and he also belongs to us. He belongs to the revolutionary people of the world!"

What we have seen and heard in foreign lands shows that our respected and beloved leader Chairman Mao is not only the great leader of all the nationalities in our country but also the great leader of the revolutionary people of the world. Mao Tse-tung's thought is the acme of contemporary Marxism-Leninism, living Marxism-Leninism at its highest, and a most powerful ideological weapon against imperialism and modern revisionism. In

the surging revolutionary struggle of the world's people today, Mao Tse-tung's thought shines forth daily with greater radiance, lighting the hearts of the revolutionary people of the world and indicating the road to victory in the revolution.

COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE ENEMY WITH THE MAGIC WEAPON OF PEOPLE'S WAR

As we write, we vividly recall many moving stories and stirring scenes. Dear readers, you may have already read many combat stories about the heroic sons and daughters of **south Vietnam**. But do you know that many of them carry Chairman Mao's works in their packs while fighting the vicious U.S. aggressors?

We visited many outstanding guerrilla units where the flames of war were raging both in the virgin forests on the high mountains and in the liberated areas that stretch over the vast plains of south Vietnam. The guerrillas unfolded people's war, ceaselessly struck hard blows at the enemy and wiped him out. They were adept at carrying out guerrilla warfare, raids, ambushes, mine warfare, bamboo spike warfare, "wasp" warfare, and all the other innovations of people's war. **They learned the experience of the Chinese revolutionary wars from Chairman Mao's works. They steadily applied and creatively developed this experience in their own fighting practice, and badly mauled the U.S. aggressors. Their victories in struggle have reaffirmed Chairman Mao's brilliant thesis that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers.** We visited a famous guerrilla unit active in the area around Highway No. 1 in the central part of

south Vietnam. This unit had fought more than 150 battles in a single year. On one occasion, they succeeded in ambushing and destroying an enemy convoy of trucks in a matter of minutes and in capturing several American "advisers". The members of the unit had learned by heart Chairman Mao's famous 16-character formula on guerrilla warfare: "The enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we pursue," and they successfully applied it in battle. An art troupe of the Liberation Army composed a song based on the 16-character formula and included it in performances for the army and people of the liberated areas so that it helps them to understand and master the formula.

We will always remember the night we spent in the thick forests of the Truong Son Mountains. That night a unit of the Liberation Army held a bonfire party for us. When the night descended over the jungle, a bonfire was lit, and the fighters clapped their hands and sang to celebrate their combat victories. After the party began, a young fighter stood up and said, "First of all, allow us to convey our sincere regards to Chairman Mao through our comrades from China." This was greeted with warm applause. We told them that Chairman Mao was enjoying good health and had recently attended a mass rally in Tien An Men Square in Peking in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. Our words drew a round of stormy applause. Then a woman guerrilla stood up and said, "We thank Chairman Mao and the Chinese people for their solicitude and support. We wish Uncle Mao long life. May the Chinese people win still greater victories under his leadership!" Then came another

round of warm applause from the fighters. To the rhythm of clapping hands, they loudly sang the song "Liberate the South".

We passed many "strategic hamlets" only recently demolished by the people and visited many fighting hamlets. Relating her experience in struggle, a woman cadre told us how back in 1961 she and her comrades had planned to get rid of the "strategic hamlets" when they were being set up everywhere by the enemy. She had attended an important conference to study instructions and discuss plans for action. During the conference, **she drew inspiration from a study of the "Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan" in the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung.** She said, **"I paid special attention to the question of mobilizing and arming the peasants."** She and her comrades had later led the peasant masses in actively unfolding a movement for the demolition of the "strategic hamlets" in a coastal province and had won remarkable victories. She told us with deep emotion, **"We must use the magic weapon of people's war to rout the enemy."**

THE WORKS OF CHAIRMAN MAO GIVE THEM INEXHAUSTIBLE STRENGTH

Laos is noted for its dense forests. Apart from traveling to the cities of Khang Khay and Xieng Khouang, we visited some earthworks and battery positions at the front where fighting was raging. We also called on peasants in the mountainous areas. There were over a dozen portraits of Chairman Mao at the command headquarters of the patriotic armed forces in Xieng Khouang

area. We saw the same portrait in the home of every leading figure in Xieng Khouang city. **Chairman Mao, our great and wise leader! You are with the Laotian people while they fight their battles or engage in productive labour. Your works have become their most powerful weapon in their struggle and the brilliance of your great thought illuminates their road of advance leading to victory and fills them with inexhaustible strength.** Our ears still ring with the Laotian friends' endless words of gratitude to Chairman Mao, and their eloquent expressions of love and esteem for him are still fresh in our minds.

A leading member of the military command of the patriotic neutralist forces of Laos said to us, **"Today the Chinese people, led by the long-tested Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung and with their rich experience in struggle, have become the strongest pillar of the revolutionary struggle of the people of the world and the bulwark of their fight against U.S. imperialism."** He added, **"In our struggle we must distinguish who is the enemy and who the friend. Even among friends, we must distinguish who is true and who false, and who is the staunchest and the most reliable."** **"This is what we learned from the works of Chairman Mao Tse-tung,"** he added. A leading cadre of the Laotian paper *Liberation Army* in Khang Khay has studied Chairman Mao's works every day since the beginning of 1962. He diligently keeps notes while studying. He believes that **one can draw unlimited strength from Chairman Mao's works and that they give him a clear understanding and a staunch fighting will.** He said, **"We now place the hope of world revolution in the Communist Party of China and particularly on Chairman Mao. Mao**

Tse-tung is the Lenin of our time." In the presence of Chairman Mao's portrait, he said feelingly, **"Chairman Mao's works have given us immense help. We will do what Chairman Mao has said, namely, truly revolutionize ourselves, temper ourselves into steadfast revolutionary fighters and carry the revolution through to the end."**

People of various circles in the liberated areas of Laos are most anxious to study the works of Mao Tse-tung. Not long ago, six hundred pamphlets of Mao Tse-tung's articles translated into the Thai language were sent to Khang Khay, where a meeting of cadres of two units of the patriotic forces of Laos was being held. The meeting was also attended by responsible personnel from different administrative departments and the armed forces and by responsible cadres of the province and counties of Xieng Khouang. The meeting was all astir when these pamphlets arrived. The participants said happily, **"Truth has arrived," "This is the most welcome gift."** A responsible official of the Xieng Khouang province, just back from a visit to China, eagerly pressed his request that more pamphlets be distributed to his staff. He said, **"Our cadres long ago asked me to bring back some works of Mao Tse-tung. They are anxious to study them."** A representative from the Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat told the participants, **"These books are very precious. When you return to your places, you should all study them earnestly."** He proposed that priority should be given to the armed forces in the distribution of the books.

We visited the heroic front line at Mount Phou Khouth and saw how ardently the fighting people and soldiers love Chairman Mao. **They spontaneously cheered "Long Live Chairman Mao" whenever they heard his name**

over the radio or in speeches. Three combat heroes, pointing to the shining medals of Chairman Mao on their chests, told us, "The medal of Chairman Mao is the most precious gift for us. We will protect it even in the toughest battle. We will never let anything stain the medal of great Chairman Mao." We also heard a touching story of how, during a battle, people discovered a notebook among the effects of a fighter who had died a hero's death. On the first page was a photo of Chairman Mao cut out from a pictorial magazine. On the back of the photo was written: "We love you dearly, Chairman Mao."

INTO BATTLE WITH MAO TSE-TUNG'S WORKS

A surging revolutionary tide is sweeping across the vast continent of Africa. Africa is awakened, Africa is fighting. The clarion of revolutions is to be heard everywhere here. Revolutionary Africa is with you, our beloved great leader, Chairman Mao.

Unforgettable memories carry us back to the Congo (B). Its awakened and fighting women held a huge parade on March 8 this year to celebrate International Working Women's Day. Marching through the streets of the capital, once trampled upon by the iron heel of the colonialists, they enthusiastically shouted slogans expressing their determination to fight to the end for freedom and liberation. Suddenly, a most exciting scene came into sight. A large portrait of Chairman Mao appeared in a column of the parade. The people applauded and cheered "Long Live Mao Tse-tung". This

scene in far-away Africa so roused us that tears fell from our eyes.

Waging a life-and-death struggle against the old and new colonialists headed by U.S. imperialism, the patriotic fighters in the **Congo (L)** carry the works of Chairman Mao to the battlefield, anxious to arm themselves with Mao Tse-tung's theory of people's war. The leader of a guerrilla unit told us, "**Chairman Mao's works have become a vital necessity for the Congolese guerrillas, who cherish them as treasures.**" During rest periods, the guerrillas gather to study and discuss the works of this great Marxist-Leninist. "**Mao Tse-tung must have lived here in our Africa, otherwise how is it that every sentence in his works seems to be written for us?**" the guerrillas say to each other.

Chairman Mao's thought has found its way deep into the hearts of the people in **Algeria** both in the seven years of fierce fighting in the war of national liberation and in the years of reconstruction since independence. Most unforgettable is the memory of how, at the front lines, on the border and in the mountains, we met many officers and men of the Algerian National Liberation Army who are well versed in Chairman Mao's military thinking. On the first night of our first visit to Algeria's eastern front, we saw by the bedside of a general staff officer a book explaining Chairman Mao's "16-character formula". Once, we saw the four volumes of the French translation of the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung* in the office of a political commissar in the barracks of the National Liberation Army near the border. On his desk we also saw Chairman Mao's celebrated work, "Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War". The pages were covered with line after line of notes in Arabic. In

those years it was extremely difficult to get hold of a copy of Chairman Mao's works at the front in Algeria. Sometimes they had to seek out Chairman Mao's ideas on people's war indirectly, from works by French writers on China.

Once we put up for the night at the home of a friend by the name of Briki. He told us how he went to the Kabylia mountain areas to study the experience of guerilla warfare there. The commanding officers in these areas, while acquainting him with their struggle, said to him again and again, **"This is Mao Tse-tung's theory" or "This is what Mao Tse-tung says."**

After the independence of Algeria, articles on the study of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's thought often appeared in the press. His works were spread more widely, and more people studied them. Thousands upon thousands of copies of Chairman Mao's works have already been sold in Algeria.

GRASP THE TRUTH THAT "POLITICAL POWER GROWS OUT OF THE BARREL OF A GUN"

Zanzibar's heroic people carried out an armed revolution in January 1964. With axes, machetes, clubs and iron rods, they seized arms from the enemy and overthrew the reactionary feudal rule that had long been propped up by the imperialists. **Whenever they talked to us about this historic event, many revolutionary militants who took part in the armed uprising expressed their gratitude for the guidance of Mao Tse-tung's thought and for his works which had helped many of them to see the truth. They cited Chairman Mao, saying:**

Wherever there is oppression, there is resistance; everything reactionary is the same; if you don't hit it, it won't fall. Since the victory of their revolution, the Zanzibar people have been holding on tightly to their rifles, and maintaining high revolutionary vigilance against the enemy's schemes of subversion. **Many of them quoted Chairman Mao's words that the enemy will not be reconciled to their defeat. So long as imperialism holds a sword in its hand, we too must follow its example and take up the sword. And we will never abandon our vigilance.**

A member of parliament in **Somalia** related how he felt after reading Chairman Mao's essay, "Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society". **It helped him ascertain who are enemies and who are friends. He came to understand on which people he should rely and with which people he should unite in the national-liberation united front against imperialism and colonialism, and the importance of building up nuclei for the national-liberation struggle.** Having grasped these primary questions of revolution, he said he felt a burst of light, and his confidence and resolve in the national revolution were strengthened. His study of the article, he added, was like seeing a bright lamp suddenly light up, illuminating the path ahead on a long dark night.

Chairman Mao's works enjoy the same high reputation among the many freedom fighters of **Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola and Azania.** Africa's sons and daughters who are fighting heroically for national independence and liberation have come to know more and more clearly from their own experience that armed struggle is the only correct way for them to achieve victory. They have realized the universal truth of Chairman Mao's maxim

that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun". They appreciate the wisdom of his theory of the people's army and people's war. That is why many ask for a copy of Chairman Mao's military writings whenever they meet a Chinese friend.

The fighters of, "Portuguese" Guinea, waging an armed struggle for national liberation against Portuguese colonialist rule, carry Chairman Mao's military works in their packs and study them when they go into battle. Applying Chairman Mao's theory on people's war, they have built vast revolutionary bases in the rural areas of their country, and have formed militia units, guerrilla units, and regular forces. They have been conducting a guerrilla war, constantly attacking and wiping out the enemy, and encircling the Portuguese colonialists in a few cities, thus achieving great victories. In 1964 one of our correspondents met Alpha Diallo, vice-commander of a military zone of the patriotic armed forces of "Portuguese" Guinea, and presented him with a badge with a replica of Chairman Mao. Alpha Diallo warmly embraced him, saying that he had been longing for this for many years and would show it to his comrades-in-arms at the front.

CHAIRMAN MAO'S WORKS ARE INDISPENSABLE TEXTBOOKS FOR REVOLUTIONARIES

We have been in Latin America too. As everyone knows, on this vast continent which has been regarded as the backyard of the United States, the flames of the struggle for national liberation are raging and spreading. There, too, we have seen the brilliant rays of Mao

Tse-tung's thought. In February 1963, an electrifying incident shook the whole western world. Nine young **Venezuelan** patriots, having seized the ship *Anzoátegui* by force of arms, fearlessly frustrated interception by U.S. warships and aircraft and sailed it to Brazil. A month later we met these warriors at an international conference in Brazil and one of them told us the story in detail. His name was Jesus, and it was he who had acted as the captain of the captured ship. The soul-stirring battle fought by these courageous Venezuelan youths aroused our boundless admiration. What still lingers in our minds is the deep and burning affection of the Venezuelan revolutionaries for the Chinese people and for our great leader. Before bidding him good-bye, we pinned a dark-red badge of Tien An Men on this fighter's chest. Excited, he said, "That's great! This is just what I wanted. When I go back to Venezuela, I'll wear it on my chest in battle, whether in the mountains or on the plains. I'll tell my comrades-in-arms that I've seen Chinese comrades, shaken their hands and talked with them. We Venezuelan revolutionary fighters have always had tremendous feelings for the Chinese comrades. For we know that revolutionary China with its seven hundred million people is the strongest force backing our struggle, and we are proud of having a staunch comrade-in-arms like China." He added, **"In Venezuela, the works of Comrade Mao Tse-tung have become the most popular of textbooks, indispensable for every Venezuelan revolutionary."** Clasp ing our hands firmly, he said, **"Please allow me to convey the warm respects of the entire Venezuelan people to the great Comrade Mao Tse-tung and to the great Chinese people."**

The revolutionary people in other Latin American countries have the same fervent desire to study Mao Tse-