



SELECTED WORKS  
OF  
DENG XIAOPING

(1975-1982)

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(1975—1982)

Translated by

The Bureau for the Compilation and Translation  
of Works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin  
Under the Central Committee of  
the Communist Party of China

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

This volume contains 47 important talks and speeches given by Comrade Deng Xiaoping from January 1975 through September 1982, most of which are published for the first time.

The speeches in 1975 bear witness to Comrade Deng Xiaoping's determined effort to put an end to the turmoil of the "Cultural Revolution" that began in 1966 and to bring order into all spheres of work. They reflect the head-on struggle he waged against the Gang of Four in order to achieve stability and unity and to promote China's economic development.

The speeches in 1977 and after demonstrate Comrade Deng Xiaoping's outstanding contributions as a policy maker. He rallied the Chinese Communist Party and guided it in correcting past errors and bringing about a historic change. He helped the Party to chart a correct course and work out principles and policies for socialist modernization in accordance with the basic concepts of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and in light of China's specific conditions.

These speeches are not only important as historical documents. They serve, and will continue to serve, as basic guidelines for China's socialist construction.

For this book, Comrade Deng Xiaoping made some minor changes in the text for the purpose of clarification.

Editorial Committee for Party  
Literature, Central Committee of  
the Communist Party of China

March 4, 1983



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## THE ARMY NEEDS TO BE CONSOLIDATED

*January 25, 1975*

Our army has fine traditions. Comrade Mao Zedong established an excellent system and a fine style of work for it as early as the period of struggle in the Jinggang Mountains. With this army of ours, the Party commands the gun, and not vice versa. Through protracted struggles against warlordism, the army achieved unity in its own ranks and formed close ties with the masses. However, it was thrown into considerable chaos after Lin Biao was put in charge of army work in 1959, and especially in the later period under him. Now, many fine traditions have been discarded and the army is seriously bloated organizationally. The size of the armed forces has increased substantially and military expenditures take up a larger proportion of the state budget than before, with a lot of money being spent just on food and clothing. What is more important is that an over-expanded and inefficient army is not combat-worthy. I think that the overwhelming majority of our army comrades are dissatisfied with the present state of affairs. It is for this reason that Comrade Mao Zedong has called for the consolidation of the army. We must reduce the size of our armed forces, confront the problem of extensive over-staffing and restore the army's fine traditions. This will involve a great deal of work. Since the Headquarters of the General Staff, the General Political Department and the General Logistics Department bear major responsibility, they should be the first to be consolidated.

We must set things right in the armed forces in accordance with Comrade Mao Zedong's instructions on stability and unity. In recent

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Speech at a meeting of officers of regimental level and above at the Headquarters of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Comrade Deng Xiaoping became Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and concurrently Chief of the General Staff on January 5, 1975.