

Comrade, You've Taken the Wrong Path!

**BY YAO CHUNG-MING
CHEN PO-ERH
AND ASSOCIATES**

*Comrade,
You've Taken the Wrong Path!*

A Four-Act Play

by
Yao Chung-ming, Chen Po-erh
and
Associates

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同志，你走錯了路

姚仲明、陳波九等集体創作

康德倫 譯

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This four-act play is written against the background of China's War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45). During this period the Chinese Communist Party led the people of the whole country in putting up heroic resistance against the Japanese imperialists, and in giving resolute opposition to the reactionary Kuomintang line of passively resisting Japan and actively opposing the Communist Party. At that time, the Party laid down the policy that within the united front there should be both unity and struggle. Adhering to this policy, the Eighth Route Army, led by the Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, waged a sharp struggle against the Kuomintang. The play exposes the incorrect Right opportunist ideas of certain cadres as well as the subsequent disastrous results.

With its clear theme, vivid characterization, terse plot and lively dialogue, the play provides much food for thought.

Illustrated

Locust Tree Village

A play in Five Acts

by Hu Ko

Locust Tree Village is a very successful play, which with the tremendous social changes of an ordinary village in northern China for a background, describes clearly the sharp class struggles during the agricultural co-operative movement, vividly illustrating the great victories of the socialist transformation in agriculture.

The story of the play covers eleven years. During this period, the broad masses of people led by the Party shattered the system of feudal exploitation, uprooting the private ownership which had tortured them from generation to generation. Marching along the broad path to socialism, they are building a happy life never known before. At the same time their spiritual outlook is rapidly changing too. With the passing of time a new generation is emerging.

126 pages

Illustrated

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Preface

In July 1937, the Japanese imperialists launched a war of aggression against China. The external contradiction between China and Japan became the primary one while the class contradiction within the country temporarily became one of secondary importance. The people of the whole country loudly demanded national unity and resistance to Japan. Crystallizing this desire of all the people, the Chinese Communist Party put forward the timely proposal for all parties and groups to co-operate and fight Japan. Because of the pressure of the people, the Kuomintang which was in power at that time was forced to co-operate with the Communist Party and resist Japanese aggression. The die-hards in the Kuomintang, however, had their own axe to grind. They wanted the Communist troops to go far into the enemy's rear to fight the invaders there under extremely difficult conditions, while the Kuomintang army beat a hasty retreat before putting up any battle. They chose to stand aloof and watch the fight from the distance. They even secretly collaborated with the Japanese invaders in an attempt to wipe out the anti-Japanese forces led by the Communist Party, an action heading for national suicide. The Communist Party, however, rallied all the patriotic forces in the land and, with great heroism, took upon themselves the task of national salvation. They carried out persistent guerrilla warfare in the enemy's rear, wresting every possible inch of ground from him. They established permanent bases of resistance against the Japanese invaders and developed the anti-Japanese forces, thus standing in sharp contrast to the traitorous Kuomintang.

But within the Communist Party itself a struggle developed over two lines concerning the problem of the national united front against Japan. One, advocated by Mao Tse-tung, was

the correct line. It was one of combining struggle with alliance. This meant allying with the Kuomintang to push it onto the path of resistance against Japan. To do this, it was also necessary to struggle with the Kuomintang and oppose its treacherous actions of compromise and surrender to Japan. The other was the Right opportunist line which was erroneous. According to those who advocated this line everything had to be subordinated to and done through the united front. There was no limit to the concessions they were prepared to make to the Kuomintang. They did not dare to struggle against its traitorous policy and plots to compromise with the Japanese invaders, surrender to them and even collaborate with them in suppressing the patriotic forces. In a Communist-led guerrilla unit in the enemy's rear, a violent struggle was carried out over these two different lines of thought.

The play *Comrade, You've Taken the Wrong Path!* takes this struggle as its theme. As the story unfolds, the Kuomintang die-hards try by every possible means to destroy the anti-Japanese forces. But the Right opportunist in the unit is unable to see through their reactionary tricks. He turns a deaf ear to good counsel and insists on going his own way. As a result he is trapped, nearly losing his own life and the revolutionary force suffers serious losses. Fortunately, at this critical moment, those who have persisted in the correct line come to his rescue, and an exceedingly dangerous situation is saved. Finally the Right opportunist sees the harm of his erroneous line and realizes that his class capitulationism would eventually lead to national capitulationism. He begins to understand deeply the great thought of Mao Tse-tung that the Communist Party must maintain its independence within the national anti-Japanese united front; only by acting according to this correct line can victory be gained in the War of Resistance Against Japan and the danger of national destruction be avoided.

Characters

Wu Chih-keh, *a little over 30, chief of the liaison department of a certain detachment of the Communist-led Eighth Route Army.*

Li Tung-ping, *31, a veteran cadre of the Red Army, commander of the detachment.*

Pan Hui, *35, a veteran cadre of the Red Army, director of the Political Department of the detachment.*

Hu Sheng, *25, a veteran cadre of the Red Army, commander of the Guards Company of the detachment.*

Ho Jui-kuang, *27, a staff officer of the detachment.*

Yang Chun, *a girl, 19, propaganda team leader of the detachment.*

Chia Ching-hsiang, *34, commander of the Third Regiment of the Eighth Route Army detachment and formerly a regimental commander in the Kuomintang army.*

Leader of the Self-Defence Corps, *a little over 30, a peasant of Shanbochen.*

Three Orderlies.

Soldiers and Cadres of the Eighth Route Army.

Men and Women of Various Ages.

Chao Yu-chen, *45, commander of a certain Kuomintang commando column.*

Chen Chih-teh, *40, chief of staff of the Kuomintang commando column.*

Wang Chung-hua, *30, brigade commander of the Kuomintang commando column.*

Liu Chueh-min, *head of the Political Training Department of the Kuomintang commando column.*

The One-eyed Dragon, *leader of the Pistol Platoon.*

Two Bodyguards.

A Company Commander and a Platoon Leader of Chao's Forces.

Soldiers of Chao's Forces, *over ten in number.*

A Provost Sergeant.



Act I



Act II



Act III



Act IV



Act IV

ACT I

Time: *One summer during the first stage of the War of Resistance Against Japan.*¹

Place: *A certain area in the enemy's rear. A courtyard in front of the Eighth Route Army detachment headquarters on the slope of a mountain near Shanbochen. There are tables and benches in the courtyard. Shanbochen is partly visible in the distance. A river runs by the foot of the mountain.*

The curtain rises: Dawn. From the distance an army bugler can be heard blowing reveille. A cock crows. Someone can be heard calling the time for morning exercises. After a while, the stage grows gradually brighter. HO JUI-KUANG comes on stage. He goes into a room and blows out the lamp. As he is coming out he meets ORDERLY "B."

ORDERLY "B": Staff Officer Ho!

HO JUI-KUANG: Shh! Department Chief Wu didn't sleep again last night?

ORDERLY "B": No. He was up the whole night writing up stuff for the joint military conference!

HO JUI-KUANG: All right, I'll come back again after a while to see him. (Exits.)

(ORDERLY "B" goes into the room. He comes out again, carrying some of WU CHIH-KEH'S laundry. At that moment two peasant women pass by. They are taking eggs to the hospital.)

PEASANT WOMAN "A": Comrade Liu!

ORDERLY "B": Shh! Department Chief Wu's asleep!

¹ 1937-45.