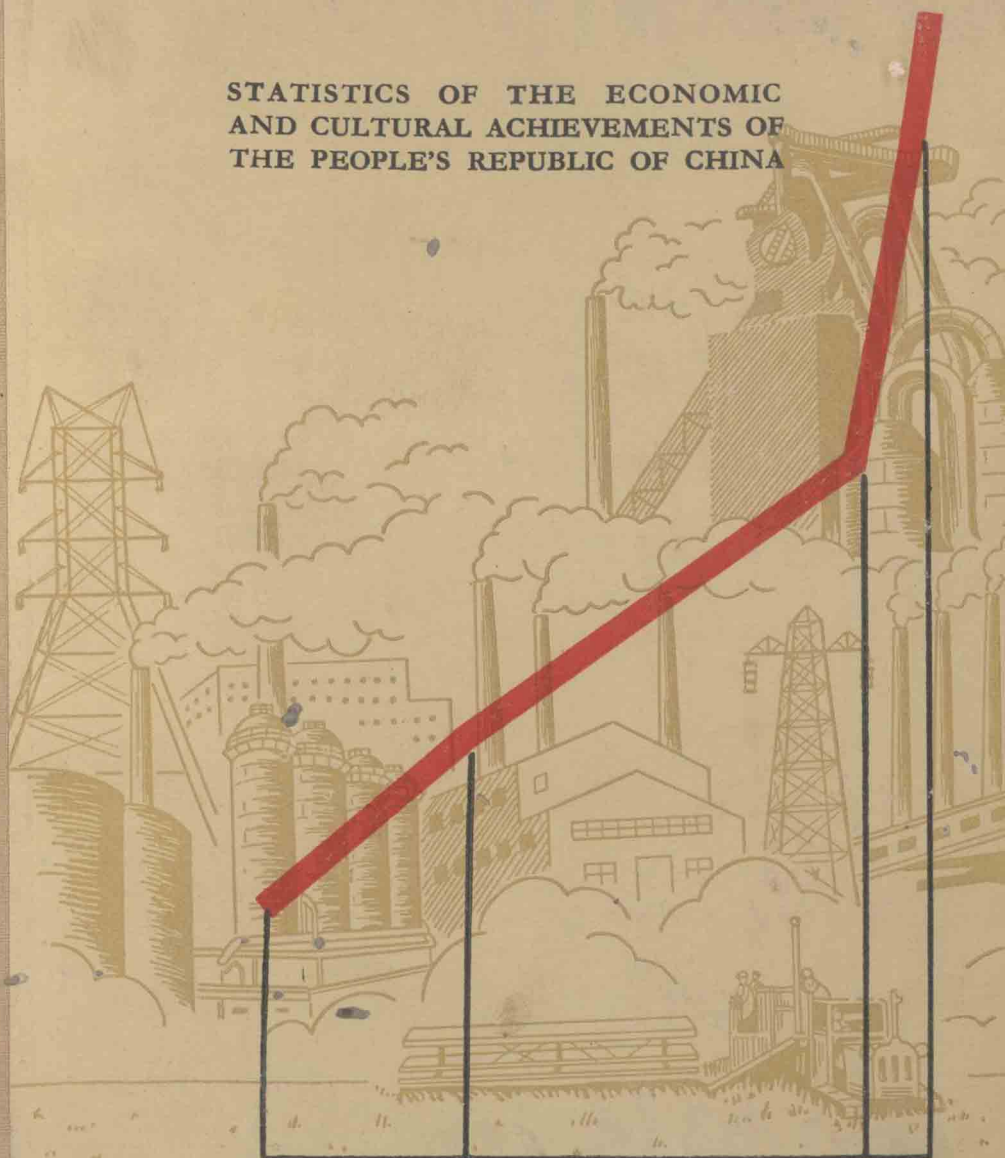


# TEN GREAT YEARS

STATISTICS OF THE ECONOMIC  
AND CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



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*Compiled by*  
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## *Foreword*

Ten years have passed since the founding of the great People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949.

Ten years are but a moment in the course of man's historical development. But to the Chinese people, who in the past have gone through all kinds of tribulations and hardships, their experiences during these ten years have created an epic of world-shaking importance for ever worthy of being recalled. They are the Chinese people's ten years of rebirth; they are the Chinese people's ten years of progress at flying speed in economy and culture. During this short period the Chinese people, under the brilliant leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, with the help of the great Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, and with the help and sympathy of the peace-loving peoples of the whole world, have worked with determination, diligence and great revolutionary drive. Over the wide expanse of their motherland, which was "poor and blank," they have written the newest and most beautiful words and printed the newest and most beautiful pictures where none existed before.

Ten years ago, just before the birth of the Chinese People's Republic, Chairman Mao Tse-tung made this prediction:

The Chinese people will see that as soon as China's destiny is in their own hands, China, like the sun rising in the east, will radiate her own brilliant light over the earth, the mud and dirt left by the reactionary government will quickly be washed out, the wounds of war will be healed and a new, strong people's democratic republic of China will be founded both in name and in fact.

During the past ten years big strides were made in China's socialist revolution and socialist construction precisely as Chairman Mao predicted.

In the past decade socialist revolution and socialist construction in China passed through several different stages. The period from the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949 to the end of 1952 was the period of the rehabilitation of the national economy. During those years the runaway inflation left by the reactionary Kuomintang government was stopped, market prices were stabilized and the task of rehabilitating the national economy which had been seriously damaged by the prolonged war was successfully fulfilled. This period also saw the completion, in the main, of the reform of the feudal system of landownership, the liberation of the productive forces in the countryside, the development of a socialist state economy, and the consolidation of the leadership of the state economy over the capitalist and individual economies. The period of the First Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy extended from 1953 to 1957. During this period the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce was virtually completed and a great rectification campaign and a struggle against the bourgeois rightists were carried out. Thus a decisive victory was scored in the socialist revolution in the economic, political, as well as ideological spheres, and the social productive forces were further liberated. Besides, economic construction was carried out in a planned way and on a hitherto unknown scale which led to the successful fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy and laid preliminary foundations for socialist industrialization.

In 1958 China entered a new era of development in socialist revolution and construction — an era of an all-round big leap forward in socialist construction with technical and cultural revolutions as the core. Under the inspiration of the general line — to go all out, aim high, and achieve greater, quicker,

better and more economical results in building socialism — advanced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people, with great determination and enthusiasm, made an all-round big leap forward in economic and cultural development such as had not been known in the history of China, and established people's communes in all rural areas. The characteristics of this period may be summarized in the words of Chairman Mao Tse-tung:

Throughout the country, the communist spirit is surging forward. The political consciousness of the masses is rising rapidly. Backward sections among the masses have roused themselves energetically to catch up with the more advanced and this shows that China is forging ahead in her socialist economic revolution (where transformation of the relations of production has not yet been completed) as well as in her political, ideological, technical and cultural revolutions. In view of this, our country may not need as much time as was previously envisaged to catch up with the big capitalist countries in industrial and agricultural production.

During the past ten years the social and economic structure, the national economy, and the people's mental outlook have all undergone tremendous and profound changes. Private ownership of the means of production has practically been eliminated, class exploitation, which was practised for thousands of years, has been ended, and the socialist system has been firmly established. A new, independent and complete system of national economy is taking shape, the foundations of socialist industrialization have been laid, industrial and agricultural production is increasing by leaps and bounds and the productive capacity which was newly developed within the past ten years already surpasses that which had been developed during thousands of years. With the development of production the level of the people's material and cultural

life has been raised considerably. The people's thoughts, understanding and outlook have taken on an entirely new character. They have great confidence and full belief in the happy life of socialism and communism.

These solid facts conclusively prove the great superiority of the socialist system. They prove that once the oppressed and enslaved working people break the fetters put on them by the reactionary ruling class and become the masters of their own destiny, they can evoke an immense, unfathomable store of energy. The wisdom and power of an emancipated people are inexhaustible. Under the inspiration and leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, under the inspiration and guidance of the general line, the people in their wisdom and strength are like a powerful army charging ahead and which no force can stop.

Imperialist elements, headed by the American imperialists, have always been extremely inimical to our revolution. They use all kinds of contemptible means to sabotage it. In recent years they have been shouting themselves hoarse to slander and maliciously attack our general line, our big leap forward, and our people's commune movement to attain their aim of sabotaging our cause, but their efforts have been in vain. In the past they have been powerless to stop the Chinese people from marching forward in giant strides in their work of revolution and construction, and in the future they will be still more powerless to prevent the Chinese people from marching forward triumphantly in accordance with their own will.

During the past ten years of economic and cultural development China has accomplished feats unheard of in her history. Her achievements are very great. But because China was very backward economically in the past, despite these achievements, her production today still remains at a comparatively low level, her industry is not sufficiently developed in size and extent, and her agricultural production does not yet fully meet the increasing needs of the people and of industry. Thus, the achievements to date still fall far below the great ideals of the

Chinese people. To completely change the condition of being "poor and blank" the Chinese people have to make yet greater efforts. At present the 650 million Chinese people, guided by the general line advanced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao, and encouraged by the 1958 big leap forward and the victory of the people's communes, are enthusiastically responding to the great call of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. Therefore they are struggling to make a continued leap forward in the national economy in 1959, so as to fulfil the main targets originally set down in the Second Five-Year Plan three years ahead of schedule in 1959. They are struggling to make China a great socialist country as quickly as possible with a highly developed modern industry, agriculture, science and culture.

The aim of this book is to describe, through extensive statistical data presented systematically, the great economic and cultural achievements of the People's Republic of China during the past decade.



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## I. THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China is known for her vast territory, rich natural resources, large population and long history. There are 22 provinces, including Taiwan which is to be liberated, 5 autonomous regions including the Tibetan Autonomous Region now in preparation, and 2 municipalities. She has a population of more than 650 million, or about one-fourth of mankind and an area of 9.6 million square kilometres, one-fourteenth of the world's total or the size of Europe. On this huge expanse of land there are over 1,600 million *mou* of arable land; 1,600 rivers covering the country like a spider's web and many lakes affording the people facilities for navigation and irrigation; a long coastline leading to many foreign countries; a rich variety of mineral resources, and so on.

History bears witness to the fact that China is one of the advanced countries of the world with the longest continuous economic and cultural history. Her history provable by written sources alone covers more than 4,000 years. But during the past one hundred years, owing to foreign imperialist aggression and the reactionary rule of the feudal landlord class and the bureaucrat-capitalist class, China gradually degenerated into a semi-colonial, semi-feudal country with a backward economy and culture and the people lived under exceedingly wretched conditions.

The economy of old China was very backward. Her industry remained at a very low stage of development and she had no heavy industry of her own. Agricultural production was as backward as in mediaeval times. Before liberation the highest annual production of steel in China was only 923,000

tons; of coal, 61,880,000 tons; of electric power, less than 6,000 million kwh; of grain, 277,400 million catties; and of cotton, less than 17 million *tan*. The backward economy of old China was not free from the scourge of destructive forces. During the wars launched against the Chinese people by the Japanese imperialists and Kuomintang reactionaries, which lasted for more than ten years, the country was seriously damaged. At the time of liberation in 1949, grain and soya bean production declined by 25 per cent and cotton production dropped by 48 per cent in comparison with the previous peak figures. Industrial production declined even more. Output of the means of production declined by 53 per cent and consumer goods decreased by 50 per cent. Compared with pre-liberation peak figures the percentage of the decreases in production of the following important items were: steel, 83 per cent; pig iron, 86 per cent; coal, 48 per cent; electric power, 28 per cent; cement, 71 per cent; cotton cloth, 32 per cent; and sugar, 52 per cent. These decreases, combined with the runaway inflation caused by the reactionary Kuomintang, reduced the living standards of the working people to a very low level.

Under the brilliant leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung and after long and difficult revolutionary struggles, the courageous and industrious Chinese people eventually won the great victory of the people's democratic revolution in 1949, overthrew the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism, and founded the great People's Republic of China which is led by the working class and is based on a worker-peasant alliance. From then on the Chinese people, numbering a quarter of the world's population, have stood up; semi-colonial, semi-feudal old China has gone for good; and the history of the development of the Chinese people has turned a new leaf. During the past ten years, under the guidance of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people have displayed intense enthusiasm for work and great creative ability. They have recorded remarkable achievements in so-

cialist construction while they were winning a speedy victory in socialist revolution. The backward state of the national economy inherited from old China has begun to show conspicuous changes.

As soon as the People's Republic of China was founded, measures were taken to abrogate the special privileges of the imperialists, and all enterprises of the bureaucrat-capitalists were confiscated and changed into enterprises of the socialist state economy which are owned by all the people. Meanwhile measures were also taken to heal the wounds of war and begin the difficult task of national economic rehabilitation. The latter task was successfully completed in three years. During the period 1949-1952 the gross output value of industry increased by 145 per cent and the gross output value of agriculture increased by 48.5 per cent. By 1952 most of the major products of industry and agriculture had either been restored to their previous levels or had actually surpassed pre-liberation records.

In 1953 the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung put forward the general line for the transition period: to gradually carry out the socialist industrialization and to gradually complete the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce over a fairly long period of time. Under the guidance of this general line the First Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy was launched and its targets were successfully overfulfilled in 1957. During the period 1952-1957 the gross output value of industry increased by 128 per cent, an average annual increase of 18 per cent, and the gross output value of agriculture increased by 25 per cent, an annual increase of 4.5 per cent. Great progress was also made in other spheres of the economy as well as in culture. During the First Five-Year Plan the preliminary foundations were laid for socialist industrialization, and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce was virtually completed.



The year 1958 was the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy, which was drafted on a much larger scale than the First Five-Year Plan. Under the guidance of the Party's general line of socialist construction and on the basis of the successful fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, the people of the whole country made an all-round big leap forward in the national economy to an extent unknown in the history of China. The combined gross output value of industry and agriculture increased by 48 per cent in one year, of which the increase in the gross output value of industry was 66 per cent, exceeding the total increase, in absolute terms, of the entire First Five-Year Plan period; the increase in gross output value of agriculture was 25 per cent, which was comparable to the total growth achieved in the First Five-Year Plan period. The increase in the main industrial and agricultural items was considerably greater than in any previous year. In 1958 investment in capital construction increased by a record 93 per cent. The all-round big leap forward in the national economy in 1958 not only greatly increased the material and technical base of China but also shortened the time required to build socialism.

In 1959 China's national economy continued to leap forward on the basis of the big leap forward of 1958. According to the readjusted plan proposed by the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress the gross output value of industry in 1959 will amount to 147,000 million yuan, an increase of 25.6 per cent over 1958. Steel production (not including production by indigenous methods) will amount to 12 million tons, an increase of 4 million tons or 50 per cent over 1958. Coal production will amount to 335 million tons, an increase of 65 million tons or 24 per cent over 1958. Although agricultural production has been seriously hampered by floods and drought, efforts will still be made to have grain and cotton production increase by about 10 per cent over 1958, a year