

ON PRODUCING WORKS OF ART AND LITERATURE WHICH DEPICT IN DEPTH THE PROCESS OF PEOPLE SHAPING THEIR REVOLUTIONARY WORLD OUTLOOK

Talk to Officials in Charge of Art and Literature
February 19, 1970

On the seventeenth of this month, the great leader made a historic speech at the consultative meeting of officials in charge of science, education, art and literature, entitled Education, Literature and Art Must Contribute to Forming the Revolutionary World Outlook. Contributing to the shaping of people's revolutionary world outlook is the basic mission and natural requirement of revolutionary art and literature. Revolutionary art and literature serve as powerful weapons of revolution and construction and as mighty instruments of mass education precisely because they contribute to the shaping of people's revolutionary view of the world.

The great leader has always paid close attention to ensuring that our art and literature perform their basic missions properly. In his concluding speech entitled, Some Questions on Communist Education of Youths and Children, delivered at the 20th Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the Party, and in a number of his instructions in recent years, the great leader has clarified the principles involved in the training of the younger generation to be true revolutionaries and set out the specific tasks and roles of revolutionary art and literature. Revolutionary art and literature play such an important role in educating people that the great leader often mentions even foreign literature, such as Gorky's Mother, Lu Xun's works and other stories such as On the River Amnok and The Iron Flood, which he read in the past and which have helped him in the development of his own revolutionary consciousness.

Under the leadership of the Party, the people in the field of art and literature have worked hard to implement the instructions of the great leader and achieved no small success in their creative work. In the sector of film art, for instance, many revolutionary motion pictures have recently been created, among them The Sea of Blood, an adaptation of the classic masterpiece by the same name, which truthfully describes the process by which people shape their revolutionary world outlook.

In order to help towards revolutionary education, class education and communist education, works of art and literature must above all depict in detail the process by which people's revolutionary consciousness germinates and grows, the shaping and development of their revolutionary world outlook.

A perusal of our literary and artistic works shows that they do not reflect life fully, nor do they describe the development of people's

ideological consciousness skilfully. This is due more to the fact that writers and artists do not understand clearly how people shape their revolutionary world outlook than to their lack of creative ability. When they correctly understand what the revolutionary world outlook is about, how it is shaped, developed and made firm, only then can they mirror them clearly in their work.

Generally speaking, world outlook is the opinion and standpoint of the world. The viewpoint from which a man sees and estimates the world, the stand from which he deals with it, determines all his thoughts and practical activities. Therefore, it is the world outlook of a man that will make him think and act in either a revolutionary or non-revolutionary way.

A man who sees the world with the eyes of a revolutionary has a scientific recognition of nature and society. He can analyze and judge things and instances from the standpoint of the working class and act in accordance with the interests of revolution. He can continue struggling stubbornly and without vacillation in the face of all kinds of obsolete ideas that might be contrary to revolutionary ideas of the working class, and devote his whole life to abolishing the capitalist system and building socialism and communism. Therefore our art and literature should make an active contribution to equipping people with a revolutionary world outlook and to training them to become excellent revolutionaries and communists.

For our art and literature to carry out their mission and duty as the medium for the revolutionary education of the popular masses, they should show the process by which a revolutionary world outlook is shaped and developed. They must do so to ensure that people gain confidence in the belief that every one can become a revolutionary as long as he or she is determined, and step up their revolutionary assimilation.

Before a writer can give a vivid description in his works of the process by which a revolutionary world outlook is shaped, he must have a profound understanding of exactly what is meant by a revolutionary world outlook, as well as the process through which it is shaped and developed.

How people acquire a revolutionary world outlook is not found in any Marxist-Leninist classic, nor has it been clarified by anyone else. This problem has been resolved only by the great leader. In his speech on February 17 the leader clearly outlined the contents of a revolutionary outlook on the world and the stages by which it is developed, as well as the laws that govern this outlook. He based this on a scientific analysis of the historical experience of our revolution and of the developmental process of people's ideological consciousness.

To establish a revolutionary world outlook means that one equips oneself with the concept of transforming the old society; in other words, one arms oneself with the revolutionary idea and the view point of destroying the exploitative society together with the classes that rule that society, in order to build socialism and communism. One also makes a firm decision to fight to the last for the victorious cause of socialism and communism.

It is not a simple matter to establish a revolutionary world outlook. Such an outlook is not established in a few days with a few classes of instruction; it is formed, made firm and developed through certain developmental stages of consciousness.

As the great leader has explained, the first stage of the formation of a revolutionary world outlook is to understand the essence of social phenomenon. In a society of hostile classes, the revolutionary consciousness of people begins to develop with a recognition of the irrationality of the exploitative society. Only when they correctly recognize the essence of capitalist society can they hate the landlords, capitalist class and exploiting society and acquire the determination to smash the class enemies and construct a new society free from exploitation and oppression. Beginning with their recognition of how landlords exploit peasants and how capitalists grind down workers in an exploiting society, people gradually become fully aware of the fact that the capitalist society in which money is almighty is the root of all human misfortune and misery and that this society is a reactionary one, hampering social progress. The heroine of the film *The Sea of Blood* was a simple woman who at first did not know why the Japanese imperialists had come to our country to maltreat the Korean people. She had no idea why her husband and the villagers flocked toward the walled town to fight the enemy; in other words, she was ignorant of the cause for the events taking place around her. In the course of undergoing the severe trials of life, she comes to understand the nature of an unjust social situation; under the influence of the revolutionary organization. As a result her revolutionary world outlook develops and moves to a higher stage.

The second stage of the formation of a revolutionary world outlook is the acquisition of a frame of mind that hates the exploiting classes and society, based on the understanding of the reactionary nature of capitalist society. The process of acquiring this hatred for the exploiting classes and society is the process of awakening to the idea of 'class', which proceeds in close parallel with the process of recognizing the nature of an exploiting society. This can be said to be the preparatory process in which the basis for the formation of a revolutionary world outlook is laid down. However, that one hates the exploiting class and system does not necessarily mean that he or she has established a revolutionary world outlook. Looking back on past history, during the Japanese imperialist colonial rule in Korea many patriots lamented the bitter fate of a ruined nation, hating and calling down curses upon Japanese imperialism, but at the same time they could not bring themselves to fight against the enemy and did nothing worthwhile in the struggle for the restoration of Korea as a nation. To become a revolutionary, one must hate the exploiting class and society, become determined to overthrow the unreasonable social system and to devote oneself to the struggle for the construction of a new society—a socialist and communist society free from any exploitation and oppression. This is the third stage of the formation of a revolutionary world outlook.

It can be said that one has established the revolutionary world outlook perfectly only when one understands revolution and is fully determined to make revolution and when one has acquired the ideological and spiritual qualities and qualifications of a revolutionary and a communist.

Even after establishing the revolutionary world outlook, one should constantly undergo ideological training and practical work in order to strengthen one's determination not to yield to any difficulty, and constantly endeavour to acquire the method of revolutionary struggle. Furthermore, one must love one's country, people, collective and comrades, and observe the discipline of the revolutionary organization.

Man's ideological consciousness can develop positively or change negatively according to what influences him. Hence, a revolutionary must be tireless in his efforts to continue the uninterrupted training of his ideology and to consolidate and develop his revolutionary consciousness through revolutionary practice.

The process by which people conceive their opinions and standpoints towards the world is very diverse and complicated. People shape their revolutionary world outlook through a certain developmental stage of ideological consciousness; but the process is not as simple as that in which everybody moves up en masse to the 2nd grade from the 1st. Instead, the process is rather complicated and takes various forms.

The formation of people's revolutionary world outlook varies in different conditions, such as one's class origin, social standing, personal experience, circumstances and education; workers, peasants and intellectuals are different from one another in their situations. Although two people may belong to the same class and stratum of society, one may be slow in his formation because of adversity, while another can be fast in his formation. One man becomes a revolutionary through class consciousness, which begins to form and develop in the course of his suffering from exploitation and oppression; another person assimilates the nature of the exploiting class and society gradually in the process of witnessing the exploitation of workers and farmers by landlords and capitalists; and yet another understands the reactionary nature of capitalist society and sets out on the road to revolution in the course of reading a variety of political books and literary works. Obviously, people's formation of a revolutionary world outlook is different from one another because of different motives and experiences in life, and the process by which they arrive at this outlook.

In order for works of art and literature to vividly depict the process by which a revolutionary world outlook is formed, they should make deep, realistic descriptions of different people who grow into revolutionaries through their rich experiences in life and ideological training.

Some artists and writers are apt to think that they must show all stages of the formation of a revolutionary world outlook, from the first to the last, having been advised to depict this formation process

in their works. This is a mistaken idea. What is meant by the depiction of the formation process of a revolutionary world outlook is that a profounder depiction must be given to the development of a man's ideological consciousness and his personality through the details of his life. It does not mean that the story, including the depiction of the beginning of one's revolutionary consciousness and the process by which one becomes a revolutionary, should be told in a superficial way.

Art and literature can present the entire formation processes of the revolutionary world outlook stage by stage. They can also highlight a particular stage or occasion on which the world outlook crystallizes and takes shape. For example, as in films such as *The Sea of Blood* and *Five Guerrilla Brothers*, the whole story can depict the process by which the main characters gradually become revolutionary fighters equipped with the ideological and spiritual qualities of revolutionaries and communists, starting with the first stage in which their revolutionary world outlook takes shape under the influence of revolutionary organizations. Or, as in the film *The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man*, only one or two stages of the formation of a revolutionary world outlook can be portrayed. Not only a work with a theme of revolutionary tradition that explains the essence and experience of revolutionary struggle, but also a short story which describes the contemporary events, can contribute to shaping people's revolutionary world outlook, as long as it has depicted the development of characters' personalities in a profound way.

Works of art and literature should not depict the revolutionary world outlook in a fixed style, disregarding the individuality of characters, on the excuse that the formation of a revolutionary world outlook goes through certain preordained stages. Because everyone has his own individuality and goes through different experiences from those of other people, the works of art and literature that represent them cannot be created in one style. At the same time, however, they should not depict carelessly a variety of lives that show characters' ideological consciousness on the excuse of highlighting individual characters.

For a true depiction of the formation process of a revolutionary world outlook, the manner in which people begin to shape and develop their class consciousness in the process of their dealing with complicated and diverse social phenomena should be depicted carefully and profoundly, keeping in mind their characters and the logic of their lives. We should depict the formation process of the revolutionary world outlook on the basis of the principle of typification, the principle of socialist realism, and unfold a vivid scene of individualized characters by dint of artistic generalization. Only by doing so can we portray in archetype the living people of our era, who are revolutionizing themselves and assimilating themselves to the working class.

Officials in the sector of art and literature must study hard the idea and theory on the law-governed process of the formation of the

revolutionary world outlook, as illuminated by the great leader in his speech on February 17, in order to apply them correctly to their own creative practices.

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