

Mao Zedong's remarks to E.F. Hill

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[EROL note: Mao's remarks to E.F. Hill occurred in Beijing on 1st October 1966, at the 17th anniversary of the PRC celebrations evening fireworks.]

Mao tells the Australian:

You must go to the universities to take a look. In the universities there are leftists, rightists, and moderates (*zhongjianpai*). The leftists and rightists are both a minority; the moderates are the most numerous. We have bundled away very many intellectuals from the old society. [*Translator's note: It is unclear that if by "bundled away" (baoxialai) Mao means that the intellectuals have been sidelined, protected, or simply removed temporarily.*] They could not acknowledge [the existence of] the workers and rural masses, could not acknowledge people who were born into working or rural origins. We still use them; if we didn't use them, we couldn't publish newspapers, and broadcasts would not go out. There are also many of them in the literary and artistic spheres. To change them all will take a very long time.

Then, while waving at the demonstrators, Mao further stated:

Imperialism and revisionism fears the students, and we have a few cadre who also fear them. (We don't need to fear them, in fact, because our environment is so good.) We have some cadre who don't want to make revolution: the central committee has them, the central political bureau has them, the provincial secretaries have them, the local committee party secretaries and county party secretaries all have such people. They are so scared that they want to send troops out to suppress the students. But the PLA cannot be deployed like this, and the workers and farmers will come to stand beside the students.