

The Cultural Revolution on Trial

The trial of Cultural Revolution leaders, including Mao's widow and her Gang of Four, was the signal event in China's post-Mao transition. In its wake, Chinese socialism emerged from the rubble of the Cultural Revolution to create the China that we know today. This spectacular show trial was a curious example of transitional justice, marking a break from the trauma of the past, a shift to the present era of reform, and a blueprint for building the future. In this groundbreaking account of the most famous trial in Chinese history, Alex Cook shows how the event laid the cornerstone for a new model of socialist justice. At the same time, a juxtaposition of official political and legal sources against works of popular literature reveals the conflicted cultural dimensions of this justice. The result, Cook argues, saved socialism as China's ruling ideology, but at the cost of its revolutionary soul.

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Mao and the Gang of Four

Alexander C. Cook

University of California, Berkeley



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Abbreviations

BGC	Beijing Garrison Command
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CCRD	Chinese Cultural Revolution Database
CDI	Central Commission for Discipline Inspection
CSB	Central Security Bureau
FBIS	Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Far East (China)
GMRB	<i>Guangming ribao (Guangming Daily)</i>
HQ	<i>Hongqi (Red Flag)</i>
Indictment	“Zhonghua renmin gongheguo ... tebie jianchating qisushu”
JFJB	<i>Jiefang junbao (Liberation Army Daily)</i>
JFRB	<i>Jiefang ribao (Liberation Daily)</i>
LSSP	<i>Lishi de shenpan</i>
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
NPC	National People’s Congress
PLA	People’s Liberation Army
PRC	People’s Republic of China
PSB	Public Security Bureau
Resolution	“Guanyu jianguo yilai dang de ruogan lishi wenti de jueyi”
RMRB	<i>Renmin ribao (People’s Daily)</i>
ROC	Republic of China
SPC	Supreme People’s Court
TBFTJS	<i>Zuigao remmin fayuan tebie fating shenpan ... jishi</i>
Verdict	“Zhonghua renmin gongheguo ... tebie fating panjueshu”

Glossary of Key Terms

<i>a</i>	啊	ah (vocative)
<i>bao</i>	报	requital
<i>biran</i>	必然	necessity
<i>cai</i>	才	talent, endowment
<i>cai</i>	材	talent, material
<i>chai</i>	豺	jackal
<i>chenmo</i>	沉默	silence
<i>da cai xiao yong</i>	大材小用	great talents put to petty use
<i>dangshi</i>	党史	party history
<i>dezhi</i>	德治	the rule of virtue
<i>diandao</i>	颠倒	inversion
<i>dinglü</i>	定律	the laws of nature
<i>fa</i>	法	law; standard; method; dharma
<i>fabao</i>	法宝	magic weapon; dharmaratna
<i>falü</i>	法律	law; the statutory laws
<i>fan an</i>	翻案	reversal of verdicts
<i>fandang</i>	反党	antiparty
<i>fangwang huihui</i>	法网恢恢	law's net is vast
<i>fazhi</i>	法制	legal system; legality
<i>fazhi</i>	法治	the rule of law
<i>fensui</i>	粉碎	to smash
<i>gan xiao</i>	干校	cadre school
<i>ganxing renshi</i>	感性认识	perceptual knowledge
<i>gongshen dahui</i>	公审大会	public trial rally
<i>guanxi</i>	关系	relationships
<i>guilü</i>	规律	the laws of history
<i>guo chi</i>	国耻	national humiliation
<i>heshang da san</i>	和尚打伞	a monk with an umbrella
<i>jianggao</i>	讲稿	script
<i>jiebo</i>	劫波	apocalypse; kalpa

<i>jilü</i>	纪律	organizational discipline; party discipline
<i>jishi wenxue</i>	纪实文学	documentary literature
<i>laogai</i>	劳改	reform through labor; prison camp
<i>liang an</i>	两案	two cases
<i>liang ge fanshi</i>	两个凡是	two whatevers
<i>lixing renshi</i>	理性认识	rational knowledge
<i>lizhi</i>	礼治	the rule of ritual
<i>lǜ</i>	律	statute; restraint; codification
<i>pidou</i>	批斗	criticism and struggle
<i>ping minfen</i>	平民愤	to settle the people's righteous indignation
<i>qing suan</i>	清算	to make a clear accounting
<i>qisu</i>	起诉	to indict
<i>ren</i>	人	human
<i>renbenzhuyi</i>	人本主义	humanism
<i>rencai</i>	人才	human resources
<i>rendaozhuyi</i>	人道主义	humanism
<i>rengē</i>	人格	personal character
<i>renmin</i>	人民	the people
<i>renqing</i>	人情	human emotions; human circumstances
<i>renxing</i>	人性	human nature
<i>renzhi</i>	人治	the rule of man
<i>shenpan</i>	审判	trial
<i>shenpan guan</i>	审判官	judge
<i>shi</i>	实	substantial; actual; real
<i>shijian</i>	实践	practice
<i>shiqing</i>	事情	circumstances; events
<i>shishi</i>	事实	facts
<i>shishi qiu shi</i>	实事求是	seek truth from facts
<i>shuang da</i>	双打	double strike
<i>si ren bang</i>	四人帮	Gang of Four
<i>suan zhang</i>	算账	to settle accounts
<i>suku</i>	诉苦	to speak bitterness
<i>susong</i>	诉讼	to make a legal complaint
<i>suyuan</i>	诉冤	to seek redress for injustice
<i>tiancai</i>	天才	genius
<i>waishi</i>	外史	unofficial history
<i>wu fa wu tian</i>	无法无天	without law, human or divine

Glossary of Key Terms

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<i>wuqing</i>	无情	without emotion; merciless
<i>xiucai</i>	秀才	elegant talent
<i>xu</i>	虚	empty
<i>xuwei</i>	虚伪	hypocrisy; artifice; phoniness
<i>yao</i>	妖	monster
<i>yi fa ban shi</i>	依法办事	to handle matters according to the law
<i>yi fa zhi guo</i>	依法治国	to govern according to the law
<i>yi fa zhi guo</i>	以法治国	to rule by law
<i>yifen</i>	义愤	righteous indignation; nemesis
<i>yi ren wei ben</i>	以人为本	to take people as the basis
<i>yi yuan bao yuan</i>	以怨报怨	repay injury with injury
<i>yi zhi bao yuan</i>	以直报怨	repay injury with justice
<i>yongcai</i>	庸才	mediocre talent
<i>zao fan you li</i>	造反有理	to rebel is justified
<i>zhengning</i>	狰狞	beastly; hideous
<i>zhengshi</i>	正史	official history
<i>zhengyi</i>	正义	justice; authorized interpretation
<i>zhua jin</i>	抓紧	firmly grasp
<i>ziliu</i>	自律	self-discipline; self-regulation
<i>ziwo piping</i>	自我批评	self-criticism
<i>zongpai</i>	宗派	faction