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978-0-521-09614-0 - Party Leadership and Revolutionary Power in China

Edited by John Wilson Lewis

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PARTY
LEADERSHIP AND
REVOLUTIONARY
POWER IN
CHINA

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EDITED BY

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

Preface	<i>Stuart R. Schram</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction	<i>John Wilson Lewis</i>	1
Acknowledgements		32
PART I		
THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE		
1	The influence of the past: how the early years helped to shape the future of the Chinese Communist Party <i>C. Martin Wilbur</i>	35
2	Transfer of legitimacy in the Chinese Communist Party: Origins of the Maoist myth <i>William F. Dorrill</i>	69
3	The roles of the monolithic party under the totalitarian leader <i>Leonard Schapiro and John Wilson Lewis</i>	114
PART II		
THE POWER ELITE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE		
4	The reign of virtue: Some broad perspectives on leader and Party in the Cultural Revolution <i>Benjamin I. Schwartz</i>	149
5	The Party in Chinese Communist ideology <i>Stuart R. Schram</i>	170
6	Factionalism in the Central Committee <i>Philip Bridgham</i>	203
PART III		
THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND CHINESE SOCIETY AFTER THE TAKE-OVER		
7	Keeping the revolution going: Problems of village leadership after land reform <i>Thomas P. Bernstein</i>	239

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978-0-521-09614-0 - Party Leadership and Revolutionary Power in China

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

- 8 Party policies towards the intellectuals: The unique blooming and contending of 1961–2 *Merle Goldman* 268
- 9 Getting ahead and along in Communist China: The ladder of success on the eve of the Cultural Revolution *Michel Oksenberg* 304

PART IV

THE NEW VIEW OF POWER IN THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION

- 10 The State Council and the Cultural Revolution *Donald W. Klein* 351
- 11 Army–Party relations in the light of the Cultural Revolution *John Gittings* 373
- Contributors 404
- Index 407

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Edited by John Wilson Lewis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

STUART R. SCHRAM

This volume is the first in our series of Contemporary China Institute Publications. The Institute was set up in 1968 with the aim of furthering research on China since the May Fourth Movement, with particular emphasis on the period since 1949. It is linked to the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, but enjoys a certain degree of autonomy, in keeping with its vocation of serving as a link between interested persons throughout the United Kingdom, both within and without the universities. The establishment of the Institute was made possible by an initial grant from the Ford Foundation.

In a sense, this first book constitutes a most atypical beginning for our series, which will have as its core the work of Research Fellows and other persons associated with the Institute. This volume of essays is the fruit of a conference planned before the Institute came into existence by the former Editor of *The China Quarterly*, Roderick MacFarquhar, and organized by Professor John Wilson Lewis of Stanford University. When control of *The China Quarterly* passed to the Contemporary China Institute in the spring of 1968, we assumed the sponsorship of the conference as well, Professor Lewis retaining full responsibility for the academic arrangements. This volume contains a selection of the papers presented at the conference, which was held at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, in July 1968.

Different as it is in origin from the works which will follow it in our series, this first title is, in another way, very much in its place, for one of the primary tasks which we have set ourselves is to encourage and facilitate contacts between those working on contemporary China in the United Kingdom, in Europe, and throughout the world. This volume, with contributions by scholars from many different institutions in England and the United States, can therefore be viewed as a step on the road to the still broader exchanges which we aim ultimately to foster. In particular, it is our

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hope that one day scholars from the Chinese People's Republic will agree to participate in the discussion of developments in their country.

Meanwhile, it is a pleasure to send forth this collection of essays, in the hope that it will be found interesting and useful by both specialists and non-specialists. It is likewise a particular pleasure to thank John Wilson Lewis for all the hard work and devotion which he has put into this undertaking, entirely without any reward save the excitement and satisfaction of contributing to the knowledge of an important and as yet inadequately explored phenomenon.