

# OBITUARY

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**Name/Announcement:** *Include the full Name, age at death and the cause of death*

**Life:** Describe the date & place of birth, parents of deceased, childhood (significant events throughout his life including friends and enemies), occupation and achievements.

**Death:** Explain who the deceased is survived by (use this to also discuss his legacy/how should he be remembered)

**End:** This is where you end with a memorable quote or line about the deceased. Try to sum up his impact on China (good and bad).

pay homage to Zhou's memory, in an open challenge to the radicals. A campaign was launched to "criticise Deng Xiaoping and his right deviationism."

12. Mao himself died in September 1976.
13. In October 1976 the "Gang of Four" were purged by a coalition of political, police, and military leaders. Their hold upon power by Deng and the reformers was unchallenged.
14. Although it was officially ended by the 11th Party Congress in August 1977, the Cultural Revolution had in fact concluded with Mao's death and the purge of the Gang of Four.

### Assessment of Mao's Regime

1. The traditional culture of China was dominated by Confucianism, which valued order and obedience in a hierarchical system which was dominated by the emperor, the "Son of Heaven." Although this tradition was supposedly overthrown by the revolution this way of thinking was hard to shake off. Mao simply became the "Son of Heaven" in the minds of most Chinese.
2. Whereas Stalin favoured stability and continuity, suppressing all opposition, Mao allowed room for movements from below: "Let us not be afraid of troubles; the more troubles there are, the better for us."
3. The entire period of Mao's dominance can be considered a struggle between the **Two Lines**:
  - (a) **The Revisionist Line**: based upon orthodox Marxism. Because the party had gained power the transformation of society into socialism was possible, but for this to come about the basic methods of production and distribution in China would need to be modernised in order to create the economic base necessary for a socialist society. Since industrialisation would be necessary for this, the support of the already industrialised nations would be desirable, since they would be able to provide the technology to make it possible.
  - (b) **The Revolutionary Line, or the Mass Line**: Social relations would need to be transformed at the same time as the economic base for socialism was being built up. The old centres of interest and power and any tendency to elitism and bureaucracy would have to be destroyed.
4. Despite many blunders, Mao had lifted his country from being the foreign dominated "sick man of Asia" to achieve:
  - (a) the territorial unification of the country (except for Taiwan);
  - (b) the establishment of a strong centralised state;
  - (c) the expulsion of the dominant foreigners and the elimination of foreign controls;
  - (d) the elimination of landlord exploitation of the peasants;
  - (e) great advances in the industrialisation of the country;
  - (f) massive improvements in the living conditions of most of the people;
  - (g) a universal health service, which doubled life-expectancy;
  - (h) a universal educational service, which has all but eliminated mass illiteracy;
  - (i) the liberation of women;
  - (j) the virtual elimination of chronic traditional problems such as organised crime, child prostitution and drug addiction;
  - (k) Great Power status, with nuclear weapons.
5. This had been achieved:
  - (a) without significant external assistance, since Soviet help had been limited, reluctant, and had to be paid for with interest;
  - (b) against the consistent and massive opposition and obstruction of the USA during the crucial years between 1949 and 1970.