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Recapitulation – English

21st century China is a country of the economic miracle, great prosperity and fantastic plans for the future. In 2017 the question is not any more whether China becomes a new superpower of the third millennium but when she becomes a one. Is it going to happen in 2049 for the one hundredth anniversary of the People's Republic or – as many are convinced of – much earlier?

More than 40 years after his decease Chairman Mao Zedong's picture still watches China from the Beijing's Tiananmen – the Gate of the Heavenly Peace and overlooks a scenery that is not reminiscent of his time any more. If his phraseology is to be used then the present China is an embodiment of antagonisms as the road leading the Middle Kingdom to modernization and modernity has been exactly the opposite of what he had suggested over the decades of his rule but the result – a vibrant economy and a powerful state of world's posture – is what he had been aiming at prior to his death in 1976. His ideas as well as his figure remain a sacred and undeniable symbol of the communist power albeit some of his deeds have been subject to qualified criticism. However, his responsibility for a sequence of disasters resulting from his political and economic experiments (with hardly any comprehension of basic economy on his part) like the ill-fated Great Leap Forward and the disastrous Cultural Revolution, as well as other preceding, overlapping and subsequent campaigns, and a corresponding account of victims reaching into tens of millions, is an official taboo and only occasional hints are dropped to that effect. China has still not yet come to terms with its own past in terms of evaluation and psychological relief. On the other hand, the time

span of his rule which is roughly equal to one generation witnessed changes of historical dimensions which raised China's status from a war-torn and devastated semi-colony to a political and economic powerhouse and shook the Chinese nation to a greater extent than any other developments over the centuries since the unification of China by Mao's favorite statesman, The First Emperor Qin Shihuangdi.

Being a politician and a statesman, a revolutionist and a strategist, a military commander and an administrator but also a poet, a philosopher, an innovator inspired by his country's rich tradition and history, and – last but not least – a visionary, Mao Zedong has never been a simple and one-dimensional figure. Moreover, his concepts in the final years of his life have evolved and deviated to the point where some experts already question their cohesiveness with the “Mao Zedong ideas”... Therefore Mao and his accomplishments as well as his errors still await a complete, thorough and unbiased assessment and evaluation.

Our *Mao: essays on biography* is not a classical biography, anyway, as only three specific stages of the Chairman's political life and activity have been selected for analysis, i. e. the rivalry with the Soviet Union over leadership in the international communist movement, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution with accompanying processes and events, in order to present some of the most decisive moments of his career with emphasis on breakthroughs and developments particularly influencing China's history. The book results from arduous searches in Chinese, Polish, Soviet/Russian archives (with in-depth analysis of the Sino-Soviet ideological feud and the political rivalry), comparison of innumerable publications on the subject issued both in the West and in the East (including the most up-to-date Chinese publications), our own investigations and conversations with historians and analysts. We point to quite a few Polish threads in the Chinese political fabric of the 50-ies (like China's role in forestalling the Soviet military intervention in Poland in 1956 in the aftermath of the Poznań uprising and the Polish feedback in China's short-lived liberalization drive in 1957) usually unknown to most readers but significant in reference to internal and external policies shaped by the Chinese leadership. Our research is also an attempt to avoid any presumptions and to provide a neutral and balanced evaluation of one of the leading figures of the 20th century, his concepts, their implementation and their influence.

The authors

Recapitulation – Chinese

第二十一世纪的中国是经济奇迹，大幅度富裕和涉及未来的计划的大国。于二零一七年的问题并不是，中国是不是成为第三千年的强国，而是中国什么时候变成强国：还是庆祝人民共和国成立第一百周年的二零四九年，还是早得多？

毛泽东主席逝世四十多年以后他的画像从天安门城楼上观察着跟他时代完全不一样的中国面貌。如果用他的词语来描写目前的情况，我们却说今天的中国体现着矛盾，就是因为走向现代化与现代感的道路和他所提出的纲领相反，但结果是他一生所争取的 – 强大的经济和影响全球形势的壮大的国家。虽然毛主席的一些错误受到了有限制的批评，但毛泽东思想和他本人一直保留着神圣和无可争辩的共产党执政的象征。因此他好多他思想与治国方略还在属禁忌之列，对他进行全面的，最终的评价还是极难的。他不少行动，其后果极其评价在中国还是禁忌语。毛泽东的责任不仅涉及到政治方面的捣乱，而是包括他所引起的政治与经济实验和运动千万受害者。大跃进，无产阶级文化大革命及其他运动就带来了这种严重的后果。到现在为止中国还没有全部结算其过去的帐目，对这些运动没做评价，也没有达到心理欣慰。另外方面，差不多等于人生的一辈子毛泽东执政期间内，中国经过了巨大的历史变化，可能说，这些变化比中国人民前两千年以内，既作为毛主席喜爱的人物秦始皇帝统一中国之后所经历的变化还要大。

毛泽东从来不是一个普通的，平常的人。他也是政治家，国务活动家，革命家，战略家，军事司令员与行政官，但也是诗人，革新者，思想家，哲学家和空想家。有些专家甚至说他晚年的一些设想

偏向错误，”不属于毛泽东思想的范畴”。因此毛泽东极其成就与错误还期待着全面的，详细的，公允的，不偏不倚的总结。

我们写的”毛：关于传记的随笔”不是一篇典型的传记。我们只讨论和分析两段毛泽东主席政治生活和政治活动的特殊期间，即大跃进与无产阶级文化大革命极其一些同行的过程事件。我们的目的是看得出来尤其影响中国历史的毛泽东历来的决定性时刻。本书产生于搜查中国，波兰，苏联（俄罗斯）和其他档案（尤其是对五，六十年代中苏意识形态方面的紧张状态和政治竞争的），对比无数的东方（包括最近在中国出版的图书）与西方的书籍，自己调查研究的结果，同专家进行辩论的总结。

本书的特点是指向中国五，六十年代政治过程中的相当多有关波兰的时刻与事件，比如说中国在防止苏联于一九五六年十月侵犯波兰起过了哪一种作用还是波兰同年的波兹南事件怎么影响了中国一九五七年的短期自由化（即”双百方针”）。这些互相依存的史实并不是众所周知的。我们的研究成果也是企图对二十世纪伟大人士之一，他思想与其实现做没有偏见的，中立的和平衡的估价。

作者