

# Hold Aloft the Great Red Banner of Chairman Mao's Thinking on People's War and Strengthen the Building Of the Militia

by Jen Wu-chun

**OUR** great leader Chairman Mao has taught us: **"Heighten our vigilance, defend the motherland."** Holding aloft the great red banner of Chairman Mao's thinking on people's war to strengthen the building of the militia is an important strategic measure for defending the motherland, consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat and safeguarding China against U.S. imperialist and social-imperialist aggression.

An armed mass organization founded by our great leader Chairman Mao himself, China's militia is an important component part of the revolutionary armed forces led by our Party. Putting into practice the system of combining the three military formations, i.e., the regular forces, the local forces and the militia is Chairman Mao's consistent strategic thinking and the quintessence of his theory on people's war. In leading the Chinese people in the great revolutionary wars, Chairman Mao comprehensively and systematically put forward the theory, line, principle and policies concerning mobilizing the people, arming them, making everyone a soldier and waging a people's war. With genius, he thus creatively developed Marxist-Leninist theory on revolutionary armed struggle, pointing out the correct road for the people of China and the whole world to defeat the imperialists and all reactionaries.

A sharp struggle between the two lines in building the militia has always existed. Our great leader Chairman Mao has consistently stood for arming the masses, organizing contingents of the people's militia on a big scale and waging a people's war. Chen Tu-hsiu, Li Li-san, Wang Ming, Liu Shao-chi and their partners Peng Teh-huai and Lo Jui-ching, however, did their utmost to oppose Chairman Mao's proletarian military line and push the bourgeois military line. They opposed arming the masses, organizing contingents of the people's militia on a big scale and waging a people's war. However, China's militia has developed and grown in strength in the fierce struggle between Chairman Mao's proletarian military line and the bourgeois military line of all descriptions.

Paying great attention to the building of the militia under the dictatorship of the proletariat since the founding of New China, Chairman Mao has always regarded the militia as an important instrument in opposing imperialist aggression, consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat and defending the cause of socialism. He has specified that the militia system should be an important military system of the country, and issued a series of extremely important instructions on strengthening the building of the militia, organizing contingents of the people's militia on a big scale, making everyone a soldier and putting the work of the militia on a solid basis organizationally, politically and militarily, thereby clearly pointing out the orientation for the building of the militia in the historical period of socialism.

Aided and abetted by the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi, the counter-revolutionary revisionist Peng Teh-huai openly denied the militia's strategic position and slashed the number of militia contingents.

It was at this crucial moment, Chairman Mao issued the important instruction that as long as imperialism existed militia work must be strengthened and not be weakened, thereby smashing Peng Teh-huai's plot to abolish the militia system.

In September 1958, Chairman Mao once again issued a great call to the whole nation: **"The imperialists are bullying us in such a way that we will have to deal with them seriously. Not only must we have a powerful regular army, we must also organize contingents of the people's militia on a big scale. This will make it difficult for the imperialists to move a single inch in our country in the event of invasion."**

At that point, Peng Teh-huai came out again blatantly opposing Chairman Mao's call. Responding resolutely to Chairman Mao's great call, the broad masses of Chinese working people set off a gigantic mass movement for organizing contingents of the people's militia on a big scale and making everyone a

soldier and thus pushed the building of China's militia to a completely new stage.

Chairman Mao's close comrade-in-arms and our deputy supreme commander Vice-Chairman Lin has always stood firmly on the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, safeguarded Chairman Mao's thinking on people's war and paid close attention to the building of the militia. Soon after the founding of New China, Vice-Chairman Lin set down the need to develop the militia on an extensive scale. After taking charge of the work of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, he issued a series of important instructions concerning the building of militia. He stressed: "Militia work is a question of fundamental importance in building China's national defence, an important component part of the strategic question and a concrete application of the Party's mass line to warfare." He further said: "Combining building up a modern revolutionary army with organizing contingents of the people's militia on a big scale is a concrete application of the principle of 'walking on two legs' to the building of national defence, and a significant development of Chairman Mao's thinking on people's war under contemporary conditions."

After the counter-revolutionary revisionist Peng Teh-huai was exposed, Lo Jui-ching, another counter-revolutionary revisionist, adopted counter-revolutionary two-faced tactics to oppose the great instructions of Chairman Mao and Vice-Chairman Lin, and madly tried to sabotage building the militia.

Chairman Mao has issued many important instructions since 1962 on building the militia. He said: "Militia work must be put on a solid basis organizationally, politically and militarily." The militia must be built up first of all organizationally, then politically and militarily. But the counter-revolutionary revisionist Lo Jui-ching feigned agreement with Chairman Mao's instructions while actually opposed them. He did everything he could to obstruct and disrupt their implementation. In opposing the above instruction by Chairman Mao, he jabbered that militia work must first be put on a political basis and then one must proceed to put it on an organizational basis and then on a military basis. In advocating this, he actually was waving red flags to oppose the red flag! The militia is an armed force of the masses which is not divorced from production. If it is not first put on an organizational basis, then putting it on a political basis is out of the question. As a matter of fact, Lo Jui-ching consistently opposed giving prominence to proletarian politics and opposed the militiamen studying and applying Chairman Mao's works in a living way.

The counter-revolutionary revisionists Peng Teh-huai and Lo Jui-ching went all out to push the bour-

geois military line and sabotage the building of the militia. Their aim was to undermine the dictatorship of the proletariat in a vain effort to restore capitalism.

Chairman Mao has taught us: "This army is powerful because it has the people's self-defence corps and the militia — the vast armed organizations of the masses — fighting in co-ordination with it. . . . Without the co-operation of these armed forces of the masses it would be impossible to defeat the enemy." Vice-Chairman Lin has also instructed us: "Our army consisted of local forces as well as of regular forces; moreover, it energetically built and developed the militia, thus practising the system of combining the three military formations, i.e., the regular forces, the local forces and the militia." Whether or not the militia is taken as an important component part of China's armed forces, whether or not the traditional system of combining the three military formations, i.e., the regular forces, the local forces and the militia is put into effect, is a cardinal question concerning whether or not people's war is waged. It also constitutes an essential hallmark distinguishing the proletarian military line from the bourgeois military line.

During the past protracted revolutionary wars, it was precisely because our Party acted in accordance with Chairman Mao's thinking on people's war, boldly mobilized and armed the masses, organized the people's militia on a big scale and gave full play to the might of the people in war that the revolutionary wars advanced from victory to victory. Again, it was because we had in our revolutionary base areas the militia, a strong armed force of the masses, that the traitors and enemy agents were unable to conceal themselves, the counter-revolutionaries found it hard to create disturbances, the revolutionary regime was consolidated, production of the masses was ensured and the army had a consolidated rear. It was precisely because the militiamen carried out a warfare in which every single village fought and everybody joined in the fighting, and because they carried out extensive guerrilla warfare, operated in active co-ordination with the army and gave powerful support to the front, that our army units could be highly mobile in operation and were able to concentrate a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one. Again, it was because the militiamen vied to join the army and replenish our army with contingents of company or battalion strength that our army had an enormous, inexhaustible source of manpower and that it expanded and grew stronger in the course of fighting and finally defeated the powerful domestic and external enemies.

Has the militia system become obsolete today? Absolutely not! Naturally, the development of modern weapons has a certain effect on war, but no weapon of any new type can change the objective law of war

nor can it reverse the great truth **"The army and the people are the foundation of victory."** On the contrary, the larger the scale of a war and the more complicated its circumstances, the greater the need to give full play to the people's role in war and make everyone a soldier. Far from becoming less important in strategic position today, the militia has become more important. So long as imperialism exists and so long as there is class struggle at home, the militia system will never become obsolete. The militia will always be an important armed force of the Chinese people, a tremendous assistant force and a strong reserve of the People's Liberation Army. The militia system will always be a solid base for us to carry out a people's war and defeat the imperialists. No matter how much Peng Teh-huai and Lo Jui-ching clamoured about the "omnipotence" of weapons and cursed the militia as being "useless," and no matter how much U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism may engage in nuclear blackmail against China, all their efforts will prove futile. Armed with Mao Tsetung Thought and tempered in protracted revolutionary wars and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the 700 million Chinese people will never be cowed by the enemy's atom bombs. As Vice-Chairman Lin has pointed out: "The Chinese people definitely have ways of their own for coping with a U.S. imperialist war of aggression. Our methods are no secret. The most important one is still mobilization of the people, reliance on the people, making every one a soldier and waging a people's war."

Chairman Mao has always taught us: **Politics is the commander, the soul in everything.** Whether or not to give prominence to proletarian politics and arm the hundreds of millions of militiamen with Mao Tsetung Thought in the building of the militia is a question that involves who holds the gun and which class the militiamen serve. It is a question involving **whether or not they can give play to their might in a future war against aggression.**

To strengthen the building of the militia and increase its fighting capacity, the most essential thing is arming the militiamen with Mao Tsetung Thought, which is a spiritual atom bomb that no material atom bomb of any kind can match. Arming the militiamen with Mao Tsetung Thought will enable them to have a high level of political consciousness and become very brave and intelligent. They will fear neither hardship nor death in the face of the enemy and dare to climb a mountain of swords and plunge into a sea of flames when necessary. No matter what storm and stress they may find themselves in, they are able to have a clear orientation, maintain a firm proletarian stand, and resolutely advance in the direction pointed out by Chairman Mao. This is the fundamental reason why, in the previous revolutionary wars, China's militiamen could bring their tremendous power into play.

We must educate the militiamen in Chairman Mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, enabling them never to forget class struggle and the dictatorship of the proletariat, to see through the aggressive nature of U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism, heighten their vigilance and fully prepare themselves to oppose any war of aggression.

We must conscientiously study those military matters and techniques well which serve proletarian politics. To do a good job in building the militia, strengthen preparedness against war, we must carry out in an all-round way Chairman Mao's instruction: **"Militia work must be put on a solid basis organizationally, politically and militarily,"** so as to raise militia building to a new level.

The Resolution on Some Questions Concerning the People's Communes adopted by the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party pointed out: "The broad masses of working people in our country warmly welcome the militia system because, in the course of their protracted revolutionary struggle against imperialism, feudalism and their henchmen, the Kuomintang reactionaries, they realized that only by arming themselves would they be able to overcome the armed counter-revolution and become masters of the vast expanse of China. Since the victory of the revolution, they have further seen that the imperialist pirates abroad are still daily shouting about wiping out this people's state. Therefore, our entire people, who are determined to continue to arm themselves, declared: We warn you pirates who are bent on plundering us! Watch your step! Don't try to harm our people who are engaged in peaceful labour. We are fully prepared! **Should the imperialists dare to unleash an aggressive war against our country, we will turn the whole nation into soldiers; the militia will co-operate with the People's Liberation Army and will be ready at any time to replenish it so as to crush the aggressors completely.**" Tempered by the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, hundreds of millions of militiamen throughout the country, holding aloft the banner of unity and victory of the Ninth Party Congress, are raising their revolutionary vigilance and taking effective measures to strengthen preparedness against war. Should U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism dare to impose a war of aggression on the Chinese people, China's militiamen, in their hundreds of millions, under the leadership and command of the Party Central Committee with Chairman Mao as its leader and Vice-Chairman Lin as its deputy leader, will co-operate with the mighty Chinese People's Liberation Army to eliminate the war of aggression with revolutionary war and drown all aggressors who dare to come in the ocean of people's war.