

## MAO ZEDONG: "LEANING TO ONE SIDE"

In *Dictatorship of the People's Democracy* (1949) (see chapter 34), besides making the case for Leninist "democratic centralism," Mao also stated that the Chinese Communist Revolution should be guided by the experience of the Soviet Union and, as an ally of the Soviets, should take part in the world revolutionary movement. Anticipating the objection that this meant "leaning to one side" in favor of the Soviets, he defended the policy as follows:

"You are leaning to one side." Exactly. The forty years' experience of Sun Yat-sen and the twenty-eight years' experience of the Communist Party have taught us to lean to one side, and we are firmly convinced that in order to win victory and consolidate it we must lean to one side. In the light of the experiences accumulated in these forty years and these twenty-eight years, all Chinese without exception must lean either to the side of imperialism or to the side of socialism. Sitting on the fence will not do, nor is there a third road. . . .

"Victory is possible even without international help." This is a mistaken idea. In the epoch in which imperialism exists, it is impossible for a genuine people's revolution to win victory in any country without various forms of help from the international revolutionary forces, and even if victory were won, it could not be consolidated. This was the case with the victory and consolidation of the Great October Revolution as Stalin told us long ago. This was also the case

with the overthrow of the three imperialist powers in World War II and the establishment of the people's democracies. And this is also the case with the present and the future of People's China.

[From Selden, *The People's Republic of China*, pp. 176–177]