

为什么高学历的官僚说话做事让人失望  
**Words and Deeds of Bureaucrats with High Degrees Disappoint Masses. Why?**

**Translated by Tanvi Negi**

Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Studies

Doon University

[tanvihuar@gmail.com](mailto:tanvihuar@gmail.com)

**Summary**

*The article was first published on the website of Minzu fuxing 民族复兴 on July 26, 2020. Minzu fuxing wang website or the Chinese Rejuvenation website claims it was established following the emergence of President Xi Jinping as top Chinese leader in 2013. The proclaimed goals of the website are: it (the website) spreads Chinese culture and serves the global Chinese population; it is the first step towards the future global Chinese; and its aim is to bring together all Chinese people including the overseas Chinese to achieve Chinese national rejuvenation. The website has emerged as a popular current affairs platform among China's growing "leftist" intellectuals. [-ICS Translations editor]*

**Source:** <http://www.mzfxw.com/e/action/ShowInfo.php?classid=11&id=139606>

**Series Editor:** Hemant Adlakha

To always tell the truth, to be always frank and never lie is the most precious characteristic of a Communist Party. If people are not allowed to speak, then problems cannot be resolved; if people are not allowed to speak, then this country (China) has no hope. I hope the website administrator will not remove this post.

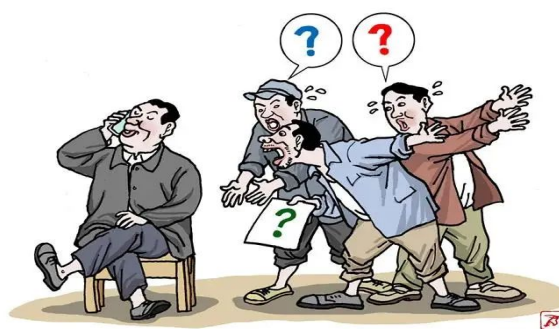
Everyone knows, during Chairman Mao's days, most cadres were not educated. In fact, an overwhelming majority among them were completely illiterate. During the Revolutionary War decades, a large number of peasants and workers, cadres and generals who came from among the workers and peasants embraced the path of revolution, were uneducated. Take Chen Yonggui<sup>1</sup> for example, he was one such peasant who had never read a book; or Wu Guixian and Li Suwen, who were both also just ordinary workers.<sup>2</sup> But their each and every word and action, and everything they did after taking on leadership positions was extremely decent, very convincing and highly worthy of people's respect.

How did they achieve this? They could achieve this because they not only always cherished but they also never dared to forget the original revolutionary aspirations of the Communist Party.

---

<sup>1</sup> Chen Yonggui was a Chinese politician who despite being an illiterate peasant went on to become the Vice Premier of People's Republic of China

Today, Chinese society appears to be far from satisfying the needs of ordinary people. Contradictions and problems are increasing day by day and are becoming more and more commonplace. What is the cause of all this? All this is happening because the root cause I am afraid lies with the bureaucrats who lead the country's development and the nation's roadmap.



“Bureaucrat!”  
Source: thepaper.cn

The bureaucrats today seem to be more qualified with higher educational degrees. A random check will show, they all hold not just graduation degree, many would turn out be holding a Master degree and even there are doctorates among them. Their degrees notwithstanding, however, the words and actions of many of them are increasingly becoming outrageous and disappointing for the common people. Just by comparison you can tell the difference. It is not without reason people say that the Mao era cadres were far more intelligent, far more astute, far more

<sup>2</sup> Wu Guixian and Li Suwen were two ordinary Chinese working women who went on to hold important and high official positions.

competent and far more admirable than the bureaucrats in the post-Mao era.

这双眼看透了太多。。



“This pair of eyes has seen too much”  
Source:kuaibao.qq.com

In China today, making the English language compulsory learning for all has been widely criticized by the masses, Chinese people have been opposing it for many years, but are the senior officials in the Ministry of Education listening? Are they even willing to listen? Genetically modified foods are hugely controversial all over the world. If you feed genetically modified food to mice for three months, small mice will appear, their immunity will have decreased, their brain and internal organs shrunk and their fertility decreased. China not only procures genetically modified foods from the US in large quantity but the Ministry of Agriculture also issues license for planting genetically modified plants in the country. What is the justification the Ministry of Agriculture has for doing this? It is learnt that in order to establish a world class university, China has recruited foreign students in large numbers and offers each foreign student an annual

scholarship of 100,000 RMB; provides these foreign students with ideal living conditions and perfect environment that is still a dream for many Chinese. When this move received wide criticisms from the society, some university professors even defended it saying that one hundred thousand RMB a year was far from being sufficient! Do you think the Chinese university students are going to easily accept such discrimination? China already has a huge population but some local bureaucrats even bring labour from abroad to solve the problem of shortage of labour force.

America, and some countries which are its staunch followers, are bombing other countries everywhere and which is causing a large number of people to become refugees. A Chinese female actor, Yao Chen,<sup>3</sup> has actually advocated that China accept refugees. In rural countryside, distribution of land and independent farming are clearly not making progress; it is very clear that “the rural collectives” is the only right path but no one seems to admit their mistake. The privatization of the SOEs clearly does not conform to the original revolutionary aspiration (初心 *Chuxin*) of the CPC and it does not conform to the principle of socialism. But they insist on persisting with the policy of further deepening of reforms and want to take privatization to its ultimate goal. Attracting FDI, bringing in the Fortune 500 companies into China, selling national industries to foreigners,

---

<sup>3</sup> Yao Chen a famous Chinese actress is UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and has been very vocal about the state of refugees.

open up national industries to the foreign capital etc. all this clearly leads to the loss of national interests, loss of national brands and indigenous innovation, and all this very clearly brings in exploitation; but to our bureaucrats, attracting foreign capital to buy our country's industrial and financial sectors is a huge achievement. No doubt free education, free medical care and free housing are clearly the ideal goals of the CPC, but some people are determined to get rid of these ideals. Even in the face of strong criticism by the common people, our bureaucracy refuses to return these benefits to the people. Enough is enough.



Bureaucratic style politics and its historical lessons  
Source: xinfajia.net

Can we really trust the wisdom of our bureaucracy? True, they all are highly educated but their understanding and handling of the real issues is not only unacceptable to common Chinese people, it does not even match up to level of thinking of the common people. Furthermore, today's bureaucrats are the most corrupt, indulge in womanizing and are deeply involved in flesh trade of young women.

There are multiple reasons why words and deeds of bureaucrats today are unable to satisfy the

common people. First, our country's employment system is biased. Higher educational qualification does not guarantee better wisdom. The practice has proved that blockheaded people with a high educational degree do exist. A higher degree may mean that they are experts in a special field of study or have technical expertise, they may be specialists or experts in one area but they may not necessarily have rich knowledge and experience or become experts in other fields like natural sciences, social sciences and humanities etc. They may actually be total idiots in other areas. Therefore, a higher degree may not necessarily mean that one has the qualification to become a leader who leads our society or be a qualified leader of the Party and the nation's various leading institutions at various levels. Is the bias in employment system the reason why the words and deeds of many of today's bureaucrats fail to satisfy people? It is quite possible.



Does "populism" rule in the West and in China today?  
Source: cwzg.cn

Second, many people are far removed from the masses and reality, and they are unwilling to integrate with the workers and peasants, unwilling to integrate with the production and

labour, unwilling to integrate with the social practices, they refuse to mix together with the working masses. Chairman Mao had once said, “Masses are the real heroes and we ourselves are naïve and ridiculous. If we do not understand this then we cannot gain even the basic knowledge.” Common people may not have high educational degrees, what they have is rich practical and rich social experience. Genuine knowledge comes from practice. Society as “learning institution” can teach them the ways of life, can teach them a wealth of social knowledge, and can teach them the practical knowledge which is much richer than bookish knowledge. By not willing to be a part of the masses and by not willing to go deep into practice, by refusing to integrate with the people, one cannot understand what people think. And if it is so, how can one expect from them (bureaucrats) to satisfy the common people with their words and deeds?



Asian century versus China's rise-Chinese Wall Street  
Source: risechina.blogspot.com

Third, they have lost Chairman Mao's idea of taking the essence of all things from the heaven and the earth, they have lost the ability to absorb the true knowledge from social practices and integrating all wisdom – ancient and modern,

Chinese and foreign. The abandoning of Chairman Mao's thought is mainly reflected in two areas: the first is the abandoning of Chairman Mao's famous slogans about promoting social development and progress such as to connect theory with practice, to closely connect with the masses, believing in the masses, relying on the masses, to investigate and research, to seek truth from facts, to be independent and autonomous, to primarily be self-reliant and seek foreign aid only as a supplement, etc. They have abandoned Mao Zedong's thought and stand aloof high above and cut off from the masses, they work behind their closed doors and they think of themselves as highly intelligent. They have given up independence, autonomy and self-reliance. Their words, actions and handling of things are all divorced from the masses, divorced from practice and from the national conditions. They are infatuated with everything foreign, only believe in the West, believe in Western books and in the Western technology; to them, everything Western is good, nothing Chinese even comes close, even the moon in the West is more round than in China, only Western science and technology is the primary productive force. They don't have faith in the Chinese technology, they don't have faith in the Chinese scientists and technical workers, they don't believe in indigenous talent, they don't believe that Chinese people are the most intelligent and wise people in the world. As a result, hundreds of national defence military projects have been discontinued and even a larger number of civil, scientific and technological researches have



been abandoned. Now, what is the wisdom in that?



Symptoms and roots of “formal bureaucracy”  
Source:71.cn

The other area is, they have lost the “original aspirations” of the Communist Party of China. They have abandoned the main objective and character of Mao’s Communist Party which was to wholeheartedly serve the people and to wholeheartedly work for the interests of the people. They have abandoned the Communist Party’s revolutionary aspirations. Instead they “wholeheartedly” work only for a few people, create wealth for a privileged minority, serve this minority, serve themselves, creating large number of capitalists, creating a society that is unjust, unfair and unequal etc., creating a huge gap between rich and poor and leading to a huge social divide. There is no way people are going to be satisfied with all this.

By simply having a high degree or by simply becoming an official after passing exams<sup>4</sup> is not the right way. Is there any shortage of highly

---

<sup>4</sup> This line is taken from Confucius’s Analects but has been modified here in the text. The original line is “仕而优则学，学而优则仕” which means if you have spare times after your duties as an official then you should devote yourself to studies and if you have spare time after your studies then you should become an official to better

educated fools, or even highly educated idiots? Communist party cannot just solely rely on high educational qualifications. What is a Communist Party? Communist Party stands for utmost sincerity; a communist party stands for erudite politics.



“Bureaucracy”  
Source: PLA Daily (jfdaily.com)

The selection of the Communist Party cadre must come from social practice, from workers, peasants and soldiers, must come from working class intellectuals. While selecting cadres, educational qualification can be one factor but not the most important one. For Communist Party cadres are leading social activists, the most important factor is the quality of their political thinking. They must have a heart that loves their country and their people; they must believe in wholeheartedly serving the people and in wholeheartedly working for the interests of the people. They must have a heart that firmly believes in Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, firmly upholds revolution, firmly upholds socialism,

promote the path of benevolence. What this means is that our whole life is for learning, no matter when or where, if you get an opportunity to learn you should never give it up. Here the author means that using the time beyond studies to become an official is not enough, the practical learning is perhaps more important.

firmly adheres to the socialist ownership system, upholds the proletarian dictatorship and firmly upholds the communist beliefs and ideals. In

short, the Communist Party cadre must be politically and professionally both “Red and Expert.”<sup>5</sup> (July 26, 2020)

---

*The views expressed here are those of the translator and not necessarily of the Institute of Chinese Studies*

---

<sup>5</sup> “Red and Expert” slogan was first coined in 1958, with the political purpose of uniting politics and economy, and politics and technology. The slogan was primarily targeted at the bureaucracy, cadres and officials. For more details see Red and Expert, January 31, 1958 *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung* Source: **Long Live Mao Zedong Thought**, A Red Guard Publication, 1969 [[https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-8/mswv8\\_04.htm](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-8/mswv8_04.htm)]; also see Dennis Ray “**Red and Expert**” and **China’s Cultural Revolution** in *Pacific Affairs*, Vol.43, No. 1(Spring 1970), pp. 22-33. According to Ray, “the red-expert paradigm has perhaps hampered as much as it has facilitated understanding of

contemporary Chinese politics. The problem stems primarily from the fact that the Chinese Communists have used the phrase to refer to a new “ideal type” of Chinese cadre and citizen, whereas Western specialists have extended the image of the ideal comrade by using the red-expert paradigm to classify specific officials. One of the earliest and more interesting accounts of Chinese politics in terms of conflict between reds and experts suggested that Liu Shaoqi, Peng Zhen, and Deng Xiaoping were among the leading reds, while Zhou Enlai, Chen Yun, Bo Yibo and Li Xiannian were among the experts.” [<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2753832?seq=1>] – *Editor*, ICS TRANSLATIONS.

## PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS TO ICS RESEARCH FUND

### TATA TRUSTS



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



INDIAN COUNCIL OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

GARGI AND VIDYA  
PRAKASH DUTT FOUNDATION



JAMNALAL BAJAJ  
FOUNDATION

PIROJSHA GODREJ FOUNDATION

## ICS PUBLICATIONS



A short brief on a topic of contemporary interest with policy-related inputs



Platform for ongoing research of the ICS faculty and associates



Authored by the faculty, also emerging from research projects and international conferences



Draft paper of ongoing research

## ICS JOURNAL



In its 56th year, *China Report* is a refereed journal in the field of social sciences and international relations. It welcomes and offers a platform for original research from a multi-disciplinary perspective, in new and emerging areas, by scholars and research students. It seeks to promote analysis and vigorous debate on all aspects of Sino-Indian relations, India-China comparative studies and multilateral and bilateral initiatives and collaborations across Asia.

*China Report* is brought out by Sage Publications Ltd, New Delhi.

Editor  
Associate Editor  
Assistant Editor  
Book Review Editor

Sreemati Chakrabarti  
G. Balatchandirane  
Rityusha Mani Tiwari  
Vijay K Nambiar



### INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES

8/17, Sri Ram Road, Civil Lines,  
Delhi 110054, INDIA  
T: +91 (0) 11 2393 8202  
F: +91 (0) 11 2383 0728

<http://www.icsin.org/>  
[info@icsin.org](mailto:info@icsin.org)

[twitter.com/ics\\_delhi](https://twitter.com/ics_delhi) [facebook.com/icsin.delhi](https://www.facebook.com/icsin.delhi)  
[ln.linkedin.com/icsdelhi](https://www.linkedin.com/company/icsdelhi) [soundcloud.com/ICSIN](https://www.soundcloud.com/ICSIN)  
[youtube.com/ICSWEB](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWEb) [instagram.com/icsdelhi](https://www.instagram.com/icsdelhi)