

TEXT 6

DARE TO THINK AND DO

Renmin Ribao published a commentary on July 5 praising the study and dissemination of the history of the struggles between the Confucian and Legalist schools by the Tientsin Railway Station workers as “another pioneering undertaking of the working class and a good method of deepening the criticism of Lin Piao and Confucius.”

The commentary said: “Chairman Mao has taught us: It is necessary to know **‘not only the China of today but also the China of yesterday and of the day before yesterday.’** The current class struggle is a continuation of the class struggle throughout history. The struggle between the Confucian and Legalist schools over the last 2,000 years or so still has its influence at present and has continued to this day. Using the Marxist stand, viewpoint and method to sum up the past experience of the struggles between the Confucian and Legalist schools is of great significance in further criticizing Lin Piao’s counter-revolutionary revisionist line and the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius. In order to deepen the criticism of Lin Piao and Confucius, it is necessary to study diligently Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, conscientiously study some history books, study the history of the struggles between the Confucian and Legalist schools and the history of class struggle as a whole, read some books by the Legalists and integrate still better the historical experience with the current class struggle and two-line struggle to serve the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

“As far as the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers are concerned, there are a great many difficulties for them to study history. But this is only one part of the problem. The other is that they have the style of daring to think and do and of dauntlessly going forward, and that they dare to shatter old conventions and break with traditional ideas. ‘The reversed history must be set right!’ ‘If we do not study the struggles between the Confucian and Legalist schools, who will!’ Such heroic words by the Tientsin station workers fully manifest the fearless revolutionary spirit of the Chinese working class. Facts have proved that the workers, peasants and soldiers can use Marxism to study and learn history.

Peking Review #28, July 12, 1974.

Liberate history from the confines of the historians' lecture rooms and textbooks, and turn it into a sharp weapon in the hands of the masses—this is not only absolutely necessary but entirely possible.

“Much work remains to be done to carry out the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius in a deep-going, popularized and sustained way. We should bring into full play the role of the workers, peasants and soldiers as the main force. We should make a big effort to encourage their revolutionary heroism of dauntlessly going forward, advancing despite difficulties and never giving up until the goal is reached.”