

# Iceland International Conference on the Mao Zedong Era

ALPJÓÐLEGT MÁLPING UM TÍMABIL MAO ZEDONG Í KÍNA 1949 - 1976

Reykjavík, 11 November 2006

## LECTURERS

**Michael Schoenhals** is Associate Professor with a focus on modern Chinese society in the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University. He is editor of *China's Cultural Revolution 1966 – 1969: Not a Dinner Party*, a documentary history dealing with the Cultural Revolution's massive assault on China's political and social systems. Together with Roderick MacFarquhar, he has written the definitive history of the Cultural Revolution, entitled *Mao's Last Revolution*, which was published in August 2006.

**Vivian Wagner** is Assistant Professor for Chinese Society and Culture at the Universität St. Gallen in Switzerland. She is author of *Erinnerungsverwaltung in China. Staatsarchive und Politik in der Volksrepublik* (*The Management of Memory in China: State Archives and Politics in the People's Republic*), which was published in April 2006.

**Maurizio Marinelli** is Senior Lecturer in East Asian Studies at the University of Bristol and specialises in contemporary China's intellectual history. His research investigates how China's relations with the rest of the world have influenced historical narratives and shaped visual representations within their respective intellectual discourses. His most recent work, the book *La Lotta contro la Corruzione in Cina: Tra Mosche e Zanzare, Tigri e Squali* (*The Struggle against Corruption in China: Between Flies and Mosquitoes, Tigers and Sharks*), was published in Italy in November 2006. He is currently working on two new projects: 1. Political language from Mao Zedong to Hu Jintao, 2. The socio-spatial transformation of Beijing and Tianjin.

**Daniel Leese** is Assistant Professor in Chinese Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität in Munich and, at the same time, working towards his Ph.D. degree at the International University Bremen. His dissertation is entitled "*Mao cult - rhetoric and ritual during China's Cultural Revolution 1966-69*". He is co-editor of *Ritual – Power – Nature: European-Pacific Relations in Modernity* (Bremen: Überseemuseum, 2005).

**Ragnar Baldursson** is an independent scholar of sinology in Iceland. Since studying Chinese philosophy at Beijing University in the 1970's, he has been building bridges between China and Iceland, both through publication and, since 1995, civil service at Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, where he was involved in the founding of Iceland's embassies in Beijing 1995 and Tokyo in 2001. His most notable publications are: *Kína: frá keisaraveldi til kommúnisma* (*China: From Empire to Communism, 1985*), and an original translation of the *Analects of Confucius* (*Speki Konfúsíusar*, 1989, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2006). He is presently working on a translation of the *Daodejing*.

**Jeremy Brown** is working towards his Ph.D. in history at the University of California, San Diego. His dissertation is entitled *Chinese Socialist Inequality: Rural-Urban Difference in the People's Republic of China*. Among his recent publications is *Staging Xiaojinzhuan: The City in the Countryside, 1974-1976*, which appeared in *The Chinese Cultural Revolution as History*, published in March 2006.

**Richard Baum** is Professor of Political Science and former director of the UCLA Center for Chinese Studies. He is author and editor of eight books on Chinese politics and numerous articles. His recent work concerns (1) *the impact of China's post-Mao reforms on local governance in the PRC*; (2) *globalization and political institutionalization in post-reform China*; and (3) *US-China relations and the prospects for war and peace across the Taiwan Strait*. As a media commentator, he shares his expert knowledge of Chinese politics with a number of global media corporations, including CNN and BBC. He is the founder and manager of <chinapol>, an Internet-based discussion forum for professional China analysts.

**Matthías Johannessen** has a cand.mag. degree in Nordic literature from the University of Iceland, post-graduate studies at the University of Copenhagen. He was Editor-in-Chief of Iceland's leading newspaper "Morgunblaðið" 1959-2001. Chairman of numerous organizations, incl. National Association of Journalists, Cultural Council of Iceland, Icelandic Writer's Association, Council of Nordic Writers, etc. A prolific writer, Johannessen's poetry and short stories have been translated into many foreign languages.

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## 毛泽东 Mao Zedong (1893-1976)

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES & RELEVANT EVENTS.

- 1893** Mao Zedong was born on December 26 in the small village of Shaoshan in the province of Hunan (Southeast China).
- 1911** Mao, now seventeen, watched as the Revolution of 1911 erupted in China, leading to the fall of the last Chinese empire, the Qing.
- 1912** After the Qing formally abdicated, Mao served briefly in the Republican army and then quit to resume his studies. He re-enrolled in middle school in Changsha, where he studied world history, literature, and Chinese and European philosophy.
- 1918** Mao graduated from middle school and traveled to Beijing. There he became actively involved in the May Fourth Movement and began publishing articles in local journals promoting cultural reform. By 1920, Mao had once again settled in Changsha.
- 1921** Mao became one of the first members of the new Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
- 1923** Under encouragement from the Comintern and the CCP, Mao became a member of the Guomindang (GMD), or Nationalist Party. Mao became an influential member of both the GMD and CCP and worked to solidify the alliance between the two parties.
- 1926** Mao became involved in peasant mobilization in his work as a propagandist for the United Front and as an instructor for the United Front's Peasant Training Institute.
- 1927** Right-wing elements of the GMD led by Chiang Kai-shek carried out a crackdown on Communists, organized labor, and peasant associations, leading to the imprisonment or execution of hundreds of left-wing leaders. Mao fled with his forces to Jiangxi province where he established a stronghold in the mountains.
- 1928** Hedged in by enemy forces in the mountains, Mao was largely cut off from CCP and Comintern contact for nearly a year. In the mountains, Mao experimented with collective agriculture and built a peasant army trained in guerrilla tactics.
- 1929** Mao descended from the mountains and joined other CCP leaders to establish a major Communist base in Jiangxi province, known as the Jiangxi Soviet.
- 1931** The GMD initiated a major campaign to completely stamp out Communist influence in China. In the same year, the Japanese military planted a bomb on a railway in Manchuria in order to justify a full-scale invasion of Manchuria, which was quickly transformed into a Japanese colony.
- 1934** The "Long March" is undertaken. An army of 80,000 CCP loyalists marched over 6000 miles from the Jiangxi Soviet to Yan'an in Shaanxi province, sustaining heavy losses from disease, famine, and enemy attack.
- 1937** Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China, which marked the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945).
- 1943** Mao received the title of "Chairman" of the Communist Central Committee — a title that heretofore had not existed — and Chairman of the Politburo, making him the unchallenged leader of the CCP.
- 1945** The final surrender of Japan after the American bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the Sino-Japanese War to a close. The conflict between the CCP and the GMD reemerged.
- 1949** With the GMD on the eve of its defeat, Mao announced the formation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on October 1.
- 1950** The Korean War begins (1950-53). Mao ordered PRC troops to reinforce the North Koreans, and together they forced UN troops to retreat behind the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.
- 1956** Mao delivered his famous "hundred flowers" speech. Those who had followed Mao's encouragement to "let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend" were imprisoned or sent to labor camps.
- 1958** Mao launched "The Great Leap Forward," a new economic program that was to increase output at all levels. It failed and led to widespread famine and a drastic drop in production. Mao ceded party leadership to other prominent members of the CCP, most notably Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping.
- 1966** Mao launched the Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). The movement resulted in political disorder, terror, and violence, as the country was thrown into chaos.
- 1972** Mao invited President Richard Nixon of the United States to visit China.
- 1973** Mao allowed Deng Xiaoping, one of the reformers removed from party leadership during the first years of the Cultural Revolution, to reenter politics, incurring the criticism of the revolutionary purists within the party.
- 1976** On September 9, Mao Zedong died at the age of 81.