

# The Role of Intellectuals and the Working Class in the Construction of the Northeast Base Areas during the Liberation War Period

-- Taking Dalian City as an Example

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**Abstract:** The Northeast region had an important strategic position during the War of Liberation, and the Brigade area was the earliest place where the Party carried out urban work in a comprehensive manner, and the region, especially Dalian City, played a special urban role in the War of Liberation in the Northeast. The working class of Dalian City strengthened industrial construction, actively supported the front line, mobilized the masses, and carried out foreign trade; intellectuals of various industries devoted themselves to science, education, culture and health, and made great contributions, which had certain innovative significance for the comprehensive revitalization of the Northeast, the revitalization of science and education and the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

**Keywords:** Liberation War; Northeast Base; Dalian; Intellectuals; Working Class.

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## 1. Establishment of Consolidated Northeast Base Areas

With rich resources, convenient transportation and developed industry, the Northeast has an important strategic position. During the War of Liberation, the Northeast issue involved the relations and interests of the four sides of China, the United States and the Soviet Union, and had been the focus of contradictions and struggles at home and abroad. At the beginning of the Liberation War, the situation was complicated and ever-changing, and leader highlighted the strategic position of the Northeast for the overall situation of the National Liberation War in his report to the Seventh National Congress in July 1945, arguing that the Northeast was particularly important for the Party, and that the Northeast was particularly important for the Party, if we had lost the existing base areas. The construction of the base areas in the Northeast will play a very important role in the building of the national war of liberation.

The Brigade area in the Northeast was the first place where the party carried out comprehensive urban work, and the area, especially Dalian, played a special urban role in the Northeast Liberation War. The liberation of Brigade area was declared on August 22, 1945, and the Red Army of the USSR, in accordance with the provisions of the Sino-Soviet Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance Treaty, stationed there for a long period of time, and implemented military control, so the Kuomintang reactionary ruling forces couldn't enter, which made the area "a Soviet-controlled area" and "a vacuum zone". In October 1945, the Northeast Bureau appointed Han Guang as the secretary of the Dalian Municipal Committee, who went to Dalian to "seize the situation and set up a framework". In October 1945, the Northeast Bureau appointed him as the secretary of the Dalian Municipal Committee and went to Dalian to "seize the situation and set up a framework", and quickly formed the Dalian Municipal

Working Committee as the leading organ. During the period of the War of Liberation, the intellectuals and the working class in Dalian played an important role in science and technology, education, literature and art, health undertakings and social construction, and made indelible contributions to the war of liberation of the northeastern region and even the whole country.

## 2. Definition of the Components of Intellectuals and Their Working-class Attributes

A comprehensive and in-depth examination of the components of intellectuals and their working-class attributes is of profound practical significance to the work of intellectuals in the new era, and it is also of great significance to clarify the composition of intellectuals and their working-class attributes during the liberation war.

At the Seventh Congress of the Party held in April 1945, leader made a report on "On Coalition Government", in which he elaborated on the issues of culture, education and intellectuals. leader pointed out, "In order to eliminate national and feudal oppression and to build a new democratic state, we need a large number of people's educators and teachers, people's scientists, engineers, teachers, doctors, journalists, writers, literati, artists, and general cultural workers. All intellectuals who have made achievements in their work in the service of the people should be respected and regarded as valuable assets of the state and society." [1] From this we can conclude that the attributes of intellectuals are working class attributes.

### **3. The Role of the Working Class in the Dalian Area in the Construction of the Northeast Base Areas during the War of Liberation**

The Northeast was the main industrial base of old China, in which heavy industry accounted for more than 85% of the country and industrial workers accounted for about 1/3 of the country, thus becoming the center of gravity of the work. During the War of Liberation, the working class in the Northeast organized trade unions, led workers in the unification struggle, carried out labor competitions, supported the land reform, worked hard on production, worked hard on the development of military production, non-ferrous metals, paper, textiles, wood processing and other industrial production, independently carried out foreign trade, solved the urgent needs in the construction of the base areas, actively supported the front line, mobilized to join the army, and made an indelible contribution to the War of Liberation as well as to the economic and political recovery and development. It has made indelible contributions to the war of liberation and the economic and political recovery and development.

#### **3.1. Implementing the Central Committee's Documents and Meetings on the Working Class**

In April 1946, the "Instruction of the Northeast Bureau on the Guidelines for the Present Struggle" pointed out: "In addition, in the struggle, we should boldly absorb the young intellectuals, workers and peasants to participate in the work, organize large task forces to mobilize the masses, and pay attention to nurturing them in their work and in their politics." [2] In October 1947, the People's Liberation Army issued a manifesto stating, "Unite the workers, peasants, soldiers, academics, and businessmen of all the oppressed classes, the various people's organizations, the democratic parties, the ethnic minorities, the overseas Chinese of all places, and other patriotic elements to form a national unity and a nationalist organization, which will be the basis for a nationalist and patriotic movement. and other patriotic elements, form a national united front, fight Chiang Kai-shek's dictatorship, and establish a democratic coalition government." This was the most basic political program, and in November 1947, the "Instructions of the Central Work Committee to the Northeast Bureau on the Regime and Urban Work" stated, "In urban work, it is hoped that the work of the labor unions will be strengthened and the training of workers' cadres will be intensified. The heads of the Northeast Bureau and other localities should often go to factories, workers' congresses and workers' deputies' meetings to make reports and speeches, so that our various policies and work can first gain the support and help of the workers." [3]

#### **3.2. The Role of the Working Class in Dalian during the War of Liberation**

After the surrender of Japan, the pseudo-Manchukuo colonial rule came to an end. As one of the few large industrial cities under the leadership, whether or not Dalian could revitalize its industrial production was not only important for supporting the front line, alleviating unemployment, and stabilizing people's livelihoods, but also directly related to whether or not the Party could really stand its ground in the city. Dalian's industry was devastated during the war and

production was suspended due to lack of raw materials and sales, lack of capital and technology, and facing the maritime blockade by the Kuomintang reactionaries, it was difficult to resume production, and the working class played an important role.

#### **3.3. Organize Trade Unions, Work Hard for Production, and Actively Carry out Labor Competitions to Support the National Struggle**

In September 1945, the Party set up the Northeast Bureau, in October 1945, it established the Shenyang Northeast General Confederation of Trade Unions to lead the workers' movement in the Northeast; in November 1945, it set up the Northeast Workers' General Association and the Liaoning Provincial General Confederation of Trade Unions; in August 1948, the Party convened the Sixth National Congress of Model Workers in Harbin, and restored and rebuilt the All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), the unified mass organization of the nation's working class. --In August 1948, the Party held the Sixth National Congress of Model Workers in Harbin and restored and re-established the unified mass organization of the working class, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, and at the same time set up the Northeast Federation of Trade Unions, the Northeast Workers' Movement entered into a new period, and the Dalian Workers' Movement became more and more prosperous. restoring production, expanding the influence, uniting the masses, and exposing Chiang Kai-shek's plot to start a civil war.

In 1947, the land reform was basically completed, and our army shifted successively from strategic defense to strategic counter-offensive in various battlefields of the country. in May 1947, the Northeast Bureau made the Resolution on the Present Form and Tasks of the Northeast, pointing out that: "The task of the Northeast at present is to 'actively organize our forces, prepare for the counter-offensive with all our strength, annihilate the enemy in large numbers, recover lost territories in large numbers, consolidate and enlarge the territory, and consolidate and enlarge the territory in large numbers. recover lost territory, and consolidate and expand the liberated areas', and put forward the call for 'everything for the front', asking the rear to 'continue to support the front with manpower and material resources', 'fully supply the front with food, shoes and quilts, and to endeavor to develop military production and supply the front with bullets, shells and bombs.'" [4] In accordance with the spirit of this resolution, the trade unions in the Dalian area organized a large number of workers to participate in the army and the war effort, and by all means overcame difficulties, resumed production, and carried out labor competitions and other campaigns in support of the front line. They also trained a large number of grass-roots cadres from among the workers by organizing training courses for workers and Party members, mobilized the masses, worked hard on production, and supported the national struggle.

#### **3.4. Independently Carry out Foreign Trade to Solve the Urgent Needs in the Construction of the Base Area**

At that time, the neighboring liberated areas such as North Manchuria, Shandong and Jinchaji were in urgent need of Dalian's industrial products, and the trade department of the

USSR was willing to place orders. Therefore, we cooperated with the sister regions and the trade department of the USSR, and adopted the method of raw material processing to solve the problems of raw materials and sales, and gradually resumed industrial production. At that time, the liberated areas had broken through the blockade line, transported a large amount of grain, coal and gold, as an investment in the establishment of military bases in Dalian or in exchange for other military supplies, which not only helped the local solve the problem of resuming the capital of industrial production, but also solved the problem of the people's lack of food and less burning coal emergency. From then on, Dalian's economy gradually got out of the dilemma and turned to the initiative, opening the way forward for restoring production and stabilizing people's livelihood.

The working class of Dalian has a glorious tradition of struggle, they had risen up against it many times when Dalian was an imperialist colony, and under the leadership of the Party during the War of Liberation, they continued to carry forward this spirit of struggle, which played a very significant role in the struggle for a new victory in the People's War of Liberation, the recovery and development of the economy, and the building of a peaceful and democratic new Dalian. Under the correct leadership of the Central Committee and the Northeast Bureau and with the strong support of the sister regions, Dalian's industrial recovery and development was rapid. Along with the recovery and development of industrial production, commerce and trade, finance and agriculture production in the suburbs also recovered and developed accordingly, the urban and rural economy became more and more prosperous, and the people's life gradually improved. By 1949, on the eve of the founding of the country, Dalian had already formed into an important industrial base of an early scale.

## **4. The Role of Intellectuals in Dalian in the Construction of the Northeast Base in the Liberation War Period**

Intellectuals are an important force for passing on culture and pushing society forward, and are part of the working class, whose class attributes are those of the working class, an important idea put forward and discussed by many leaders, and a correct expression about the class attributes of intellectuals in the socialist period, who play an irreplaceable role in the cause of science, education, culture, and health, as well as in the cause of construction.

### **4.1. Implementing the Central Government's Documents and Conferences on Intellectuals**

As early as 1933, leader's "Decision on Some Issues in the Agrarian Struggle" pointed out that "intellectuals, in the work they do and not in the exploitation of others, such as teaching, editing, journalism, clerical work, writers, artists, are a kind of laborers who use their brain power, and such laborers should be protected by the laws of the democratic government."

In May 1942 leader pointed out in his Speech at the Yan'an Literary and Artistic Symposium: "We are meeting today to make literature and art an integral part of the whole machine, to serve as a powerful weapon for uniting the people, educating the people, striking at the enemy, and destroying the enemy, and to help the people to fight the enemy with one

heart and one mind. Literature and art should create a wide variety of characters based on actual life and help the masses to push history forward." "Literature and art are for the people, first and foremost for the workers, peasants and soldiers, created for the workers, peasants and soldiers, and utilized by the workers, peasants and soldiers.[5]" The Speech at the Yan'an Literary and Artistic Symposium was of great significance to both literature and art in the liberated areas.

### **4.2. The Role of Intellectuals in Dalian During the Liberation War**

The Party's policy toward intellectuals and the policy of the united front were earnestly implemented in the early years of Dalian's liberation. The local Party Committee of Dalian boldly appointed a number of middle and upper class intellectuals and industrial and commercial people with progressive ideas, absorbed them into the government and enterprises, and contributed their knowledge and talents to the restoration of Dalian's economy. The practice of Dalian local party committee in cultivating talents during the liberation war provided practical experience and laid the foundation for the party organization's policy of "developing production, improving people's livelihood, developing culture and training cadres" in early 1949.

### **4.3. In the Field of Literature and Art, The Party Strengthened the Prosperity of Literature and Art and Promoted the Emancipation of the People**

Dalian's cultural program started under difficult conditions. After the victory in the war, a large number of Yan'an cultural figures came to Northeast China in the spirit of leader's "Speech at the Yan'an Literary and Artistic Symposium" to carry out unprecedented cultural construction and practice, which had a great influence on the development of the liberation of Northeast China, and triggered the thinking of the literary artists as well as the masses, and further contributed to the emancipation of the minds of the people.

In addition, through newspapers, publication and distribution of books, radio stations, radios and other means of propaganda, the Party has further reached out to the masses, strengthened the ties between the Party and the masses, and promoted the emancipation of the minds of the people.

Radio became a powerful propaganda tool during the liberation war, Dalian radio station was built in the era of fewer radio stations in the world, although Dalian radio station is a local radio station, but due to the city of Dalian is located in Liaoning moved to the southern tip of the three sides of the sea, covering a large area of the Northeast, East China, North China and other large areas of the Nationalist Region can be heard in Dalian radio broadcasting, and even broadcast as far away as Japan, North Korea, Southeast Asia, and North and South America. It even broadcasts to Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia and North and South America. Radio Dalian has been expanding its influence on foreign propaganda by broadcasting and forwarding Xinhua News Agency's telegrams. Since its establishment, Radio Dalian has become a powerful link and tool for the Party and the government to contact the masses. In addition, during the hostile rule in Dalian, radios were popularized in both urban and rural areas, and after the repatriation of Japanese nationals, tens of thousands of radios were transferred to the Chinese people, which played a great role in publicizing and educating

the people of the region. A leader in Dalian, once wrote an inscription: "Dalian Radio effectively raised the political consciousness of the audience in Brigada and helped the oppressed people to turn over to the other side.

#### **4.4. In Terms of Scientific and Technological Endeavors, Cultivating Talents in Communications Engineering and Other Technical Branches of the Military, and Promoting the Development of Science and Technology**

In the winter of 1945, the Kuomintang reactionaries, represented by Chiang Kai-shek, were playing negotiation plots while frantically preparing to launch a civil war against the people. In June 1946 Chiang Kai-shek formally launched an all-out civil war. The front line was in urgent need of communication engineering and technical talents as "a big fight outside Guanzhou and a small fight inside Guanzhou". In order to support the front war, in the winter of 1946, the Northeast Military Command decided to found the Guandong Electric Engineering Specialized School (referred to as Guandong Electricity College) in Dalian. Dalian Guandong Electric College is China's first formal school of higher learning to train communications engineering and technical personnel. Guandong Electric College graduates were assigned to the troops according to the needs of the use of theories and techniques learned in the war of liberation and the war of resistance to the United States and North Korea to play the learned, repair the original radio stations of the troops, to ensure that the liaison is open and smooth to ensure that the command of the troops in the difficult conditions have made remarkable achievements.

#### **4.5. In Terms of Medical and Health Care, Medical and Surgical Teams Were Organized and Sanatoriums Were Built to Support the Front Line**

The Dalian area made indelible contributions as a stable strategic rear base in the War of Liberation. From the end of 1945, Dalian became a transit point for the mobilization, transfer and convalescence of a large number of cadres between the two major liberation zones of Northeast and North China. As a hidden rear area, Dalian had housed and treated a large number of wounded and sick personnel evacuated from the front, and at the same time organized medical and surgical teams in batches to go to the front to help the wounded. In 1947, when our army in Northeast China launched the winter offensive, Dalian mobilized more than one hundred medical personnel in three days to form six surgical teams to rush to the front. During the Liao-Shen Battle of October 1948, Dalian sent During the Liao-Shen Campaign in October 1948, Dalian sent five medical teams with large quantities of equipment and medicines to the front line in western Liaoning to take part in the work of field hospitals until the liberation of Shenyang.

#### **4.6. In the Area of Education, Reforming and Popularizing National Education, and Training Cadres at the Grassroots Level**

As the Northeast had been blockaded by the enemy and the hypocrites for a long time, the people generally accepted the education of the Japanese and the hypocrites as well as the

education of the Kuomintang as fools, and the intellectual youth of the Northeast had blind orthodox concepts derived from the idea of slavery, unrealistic fantasies about the Kuomintang. Therefore, it was urgent to reform and popularize national education in the Northeast, and to train a large number of cadres. At this time, it was necessary to strengthen education, to reform and improve the ideological and political awareness of the people in the Northeast, so that the intellectual youth could confirm their class position of serving the people, and mobilize them to participate in the work, so as to better contribute to the liberation of the entire Northeast and to the victory of the War of Liberation of the whole country.

After the liberation of Dalian, there was a lack of teachers, so the Party and the government adopted the policy of combining the training of old teachers with the training of new ones, and in one year's time, from the end of 1945 to the end of 1946, more than three hundred middle and elementary school teachers were trained and groomed, who became an important force in the people's educational endeavor of the city of Dalian. Taking the Dalian Teachers' Workshop as an example, through the organization of teachers' training courses, the vast majority of teachers overcame their blind orthodoxy, liberated themselves from obscurantism, established a correct outlook on life, and strived for progress. The strong force of the teachers, who actively studied progressive books, researched the teaching profession, and worked with their students to raise their political and ideological consciousness, led to many of them honorably joining the Party or the Communist Youth League, and a large number of them joining the army and the cadres in support of the national war of liberation, thus preparing a number of cadres for construction of the Brigade area, and becoming the backbone of construction undertakings of the Brigade area or the rest of the country in various battle fronts.

During the War of Liberation, the economy, politics, science, education, literature and art in Dalian gradually recovered and developed in the course of accomplishing the task of supporting the front line, with the intellectuals and the working class playing an irreplaceable role. Workers organized trade unions, worked hard at production, actively carried out labor competitions to support the national struggle, and independently carried out foreign trade to solve the pressing problems in the construction of the base areas. The state fostered and supported intellectuals of all trades and industries to devote themselves to literature and art, to study communication engineering, to organize medical and health teams, to set up sanatoriums, to popularize and reform national education, and to train cadres at the grass-roots level, which promoted the development of science, technology, culture and health in the construction of the base areas, closely linked the Party with the masses, better mobilized the masses, and promoted the emancipation of the minds of the masses, which was conducive to the full liberation of the Northeast and the great victory of the national liberation war. It was conducive to the overall liberation of the Northeast and the great victory of the War of Liberation.

## **5. Conclusion**

During the period of the Liberation War, the northeast base area was built into a solid strategic base in the rear of the country, and the intellectuals and the working class played an irreplaceable and important role under the leadership of the party. A comprehensive and systematic study of intellectuals

and the working class during this period will provide a historical perspective and inspiration for education, culture and social construction in the new era.

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