

EIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP

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First, the Communist Party of China is a party of the working class and consists of advanced members of the working class. The Chinese revolution was led by the working class. In future the revolution will need to be led by the working class even more. The ranks of the working class will expand and the workers will become the majority of the population. Moreover, peasants will become workers when agriculture is mechanized, so, in the end, all the people will become workers. (Our Party has always relied on the proletariat and semi-proletariat.) All Party members should recognize this.

Second, the ultimate goal of the Chinese Communist Party is the realization of communism in China. At present, the Party is working to consolidate new democracy and then to go over to socialism and, finally, communism. (Here I shall not dwell on specific features of new democracy, socialism and communism. Generally, the new-democratic revolution will not destroy private ownership of property, whereas socialism will abolish private ownership, first in industry and then in agriculture. When we set up collective farms, we shall be able to depend only upon workers, poor peasants and farm labourers, instead of the peasants in general.) All Party members should be resolutely determined to strive for these goals of the Party.

Third, a Communist Party member must dedicate the whole of his life to the revolutionary struggle. If he stops halfway, he ceases to be a Party member. The revolutionary struggle consists of struggles

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on political, economic and ideological fronts as well as armed struggle against imperialist armed intervention (although I don't mean one should be a soldier for life.)

Fourth, a Communist Party member must carry on revolutionary struggle under the unified leadership of the Party. He must carry out the Party's policies and resolutions, take an active part in revolutionary campaigns led by the Party, strictly observe Party discipline and fight against everything inside and outside the Party that harms the interests of the Party. Otherwise, he cannot be a Party member.

Fifth, a Party member must put the common interests of the people — the interests of the Party — above his personal interests, which should be subordinate to the former. A person who concerns himself only with his own interests and is unwilling to make sacrifices for the people cannot be a Communist. (Mutual-aid teams, mutual-aid societies, and cooperatives in the countryside are all socialist mode of economy and are semi-socialist in nature. Those who work hard for the co-operatives at the expense of their own interests are working for socialism. Production competition in publicly owned factories is still more socialist in nature.)

Sixth, a Party member must be brave and resolute in revolutionary struggle; he should not flinch from adversity and hardship, surrender to the enemy or betray the Communist Party and communism. If he does any of these, he cannot be a Communist.²⁸

Seventh, a Party member must serve the people so as to cement relations between the Party and the masses. He should try to understand the wishes and opinions of the people and make these known to the Party without delay. He should also publicize and explain the Party's policies to the people. Except for a small number of Party members who have gained special approval, all Party members must, in addition to their regular occupations, take on a job to serve society assigned by Party organizations or Party branches. Anyone who cannot do so cannot be a Communist.

Eighth, to meet all the requirements stated above, a Party member must study hard to understand more Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and work to raise his level of political consciousness. Anyone who does not study diligently cannot be a good Communist.