

1949

Speeches/Documents

**Title:** Comment on Democratic Personages

**Author:** Mao Zedong

**Date:** Winter 1949

**Source:** Michael Y. M. Kau, John K. Leung "The Writings of Mao Zedong, 1949-1976" NY 1986, pg 53. Source: Shengping ziliao, pp. 288-289.

**Description:** This is an excerpt, reprinted in Shengping ziliao, from Hua Ming, San fan wu fan de poushi ( An Analytical View of the Three-Anti's and Five-Anti's), Union Research Institute, Hong Kong, November 1952. Shengping ziliao introduces this comment with the following: "In the winter [of 1949] certain middle-echelon cadres in Beijing felt greatly resentful at the high wages and benefits given to democratic personages in contrast to what they themselves earned. Playing on the theme that Li dishen [a former Kuomintang general] was paid an amount equaling 5,000 catties of millet a month, they chanted the slogan: 'Better to join the revolution late than to have joined it early; better still not to have joined it at all.'" Mao's comment here is ostensibly his response to the situation.

Let me add two more phrases for you, namely: "Better to be a counterrevolutionary than to merely keep out of the revolution."... Don't think you deserve preferential treatment because of your achievements in war. You must know that one democratic personage is possibly worth an army. By winning one Li Jishen 2 over to our side, we probably saved the lives of twenty or thirty thousand comrades and won the military victory one or two years ahead of time.... Now we will simply do it this way; this is also the only way we can do it, whether you approve of it or not.