

## Government Decision on Classifying Rural Class Backgrounds

(Passed at the 44th Executive Meeting of the GAC on August 4, 1950, and Published on August 20, 1950)

1. In order to correctly implement the Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China promulgated by the Central People's Government on June 30, 1950, this decision is hereby announced.
2. The GAC of the Central People's Government believes that two documents published by the Democratic Central Government of Ruijin in 1933, namely, "On How to Analyze Rural Classes" and "Decision on Some Issues in Land Reform," are basically applicable in the current land reform, except for a small part that is no longer applicable. These two documents were reissued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on May 25, 1948, and applied in the land reform work, proving their applicability. Therefore, after making slight revisions and additions, the GAC of the Central People's Government is reissuing these two documents as official guidelines for correctly addressing land issues in the future. In these two documents, any decisions supplemented by this Council are marked with the phrase "Supplementary Decision of the GAC." In addition to these two documents, several new decisions of the GAC are added.
3. For the documents announced by this decision, if there is any discrepancy in the interpretation of the text, the following explanations shall apply:
4. People's governments of various provinces may promulgate supplementary documents on class division based on the actual conditions of each locality and the principles specified in the documents announced by this decision. However, these documents should be submitted to this institute for record.

### A. How to analyze rural classes:

1. Those who own land, do not engage in labor themselves, or only engage in incidental labor, and rely on exploiting others for a living are called landlords. The primary method of exploitation by landlords is through extracting land rent from peasants. In addition, they may also engage in usury, forced labor, or operate industries, but the main way of exploiting peasants is through land rent. Collecting rent and tuition fees is also a form of land rent exploitation.
2. Some landlords may go bankrupt, but even after bankruptcy, if they still do not engage in labor and their living conditions exceed those of ordinary middle peasants, they are still considered landlords.
3. Warlords, bureaucrats, local tyrants, and evil gentry are the political representatives of the landlord class. Some especially ruthless individuals among landlords (there are also small local tyrants and evil gentry among rich peasants) assist landlords in rent collection and act as estate managers. Those who rely on landlords for their main source of livelihood, surpassing the living conditions of ordinary middle peasants, should be treated the same as landlords.

### The decision of the GAC:

- (1) Those who lease a large amount of land from landlords, do not engage in labor, rent it out to others, and collect land rent, and whose living conditions exceed those of ordinary middle peasants, are called secondary landlords. Secondary landlords should be treated the same as landlords. If they personally cultivate and labor on a portion of the land, they should be treated the same as rich peasants.