

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Chung-kung wen-hua ta-ke-ming tzu-liao hui-pien (Collection of Documents on the Chinese Communist Cultural Revolution)*. By TING WANG. [Hong Kong: Ming-pao yüeh-k'an she, 1967. 717 pp. Plates. H.K.\$10.00.]

THE Cultural Revolution initiated in late 1965 has probably attracted more world attention than any other event in modern Chinese history. Countless books, articles and news items have been produced on the subject, which is also the basis for many research projects currently under way. Events are still unfolding and their full significance remains to be seen. There is, therefore, further need for a thorough study of primary source materials in order to achieve a better understanding of this epoch-making event in China.

The book under review is a significant contribution to this further understanding. The author is eminently fitted for his task not only by virtue of documentary research but also through first-hand personal experience. Born into a Chinese immigrant family in South-East Asia, Mr. Ting was educated in the Mainland. Following his graduation from Wuhan University in 1961, he worked in the Propaganda Department of the Hupeh Provincial Committee until 1965 when he left for Hong Kong. Since then he has published three books and numerous articles on contemporary China and in 1968 founded the Contemporary China Research Institute, of which he is the director. This book, the first of an intended three-volume work on the Cultural Revolution, centres on documents published during the period from early 1966 to the spring of 1967 relating to the power struggle in higher Party echelons. It consists of four parts: (1) directives issued by the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee; (2) significant press editorials; (3) texts of public talks given by important figures in the Cultural Revolution, such as Lin Piao, Chou En-lai, and Chiang Ch'ing; (4) articles in regular newspapers and Red Guards' publications criticizing the members of the so-called "power clique" such as Liu Shao-ch'i, Teng Hsiao-p'ing, T'ao Chu, P'eng Chen, Lo Jui-ch'ing, Chu Teh and others. Editorial notes which appeared in the original documents have been retained, while Mr. Ting has given his own commentaries and explanations whenever he has considered it important for further elucidation. The entire book is in Chinese.

Although many other documents pertaining to the Cultural Revolution have been made available since the publication of this collection, it remains a most useful reference source containing a great deal of essential information. It should be on the bookshelves of any serious student of contemporary China.

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