

Mass campaigns: 3 and 5 Antis

These mass campaigns involved millions of people across China following directions from the CCP leadership to attack a particular problem or “enemy”.

1951/52 The “Three-Antis” and “Five-Antis” Campaigns

The “three-anti” (san fan) campaign was largely aimed at removing corrupt cadres (officials) and targeted corruption, waste, and “bureaucratism” among officials. The CCP leadership was concerned about this given the large number of GMD officials who had kept their posts following the establishment of the PRC. About 10% of officials were sacked and others were heavily fined but their treatment was mild compared to the Campaign Against Counter-revolutionaries (see page 41) in which perhaps 750,000 people were executed.

The “five-antis” campaign, which targeted bribery, tax evasion, fraud, theft of government property and of economic secrets, was used to reduce the independence of the “national” bourgeoisie. They were now subjected to tighter government supervision. 75% of all businesses were fined as a result of the “five antis” campaign.

The First Five Year Plan, 1953-57

Background: the Sino-Soviet Treaty, February 1950

In Mao’s article of September 1949, “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship”, Mao said that the PRC would treat all countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect but that the PRC would “lean to one side”, in other words, favour the USSR. When the USA in November 1949 banned trade with the PRC, Mao looked to the USSR for aid.

In December 1949 Mao visited the USSR for the first time and was shocked by the hard bargain driven by Stalin. The resulting friendship treaty provided China with \$300 million in loans (charged at low interest) and Russian technicians and economic advisers. In return, the USSR was given economic concessions in Xinjiang and Manchuria and was allowed to keep using Lushun and Dairen as naval bases.

As a result of the friendship treaty, the PRC’s economic policy, from 1953, followed the pattern of Soviet economic planning. In 1952 Zhou Enlai and Chen Yun visited Moscow and agreed industrial growth rates with Stalin.

What were the effects of the First Five Year Plan on industry ?

- ◆ under the first FYP, private ownership of factories, allowed during National Capitalism (1949-52), was banned and all factories were placed under state ownership; however, in many cases the former factory owners were kept on as managers and were paid an annual dividend (a share of the company’s profits).