

Summary

Subject matter: Mao Zedong – the causes and effects of the “Cultural revolution”.

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Topicality of the research is connected with a whole number of circumstances. Firstly, it is hard to deny the increasingly growing in the Russian and world community interest in the study of the history of the Orient – the center of the origin of humankind. In the context it is important to note, that the comprehension of the history of the Orient cannot be full-fledged without the study of China – the state with the history of many thousand years that had played an important role in the development of human civilization. In this respect, of great interest is the study of the activity of Mao Zedong – one of the most controversial and significant figures in the XXth-century political history. Mao Zedong corresponds to the term “a self-made-man”, that appeared at the end of the XIX century in the USA. This term was used to characterize the people whose high flight up the career ladder in politics or business activity was not connected with big essential opportunities in the form of distinguished origin, financial resources or support of the influential relatives. His rise to power took place against the background of the radical breaking of the state structures in china in the period of the revolutionary turmoil. At the same time Mao Zedong possessed strong will, political ambitions, lust for power and the ability to exert influence on the millions of ordinary Chinese people, which is most convincingly traced in the study of the phenomenon of the “cultural revolution” inspired by the leader of the People’s Republic of China.

Objective of the research is a comprehensive analysis of the causes of the beginning of the “cultural revolution”, inspired by Mao Zedong, of the principles and methods of the government of the People’s Republic of China applied by

China's leader in that period; of the role of the "cultural revolution" in the strengthening of Mao Zedong's authority inside and outside the country, and also of the character of the changes that have taken place in the People's Republic of China as a result of its realization.

Tasks of the research is to study the peculiarities of the political situation in the People's Republic of China on the eve of the "cultural revolution" and the character of Mao Zedong's interrelationships with the members of the opposition in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research is based on the need for a comprehensive analysis of the political activity of Mao Zedong – one of the most outstanding politicians of the XX century, for the thorough analysis of the specific features of the realization of the "cultural revolution" in China in 1966-1976 as one of the most large-scale transformations of the political and socio-economic system in the world history.

Recommendations: In the course of the "cultural revolution" in China that lasted only a decade – 1966-1976 – Mao Zedong succeeded in eliminating the members of the opposition in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and establishing the regime of his personal power. The most positive result of the "cultural revolution" was cessation of the political internecine strife and the consolidation of the Chinese society. The hardest effect of the global political experiment, which the "cultural revolution" essentially was, like the preceding "Great Leap", was the death of millions of Chinese citizens which resulted in the fall of prestige of China in the international arena. Therefore, in the general assessment of Mao Zedong's activity and the results of the "cultural revolution" one, on the whole, should adhere to the critical point of view.