

## BOOK REVIEW

### Leon Trotsky On China

BY LEON TROTSKY

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This is a reference book for scholars of Trotsky, China and/or the Soviet Union. It contains (in chronological order) Trotsky's writings on China's revolution. The first thirteen items deal with Trotsky's view on the Chinese revolution of 1925-27 and were formerly known only through a 1932 collection by Max Shachtmann called *Problems of the Chinese Revolution*. The other 53 articles contain Trotsky's thinking on China after June 1931 and discuss such issues as rural guerrilla warfare and peasant armies in China, and a warning about possible dangers for China's socialist revolution. The editors note: "These articles and letters provide important elements for the theoretical understanding of the Maoist regime that took shape in China after 1949."

Some of Trotsky's writings appear here for the first time in English. Two additional and valuable documents appear as introduction and appendix. The 66-page introduction is by Peng Shu-tse, one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party (from which he was expelled in November 1929), and subsequent co-founder of the Chinese Trotskyist movement. The appendix is Ch'en Tu-hsiu's "Appeal to All the Comrades of the CCP" in 1929 protesting his expulsion from the Party he founded and giving his account of the years of the revolution. This letter has been out-of-print since 1931.

Each article is followed by a source note, which amounts to a bibliography.