

◆ 读者投稿 ◆

警报为什么响起

文/王卫斌(中国江西)

这天，一场中日对垒的足球联赛在大陆某城举行。为了防止球迷捣乱、闹事，当地警方在体育场周围三步一岗、五步一哨，戒备森严。各种精密的检测仪器一齐开动，训练有素的安全警卫手持检查棒，一丝不苟地检查着每位入场的观众。

当一位老人在一个青年的陪同下，拄着拐杖缓步走来时，金属检测仪突然发出了刺耳的警报声。安全警卫见那老人神情严峻，面露杀机，怀疑他身上藏有某种凶器，立即如临大敌一般迅速把他团团围住。然而经过反复搜查，老人身上并没有携带任何危险物品，安全警卫不由得愣住了，以为仪器出了故障，慌忙打电话向上级领导反映情况。一个警官带着专家乘车匆匆赶来，对仪器进行了一番严格的测试，证明各项性能运转正常，专家也不禁头上冒了汗，犯起了糊涂。

就这样，折腾来折腾去，眼看着比赛就要开始，老人忍不住生气了，厉声喝道：“你们到底要搞啥子名堂哟？俺王胡今年八十四，活在世上的年头已经不多，你们若是耽误了俺爷孙俩看比赛，俺跟你们没完！”

警官见状，犹豫再三，只得放行，但警告他爷孙俩必须文明看赛，切勿闹事，否则

严惩不怠！王胡愤愤地嚷道：“放心吧，论俺以往的脾气，俺还真想宰他几个日本人下来，以解俺心头大恨！可这回人家是来比赛做客的，将事论事，这个规矩俺王胡还是要守的！”说着，他在孙子的搀扶下，一瘸一拐地走进了体育场。

王胡爷孙俩找到座位，刚刚坐定，入场仪式就开始了，一场扣人心弦的比赛骤然拉开战幕。只见赛场上你抢我攻，战况异常激烈，开赛十五分钟左右，日本队首先以一个默契的配合把球攻入了中国队的球门，观众席上一时嘘声四起。比分落后的中国队急起直追，紧跟着也攻入了一球，观众席上继而欢声雷动。但到了下半场，中国队的队员们体力渐渐不支，跑步速度明显减慢，动作开始走样，老是踢不准球。而日本队却越战越勇，频频发起进攻，中国队只有招架之力，却没有了还手之能。

这时，全场球迷齐声高唱国歌，纷纷为中国队呐喊助威。王胡再也沉不住气了，他噱地站起来，指着中国运动员破口大骂道：“踢足球这名堂，无非就是赶母鸡进窝那两下子功夫，怎么瞎忙了半天，就是赶不进去呢？”他怒之下，奋力挥动着拐杖，

就要向赛场上的日本运动员砸去，几个便衣警察眼明手快，强行把他按倒在座位上。王胡余怒未消，大口大口地喘着粗气，犹自骂个不停。

接下来，日本队更是神威大发，连连把球踢进中国队的球门，最终夺取了这次决赛的冠军。中国球迷顿时捶胸拍肚，痛哭失声，场内秩序大乱。王胡仰天长叹一声，突然一头栽倒在地。他的孙子见状，赶紧在几个便衣警察的帮助下，七手八脚把他抬出了体育场，用警车紧急送往医院抢救。但老人终因情绪过于激动，导致心脏衰竭而不治身亡。他的尸体火化后，骨灰里竟意外地出现了几颗黄灿灿的子弹头！

原来，王胡早年曾是一名军人，在一次抗击日本侵略军的激战中，他不幸中弹受伤。由于弹头深深地嵌入了骨头里，当时因受医疗条件限制，无法取出，便一直留在了他的体内。抗战胜利结束后，王胡带着一身伤残悄然退伍回乡，娶妻生子过起了普通的农耕生活。

繁忙的劳作之余，他一直坚持练武强身，关注体育事业，并且经常教育自己的下一代：“你们只有把身体练好了，将来才有

能力保家卫国！”然而随着年龄的增长，再加上当年战争给他造成的伤害，王胡的身体健康每况愈下，大腿肌肉萎缩，行动变得越来越困难了。为了在有生之年亲临比赛现场，观看这场中日足球联赛，他硬是卖掉了家里的一头老母猪，不远千里风尘仆仆地一路赶来，不料比赛结果竟成了他永远的遗憾……

警方至此终于恍然大悟：金属检测仪之所以发出警报声，罪魁祸首正是当年日本侵略军射入王胡体内的子弹！

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◆ 好书推荐 ◆

How Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong Ruled China

蒋介石和毛泽东如何统治中国

By Yu-Long Ling

Professor Yu-Long Ling, a Franklin resident, an expert in foreign policy

George Friedrich Hegel, one of the great philosophers of the 18th century, divided individuals into two categories: (i) ordinary and (ii) heroic. To him, ordinary individuals were pieces of meat lying on the slaughtering table of history while heroes were leaders, inventors, and philosophers who shaped the course of history. Prof. Tai's book, How Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong Ruled China, covers these two "heroes." Chiang Kai-shek ranks as one of the most despised leaders of the 20th century. Mao Zedong was another historical figure of the 20th century and one of the founders of the communist party in China. He led the communist revolution and established the People's Republic of China.

Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong were indeed the two great leaders of 20th century China, and had impacted not only on China but also on the world. Because of their personalities, leadership styles, and visions, thousands of books and articles have been published that analyze and condemn them, but none have been written comparing these two leaders. Professor Tai is the first scholar to analyze them by using a comparative approach.

Tai's book is divided in four major sections: (i) the first discusses each man's personal background and his respective steps within the political arena; (ii) the second discusses each man's leadership skills; (iii) the third discusses each man's ruling philosophy and skills; and (iv) the last discusses how each man attempted to make China rich and powerful. The book has a total of 430 pages and is rich in sources, very detailed and objectively written.

Even though there are four main parts, because the title of the book focuses on how Chiang and Mao ruled China, I decided to focus on parts two and three. How one "rules" is a factor of one's leadership. In my many years, I taught several courses dealing with leadership. As such, I am quite familiar with all of the literature regarding leadership. After much thinking, I think that Italian philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli's leadership theory, as explained in his book "The Prince," is a good source for analyzing these two influential leaders.

Machiavelli lived in a turbulent era in Italian politics, similar to Chiang and Mao in their troubled China. In order to survive, Machiavelli suggested that a ruler must master the practical statecraft which is underscored by leadership skills. Machiavelli believed that a successful leader should possess the mentalities of both a lion and a fox. The lion can intimidate and scare with its big roar, while the fox is cunning. Both Chiang and Mao demonstrated they were willing to use force (military) and intelligence (propaganda) to achieve their goals.

Another Machiavellian theory is that the "ends justify the

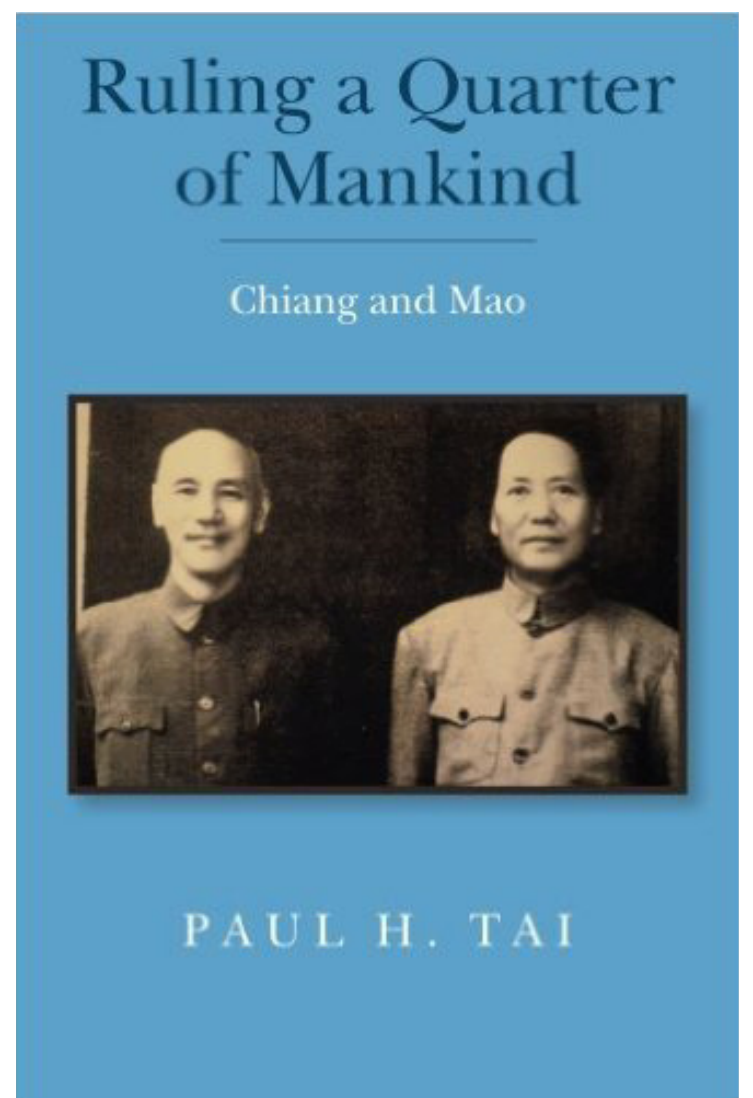
means." In Professor Tai's book, he describes how these two leaders repeatedly followed this in both their private and public lives. Each man determined what the end should be and did whatever necessary to accomplish it. As a result, both men committed personal scandals (including serious criminal acts) and believed that public morality and private morality should be separated. In other words, based on their actions, they showed the world they believed that they deserved more latitude in their private actions than anyone else. In this regard, this applied to Mao more than Chiang.

Machiavelli understood the positive aspects of the republic form of government, but he also understood politics deal with reality. In his time, Italy was disunited and torn with strife by a powerful leader who could crush all oppositions attempting to unite the country. Chiang and Mao lived in very similar but worse conditions in China. Based on their different revolutionary theories, in the case of Mao, he created a communist totalitarian government for China while Chiang created an authoritarian government for China. Both leaders enjoyed absolute power during the time they ruled China. They may have different titles, but the fact was that they were dictators.

In the last chapter, Prof. Tai analyzes Chiang's and Mao's leadership styles. Chiang's leadership characteristics were to strictly guard his positions, and if necessary, willing to compromise and self confidence in his decisions. Mao's leadership characteristics were thorough planning, flexibility and persuasiveness. Machiavelli's lion and fox theory again fits beautifully with these two leadership styles. When I read this book I cannot help but think about Machiavelli.

A great leader not only can solve present challenges, but also can influence his country in the future. Since this book has written two great leaders, thus, it is appropriate to raise the following question: Whose vision of China's future has taken hold? Is it Chiang's dream of a more democratic, progressive China or is it the new China based on revolutionary communist ideology? The answer is clear. The rise of China was under Deng Xiaoping's reform policies and not under Mao's rule. While the success of Taiwan has a lot to do with Chiang's visions and policies.

That is why a unique phenomenon has occurred in China. Chiang was long denounced as a bandit and lap dog of the American Imperialists in China. However, in China today, Chiang is widely regarded as a Chinese patriot who made valuable contributions to the modern nation. On the other hand, the praising of Mao's has softened while the voice of criticism is getting louder. Even through Professor Tai did not expressly state this in his book, you



can sense this outcome.

In conclusion, I would like to stress three unique and distinguishing features of this book. First, generally, autobiographies or biographies of famous people only focus on that particular individual, but Professor Tai focuses on two, Chiang and Mao by comparing them in various aspects. His book provides a different outlook of these two leaders. Second, the facts in the book are reliable because of the thorough and time consuming research. Third, the writing is extremely good not only because of Professor Tai's great writing skill, but also because of the use of his rich knowledge and wisdom and ability to analyze the two leaders. As such, readers will not only be able to see historical events, but also be able to learn much political theory. Lastly, Professor Tai's book is written in both Chinese and English. Because of this, it will have a broad reach of readers.

As previously stated, the style of writing, the arrangement, and the subjects including author's analysis and comments, is super. I highly recommend this book to the academic community as well as the general public.

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