Quotations from Mao Zedong (Tse Tung)

Background: Quotations by Mao Zedong is the second most printed book in history (behind the Bible). There have been an estimated 1 billion copies printed. Most of them were produced in small pocket-sized formats with red covers. Therefore, Americans called it "The Little Red Book". As the title suggests, this book is simply a collection of quotations from the leader, arranged by topic. The 1964 edition had 23 topics and 200 quotations. But the final 1965 version had 33 topics and 427 quotations. This document contains one relevant quotation from each of the 33 topics of the book.

01. The Communist Party - Leading our cause is the Chinese Communist Party. The theoretical basis guiding our thinking is Marxism-Leninism.
02. Classes and Class Struggle - A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so leisurely and gentle, so kind, courteous, restrained and noble. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.
03. Socialism and Communism - The socialist system will eventually replace the capitalist system; this is an objective law independent of man's will. However much the reactionaries try to hold back the wheel of history, eventually revolution will take place and will inevitably triumph.
04. The Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People - To criticize the people is necessary, but in doing so we must take the stand of the people and speak out of whole-hearted eagerness to protect and educate them. To treat comrades like enemies is to go over to the side of the enemy.
05. War and Peace - War is the highest form of struggle for resolving contradictions, when they have developed to a certain stage, between classes, nations, states, or political groups, and it has existed ever since the emergence of private property and of classes.
06. Imperialism and All Reactionaries are Paper Tigers - All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality, they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are powerful.
07. Dare to Struggle and Dare to Win - People of the world, unite to defeat U.S. aggressors & their running dogs! People of the world be courageous, and fight, defy difficulties and advance wave upon wave. Then the whole world will belong to the people. Monsters of all kinds shall be destroyed.
08. People's War - The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; only mobilizing the masses and relying on them can wage it.
09. The People's Army - Our principle is that the Party commands the gun (the army), and the gun must never be allowed to command the Party.
10. Leadership and Party Committees - "Fewer and better troops and simpler administration." Talks, speeches, articles and resolutions should all be concise and to the point. Meetings also should not go on too long.
11. The Mass Line - The masses have boundless creative power. They can organize themselves and concentrate on places and branches of work where they can give fully their energy; they can concentrate on production in breadth and depth and create more undertakings for their own well-being.
12. Political Work - Political work is the life-blood of all economic work. Especially when the social and economic system is experiencing change.
13. Relations between Officers and Men - Our army has always had two policies. First, we must be ruthless to our enemies; we must overpower and annihilate them. Second, we must be kind to our own, to the people, to our comrades and to our superiors and subordinates, and unite with them.
14. Relations between the Army and the People - An army must be one with the people so that they see it as their own. Such an army is invincible....
15. Democracy and the Tree Main Fields - ....Destroy the roots of pure-democracy. First, it should be pointed out that the danger of pure-democracy lies in the fact that it damages or even completely wrecks the Party organization...
16. Education and the Training of Troops - Our educational policy must enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture.
17. Serving the People - We should be modest and prudent, guard against arrogance and rashness, and serve the Chinese people heart and soul....
18. Patriotism and Internationalism - Can a Communist, who is an internationalist, at the same time be a patriot? He can and must be. The specific content of patriotism is determined by historical conditions. There is the patriotism of the Japanese aggressors and Hitler, and there is our patriotism.
19. Revolutionary Heroism - This army has an indomitable spirit and is determined to vanquish all enemies and never to yield. No matter what the difficulties and hardships, so long as a single man remains, he will fight on.
20. Building Our Country through Diligence and Frugality - Thrift should be the guiding principle in our government expenditure. It should be made clear to all government workers that corruption and waste are very great crimes.
21. Self-reliance and Arduous Struggle - We stand for self-reliance. We hope for foreign aid but cannot be dependent on it; we depend on our own efforts, on the creative power of the whole army and the entire people.
22. Methods of Thinking and Methods of Work - We should always use our brains and think everything over carefully... much thinking yields wisdom. In order to get rid of the blindness that exists to a serious extent in our Party, we must encourage our comrades to think, to learn the method of analysis and to cultivate the habit of analysis.
23. Investigation and Study - Investigation is like long months of pregnancy, and solving a problem to the day of birth. To investigate is to solve it.
24. Correcting Mistaken Ideas - Even if we achieve gigantic successes in our work, there is no reason whatsoever to feel conceited and arrogant. Modesty helps one to go forward, whereas conceit makes one lag behind.
25. Unity - The unification of our country, of our people and of various nationalities; these are the basic guarantees of the sure triumph of our cause.
26. Discipline - Three Main Rules of Discipline are these: Obey orders in all your actions, do not take from the masses, turn in everything captured.
27. Criticism and Self-Criticism - The Communist Party does not fear criticism because we are Marxists, the truth is on our side, and the basic masses, the workers and peasants, are on our side.
28. Communists - Communists must be ready at all times to stand up for the truth, because truth is in the interests of the people; Communists must be ready at all times to correct their mistakes, because mistakes are against the interests of the people.
29. Cadres (Leaders) - Cadres are a decisive factor. Therefore, it is our fighting task to train large numbers of new cadres in a planned way.
30. Youth - The world is yours, as well as ours, but in the last analysis, it is yours. You young people, full of vigor and vitality, are in the bloom of life, like the sun at eight or nine in the morning. Our hope is placed on you. The world belongs to you. China's future belongs to you.
31. Women - Every woman who can work should take her place on the labor front, with the principle of equal pay for equal work as quickly as possible.
32. Culture and Art - All our literature and art are for the masses of the people, and in the first place for the workers, peasants and soldiers; they are created for the workers, peasants and soldiers and are for their use.
33. Study - In transforming backward agricultural China into an advanced industrialized country, we are confronted with arduous tasks and our experience is far from adequate. So we must be good at learning.
1) After reading the background, theorize why the book might be the second most printed book of all time...

2) Consider topics 1, 24, and 28. What guides a communist’s thinking, and how should they approach truths and errors?

3) Consider topic 2. What does Mao believe about the nature of revolutions?

4) Consider topic 7. In your own words, what is Mao’s worldview and how does the United States factor in?

5) Consider topics 8, 11, 14, 17, and 25. What is Mao’s stance regarding the people of China?

6) Consider topic 18. Mao encourages followers to be both a communist and a patriot. Why might being both of these things be contradictory?

7) Take a moment to read the remaining quotations that you have not considered. Which quotation might be most offensive to Americans and why?

   Quote: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

   Your reasoning: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

8) Take a moment to read the remaining quotations that you have not considered. Which quotation might resonate the most with Americans and why?

   Quote: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

   Your reasoning: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

9) The 1958 English Cartoon below features Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev snickering while western leaders from England, France and the U.S. look puzzled at Mao Zedong. In 2-3 sentences, explain the meaning of this cartoon?

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