

### The Little Red Book:

- **“A revolution is not a dinner party.... A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another”**
  - *justifying violence/essentially whatever happened during the cultural revolution*

“Let the masses educate themselves in the movement”

- mob mentality, Mao wanted to emphasize that power rests with the people (and that they are in control)
  - *explains his inactiveness*

### Chang/Halliday: “Mao: *The Great Purge*”

- Main argument: Cultural revolution was Mao’s organized attempt at purging high officials (purposeful)
- “Now he was moving against his real enemies, Party officials; and for this he used a broader, mainly older force” (Chang 543)
  - replaces Red Guard with the PLA
  - “real enemies”
- **“Contrary to what is widely believed, the vast majority of the destruction was not spontaneous, but state-sponsored”**
- Why does Mao allow this to happen at this moment in 1957? - different interpretations (**historiography**)
  - Jung Chang: Campaign was a trap for “intellectuals and the educated, the people most likely to speak up.”
    - Short term consequence
    - *Chang’s family was brutalized by Mao, may not be objective*
  - Lee Feigon: Mao wanted peasants + intellectuals to be able to speak out against corrupt bureaucrats
    - helping the peasants - Mao was genuinely concerned over welfare of people
    - *Educated class was most punished*
  - Yves Chevrier: Mao used 100 Flowers to set the stage for later purges
    - long term consequence
  - Jonathan Spence: Result of debate over modernization created by confusion and incompetence
    - incompetence, Mao didn’t know what to do, put debate out to public to try to fix it
  - Authoritarian States: Mao launched 100 flowers in response to events in the USSR