

CHINA: WHO RULES?

A
Talk
By

**Nigel
Harris**

The Chinese revolution in 1949 had a profound impact on the world political order. In less than thirty years China has been transformed from a poverty-ridden, exploited colony of Western capitalism into a modern economic order. The illiteracy, starvation and corruption which were the hallmarks of the previous regime have largely been abolished.

On the other hand, it is important to note that China was the second country in the world to recognize the fascist Pinochet regime. Mao cultivated state to state relations with the reactionary regimes of Marcos in the Philippines and the Shah of Iran and sat with Nixon as the U.S. war machine rained bombs on Hanoi.

Which of this reflects the efforts of the Chinese people and which the efforts of a class of bureaucrats which puts narrow national interests above broader human imperatives?

In short, the subject of Nigel's talk will be who really rules China: the working class or a new ruling class?

Nigel will attempt to explain the apparent vacillation of the Chinese ruling order between progress and reaction.

Nigel is the author of *The Mandate of Heaven: Marx and Mao in Modern China*.

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*Kent Student Center
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INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION