

# Purge of Anti-Bolshevik League: Phase I

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Through Salisbury's "*New Long March*", in 1984, I first gained some insight into the Purge of Anti-Bolshevik League (i.e., AB League). However, the general impression at the time was that Mao Tse-tung merely removed Jiangxi communists with his Hunan communists. Gao Hua's "*How Did The [Red] Sun Rise Over Yan'an ? - A History Of The Rectification Movement*" did a splendid job of tracing all communist terror to the initiator, i.e., Mao Tse-tung. Gao Hua pointed out that Mao Tse-tung was the culprit for initiating the Purge of AB League; that Xiang Ying (i.e., secretary for CCP Central Bureau) had tried very hard in correcting Mao Tse-tung's wrongdoing; that CCP Central Committee toppled Xiang Ying's decision and collaborated with Mao Tse-tung in pushing the Purge of AB League into Phase II; and that CCP Central Committee had stopped cooperation with Mao Tse-tung as a result of the need for correcting the worsening situation due to the purge. (Mao Tse-tung, on Mt Lushan and in 1959, attacked Peng Dehuai by invoking the death of his senior son in Korea in Nov 1950, and exclaimed a famous comment: "Wasn't it true that whoever manufactured the first prototype of pottery figurine [i.e., launching the Korean Relief War] would be doomed in losing his lineage?" -- Mao was the real prototype creator of all terrors.)

Gao Hua took as the origin the so-called 'xi dang' (i.e., purging the party) initiated by Mao Tse-tung in Hunan-Jiangxi border area in Sept 1928. This initial purge movement was designed to filter out the traitors, people who had relatives working inside of KMT apparatus, and communists who were previously intellectuals of landlord family background. Communists had to re-register themselves per Mao Tse-tung's purge requirements, and most of the communists who were previously intellectuals of landlord family background were not issued new CCP membership card till supervisory leaders approved them.

By the Gutian Meeting of 1929, Mao Tse-tung had established his absolute authority over the Jiangxi Soviet territories. Mao Tse-tung's Red Army Fourth Corps at one time penetrated southward to Guangdong Province, returned to western Fujian Province in Nov 1929, and arrived in Gutian of Shanghang county in Dec 1929. Lai Chuanzhu memoirs pointed out that Red Army Fourth Corps possessed 4 echelons by that time and Mao intended to launch Gutian Meeting for rectifying the thoughts of soldiers and officers, especially those of 4th Echelon which was comprised of turncoat armies from KMT 8th Corps and 3rd Corps. A dozen days later, KMT launched 3-province combined siege of the Red Army. Mao ordered that 1st, 3rd and 4th echelons relocate to Jiangxi while he himself

commanded 2nd echelon in Longyan of Fujian Province to attract KMT forces and then made a sudden leap towards Jiangxi Province. Luo Ronghuan was commissar for 2nd echelon. While conducting 'movement warfare', Mao still instructed that his soldiers study the Gutian Meeting guidelines and CCP members take party principle classes. Gutian Meeting was said to have endorsed Red Army's discipline song 'Three Major Disciplines and Eight Attentions'.

After an elapse of losing control over the Red Army due to a dispute with Zhu De & Chen Yi, Mao resumed the leadership with the support of CCP Central Committee when Zhou Enlai, from CCP headquarter in Shanghai, drafted a so-called "September Letter" in Sept 1929. Mao Tse-tung took on the posts of general political commissar and the general frontline secretary for the Red Army First Flank Army [i.e., Central Red Army]. However, Mao Tse-tung soon came into conflicts with the local Red Army of Southwestern Jiangxi Province as well as the CCP provincial leaders of Jiangxi Province under Li Wenlin.

In Feb of 1929, in face of KMT 3rd Siege of Mt Jinggangshan, Mao Tse-tung, Zhu De & Chen Yi relocated the red army towards southern Jiangxi Province and converged with Li Wenlin's Red Army at Donggu [i.e., Eastern Mt Jinggangshan]. Mao Tse-tung's Red Army Fourth Corps entered and left Southwestern Jiangxi Province twice. while Peng Dehuai's Red Army Fifth Corps, after vacating Mt Jinggangshan, also launched guerrilla warfare in the same area. Beginning from late 1929, Li Wenlin's Red Army had disputes with Mao Tse-tung. Gao Hua pointed out that Li Wenlin supported CCP 6th Session guidelines in confiscating the land of hegemony landlords while Mao Tse-tung advocated the approach of confiscating all land. Other conflicts had to do with Mao Tse-tung's decision in i) combining CCP special commissar committees for western Jiangxi Province and the Jiangxi-Hunan border area and ii) attempting to re-assign Li Wenlin's Red Army 2nd & 4th Regiments into Peng Dehuai's control in preparation for creation of Red Army 6th Corps. In Jan 1930, Mao Tse-tung dispatched his cronies, Liu Shiqi [i.e., a Hunan Province native] and Zeng Shan [i.e., Zeng Qinghong's father], to Southwestern Jiangxi Province where they failed to rein in the local communists. During the period of Feb 6th to Feb 9th of 1930, Mao Tse-tung held a consolidated Feb 7th Meeting in Ji'an county of Jiangxi Province by convening leaders of Red Army 4th, 5th & 6th Corps as well as of regional CCP committees and Soviet government, and accused Southwestern Jiangxi Province leaders (i.e., Jiang Hanbo and Li Wenlin) of following Chen Duxiu-Trotsky path and resisting CCP guidelines and orders. At the meeting, Mao Tse-tung deprived Jiang Hanbo of CCP party membership and re-assigned Li Wenlin a post as CP/CY secretaries of Southwestern Jiangxi Province special commissar committee. On Feb 16th, Zeng Shan issued No. 1 Decree, calling for a struggle against Southwestern Jiangxi Prov's "landlord orientation". Gao Hua claimed that this decree would mark the start of two year long Purge of the AB League, with Phase I (Feb 1930 to Jan 1931) and Phase II (May 1931 to early 1932), respectively. Gao Hua pointed out that Mao Tse-tung, reversing the liberalism and

democracy among early communism activists, officially adopted the approach of destroying political enemies via bodily annihilation.

Utilizing a rumor that KMT had dispatched AB League into Soviet territories, Liu Shiqi issued the so-called "*Propaganda Guidelines for Countering Re-organized KMT Leftists & AB League Members*" on June 25th 1930. In the guidelines, Liu Shiqi called for arrest of wavering people, interrogation of strangers, adoption of passes, report on relatives or friends who acted suspiciously, and execution of landlords and reactionaries as admonition. By July-Aug, Purge of AB League moved to upper levels of CCP leadership. Among Southwestern Jiangxi Prov's special commissar committee, Li Wenlin followed through with Liu Shiqi's order in launching the purge movement. Li Wenlin intensified the purge movement by arresting and forcing Zhu Jiahao (i.e., a CY [communist youth league] official) into libelous claim that AB League members had existed in Southwestern Jiangxi Province government as well as Red Flag Society/Lenin Youth Society. On Sept 24th, Li Wenlin's Southwestern Jiangxi Province special commissar committee issued an Emergency Notice No. 20, calling for extortion of confessions via cruel tortures and merciless execution of AB League members dug up. By Oct, among Southwestern Jiangxi Prov's 30,000 communists, over 1000 communists of landlord family background were kicked out of the party and over 1000 AB League members were executed. Gao Hua stated that among Southwestern Jiangxi Prov's Soviet government, about one quarter were classified into AB League members and executed mostly.

On Oct 14th, Mao Tse-tung intervened in Southwestern Jiangxi Prov's AB League Purge Movement by claiming that with so many AB League members dug out in Southwestern Jiangxi Province, a crisis had formed in the area and a fundamental reform must be conducted on the Southwestern Jiangxi Province CY/CY organizations. Gao Hua stated that Mao Tse-tung, who initiated the purge movement, now took advantage of the scenario in exercising total control over Southwestern Jiangxi Province CY/CY organizations. Meanwhile, Mao Tse-tung launched AB League Purge Movement within his Red Army First Flank (i.e., Red Army 1st Corps-Conglomerate and Red Army 3rd Corps-Conglomerate). For sake of the purge, Mao Tse-tung sacked Ji'an and exited it right away in Oct 1930 and ordered that Peng Dehuai's army, which had sacked Changsha the Hunan provincial city, also retreated to the base. ([humanrights-china.org/meetingchina/Meeti2002114164646.htm](http://humanrights-china.org/meetingchina/Meeti2002114164646.htm)) stated that "it was in June, 1930, that the Third Army [corps] and the First Army corps re-established a junction and began the second attack on Changsha. The First and Third Army corps were combined into the First Front Army, with Chu Teh as commander-in-chief and myself [Mao Tse-tung] as political commissar. Under this leadership we arrived outside the walls of Changsha... But the second attack on Changsha proved to be a failure. Great reinforcements had been sent to the city and it was heavily garrisoned; besides, new troops were pouring into Hunan in September to attack the Red Army. Only one important battle occurred during the siege,

and in it the Red Army eliminated two brigades of enemy troops. It could not, however, take the city of Changsha, and after a few weeks withdrew to Kiangsi.")

From late Nov to mid-Dec, Mao Tse-tung sorted out 4,400 AB League members from among 40,000 strong Red Army First Flank and executed them all. For example, Heh Ducai, a section leader under 3rd Division of Red Army 3rd Corps-Conglomerate and a friend of Huang Kecheng, was executed for his disagreement with Mao Tse-tung. Xiao Ke, in his memoirs, mentioned that he had rescued about 20 AB League members from execution under Luo Ronghuan's order.

### Li Wenlin Asserting Control Over Southwestern Jiangxi Province

Li Wenlin attended Shanghai Meeting of Regional Soviet Government Representatives in May 1930. Prof Chen Yongfa pointed out that Li Wenlin, by siding with Li Lishan's CCP Central, challenged Mao Tse-tung by taking over control of Jiangxi Province CCP special commissar committee. While Li Wenlin followed through with Li Lishan's policy of attacking major cities, Mao Tse-tung advocated temporary abandonment of Li Wenlin's Donggu Base [i.e., Ji'an of Jiangxi Province]. Li Wenlin, in Aug 1930, dismissed the post of Mao's crony Liu Shiqi and requested directly with Shanghai's CCP Central Committee in depriving Liu Shiqi of party membership. In Oct, Li Wenlin followed Li Lishan's order in resisting Mao's call for suspension of attacking Nanchang (i.e., Jiangxi provincial capital). In Oct, Mao Tse-tung, using the discovery of a so-called note from Li Wenlin's landlord father in Ji'an county's KMT records, decided to arrest Li Wenlin entourage as AB League members and reform Southwestern Jiangxi Province CY/CY organizations in a fundamental way. In late Nov, Li Wenlin entourage was arrested in Ningdu. On Dec 3rd, Mao instructed Zeng Shan that Jiangxi Province CCP special commissar committee members, like Duan Liangbi and Li Baifang, were AB League members to be executed. Mao also instructed that Zeng Shan cooperated with Li Shaojiu in cracking down on the reactionaries, hinting that whichever district that refused to kill must have AB League members among the leadership.

On Dec 3rd 1930, Li Shaojiu, carrying Mao's letter, arrived at Futian. Two days later, Mao had his second letter delivered to Li Shaojiu. Further, Mao dispatched Secretary Gu Bo to Futian for assisting in the crackdown. On Dec 7th, at Gutian the Jiangxi Soviet office, Li Shaojiu showed Mao's personal letter to Zeng Shan and Chen Zhengren and ordered that eight communist leaders of Jiangxi Provincial Committee and Red Army 28th Corps be arrested immediately, including Duan Liangbi, Li Baifang, Jin Wanbang (military affairs chief of Jiangxi Soviet), Zhou Mian (finance chief of Jiangxi Soviet), Xie Hanchang (politics department chief of 20th Corps), Liu Wanqing, Ren Xinda and Ma Ming etc. Li Shaojiu personally supervised the extortion of confessions via cruel tortures and further tortured the wives of Li Baifang, Ma Ming and Zhou Mian by burning vagina and cutting nipples.

On Dec 9th, prior to moving to the headquarters of 20th Corps, Li Shaojiu personally signed the execution of 25 AB League members. From Dec 7th to Dec 12th, Zeng Shan (Jiangxi Soviet Government chair) and Gu Bo (secretary for frontline committee of Red Army First Flank) tortured Duan Liangbi into confessing the existence of about 120 AB League members. Altogether, over 40 AB League members were executed at Futian.