THE MAOIST MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT

As a late developer China was in-need of economical and social change. The huge country with its % 90 percentage of peasants, it was colonial and semi-feudal country through history. For the Perpetual Peace; Mao’s aim was to make a `Peasant Globalization` with its party that called as CPPCC. Mao as a big potato he knew what the Chinese peasants wanted. He won the hearts. In this paper I am going the talk about the Maoist model of development step by step. In the first section of my paper I will talk about the role model on the way of modernization. Then I will talk and discuss on some reforms that had done by Mao and his friends. At the same section as also a conclusion, I will be giving my opinions on reforms.

-MARXISM-LENINISM AS A ROLE MODEL-

The Maoist model of development was as a combination of nationalism and communism. In other words combination of Marxism and Leninism. During the 1910s there were two sub-Marxist revolutionist theories which were influential and effective by the anti-capitalist world on the way of revolutions. One was
**Marxism-Revisionism** which was saying that `revolution through force was not necessary to achieve a socialist society`. On the other hand, **Marxism-Leninism** approach was the second thought. Marxism-Leninism approach was saying that you can create a new socialist system by destroying which means with hard power. They were arguing that if you want reforms just eradicate the old one and change it rapidly. Chairman Mao Tse-tung(Zedong) and his friends did choose the second model for China’s survival. They believed that this model was the true and effective medicine on the way of development and to save the China. After they destroyed everything in the country, then they created the new China. It was not like the Western Revolutions such as French Revolution or others. As a role model; they got most of things from the Soviets. Whereas Chairman Mao took this model as a role model, he did not take `the Marxism and Leninism as a dogma but as a guide to action` which means they `adapted the Soviet experience to Chinese Reality`. Mao strongly believed that each country has its own experience, they should not just copy the ideas but they should implement the ideas according to what the society needs. So that it was medicine but it was a Chinese medicine. His peasants-volunteers- all believed to the Mao and Mao got all support from them. It was time for implement the reforms with the new program. Actually, the Maoist model affords a program of modernization which is differs from the Western style.

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2. Mao Zedong, `Mao Zedong on Diplomacy` (Pg.242), Foreign Language Press, Beijing
3. Dreyer, Hune Teufel, 1939, `China’s Political System; Modernization and Tradition` (Pg.3)
After the declaration of the independence of the new People’s Republic of China to the world, `the Common Program` had prepared. Actually the new Program was the declaration of the new flag with 4 starts and one big star which is the symbol of the independence and sovereignty. The new China was declaring to the world that `the new China model` was a democratic dictatorship of four classes; workers, peasants, petty bourgeoisie, and national bourgeoisie. By doing this they were unifying the Mainland China. It was really big and significance job for them. All over the Mainland of China they did many reforms by 1949 just after they moved the Chinese traditionalism, imperialism and bureaucratic capitalism with the declaration of the new independence country. By 1950, with the agreement within the Chinese population, Mao and his friends started to implement these reforms. They doubled the school population in the mainland China. They provided universal housing, abolished unemployment and inflation. They increased health care access. Population doubled from 550 million to 900 million. They re-distributed to the lands for the peasants under the `Land

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4 Dreyer, Hune Teufel, 1939, `China’s Political System; Modernization and Tradition` (Pg. 80)
Reform. Of course because of the mainland is too large it would be difficult to spread all of reforms all over the country.

After all, these seen as an unequal distribution. Furthermore, it increased the tension between citizens and party leaders. Citizens began to demand much more from the party leaders. Mao and his friends was the responsible from everything from citizens `eyes.

Economic Reform

According to Mao, the new People’s Republic of China could be with the modernization. The modernization could be with industrialized China. For the industrialization what they need was a new Economic Development Model. Chairman Mao and his friends organized the `new economic model based on the classic Marxist principles with the modifying by the experience of the Chinese Communist Party. Unfortunately, Mao as a charismatic leader did not listen the Lenin as a first class politician and as a third-class economist. Basically, Lenin was saying that each country should seek the market to sell it’s over production Mao did the opposite one. He was not an economist, he closed the national economy for the foreigner investments. The New People’s Republic of China was economically isolated from the outside of the world. What they did was that peasant produced and they consumed. The consumers and producers were held by the Chinese citizens. Even his friends organized the new model, he did not listen them. He wanted to do what he wanted. Nobody knows what he had and thought in his mind. For instance,

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Hoffmann, 'The Maoist Economic Model'; (Journal of Economic Issues, Vol.5, No.3-Sep.,1971) (pg.16)
during the 8th Party Congress they agreed on the second 5 year plan to start in 1958. They emphasized that light industry should meet consumer demands. But Mao did not want it. Chinese people produced more and more but they could not consume all. Because of there was no market, they could not sell their over production. The market economy was evil for the Mao. They throw away the over production. Either he made his plan and programme for agriculture in 1956, it was not efficient. It was the one of the weakness of the Maoist Development Model not just because of Mao but also because of Soviets. Because as it’s known that in the 1950s with the signing the treaty between Soviets, Soviets promised to help the China for the rapid industrialization with the Soviet model but later on they cut this helping. -I am going to explain the reason on the next section because everything link with each other-. Than China tried to find its own way but they could not succeed. Even they did reforms they could not be successful. Mao also accepted it by giving two reasons. One was it was because of policy (%10) and another was bad luck (%90). Of course there should be many reasons for that. There were also external and internal situations on the failure that is argued since many years by many scholars and even by normal citizens. The first one was the failure of the economic model that I already mentioned it over the top section. The second important situation was the 'western blocked'. Diplomatically the new born baby was isolated from the outside of world. Most of countries did not recognize this baby until 1970s in the international arena. Mao and his friends could not find a chair for example in the United Nations. Most of countries even U.S.A diplomatically recognized the China in the late 1970s. Because of this blocked there were no
bilateral and multilateral exchange between China and other countries. Moreover, her big brother –Soviets- cut his help from his small brother. During and after the establishment of the People’s Republic China, the Soviets helped the China too much. For example; as it known that the Chinese Communist Party was founded by the help of Soviets. After the establishment of the People’s Republic of China; first they signed a cooperation treaty in 1950. By 1955, 156 large industrial enterprises established directly helping by Soviets. Big brother provided very big loans. Than that they asked from China to return these loans. They helped to asesting to Chinese Changchun Railway. The last but not least, the big brother helped to China to save the Northeast China from the Japanese. But then day by day Soviets did critic his new born brothers. The reason was on Mao’s policy and his development model. They told him that his revolution was not the socialist revolution like in the Soviet Union. Mao’s modernization program of course is not just criticized from Soviets but also from western countries and even by Chinese intellectuals. They all said to Mao that he should stop the program or follow their way. Mao did not listen their nice words. Moreover, who made criticize the Mao and his party were sent to prison. Like the external situation, internal situation was complicated. There was a secret anti-Maoist thought. One day the charismatic leader Mao said to his citizens that they could critique the system. He told them that the new system could have missing points and or could be wrong. He was really intelligent leader because I think it was good way to see the anti-Maoist people. Than anti-Mao’s were sent to prison. If I would be Mao, I could think the same.
Another discussion lays on the Cultural Revolution and Great Leap Forward Strategy. Most of scholars and people say that these two were the weakness of the regime but I disagree with them. Because if the Mao and his friends decided to do reforms that was including the Cultural Revolution and Great Leap Forward Strategy should be think with its current situation. Something should be done. There was no second Mao. Chairman Mao`s aim was to protect his peasants from the bourgeois-democratic revolutions that would open the road to capitalism. Capitalism was not good for the China on the way of survival. How could be the capitalism seen as a survival. For several thousand years capitalist world was seen as an imperialist. Socialism road was the survival road. It was also revolutionist road to against world imperialism according to Mao. Because with the Great October Socialist Revolution of the Soviet Union in 1917, new possibilities opened up for the Asian countries. There was no choosing for the country. If the Mao thought that capitalism should be good he would not take action and made any afford. He could live in his village. But something was wrong. Human beings are bad as realist school also mention. It’s crucial but most of us think our survival but Mao as a charismatic leader thought all of his citizens` survival. There would be policies even wrong or right. For me most of them were right under the Mao`s era conditions. Even more, He was successful for mobilizing the hundreds of millions of peasants and workers as a charismatic, intelligent and poor peasant`s son.