

**Document 16.7: Excerpt from *Deng Xiaoping: My Father* by Deng Maomao, 1995**

*Deng Xiaoping's time in the Communist Party under Mao was one of meteoric rise and spectacular fall. After overseeing the Anti-Rightist campaign of 1957, Deng was named by Mao to be the General Secretary of the Party. Deng began a period of reform to modernize the Chinese economy, but was halted by Mao, who had become disenchanted with Deng's efforts. He was purged from the Party during the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and sent to work in a tractor factory. When Zhou Enlai became ill, Deng was his choice of successor, and Zhou convinced Mao to bring him back in 1974. After Zhou's death in 1976, Deng was again stripped of his positions in the Party by the Gang of Four, who sought to gain control of China and who saw Deng as the most immediate threat to their doing so. Deng was unanimously voted out by the Politburo, but carefully mobilized his supporters to be re-instated and assume full control.*

Deng Xiaoping was already seventy-five years old [in 1977] when he was reinstated the third time. He did not change his tenacious work style, which he had had for decades, his bold way of thinking, or his firm convictions. His conviction was that a new path of development, suited to China, could be blazed by taking a realistic and scientific approach and by making use of a multitude of assets and strengths, both ancient and modern, both Chinese and foreign. His conviction was that the Chinese people could lead a prosperous life and that China could become a strong and prosperous country....

Deng Xiaoping has held that the Chinese should build socialism with Chinese characteristics. Under his guidance, China has been trying to discover its own path of development and marching forward steadily. More than fifteen years have elapsed since 1978. China has made progress and achievements that are universally acknowledged. There is a popular view that the next century will be the century of the Asia-Pacific countries, and that among them China will attract the greatest attention. China is proud of this expectation....

In 1989 Deng Xiaoping resigned and retired. He retired so as to abolish the feudal life tenure system in China and to promote younger people to the leading posts.... At the advanced age of eighty-eight, he still goes around calling for further development of China.

Source: Deng Maomao. *Deng Xiaoping: My Father*. New York: Basic Books, 1995. 469–470.