

The Role of Chairman Mao to the Women of Fujian Province

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Who is Mao Zedong?

Mao Zedong was born in 1893 in Shaoshan of the Hunan Province. He was the first chairman (chief of state) of the People's Republic of China and was the leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). He led the communist party through a long revolution and is considered to be one of the most significant communist figures of the 20th century. The three major events that occurred under his leadership was the Hundred Flowers Campaign, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution.

Why is this project important?

This project aims to open up people's point of view and to offer different opinions on Mao Zedong. It's important to hear the stories of people who have lived through Mao's era, as it may offer a new point of view. It gives people an opportunity to learn about people's experiences that are often not expressed in textbooks. This is an opportunity to leave records of people who have lived through such an important time in China's history.



Methodology

Over a period of time, interviews were conducted and recorded. It was important for the interviewees to feel comfortable before the interview. Interviewees were also asked to provide some photos, if there was any.



The Positives of Mao's Legacy

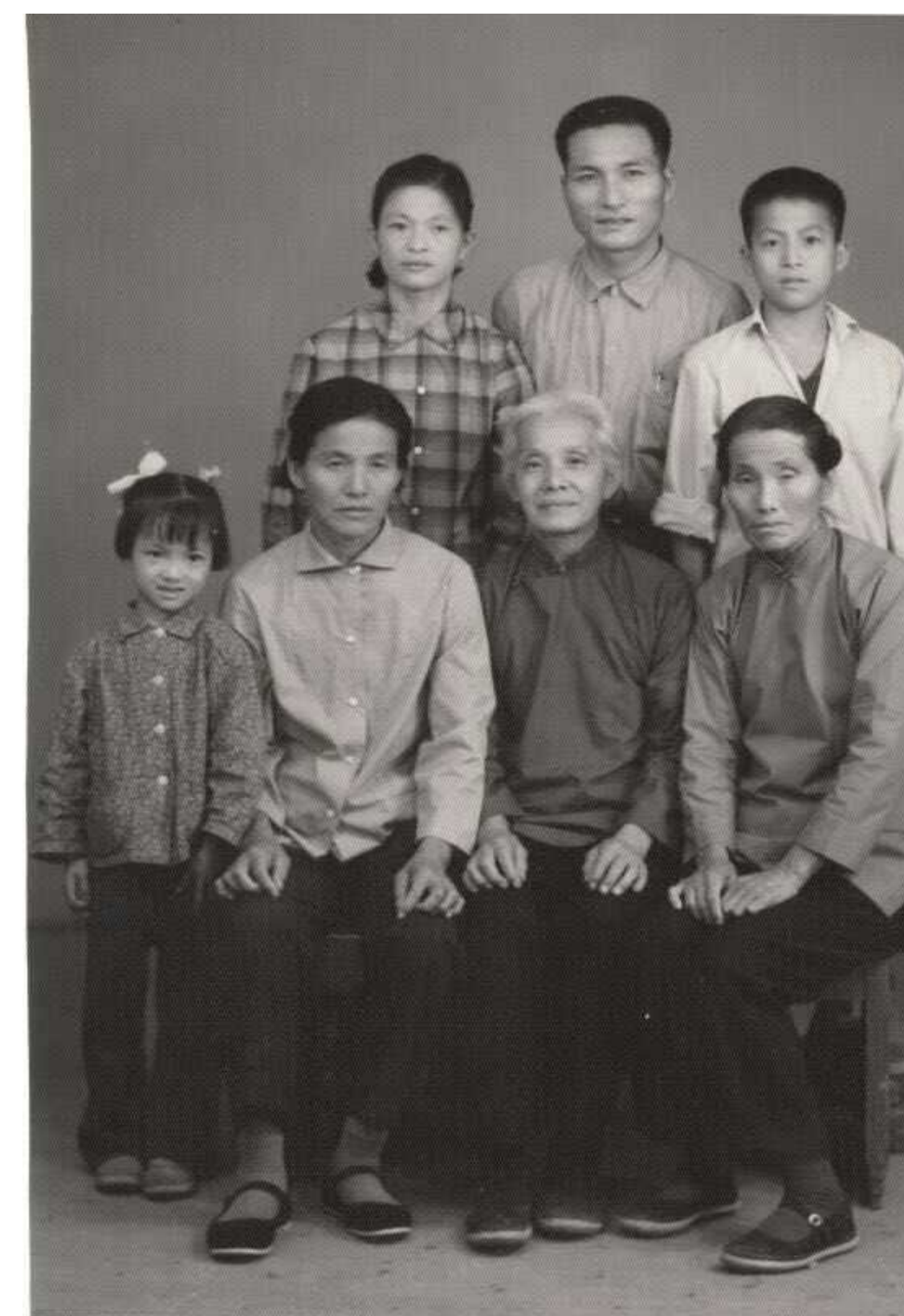
“刚刚解放的时候，人家都崇拜毛主席。” “Right after liberation, everyone adored Chairman Mao.”

“没有贡献他怎么党主席，肯定有贡献。” “If there's no contribution then how did he become the chairman, there has to be contribution.”

“没有他就没有今天的中国。” “Without him, there won't be today's China.”

“哪个行业都有女的，就是这一点最好。” “Every industry had women, this is best part.”

The older generations agree that Mao has contributed to modern Chinese society and that without him, China would not be the same today. Traditionally, women were forced to stay home and to take care of all the affairs at home. However, women felt empowered during Mao's time because they were allowed to hold jobs outside of the house. Communal kitchens were established so everyone had access to food and 'tickets' were given out to everyone so that basic materials were shared equally among everyone.



The Negatives of Mao's Legacy

“过去太苦了... 太苦太苦。” “It was too painful in the past... too painful, too painful.”

“流血流出来啊... 我还在搞啊。” “Blood spilled out... I kept working.”

Life during this period of time was really hard for people. Education was not a priority for women and work was the driving force for survival. In some cases, politics were ignored as people focus on bringing home income for their family's survival. In my grandmother's case, she didn't know that she was already months into her pregnancy because she was always at work and didn't realize that anything was different with her body. Even though the government provided the people with food and basic necessities, medical expenses were not covered.

Website Proposal

The website is going to have videos of the interviews that were conducted. Translations will be provided along with the videos, as the older generations are not expected to speak English well. Older generations are also expected to speak in the Fuzhou dialect so it's essential to provide translations even for those who speak Mandarin. Photographs from the past will be attached to each webpage for each interviewee. This photographs will offer a glimpse of the life that these interviewees had, either before their arrival in the U.S. or after their arrival.



Conclusion

This research project aims to record oral histories of the people's experiences and how the audience reacts and responds to these stories will vary. There is no concrete result or statistics so it all depends on how the audience interprets these interviews. Interpretations will vary as people have different views on certain topics. However, it is important to keep in mind that there is no right or wrong way on interpreting Chairman Mao.

Sources

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