"Great historical events occur twice, the first time as tragedy, the second as farce"

Karl Marx

The tragedy occurred last june....the farce on October 1st as China celebrated its 40th anniversary. (Globe and Mail, Oct.2. 1989)

By Kira Schoch & Tim Judah

40 years ago, when Communist troops entered Beijing, the people lined the streets to welcome them. Forty years later, people died in the streets to stop them.

On June 4, 1989, thousands of Chinese Government troops opened fire with automatic weapons on hundreds of thousands of Chinese students who were peacefully demonstrating in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Just over 2 months later, China has celebrated its 40th anniversary of Communist rule. Propaganda has become an effective tool of the Chinese Government in reinstating control over the country. According to state run news bulletins, "the bloodiest urban massacre in Communist China history never took place." Further documentation reveals that the troops were merely putting down a riot financed by "overseas reactionary political forces." The official result of which, was nearly 100 soldiers and policemen being killed and a less than equal amount of counter-revolutionaries.

The states control is furthered by a kind of Orwellian Ministry of Truth as citizens cooperate with officials and turn in student leaders.

Yet, on this 40th anniversary, the propaganda fails to mask the truth of the June 4th massacre. The Red Cross has estimated a death toll of over 2,600, other reports have casualties at 20,000. Inevitably, the death toll will rise as more student demonstrators are turned in or caught in the government.

But how long will the increasingly modern nation be content to live behind bars?

"I don't know," said an 88-year-old man in a Beijing Park. It was early morning and the old man was exercising his birds as he swung them about in their cages. The movement is said to convince the birds inside that they are free. "We trick them you know," he said. "How long can they stay fooled? Who knows? Maybe they hope. Like us. We hope. I hope."

(Excerpt: A Day in the Life of China, Time, October 2, 1989)

IT

NEVER

HAPPENED...?

The Globe and Mail

FOCUS

THE NATION/THE WORLD/SCIENCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

Abdul Sattar Edhi: Pakistan's Father Christmas/5

EDITORIALS/6
LETTERS/7

Peregrines: Memories stream in their wake/8

Shooting stars: Astronomers measure globular clusters/4

A GREAT LEAP BACKWARD

CHINA 40 YEARS ON

'Our nation is no longer a humiliated nation. We have stood up. Our revolution has won sympathy and acclaim all over the world.' — Oct. 1, 1949

BY JAN WONG
Globe and Mail Correspondent
BEIJING

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

Bullet holes contradict Beijing's line

BY JAN WONG
Globe and Mail Correspondent
BEIJING

Jiang Zemin wipes perspiration from brow during televised speech at a National Day rally.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1989

Party chief Jiang Zemin, left, talks to Premier Li Peng during a press conference in Beijing yesterday.

Massacre a revolt, not tragedy, China's new party chief says

BY JAN WONG
Globe and Mail Correspondent
BEIJING