Excerpt from Mao Zedong’s “Speech at the Supreme State Conference” (1958)

There are two ways to give leadership. One is good, the other not so good. I do not mean that one is Dulles's way and one is ours, nor that one is the rightist way and the other ours. I mean that in building socialism there are two methods of leadership, two styles of work. On the question of cooperativization some people advocate more speed, others a more gradual approach. I believe that the former method is correct. It is better to strike while the iron is hot and to get it done in one go than to spin it out. For example, is it right to have a rectification campaign or not? It is right. To carry it out properly it is best to have a great airing of views and blooming ...

I stand for the theory of permanent revolution. Do not mistake this for Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution. In making revolution one must strike while the iron is hot -- one revolution must follow another, the revolution must continually advance. The Hunanese often say, 'Straw sandals have no pattern -- they shape themselves in the making.' Trotsky believed that the socialist revolution should be launched even before the democratic revolution is complete.