

(This is for part (b)) Source 2 is a letter from 'August 1978' from a participant in the 'up to the mountains, down to the villages campaign'. They describe that they can't attend their exams as they are too occupied with agricultural work, this source was later published in a 'pro-CCP publication'. It is of some use for the success of the campaign to stop the damage done by the Red Guards ~~to show strong supporters of Mao and the Party experienced the campaign~~, but in terms of ^{social} the general success it has very limited weight. The source simply does not represent the majority of experiences during the campaign where young people suffered and became the lost generation.

In terms of success of the campaign, the source could be considered of weight to show the success of the campaign as a propaganda tool. The writer (who seems to have a very pro-communist bias) demonstrates that the campaign has 'reformed my outlook', likely making him respect the role of the peasantry more, showing some success of the CCP in getting children 'brought up in the city' to interact with ~~other~~ agricultural life. It also shows some success in terms of the campaign's main purpose, to keep the Red Guards out of trouble by sending them off to do agricultural work. As the writer has ~~spent no effort~~ no time to revise because of the 'busy agricultural season', it can



(This is for part (b)) be inferred that he also didn't have time to be a witness as part of the Red Guards who frequently vandalised property and attacked 'capitalist readers' in the streets.

However, there is where the utility ends. The fact that this letter was allowed to be published in a 'pro-CCP publication' shows that it is overly favourable to the Communist Party. It presents quite an idealised life during the campaign of complete enthusiasm for agricultural production which was simply not the reality for many participants. Accounts from historians who experienced the campaign like Anchee Min and Jung Chang show how city kids were often ostracised by the peasants that lived there and lived in awful conditions. Many young people were sent to live far away from their families and some were never reunited when the campaign finished, creating the lost generation. It is possible that the author could be lying about their experience to demonstrate their revolutionary zeal, or ~~is~~ just had a very positive experience that others didn't have, but the source is simply of very limited use for enquiries into the social success of the campaign, due to misrepresentation.

Overall, the source is of significant use to show



(This is for part (b)) the political success of the campaign. The Party managed to quickly pre-occupy the Red Guards while they reconstructed China's damaged political landscape to make it more secure. The source shows the main priority was certainly fulfilled*. However, the letter is rather deceiving about the vast reality of life during this campaign for young people and is therefore not of weight for any enquiry into the social success, making the source in total of moderate to limited weight.

*The campaign also seems to have succeeded in working as a propaganda tool to promote manual work instead of study.

