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Annual Subscription

£3.50 (Overseas \$ 10, Air \$ 15)

Eastbourne House, Bullards Place,
London E.2.

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VIEW OF CHINA

Although I was in China for only three weeks, visited only a few cities, towns and villages, saw only a few factories, communes and families, my sampling of China made me feel that China has put itself on the right path. When I test whether the rice is cooked I don't need to eat the potful I sample one or two grains. It may seem rather contradictory to a Resurgence reader that the editor of Resurgence has returned from China with enthusiasm. But China has achieved a great degree of balance between centralisation and decentralisation. It is trying to be a honeycomb of communes, factories, street committees and neighbourhoods.

When people ask me what is my criticism of China I say it is too big, but that is not a criticism peculiar to China. Within this bigness, China has set itself on the path of self-reliance, equal respect for mental and manual labour, education through practical and productive work and non-elitist politics. The work of Resurgence is not only to criticise but also to see the positive aspects of a particular society or place. Therefore I feel no hesitation in presenting the positive achievements of China in the articles which follow. Not

that I think China is perfect; nor indeed do the Chinese believe themselves to be perfect, in fact they constantly asked me for criticism.

Many people are concerned about individual freedom in China. I think that individualism and communitarianism, or communism in its true sense, are not contradictory, provided we recognise the boundaries as well as the interrelatedness of the two. Individual freedom in many parts of the world has reduced human existence to self-centredness and egotism. It has become a way of fulfilling personal ambition at the expense of the community. At any rate individual freedom in our society has meant only the freedom of a few individuals. The community is broken and the society is turned into a collection of rootless, lonely individuals. China, before liberation, was a playground of so-called individual freedom and therefore was exploited not only by its own warlords but by the Japanese, English, Americans, French, Germans and what not. By putting certain restrictions on exploitative individualism and bringing the community back to its right place the Chinese say that they are only redressing the balance. Ω

SATISH KUMAR