



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(The Cold War - The Cultural Revolution) 炮打司令部 [Bombard the Headquarters]

Stock#: 89352
Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1966
Place: n.p. (China)
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 27.5 inches (with bottom text)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Important image of Mao Zedong at the start of the Cultural Revolution, showing the Chairman executing his "My First Big-Character Poster" that he would use to denunciate Liu Shaoqi, Chairman of the People's Republic, in August of 1966.

The poster shows Mao in typical propaganda format, standing tall and with a nearly saint-like halo emanating from his head. The extensive use of red pigment needs no explanation. Mao's desk is stark, with only a small lamp and few personal belongings included.

The three months before the creation of Mao's "Big Character Poster" are critical to understanding the impact of this printed poster. The 1966 May 16 notification was the initial impetus for a burgeoning



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(The Cold War - The Cultural Revolution) 大跃进 [Bombard the Headquarters]

reactionary movement. On this day, Mao released a text that summarized his explanation regarding the need for a cultural revolution. He claimed that bourgeois elements were hiding within the party, and that it was ripe for a purge.

The main target of Mao's initial purge was his rival Liu Shaoqi, then Chairman of the People's Republic. Mao stoked dissent and showed himself as ready for war, going so far as to swim across the Yangtze River to prove his fitness. The Red Guards reached out to Mao to call for an upheaval, which he gladly accepted. He drew up a broadside denouncing Liu Shaoqi, which was quickly circulated and reproduced. This "Big Character Poster," as it came to be called, became so legendary that posters were made not replicating the original, but showing Mao in the act of its creation.

Detailed Condition:

Dampstain to left of image. Minor corner tear in the upper right. Minor soiling.