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Our cover shows Mao's poem "The Long March". The calligraphy is by Kuo Mo-Jo, Mao's friend and one-time Minister of Cultural Affairs. The poem is translated on page 45.

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Radical Philosophy Group

THE RADICAL PHILOSOPHY GROUP

The Radical Philosophy Group grew out of the convergence of two currents which had been largely formed by the student movement in the 1960s - on the one hand, discontent, especially among students, with the sterile and compacent philosophy taught in British universities and colleges; on the other hand, a revival of interest in the theoretical work on the left and a recognition of the need to confront the ideology enshrined in orthodox academic disciplines. The Radical Philosophy Group has always contended that these two problems can be tackled together - that philosophical inquiry into fundamental issues must lead to the exposure of conservatism masquerading as formal reason.

Academic philosophy in this country has generally accepted and defended the frame of reference of the dominant bourgeois culture. This culture is supported and mirrored by the elitist isolation, the internal hierarchies and demarcations, or academic institutions. The Radical Philosophy Group therefore works for reforms in courses and assessments for the enlargement of students' control over their education, for the breaking down of barriers between philosophy and other disciplines and between academic institutions and the outside world.

The Group has held several conferences, and local groups have been formed which have organised meetings and agitated on local issues. Radical philosophy is the magazine of the Radical Philosophy Group, and has come out three times a year since January 1972. It aims to criticise the current state of philosophy in the English-speaking world and to encourage philosophical discussion on the left, and welcomes any contributions which will serve these aims.