

1964 电影《雷锋》笔记

- Since the film is about a real person and national hero, it can be studied as a documentary of real historical events such as the Great Leap Forward (1958-63); this is then a case study of communist utopia that gives sublimity of history, the same way *Beloved China* by Fang Zhimin is an example of citizenry education for the PRC. Martyrs are time capsules taking people right to a mythic past in which heroes were made.
- Nation and narration are inseparable; history is always a bunch of his stories. literary realism also effects the reality it is supposed to imitate and represent, like eating the cake and having it too. Lei Feng was a real person as well as a myth.
- There is not unmediated perception and films are never self-explanatory. "Since every sign supposes a code," says Roland Barthes, "it is this code that one should try to establish. The photographic paradox can then be seen as the co-existence of two messages, the one without a code, the other with a code. ... Myth is a value, truth is no guarantee for it. Nothing prevents it from being a perpetual alibi: it is enough that its signifier has two sides for it always to have an 'elsewhere' at its disposal. The meaning is always there to present the form; the form is always there to outdistance the meaning. And there never is any contradiction, conflict or split between the meaning and the form: there are never at the same place." Let's then decode some of the frames
- Lei Feng as an orphan: dad killed by the Japanese, mom hanged herself when bullied by landlord; brother died of hunger, the landlady mangled his hand = what the communist revolution is all about, to destroy ruling classes and end oppression
- He picks up metal scraps and rusted screws whenever he can = champaign during the Great Leap Forward known as steel production drive 大炼钢铁
- He volunteers to work at a construction site to boost workers' morale = the goals of the Great Leap Forward to "catch up with the British and surpass the U.S.A." 赶英超美
- He donates his time and money to flood victims and people in need = the ideals of communism: one for all and all for one; 一人为大家, 大家为一人 to each according to his needs, from each according to his ability
- His petition to be assigned to troops to fight the nationalists in Taiwan backed by America as an imperial power = national sovereignty and achieve liberation of all mankind, resist reactionaries and imperialists
- His frugality and he ask his army buddies to not give in to the temptations of personal enjoyment and privilege = keep China a proletariat dictatorship uncorrupted by bourgeois lifestyles, keep China from rolling back to the old unequal distribution of social wealth
- His altruism and anonymity, making no distinction between what is his private possession and what belongs to the public or the state = the final goal of communism is to abolish private property