In 1976, Mao Zedong, who had reigned China since 1949 and waged the Cultural Revolution in 1966, died, ending the most politically repressive and economically destructive era in the contemporary Chinese history. His death provided a rare opportunity for China to change. Since the late 1970s, China has embarked on an unprecedented reform and opening-up that eventually altered the political, economic, and social landscape of the country.

Nevertheless, throughout the reform period, years of indoctrination under Mao had made many simple logics and commonsense taboo. During the struggle restoring the commonsense and breaking the mental prison imposed by the old doctrines, the reform and opening-up efforts have advanced in a zig-zag way.

At many critical moments, some intellectuals have risked their life and career re-stating these simple logics and commonsense, urging people to think independently and critically. Their efforts eventually formed a thought liberation movement that propelled China forward in reform and opening up. China. The Chinese people owe these intellectuals who have shed lights in the darkness and shouted that the emperor is naked.

In this special issue, we will re-publish some of the articles that have enlightened the Chinese people and have pushed forward China’s reform and opening-up.

We therefore call for nominations for articles that liberated the minds of the Chinese people and built the theoretical foundation for the reform and opening up. Nomination criteria are:

1. Published after 1978;
2. Disseminated views that were new and helped push the reform and opening-up forward;
3. Liberated people’s mind and left an indelible imprint on the collective memory of the Chinese people.

Please email your nominations of articles to be included in this issue to mcseditor@gmail.com.