

## **Chinese Historical Figures: 1966 - 1976**

### **Dong Hao**

Dong Hao was born in April of 1956 in Beijing. His ancestral home is Fengrun village of Tangshan city, Hebei Province. Influenced by his father, Dong Jingshan, who was an artist of calligraphy and Chinese ink painting, Dong Hao had developed a strong interest for the same since his childhood.

In November of 1960, Dong's family fell on hard time after the sudden death of his father. Dong then vowed to work hard and inherit his father's achievement and lifetime endeavors in painting so as to support the family as early as possible.

During the Cultural Revolution, Dong was a third-grade student in the First Affiliated Primary School of Xicheng Normal College of Beijing. Due to his family background, he and his family were labeled as "capitalists" and therefore "bore with heavy burden in thinking".

Between the age of 17 and 21, Dong was a primary school art teacher and a middle school Chinese literature teacher. As he recalled, "I spent most of my spare time in art and vocal practice. I think about how to change my destiny in every moment of my life."

In 1977, being considered as a "reform-able child of the exploiting class," Dong was selected by Radio Beijing as an announcer with excellent audition results. Dong was an excellent announcer in news, feature programs, arts and literary programs.

In 1987, Dong transferred to China Central Television (CCTV) as a program host.

At end of 1989, Dong Hao appeared on the television screen. He had immersed himself in children's TV programs for years and was known as the "Nation's First Uncle". He also launched a children's program of "Ludicrous Head and Uncle Dong", successfully featured puppets as co-hosts.

From 1996 onwards, Dong appeared in 'Big Wind Mill' as "Wind Mill King". He also played the role of "Dong Du Du" in 'Campus Comedy'. In addition, Dong also hosted a few hundred episodes of 'Open, Sesame Open', which was very popular among young children and high school students.

Additionally, Dong hosted special live variety shows including 'Children's Day Special Show', 'MTV', 'Karaoke Contest' and 'Campus Fashions -National Entertainment Show for Pupils and Students'.

At the end of 1993, collaborating with the Communist Youth League, Dong wrote a proposal of 'Establishment a National Children's TV Station', which was submitted to the central government under the name of the Communist Youth League.

Beginning in 1997, Dong planned 'Stories of Grandpa Deng Xiaoping', which was published on June 1, 1998 and became a key nominee for the Best Publication Prize in the national "Five Firsts" competition on literary and artistic works.

In 1998, Along with National Children's Work Coordination Committee and Chinese Teenagers News, Dong launched 'From Uncle Dong: Wish Children A Great Achievement', a CD and Stamp Collection Album, featuring 6 traditional morality tales and 6 patriotic songs.

In recent years, Dong has been devoted to the compilation of children's books such as 'New Monkey King', 'Interesting Stories from Three Kingdoms', 'A Joke King' and so on. He has published more than one million characters. Dong produced and hosted hundreds of audio and video programs including 'Interesting Animal Stories', 'Monkey King Stories – A Complete Edition', 'Songs from Uncle Dong'. Dong is dubbed "Story King" and "The No. 2 Sun Jinxiu".