

Scientific Interpretation of the Definition of Marxism in the New Era

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Abstract: In the new era, learning and practicing Marxism is the living habits and spiritual pursuit of Communists. It is of great theoretical and practical significance to re-interpret and grasp the connotation and denotation of Marxism scientifically by drawing lessons from the previous research results in the aspects of discipline attributes, theoretical basis, research methods and research objects.

1. Introduction

General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that in the new era, Chinese Communists especially need to study and practice Marxism. In the textbook *Introduction to the Basic Principles of Marxism*, which is a textbook of ideological and political theory in national colleges and universities, a complete definition of Marxism is made from the perspectives of its creators, class attributes, research objects and research contents. Marxism is a scientific theoretical system which is founded by Marx and Engels and is being developed by successors. It is a general rule of the development of nature, society and human thinking. It is the theory that socialism will inevitably replace capitalism and ultimately realize communism. It is also the theory of proletariat liberation, human liberation and the free and all-round development of everyone. It is the action guide to guide people to create a better life. It can be seen that Marxism itself is an all-embracing theoretical whole. This paper tries to scientifically interpret the definition of Marxism from two aspects of historicity and logic. Practice has proved that every in-depth discussion can more highlight the theoretical charm and practical vitality of Marxism.

2. Historical Grasp of Marxist Definition

Lenin believed that the complete definition of things must include all human practice. The successors of Marxism have given various answers to its definition from the perspectives of its theoretical basis, research object, class attribute, value goal and essential characteristics. Therefore, it is particularly necessary for us to interpret the definition scientifically by referring to the relevant expositions of the practical achievements of Marxist classical writers.

Engels once mentioned in *Ludwig Feuerbach and the End of German Classical Philosophy* that he participated independently in the establishment of this theory to a certain extent, especially in the elaboration of the theory. It is natural for Marxist theory to be named after Marx. His exposition clearly shows that Marxism was founded mainly by Marx.

In *Karl Marx (Biography and Overview of Marxism)*, Lenin mentioned that “Marxism is the system of Marx's viewpoints and doctrines”. Here, Lenin pointed out the concept of Marxism, that is, the system of viewpoints and doctrines, but failed to point out the essential characteristics of Marxism, which is basically synonymous with repetition. After that, Marxism has been developing continuously in the process of sinicization of Marxism.

On the basis of combining the practical experience of the sinicization of Marxism in China, the Party leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping also discussed the basic attributes and characteristics of Marxism. As Mao Zedong pointed out, Marxist-Leninist theory is a premier theory created and Abstracted by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin on the basis of historical reality and revolutionary reality. Deng Xiaoping also emphasized that seeking truth from facts is the essence of Marxism, which is the scientific ideological system that pays most attention to the development of productive

forces and concrete reality.

From the exposition of Marxist classical writers, it can be concluded that Marxism was founded by Marx and Engels and developed by the successors of Marxism. It is a scientific ideological system that reveals the laws of natural, human and social development and aims at the ultimate realization of communism and human emancipation.

3. Logical Grasp of Marxist Definition

As far as the definition of Marxism is concerned, it is not only a question of how to correctly understand Marxism, but also a question of how to grasp the logical method of Marxism. To scientifically define Marxism through summarizing the practice and theoretical achievements of predecessors, it is necessary to grasp the logical and systematic principle of Marxism, which is embodied in the following two aspects:

3.1 The Principle of Integrity

Marxism is a broad and profound comprehensive theory. If we want to define it scientifically, we must insist on grasping it as a whole. There are various dismemberments of Marxism in reality. One view is to mechanically dismantle Marxism into three major components, namely, Marxist philosophy, Marxist political economy and scientific socialism. This stems from the simplification and dogmatization of Lenin's theoretical interpretation in Three Sources and Three Components of Marxism, resulting in incomplete understanding of Marxism. Another view is to exaggerate or negate the meaning of a component. For example, some scholars define Marx's theory as a philosophical discourse in the context of economics, separating from the integrity of Marx and talking only about its special aspects.

Coincidentally, some scholars believe that Marxist thought should be recognized as “philosophy” in general. Obviously, this definition is of great value to grasp a certain part of Marxism, but it narrows the extension of Marxism. In addition, there is another viewpoint that divides Marxism into traditional Marxism and modern Marxism, revolutionary Marxism and constructive Marxism. This view tends to confuse the basic methods, basic principles with concrete assertions of Marxism, and the essence of Marxism with the specific tasks faced at different times. In a word, it is difficult to scientifically interpret the definition of Marxist Abstraction from a macro perspective. Therefore, only by adhering to the principle of wholeness to grasp Marxism, can we avoid splitting, deconstructing and misinterpreting Marxism, and can we make a scientific and complete and accurate definition of Marxism.

3.2 Fundamental Principles

Marxism not only has three dominant elements, namely, Marxist philosophy, Marxist political economy and scientific socialism, but also implicitly contains three levels of structure, namely, basic methods, basic principles and concrete assertions. The basic method of Marxism is the soul. So what is the soul of Marxism? In his article Communism, Lenin emphasized that the living soul of Marxism is the concrete analysis according to concrete conditions.

Later, Lenin made a more comprehensive summary of the basic methods of Marxism, that is, the basic methods of Marxism lie in the methods of comprehensiveness, development, practicality and concreteness. These four parts constitute a logical whole and are all the essential provisions and basic principles of the system of Marxist methods. Among them, the author believes that adhering to the practical method is the most fundamental method in the fundamental method of Marxism and the soul of the soul. Because Marxism is built on the basis of materialism with practice as its fundamental feature, it has fundamental and thorough significance in the Marxist system. Therefore, to grasp the fundamental method of Marxism in microcosm is to grasp the vein and direction of the definition of Marxism.

4. Deep Interpretation of Marxist Definition

The traditional “definition” format is “species difference+ genus concept”. It is undoubted that we attribute the concept of “subordination” of “Marxism” to a scientific theoretical system. Here, we will focus on the analysis of the content of “species difference” of “Marxism”. Generally, the explanation of “species difference” is selected from four perspectives of connotation, occurrence, function and relationship. Through the above historical and logical analysis of the definition of Marxism, the author believes that it is advisable to discuss the unique essential attributes and characteristics of Marxism from the perspective of connotation. In particular, two points need to be clarified here:

4.1 Marxist theory is based on practical materialism

Marxist philosophy is a materialistic philosophy based on practice and characterized by the reflection of its own times and the relationship between man and the world. It is a brand-new philosophy that transcends idealism and old materialism. Practical materialism is the theoretical core and foundation of Marxism. Firstly, the practical viewpoint is the primary and basic viewpoint of Marxist view of nature, epistemology and history. Here in Marx, practice is the embodiment of human universality and essential strength. It can be said that practical materialism runs through the study and revelation of the nature, human and social development essence and laws of Marxism. Secondly, the practical materialism itself contains “negative dialectics”, which can lead to two important features of marxist philosophy, dialectical materialism and historical materialism. Finally, the development of practical materialism is open and critical, not closed and conservative. “For practical materialists, that is, communists, the whole problem is to revolutionize the existing world and actually oppose and change the existing things.” The “revolutionization” here is the unity of theoretical criticism and practical criticism of the existing world. Marxism opens up a way to understand reality through practice, and at the same time provides infinite source of vitality for its own development.

Traditional definitions emphasize that the theoretical basis of Marxism is dialectical materialism or historical materialism. Dialectical materialism embodies the dialectics and its critical and revolutionary nature contained in Marxism. On the other hand, historical materialism highlights the thoroughness and completeness of Marxism in the historical dimension. However, a deeper study of the origin of Marxist philosophy and a more scientific grasp of Marxism can be achieved by understanding Marxism through practical materialism.

4.2 The research object of Marxism is the nature and law of the development of nature, human and society.

Defining the research object of Marxism is an important part of grasping the definition of Marxism scientifically. The two important discoveries of Marxism were made in the process of studying the nature and law of the development of nature, human and society. The important theoretical significance of historical materialism lies in its revealing the essence and law of human and social development. The important value of surplus value theory lies in that it grasps the interpersonal relationship under the cover of capitalist production relations through the analysis of realistic production relations, and is an argumentative tool to reveal the essence and laws of human and social development.

This research object embodies the unity of science, class and practice of Marxism. Firstly, the scientificity of Marxism is embodied in the contradictory movement of productivity and production relations, and then scientifically reveals the essence and law of human social development from the contradictory movement of economic basis and superstructure determined by them. Secondly, many previous capitalist scholars failed to find a scientific world outlook and methodology for human liberation. Only Marxism found the advanced class to realize human liberation, namely the proletariat, and scientifically established the banner of Marxist Party spirit.

Finally, the dialectical materialist view of nature is also an important research object that can not

be obliterated by Marxism, which is the premise and foundation of revealing the essence and law of human and social development. Facts have proved that without Marxist dialectical materialist view of nature as the basis for understanding Marxism, it is easy to fall into the mud of idealistic philosophy. Lukacs, Gramsci and other early “Western Marxists” and later “Frankfurt School” philosophers have made such mistakes.

In short, we must first define Marxism as a complete scientific theoretical system, and then grasp it from the horizontal logical level and the vertical historical level. Horizontally, the three major components of Marxism are only the “constituent factors” of its content. From the vertical point of view, Marxism is more based on human practice, with human liberation as the goal of struggle, a critical analysis method throughout the continuous development of Marxism. On the basis of comprehensive analysis of the essential elements of Marxism, the theoretical foundation of Marxism is re-viewed from the practical point of view, and the research object of Marxism is viewed from the holistic point of view. Only in this way can we have a historic and logical grasp of Marxism, which is also the need for Communists to learn and Practice Marxism in the new era.

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