

# Eco-socialist Green Development Model and Its Enlightenment

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**Abstract.** Ecological socialism was born in the western developed countries for ecological problems and mass' radical movement led by green party, which has carried on critical reflection and system construction to construct practical green development model with classic Marxist concept and ecological movement in the 1970s. The model is adhering to goal value based on ecology to construct a "small and beautiful" economic development pattern by social movement and ecological movement; and the model has some main characters including non-violence and grass-roots democracy political life, harmonious and unified cultural form against industrial civilization. Thus researching the model can enlighten us that we must constantly broaden our understanding about green development's connotation to promote our five development practices' unity and construct a green development society shared by the people.

## 1. Introduction

The green development model from ecological socialism is a direct product by ecological socialism movement and green movement initiated by the "green party" in the 1970s and matured in the 1990s, which constitutes an important social movement ideological trend in the world today. The model links ecological crisis with social system, constructs a green development model with socialist system as its target, ecological benefit as a core value, harmony between man and nature as basic concept. Therefore, when China are promoting practice journey for green development, eco-socialist green development model will become a reference text.

## 2. Eco-socialist green development model's origin

### 2.1 Eco-socialist historical context

Ecological socialism is the direct product to think about ecological crisis from economic development in western developed countries in "historical materialism theory premise with review and reflection on ecological problems to reveal inner link between capitalism and contemporary ecological crisis", [1] which has already led green movement and leading organization to think about green movement's theory and future social development's picture. In the 1960s, the book *silent spring* by American scholar Carson was published, which opened ecological crisis' mysterious veil, such as population explosion, land desertification, resource depletion, energy crisis and environmental pollution problems. In the early 1970s, a large-scale peace movement and environmental movement appeared in Europe and the United States, which promoted worldwide environmental protection movement. In particular, a large-scale green political movement appeared in Europe, including green movement, environmental movement, peace movement and eco-socialist movement. In the late 1970s, with the green party in Germany, the other green parties were established in countries such as Britain, the United States, Austria and New Zealand one after another, which provided an organizational basis for ecological socialist movement.

### 2.2 Eco-socialist basic stages

Ecological socialism has experienced three basic stages, namely "Marxist concept's grafting to green theory" " mining classical Marxist ecological theory connotation" "using classic Marxist ecological thought to face global ecological crisis caused by contemporary capitalism", [2] which is from

ecological ethics' supreme, emphasize social justice and system construction to construct gradually unique development model including economy, politics, culture, society and other fields.

### *2.1.1 Logical starting point: green movement*

In the 1960s, the booming green movement in the west was ecological movement's logical starting point, which mainly highlighted radical environmental protection activities, such as street protests and international intervention activities, such as the large-scale student movement, peace movement and women's movement, advocating environmental protection and anti-nuclear sustainable energy. At this time, ecological socialism concept is not clear and is not shared by most people, that is, some red elements are infiltrated in green movement's process with the main sign "Rome club".

### *2.2.2 Logical extension: theoretical prototype*

From the late 1970s to the early 1980s, the green movement reached its peak in Europe with the green party, an environmentalist party. In 1979, Germany established the first political party in Europe -- the green party, which clearly put forward its own program and began to step onto political stage. It played the power on the stage participating in discussing politics, and even assumed important cabinet positions such as foreign affairs minister, environment minister and consumer affairs minister. At the same time, in other European countries, such as Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria, Finland, Italy, Sweden and Ireland, the green party has also made great progress and started to serve in parliament or local government. The green party's power strengthens ecological socialism.

### *2.2.3 Logical transformation: mature theory*

In the 1980s, "the European green party had historic breakthrough in local and national parliamentary elections bringing new issues such as nature conservation, environmental pollution control, biodiversity and nuclear energy's abolition to the mainstream political arena"; [3]appearing that ecological socialism is gradually strengthened, and promotes theory to mature. In the 1990s, the green party's influence gradually spread including Australia, America, Africa and Asia, such as New Zealand, Mongolia and Nepal. The European green union alone had 43 members and the Asian green party had been officially formed. Along with the green party organization's expanding development, its theory became more and more mature, and gradually from the green movement toward rational politics, and to the pragmatic style.

## **3. Eco-socialist green development model's basic characteristics**

### **3.1 Ecological value concept's supremacy**

Eco-socialism constructed a new green development model about ecological crisis phenomenon, which adheres to the early green value, carries on comprehensive analysis about ecological problems to crack a good way to solve ecological problems, strengthening Marxist ecological thoughts to solve ecological problems. Eco-socialism adheres to "people-oriented" ideas that ecological development must be for the people and advocates the harmony and unity between man and nature, which highlights the value orientation in solving ecological problems with man as the core, and provides a premise and foundation for getting rid of ecological limitations. On the basis of analyzing Marxist nature view, they affirm "human scale" as starting point to deal with the relationship between human and nature. Human beings cannot leave the nature on which they live, and their survival and development must depend on the object conditions in nature, which limits human activities.

### **3.2 Combination of ecological movements and social movements**

Eco-socialist green development pattern essence is the combination between green movement and social movement , in which ecological socialism theory has become mature by revealing essential attribute political movement, finally aiming at existing social system to solve ecological crisis by constructing a new system . Ecological socialism holds the idea that capitalist system caused ecological crisis, the solution to ecological problems lies in socialism. However, we can not depend on capitalism solve ecological problems, because capitalism is to maintain profit oriented logic. Ecological socialism believes that the fundamental way to achieve future social movement is "non-violence". They opposed violent revolution to overthrow existing system, advocated ecological

consciousness and revolutionary intellectuals as the leading class, working classes as the main revolutionary force because of large number, contacting with ecological problem more.

### **3.3 Combining green development with all-round development**

Ecological socialism green development is a kind of comprehensive society development including economic, political, cultural, social and other fields. This kind of green society inherits and develops Marx's harmonious development concept between man and nature. It is also different from modern ecological improvement in capitalism, which pursues green profit. It is a new type of society starting from ecological problems and taking people as center, which is not anthropocentrism and fully affirms human freedom. Ecological socialism advocates abolishing private ownership and market economy to realize production means' social ownership, and construct "small but beautiful" economic development model, adhere to less but better production concept to achieve balanced development. In political construction, they realize grassroots democracy. They think that western democratic politics cannot truly reflect people's sovereignty, causing various political and social problems. On culture, they must construct a colorful spiritual and cultural life harmonious unification between human and nature against culture industry which limits person's happiness and make human being to come to cultural alienation.

## **4 Eco-socialist green development model's enlightenment**

### **4.1 Understanding green development's meaning correctly**

Green development is human common development's pursuit, human survival and development's premise and foundation lies in nature. Now we have put forward green development as an important goal. Ecological socialism enlightens us that green development is not a single radical green movement, but a long-term, sustained social development goal, the green movement must be led by an advanced party with advanced theory and a vast majority of people's orderly participation. At the same time, green development can't independently be understood as ecological value goal, and it should be understood from people's survival and development in global society, and ecological idea must include economic, political, cultural and social development chain taking people as center to involve economic system, political system civilization, culture, social basis and related factors. In addition, green development inherently contains diversified development modes and an independent subject adapting to other development modes. Green development is a sustainable form of systematic, circular and low-carbon development. It is a development that integrates resource conservation, environmental protection and ecological governance. It is also a new form of development that is integrated with innovative, coordinated, open and shared development.

### **4.2 Focus on green development's practical path**

Green development focuses on practical activities and is a series of development activities leading by green values. Therefore, China has clearly put forward some innovative development concepts as innovative development, coordinated development, green development, open development and shared development, which is not only a historical reflection on Chinese development path, but also a realistic demand for Chinese social development in the new era. Eco-socialist green development model inspires us that China must adhere to Marxist ecological view, take harmony between man and nature as the leading role, strengthen green development concept, and fundamentally establish ecological development concept. So China should deal with the relationship between market economy and environmental protection, economic benefits and development model" to build the legal system and policy guidance with a green production and consumption and improve green low carbon cycle economy system", " market-oriented system of green technology innovation, green finance, strengthen environmental protection industry, clean production industry, clean energy industry" "advocate contracted moderately, green low carbon life way" to encourage green family, green communities, green school, green travel, etc. [6]

### 4.3 Continuing to promote five development concepts together

"The concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development is a strategic, programmatic and guiding principle for managing overall situation, fundamental and long-term development", [7] which requires China to grasp the five development concepts' connotation and internal logical connection accurately, and take a scientific practice path, which is the theoretical premise and practical guidance for the new development concept. Green development is an important part in the new development concept, which is a practical link directly aiming at people and nature. The ultimate goal of development is to share development's fruits with the people. Eco-socialist green development pattern enlightens us that green development is an important part in social development, which requires China to adhere to the practice logic in overall promotion with the five development concepts, focus on improving ecological environment, realizing the coordination and integration in development and construct integrated development logic.

## 5. Conclusion

In short, Eco-socialist green development model is the crystallization of human's long-term exploration and research on ecological issues, and it is a practical activity that develops from green movement into a political movement. It not only embodies human social development's problems and contradictions, but also indicates human social development's logical goal. At the same time, what they research about harmonious development's value goal between man and nature, practical logic between ecological movement and social movement, construction with green development and comprehensive development can provide theoretical and practical references to promote green development.

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