

# Logical Analysis of Self-consistency of Letters and Visits System

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**Abstract**—As a fact of more than 60 years, letters and visits system in China is not replaced by other systems in China, nor it is going to decline due to the establishment of other systems. It has dynamic logical self-consistency, which is the integration of internal people's self-consistency, systematic self-consistency and external practice's self-consistency, but the self-consistency is dynamic. Letters and visits system is used to solve many domestic contradictions, coordinate the relationship between the government and the citizens, and ensure the synchronization of the maximization of national interests and the maximization of the welfare of all the people. Although this goal also conflicts with the pursuit of the maximization of citizens' own interests, letters and visits in the new era is to explore the methods and ways to improve the system into a new round of self-consistency in the process of resolving this contradiction.

**Keywords:** *letters and visits system, self-consistency, logical analysis*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Letters and visits is a national democratic political system established by the Communist Party of China, which has gone through the stages of establishment and exploration (1951-1978), restoration and standardization (1978-2004), integration and reconstruction (2004 to now) [1], and lasted for more than 60 years. After more than 20 years' reform of letters and visits, it has gradually realized the logical self-consistency, which refer to prove that they are at least not contradictory or wrong according to their own logic deduction. The self-consistency of letters and visits system is dynamic. It is a process of absorbing new factors scientifically, overcoming unreasonable factors and developing and surpassing self-regulation and self-improvement under the influence of external environment and value concept [2].

## II. ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK OF SELF-CONSISTENCY OF LETTERS AND VISITS SYSTEM

“Letters and visits work is an important work of understanding people's feelings, concentrating people's wisdom, and safeguarding people's interests and concentrating the hearts of the people. Letters and visits system is a beneficial supplement to the socialist democratic system with Chinese characteristics, and it must be adhered

to, strengthened, innovated and perfected.” On the self-consistency of letters and visits system, Xi Jin ping gave an authoritative explanation and expressed three meanings. People's nature is the essential attribute of letters and visits work [3]. The value concept and theoretical basis of the inherent self-consistency of the petition system are constructed from the nature orientation. Letters and visits system is a beneficial supplement to the socialist democratic system with Chinese characteristics, which constitutes the national democratic political system together with the people's Congress system, the multi-party cooperation system and political consultation system led by the Communist Party of China, the regional national autonomy system and the rural and urban grass-roots democratic system [4]. In the new era, the development of letters and visits system is an evolution of gradual reform and self-improvement, and a unity of positive consistency and pace harmony. In the process of persisting, strengthening, innovating and improving, the external self-consistent foundation of letters and visits system is constructed from the practical possibility and effectiveness.

On the basis of the inherent idea of the people's nature, we should promote the rational construction of the system, ensure the effectiveness of the practice process and results, and form a logical and self-consistent analysis framework with the self-consistency of the value concept and the theory, the self-consistency of the system and the practice, which is helpful to eliminate the so-called "self-consistent puzzle" in some people's thoughts, and clearly understand the special status and function of letters and visits system in China.

## III. THE SELF-CONSISTENCY OF THE VALUE IDEA AND THEORETICAL BASIS OF LETTERS AND VISITS SYSTEM

People character is the interpretation of the inherent value and essence of the system of letters and visits with Chinese characteristics. General Secretary Xi Jin ping pointed out that upholding the affinity to the people is to take the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people as the starting point and the foothold to realize, maintain, and develop the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people, and adhere to the people-oriented and people-oriented. Trust and dependence on the people are the core of the CPC's governance, as well as the core of the party's letters and visits system and work.

As the beneficial supplement of the socialist democratic political system with Chinese characteristics and the general mechanism of mediating the social relations of the country [5], letters and visits doesn't only conform to the basic idea of the Communist Party of China in power, which is the purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly, but also embody the idea of Republic governance with sovereignty in the people. Letters and visits system is the way of close contact with the people, the social window for the ruling party and the government to accept the supervision of the people. It is a legitimate channel for the expression of people's interests and a manifestation of people's ownership.

As a pure ideological system evolution, letters and visits is a national system based on the mass line, whose theoretical basis is the theory of serving the people and the mass line thought evolved accordingly. As an important thought innovation of the contemporary Communist Party of China, the theory of serving the people is the development and extension of the Sinicization of Marxist theory, which has a profound origin. Mao Zedong, the first generation leader of the CPC, who obtained the essence of culture from the traditional Chinese people based thought, and absorbed the essence of thought from classic works such as *Capital*, *Communist Principles* and *Communist Manifesto*. He profoundly understood Marx thought and grasped the connotations of concepts such as "man", "people", "human liberation" and "proletariat". On the basis of Marx, Engels and Lenin's original formulation of "why people seek interests", "what people to serve" and "why people to serve" and the common understanding of the vast majority of people rather than the minority [6], it is a leap and breakthrough in the development of the ideological understanding of the Communist Party of China. This leap in understanding is not a natural germination and change of pure ideological understanding, but also a profound understanding of the role of the people's main body after the birth, growth and expansion of the Communist Party of China in the fierce revolutionary war, which can start a prairie fire through a single point of fire. That is to say, the people are the fundamental basis for the survival and development of the party, and the summary and generalization of the revolutionary practice idea of "the revolutionary practice" is a natural result. In the theory of serving the people, CPC and its leading army, which have the nature of proletariat, are regarded as the main body of the theory. They takes the creator of history and the people who are the decisive factors as the objects, creatively provides a kind of labor with special value to meet the needs of the people's interests.

The establishment of China's letters and visits system is the product of the mass line of the ruling party, the internal logical continuation of the mass line of the CPC, the combination of the party spirit and the people's character, and a democratic political system with Chinese characteristics. The thought of mass line evolved from the development of Party Culture Serving the people wholeheartedly. It is an organic combination of the mass view of historical materialism and the party's leadership

methods and work. General Secretary Xi Jin ping said that, "the mass line is the lifeline and the basic line of work for our party. It is an important biography of our party to maintain its youthful vigor and combat effectiveness heirloom. No matter in the past, now or in the future, we must adhere to the principle of 'all for the masses, all relying on the masses, from the masses to the masses', turn the correct claims of the party into the conscious actions of the masses, and implement the mass line into all activities of governing the country and managing politics. The mass line essentially embodies the basic principle of Marxism that the masses are the creators of history. Only by adhering to this basic principle can we grasp the basic law of historical progress. Only by following the law of history can we be invincible. History has repeatedly proved that the people are the main force of historical development and social progress. As Comrade Mao Zedong said, 'once the fate of China is in the hands of the people themselves, China will shine as the sun rises in the East, shining on the earth with its own brilliant flame'." [7] The mass line is the lifeblood and fundamental work line of CPC and it is an important heirloom for CPC to maintain its youth and combat effectiveness. The mass line means all for the masses, all relying on the masses, coming from and going to the masses. The mass line is the inheritance and development of Marxist mass viewpoint, the essence of which is to admit that the dominant position of the people and the interests of the people are the most fundamental interests of mankind. All activities of the party and the state must start from the interests of the people, and letters and visits system is such a mechanism and a direct democratic political system, that highlights the people's direct participation in governance activities. It emphasizes the political communication and exchange between the party, the government and the people, reflects the people's demands through letters and visits, and listens to the people's demands. At the same time, the party and the government gather the people's suggestions, form new policy documents, and start a new agenda. Therefore, the letters and visits system has become a political tool for CPC to keep close contact with the masses, shouldering the dual responsibility of solving the people's material interests and political rights. The design of system has its specific purpose to achieve the purpose of "usefulness". The status of the establishment and the function of letters and visits system not only reflect the significance and value of letters and visits system in practice, but also demonstrate the exploration and efforts to pursue the unification of the legal system and order of letters and visits system. The mass line ideology constitutes the rational foundation of the inherent self-consistency of the petition system.

#### IV. THE RATIONALITY OF LETTERS AND VISITS SYSTEM

The rationality of petition system includes two aspects: external political orientation and internal system construction.

Under the conditions of globalization, informatization and marketization, it is not easy to realize the living and working in peace and contentment of 1.4 billion people on the land of 9.6 million square kilometers. Letters and visits

system plays a special role in dispute resolution and right relief. Letters and visits system is an important part of the democratic political system of the people's democratic dictatorship in New China, and the country is building a people's representative system. When the meeting system is the fundamental political system, the multi-party cooperation and political consultation system under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the national regional autonomy system and the grass-roots mass autonomy system are the four in one democratic political system. Letters and visits system is a decisive way of right relief in the dispute settlement mechanism, an institutional means of the party closing the relationship between the masses and the cadres, a design of the protection system of the people's rights and interests with Chinese characteristics [8], the auxiliary mechanism under the constitutional system of our country, and a useful supplementary system in the diversified dispute resolution mechanism.

The external political orientation is based on the system construction. The formal rules of letters and visits system are the laws and regulations of the normative activities designed by the state. The informal rules of letters and visits system are the codes of conduct, moral norms and traditional habits of activities formed in the long-term practice. With more than 60 years of institutional change and more than 20 years' reform of letters and visits, the system has formed a working pattern based on a series of central and local laws and regulations such as the petition regulations, relying on the four levels of government institutions of the central government, the provincial government, the municipal government and the county government. With "unified leadership, department coordination, overall consideration, both symptoms and root causes, each bearing its own responsibilities, and jointly managing" as the platform, the mechanism system of listening to people's voice, acceptance of people's supervision and protection of people's rights and interests has been established, and a systematic operation procedure including implementation mechanism, interaction mechanism and operation results has been constructed.

In accordance with the principle of territorial management, responsibility at different levels and centralized management, China's letters and visits work should be solved in accordance with the law, in a timely and on-the-spot manner, in combination with the problems reflected and opinions put forward by the people's masses. The standard to test the effectiveness of the implementation mechanism lies in the cost of breach of contract. The popularity of the implementation mechanism of letters and visits system lies in the system design for the convenience and benefit of the people and the low cost of petition. The petitioners mainly make a petition by telephone, fax, letter, visit and other forms according to the law. The petitioners comprehensively use political, legal, economic, administrative and other means, education and consultation, mediation, persuasion, hearing and other methods, timely and properly deal with the petition issues, which are using mass work to guide the petition work. The petition results refer to the handling of the petition issues or appeals

reflected by the people through letters and visits, so as to reach the satisfaction of the petitioner. The result orientation of "solving demands and safeguarding interests" must be the most intuitive and realistic presentation of the people's character of letters and visits system.

#### V. SELF-CONSISTENCY IN THE REFORM AND PRACTICE OF LETTERS AND VISITS SYSTEM

In the reform of letters and visits for more than 20 years, the letters and visits system adheres to the nature of the people and has been moving forward on the road of "adhering to, strengthening, innovating and improving", which shows the confidence of the system with the vigorous development trend in reality. As an important part of the national modernization governance, the letters and visits department has been given a higher political status and greater power. In the central government, in 2000, the office of the CPC Central Committee and the office of the CPC Central Committee merged to form the vice-ministerial level "national petition bureau", which gives more resources in terms of the establishment, funds, personnel, etc.. At the same time, it put forward the idea of "leading the petition work with mass work", building a "unified leadership. The guiding ideology of the pattern of "large letters and visits" is that departments coordinate, take overall consideration, treat both symptoms and root causes, take their own responsibilities and jointly manage. In local areas, the administrative level of the heads of letters and visits departments is generally "high allocated" by half. For example, the director of the county (city) bureau of letters and visits (the director of the Mass Work Department) with the official administrative level of the department level enjoys the treatment of the deputy department level. In addition, the letters and Visits Bureau has gained a higher power status than most other party and government departments, and even has the right to convene letters and visits work meetings (especially emergency meetings) of all departments within the jurisdiction. All localities have also set up joint meetings to deal with outstanding issues and mass incidents of letters and visits, and the joint meeting office is set up in the letters and Visits Bureau.

Organizational construction and power structure reform are the basic guarantee of the historical mission and responsibility practice of the letters and visits system. In the past 20 years of the reform of letters and visits system, the national letters and visits agencies have always adhered to their responsibilities and made great efforts to fulfill their historical mission. Taking the letters and Visits Bureau of the general office of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress as an example, in 1983-1985, it handled nearly 200000 people's letters and urged the investigation and handling of more than 2200 important letters. In 1988-1993, it received 394036 people's letters, received 67665 people's visits, sent 4494 key cases and handled 2452 cases, of which 793 cases were corrected for wrongdoing and false mistakes, 404 cases were corrected for violation of laws and disciplines. In 1998-1999, it received 60476 people's letters and 11638 people's visits. In 2005, With joint endeavors

from the central government and the local government, which listened to the people's wishes, respected the people's wishes, and effectively safeguarded the rights and interests of the people, the momentum of the country's total petition volume rising for 12 years was curbed, and the decline of the total petition volume, the decline of the collective petition volume, the decline of the abnormal petition volume, and the decline of the number of mass incidents for four years in a row were maintained. These are objective and true embodiment of self-consistency and people character of the letters and visits system. In October 1995, in the further legalization of letters and visits work and the perfection of institutional setting, the State Council promulgated the regulations on letters and visits, which further highlighted the people character of the letters and visits system, emphasized that letters and visits work should keep close contact between people's governments at all levels and protect the legitimate rights and interests of the letters and visitors, combine problem-solving with ideological guidance and education, and clarify the responsibility of leading the Department. In February 2000, with the approval of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, the general office of the CPC Central Committee and the general office of the State Council changed their name to the State Bureau of letters and visits, which is more conducive to the development of letters and visits and the authority of the organization. On the basis of adhering to the people's nature, the letters and visits system is strengthening system construction, innovating working methods, achieving self-improvement and self-consistency in practice.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Joseph Butler, an English philosopher, once said that "all things have their own nature and will not be the other". As a socialist democratic system with Chinese characteristics, the letters and visits system does not exist as an indisputable fact in China, which is not replaced by other systems in China, nor is it going to decline because of the establishment of other systems. It has gradually realized the integration of the internal people's self-consistency, the system's self-consistency and the external practice's self-consistency, but this self-consistency is dynamic. Like other social and political systems, the letters and visits system is an existence constructed by people, which contains value judgment problems. It belongs to the superstructure of the Republic, which is used to solve many domestic contradictions, coordinate the relationship between the government and the citizens, and ensure the synchronization of the maximization of national interests and the maximization of the interests of all the people. Although this goal has a certain degree with the citizens' pursuit of the maximization of their own interests in the new era, the letters and visits system is to explore the ways to improve the system and explore a new round of self-consistency.

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