

“The Primary Stage Theory” is the Breakthrough and Innovation of Scientific Socialism

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ABSTRACT

Based on the the guide of Marxism scientific socialism theory and the center of thesis of primary stage of socialism "theory" , with the developed capitalist socialist in the middle of the 19th century as the background, the article is the formation of the socialist stage about the theoretical results. And that, it is also the new found world by criticizing the old world. Their anticipation on the future socialist characteristics does not conform to the situation of socialist development in a hundred years. This thesis, from the combination of theory and practice, studies and demonstrates that the “primary stage of socialism” is the breakthrough and innovation of principles of Marxism from multitudinous aspects. Papers does not agree that the primary stage of socialism is defined as an inevitable experience certain stage in the condition of the backward productive forces and underdeveloped commodity economy. Afterwards, the general significance of the primary stage to the world socialist construction is illustrated.

Keywords: *scientific socialism, primary stage theory of socialism, semi-colonial socialist, breakthrough of basic principle, overstep stage theory*

1. INTRODUCTION

Marxism is a gradually developing science. The government report of the 13th Party Congress has indicated that: “the practice of nowadays international socialism revolution is the broadening of the deeper cognition of the socialism, and it is the combination of the theory of scientific socialism ,the practice of multi-nation and the development of the era.”[1] “Primary stage theory of socialism”, is the deeper cognition of socialism, which is also a theory innovation based on the conclusion and self-examination of the international socialism experience. Moreover, it is also a breakthrough of Marxism’s “stage theory” principle.

2. THEORY OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM AND THE DIVISION OF “STAGE”

In the middle 19th century, Marx and Engels threw themselves into the heated European worker’s movement practice, critically taking in the proper elements of French utopian socialism, regarding idealism and surplus value theory as the basis, and finally established scientific socialism theory, which transfers utopian socialism into science.

In the principle of the scientific socialism , Marx and Engels have more than once talked about the problem of the primary stage theory of socialism. Marx pointed out that “all development ,whatever the content is, could be regarded as different developing stages, and they connect each other with the relationship that denies the other”[2] .From the perspective of idealism, Marx divides the communistic society into two parts : socialism and communism. Socialism is the first stage of the communistic society, “it is the one that has developed from its own foundation, on the contrary , it is the young production from the capitalism society”[3].

3. THE PREDICTION FROM MARX AND ENGELS OF PRIMARY STAGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOCIETY

Marx said :“constituting a certain stage society with unique characteristics”[4].The summary of the unique characteristics of primary stage of socialism , i.e. the basic idea. The first is the public owned means of production. The second is distribution on the basis of labor . The third is planned economy. According their state, it has following characteristics.

3.1. Firstly , There is a Revolution Transforming Stage from Capitalism to Socialism

The socialism society is not a developed social formation but a newly production from capitalism[5]. Hence , it can’t be avoided that it has the print of capitalism society. As to the economic, the productivity hasn’t reached that level, few kinds of products, “distribution according to one’s needs” cannot be carried out; The rural and urban, the worker and farmer, the mental and physical work still have qualitative differences; As to the aspect of spirit, it doesn’t break away from the influence; Work is still a way to earn one’s life, far from being “the primary need of life”.

3.2. Secondly , Here ’ s also a Political Transition Duration

Between the socialism and communism society, “there’s a revolution transforming stage. And there’s also a political transition duration matched with it” [6].The capitalism social system is fundamentally opposite to the communism system and ideological system, and capitalism cannot directly

transfer into socialism without a “transition duration”. During the whole transition duration. The country of proletarian dictatorship is the tool to complete the transition.

3.3. Thirdly , The Socialism Society, As the “First Stage ” of Communism Society, has many Characteristics:

3.3.1. The Whole Society has a Direct Ownership of All Means of Production, i.e. the Single Social Public Ownership

Marx said ;“future society is “a congregate, regarding occupying the means of production together as the basis”[7] society.

3.3.2. Distribution on the Basis of Labor

All means of production is occupied and utilized by the society together, which certainly determines the “distribution on the basis of labor”. Of consumer goods. “personal work doesn’t have to go through many barriers, but exists as a constitution of the total work”, and workers “as one form give the society labor and in another form get back all”[8].

3.3.3. Eliminate the Commodity Production and Exchange through Money

“Once society occupies the means of productivity , the commodity production will be eliminated , and production’s domination on producers will also be eliminated”[9]. Product production replaces commodity production, wipes out the currency and value regularity quits the historical arena.

3.3.4. Planned Economy

Since means of production was occupied by society , commodity production is replaced by product production. “the anarchy of production in inner society production will be replaced by planned and conscious organization”[10][11].

3.3.5. The Country has Lost the Specific Property of Government Domination but Remains the Function of Managing the Public Benefits of the Society

“The proletariat took the state power, and at first turn productive material into state property. But, in this way, national state is destroyed”[12].

3.3.6. The Mind and Cultural Perception which Stem from New Productive Relationship and Social Relationship have Promoted Education ,

Science and Art Fully; Therefore New Generalists will Surge from the Surface of the Society

The establisher of scientific socialism has the summary of the socialism characteristics , and they also have actual instruction value as to “160 years later” socialism practice. For example , Engels stressed again and again that one characteristic of socialism is “producing by society not only guarantee all members of the society will have a wealthy and better life, but also guarantee that their energy and knowledge will get enough space to develop and to be used” In 《The theory of Anti-Turin》, 《Socialism from utopian to scientific development》.Deng Xiaoping give play to this idea and stress the social principle: developing productivity and common prosperity.

4. THE BREAKTHROUGH OF “THE PRIMARY STAGE THEORY OF SOCIALISM” IN THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM

The basic principle of scientific socialism was established in 19th century by Marx and Engels . They judge things by advanced capitalism and find the new world by criticizing the old world[13]. Moreover , they couldn’t study socialism practice’s new experience by establishing “new world”. And their kinds of states about the socialism are just theoretical prediction. Engels has more than once told us “ Our theory is a gradually developing theory , but not a teaching plan needed to be recited again and again”[14].

“The primary stage theory of socialism” has a different history premise from Marxism’s “the first stage”. Chinese and other socialism is not “socialism after capitalism” , but a way to socialism getting away from backward economic civilization semi-colony and semi-feudal society.

“The primary stage of socialism” refers to the stage that the socialism must experience when its productivity falls behind and commodity economy is undeveloped.----the whole historical stage from entering socialism to basicy fulfilling modernization needs at least hundreds of years to fulfill industrialization, commercialization, socialization and modernization which many countries fulfilled under capitalism. And it is also a developing stage that is insurmountable during the socialism evolution. When expressing its meaning , I deliberately give up the Chinese wording “specific” stage.

“The primary stage theory of socialism” makes great breakthrough, innovation and development to Marx’s socialism “stage theory”.

4.1. Break the Deduction of Public Ownership of the Means of Production of Socialism

China is a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society , the development of productivity is not only low , and there are unbalanced development among areas and industries. To be faster to change the fact that the general level of productivity is low, they must insist that regarding public ownership as the subject and economy with different types of ownership simultaneously developing. As to the breakthrough of the

primary stage theory of socialism , it has been written into the report of “the Party Congress” : “That public ownership is the main body and allowing diverse forms of ownership to develop side by side is a basic economic system in the primary stage of socialism.

The public-owned economy of the primary stage of socialism includes state-owned business, collective economy and national components and collective components of diversified ownership. Individual , privately-owned and “three capital” economy are not public-owned economy but organic components of socialism market economic. They , together with public-owned economy , “exist and develop”. Hence ,insisting the first position of public ownership and economy with different types of ownership developing together has become a breakthrough and a pioneering work of socialism.

4.2. Break the Fact that the Single Principle of Distribution on the Basis of Labor is Carried out in the Social Stage

The establisher’s distribution prediction of socialism stage is that using “labor” as a measure, and “every producer , after kinds of deduction , could perceive what he contributes to the society from the perspective of society. What he has contributes to the society is his labor.

“He gives labor in one type and get back in another type”[15].In the primary stage of socialism, means of production is not totally occupied by the society, and peoples’ labor is not socially direct labor, and commodity-money relationship is not even removed. As a result , the conditions of “distribution according to labor” is insufficiency .

Generally speaking , in the area of enterprise owned by the whole people, distribution according to the labor has become the main part. But because there are still differences among economic levels and ownership of the means of production of different companies, the so called distribution could be only fulfilled inside companies. As to collective economic units, distribution is gained according to the labor. It could be either a material formal distribution or a currency formal distribution. In some private enterprise and foreign invested enterprises , distribution according to capital is the main part, according to production factors, skills and value of labor power , in the other words , multi distribution method of income . Distribution according to capital has exploitation inevitably. This is definitely different form the prediction of Marx and Engels that there is no exploitation and no difference between different classes.

Engels has a brilliant speech : “the anger of morality , however fair and reasonable, economic science can not regard it as evidence, but just a symbol”[16] .The objective standard of judging merits of exploitation by historical materialism views is ----whether it could promotes production . Whatever kind of exploitation, if it is on a upwards trend and exploitation is a symbol , the production could be promoted. Then it is a advanced system and the existence of the relationship of exploitation has its own historical rationality. And we should take an attitude of enduring. In the primary stage of socialism, the existence of privately-owned economic, foreign invested economic has a positive effect on our country’s productivity. In the certain

area of exploitation , we should take an attitude of endurance and also make proper instructions and management.

In the primary stage of socialism, labor is still products. And the existence of exploitation is predicted by Marx. Implementing the system of distribution on the basis of labor and multiple income distribution is another breakthrough and innovation development of Marxism distribution principle.

4.3. Break the Planned Economy Principle of Socialism Stage

Marx and Engels think that if public ownership of the means of production was established , the anarchy of production of social production will be replaced by planned conscientious organization. The society “regulate nationwide production according to the common plan , and then control nationwide production and end anarchy of production and seasonal turbulence”[17] . But the practice of some economic culture lag countries like China indicates that when multiple ownership, commodity production, and exchange through money exist, the whole society cannot become “a big factory” . The system of uniform planned allocation resources of the whole society is not nearly resource allocation by market economic system, which is good to release and develop productivity. Social market economy replacing planned economy is both necessary and workable.

The combination of basic system of socialism and market economy is another breakthrough of Marxism’s basic principle. It add new content to scientific socialism theory database.

Plan and market are resource configuration . the previous planned economic system adapts to the initial stage of industrialization’s development. But the planned economic system is a high cost, low profit and high consumption system. While the market economic system combined with socialism basic system , which means market is controled by the government and has a basic effect on resource allocation, the operation of economic fully reflect the demand of value regularity, and allocate production factors to high profit areas, giving companies pressure and motivation for evolution. Market is not almighty. It may lead to waste of resources, economic disorder.

As a result , the government should strengthen macro-control, use direct or indirect methods to strengthen market management and gradually perfect the market system, and give play to the indirect measures to avoid or minimum the market failure.

4.4. Inherit and Break Marxism ’ s Mind of “ Brand New Man ” , “ Completely Break with Traditional Mind ”

The establisher of Marxism has demonstrated the characteristics of idea and culture in their books.

When Engels talked about the future society production development’s demand for man, put forward that : “the whole society’s strength should be used together to manage production and caused the new development. And a brand new man is demanded ,which will be finally created”[18] .While Marx stressed that communism

revolution “not only break with traditional system of ownership relationship completely, but also break with implement of traditional mind”[19] . Creating “brand new man” and two “breaks” are certainly important traits of socialism. The general secretary Hu Jintao states “we should make efforts to construct socialist culture and ethics, and strengthen the construction of democracy, rules of law, idea and culture”.

4.5. Break Elimination of Classes of Socialism Stage and the Prediction of National Political Function

The primary stage of socialism directly leads to the fact that class difference exist in a long time before entering communism. The nation won't die out. The country not only has the function to “manage the public benefits of the society”, but also maintain “the property of political domination”. At home, we should insist dictatorship of the proletariat, maintain the security of our nation; Out of home, we must take precautions against multiform threats and armed intervention.

5. THE UNIVERSAL MEANING OF “THE PRIMARY STAGE THEORY OF SOCIALISM”

No matter it is history or fact, the indisputable fact is that : “ whatever Asian China ,Korea, Vietnam, Laos or Latin American Cuba ,or these socialism countries Russia , Poland , Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania , before the the proletariat despoil the power, they were only agricultural country or agricultural industrialized country whose economic culture falls behind. Therefore, all countries mentioned above must experience the primary stage of socialism. To promote the development of productivity , like China , they must insist the main part of public ownership, and common development of multiple ownership; they must insist the main part of distribution on the basis of labor and co-existence of multiple income distribution; they must maintain commodity-money relationship and implement the system of socialist market economy.

“The primary stage theory of socialism” tells us that the primary stage of socialism is a necessary stage for all socialism countries. And the stage will last for more than a century.

In the present world, there's no country that could establish the advanced socialism ahead , nor communism.

The lesson of our country is very impressive. In 1985, there was a “left” “communist wind” in China, the country passed “great leap forward” and “organization of people's communes throughout the country” to be earlier to enter communism. However , more haste less speed, this leads the construction of socialism to great frustration.

The former Soviet Union and some socialism countries in Eastern Europe wanted to surpass the primary stage of socialism and their lessons are pretty painful. Like former Soviet Union, some socialism countries in Eastern Europe , for instance Bulgaria, Poland, Romania also made the same mistake.

The level-headed is Hungary army . In 1985, the SWP president of Hungary Hao battle indicated that: “it needs a long historical period to establish a perfect and advanced socialism society, every socialism country are at the beginning stage.

6. CONCLUSION

To sum up, this article demonstrates “the primary stage theory of socialism” and its breakthrough of four basic principles related with scientific socialism and stress “primary theory” has general direction significance. Regardless of state of development of social productive forces, surpassing the primary stage of socialism , dogmatism replacing Marxism must fall into historical idealism and make the construction of socialism lose its way and finally suffer the punishment of departing the social regularity.

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