

# A Summary of Domestic Research on the Causes of Upheaval in the Soviet Union

Hao Liu<sup>1,\*</sup>, Zekai Song<sup>1</sup>, Chengcheng Li<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Shandong University of Finance and Economics, Jinan, Chian

\*Corresponding author. Email: liuhao959@163.com

## ABSTRACT

With the evolution of the century pattern and the in-depth advancement of China's reform and opening up, the domestic academic community has always paid attention to the problem of the upheaval in the Soviet Union and East China, and has conducted useful discussions and analysis on the deep-seated causes of the upheaval in the Eastern Soviet Union. On the basis of sorting out the existing research results of the academic community, the author can roughly summarize them into three aspects: Soviet factors, internal Eastern Europe and international factors. At present, the research on the cause of Su Dong's upheaval is still going on. We should make up for the deficiencies based on the existing literature, and promote the study of Soviet Union 's upheaval.

**Keywords:** *Sudong upheaval; causes; literature review*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the short period of 1989-1992, with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the Communist Parties of Eastern Europe, like "dominoes", collapsed one after another and lost their ruling qualifications. The Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe changed colors instantly, and the world political pattern has undergone tremendous changes. It has hit the entire international communist society with a heavy blow, and the world socialist movement has also been in a downturn.

### ***1.1. From an international background, it is the right time to strengthen the study of the causes and lessons of the upheaval in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe***

Since the beginning of the new century, with the economic globalization and the rapid development of science and technology, all aspects of the world economy, politics, culture, and science and technology have undergone profound changes. Global problems and various contradictions have intensified. As a result, the socialist theory and movement began to recover.[1]

Especially at the moment, the financial crisis in the core area of capitalism has developed into a global economic crisis that has affected all countries. After more than 40 years of reform and opening up, China has not only developed economically and socially stable, but has increasingly become a world power leading the global economic recovery. It further embodies the superiority of the socialist system and arouses academic reflection on the capitalist system and a new exploration of the socialist system. In order to promote the continuous development of the world socialist movement, we must review and reflect on the

causes and lessons of the Soviet Union 's drastic changes, respect history, and use history as a mirror. Only by digging into the root of the problem can we clearly understand its essence, restore the confidence of socialist countries and socialists, and promote the recovery and development of the world socialist movement in the new century. Therefore, from an international perspective, it is the right time to strengthen the research on the causes of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.[2]

### ***1.2. From the perspective of my country 's overall reform, strengthening research on the causes of the upheaval in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is the proper meaning of adhering to the development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics***

Contradictions have universality and particularity. Universality resides in particularity, and particularity reflects universality. "Chinese characteristics" is the speciality of China different from other countries; "socialism" is the universality of China and other countries. Socialism is global and national. The development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is only a part of the cause of world socialism. This requires us to look at the world and keep abreast of the theoretical achievements and development of various socialist thoughts while paying attention to the national conditions and our own development. Why did the Soviet socialist regime that experienced more than 70 years decline?[3] Why are socialist parties in Eastern European countries going to the end? We must face up to this piece of history all the time, use history as a mirror, and more importantly, take history as a warning and profoundly sum up experience and lessons. Strengthening the research on the causes of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and East China will help

eliminate various problems and errors, and thus further explore the law of socialist development with Chinese characteristics in reform and opening up; in terms of practical significance, it will help to recognize the situation and distinguish between right and wrong inferiority, thereby firming the firm ideal of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

## **2. The Status Quo: Fruitful Results of Different Levels of Research on the Causes of the Drastic Changes in the Eastern Soviet Union**

The development of history is always the result of various factors restricting each other. In recent years, my country's academia has continued to study the causes of the upheaval in Su Dong, and has conducted in-depth analysis and discussion on the causes and lessons of the upheaval in Su Dong from different angles.[4] Here, after summarizing the literature of reading and research, the author believes that the research focus is mainly on the following points.

### ***2.1. Soviet factors and the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe***

Although the Soviet-style socialist road has brought great results to the development of Eastern European countries, it has also brought many problems to Eastern European countries and their Communist Party in power. Through sorting out, it is not difficult to find that the academic community generally believes that "the success of the Soviet Union and the defeat of the Soviet Union", the Soviet factor is the most important historical cause of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.[5]

#### ***2.1.1. The implementation of the Soviet Union's model and its control over Eastern European countries***

Professor Zhou Zunnan of the Institute of International Relations of the School of Foreign Affairs pointed out in "The Success of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union-Historical Reflections on the Upheaval in Eastern Europe" that the Soviet Union criticized Yugoslavia by setting up an intelligence bureau to eliminate the bourgeois forces in the coalition governments of Eastern European countries. Enforcement of the Soviet Union model in countries such as Eastern Europe has forced the implementation of the Soviet Union model, stifled the exploration of Eastern European countries seeking a development path that suits their national conditions, and planted the seeds of tragedy for the upheaval in Eastern Europe. Professor Guo Jie of Peking University also quoted various data and cited detailed data from the Soviet Union to include Eastern European countries in his sphere of influence in the article

"Exploration of the" Soviet Factor "in the Upheaval of Eastern Europe", and finally came to the conclusion that the Stalin period forced Eastern Europe to adopt implementing a unified Soviet model, prohibiting countries from exploring national development paths that are in line with real national conditions; repeatedly blocking Eastern European attempts to reform the Soviet model; Soviet-Eastern relations are seriously unequal; the Soviet Communist Party's control of Eastern European parties led to drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe The "Soviet Factor".[6] Liu Chunrui also pointed out in the "Soviet Factors in the Upheaval of Eastern Europe" that when dealing with the relationship between the Soviet Union and the parties and countries of Eastern European countries, the Soviet Union used itself as a big country and Laozi party to interfere in the internal affairs and diplomacy of Eastern European countries. In economic exchanges with countries in Eastern Europe, there is serious national egoism, and by boycotting the Marshall Plan, Eastern European countries have become closed and separated from the world. It is not difficult to see from this that it was the series of policies adopted by the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe after the war that laid the groundwork for the final political upheaval.

#### ***2.1.2. Personal factors of Gorbachev***

The disintegration of the Soviet Union, the drastic changes in Eastern Europe and Gorbachev's personal factors are inseparable. Hu Jintao and Wang Guoshun pointed out in the article "Thinking of the Reasons for the Sudden Changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe" that Gorbachev encouraged the Eastern European countries to accept their so-called "new thinking", which caused a certain degree of thinking within the Eastern European parties and countries. The chaos has caused the "reformists" in the Eastern European countries to attack the "conservatives" more intensely. The domestic opposition forces have increasingly challenged the Communist Party. Nationalist sentiment continues to deepen, threatening the Communist Party's ruling position. Professor Zhou Zunnan's "Success of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union-Historical Reflections on the Upheaval in Eastern Europe" also pointed out that Gorbachev pursued "Sinatra" doctrine in Eastern European countries and "listened to nature" for the development of Eastern Europe. Eastern European countries In the face of the powerful impact of the political opposition supported by the West, the Communist Party of China lost its political power either actively or passively while the Soviet Union was on the sidelines, causing an avalanche-like upheaval in 1989. Many domestic scholars have focused their attention on Gorbachev and the series of policies he adopted when discussing the Soviet Union's drastic changes. It can be said that Gorbachev's coming to power has further accelerated the destruction of European socialist countries, including the Soviet Union.

## **2.2. The internal changes in Eastern Europe and the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe**

The social system of Eastern European countries has undergone a historical reversal, and the reason is obviously not single. Due to the different topics and research interests of scholars, there are also many scholars focusing on internal research in several Eastern European countries. The author sorted out the research of domestic scholars in this area into two categories:

### **2.2.1. Regional Studies**

Professor Liu Hebo's "The First Oil Crisis and the Upheaval in Eastern Europe-Taking Poland as an Example" pointed out that the oil crisis has caused the Polish economy to fall into a debt crisis, and the weak solution of the Polish United Workers' Party has led to continuous deterioration of the Polish economy, social unrest and opposition. With the establishment of the faction and the influence of external factors, Poland finally changed dramatically, thus starting the process of the collapse of the socialist camp in Eastern Europe. Similar to this is Professor Tai Yuri of Fudan University, "A New Exploration of the International Background of the Upheaval in Eastern Europe-Taking the International Conditions of the Upheaval in Hungary as an Example. In short, this type of research is based on various factors that drastically change a country or a region. It is a regional study that focuses on a region's unique geographic environment and different national conditions.

### **2.2.2. Comprehensive research**

Han Yunchuan, a professor at the Institute of Social Development of the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, believes that the fundamental reason for the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe lies in the socialist system of economic domination, political autocracy, and ideological control. It comprehensively points out the various internal root causes that caused the drastic change. Zhou Xincheng, a professor at Renmin University of China, pointed out in his article "Analysis and Reflections on the Reasons for the Sudden Upheaval in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe" that the domestic factors that caused the upheaval in Eastern European countries can be roughly divided into two categories: Mistakes and ills; the other type is that the leaders of these national parties have pursued a wrong line, the humanitarian democratic socialist line. This type of research seeks to analyze the internal national factors that caused the drastic changes in the Soviet Union through a strategic perspective. Compared with the first type of research, this type focuses more on integrity, using different perspectives to analyze the multiple causes of upheaval.

## **2.3. International factors and drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe**

The external factors of Su Dong's upheaval are an important factor that cannot be ignored: Professor Han Zhenliang pointed out in "Re-understanding the Causes and Historical Lessons of Su Dong's Upheaval" that Western hostile forces' "peaceful evolution" strategy is the external cause of Su Dong's upheaval. Western countries supported the political opposition of these countries and played a catalytic role in the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In the article "Causes, Lessons, and Value Judgments of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe's Upheaval," Professor Lin Jianhua also pointed out that since the 1980s, Western capitalist countries have encountered difficulties in the reform of socialist countries due to their economic and technological advantages. At the same time, the switch to the peaceful evolution strategy effectively promoted the process of drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe from the outside. It can be seen from this that scholars generally believe that the peaceful evolution of the West is an important international factor in the upheaval of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

## **3. Reflection: The Practical Significance and Future Trend of Research**

The disintegration of the Soviet Union and the drastic changes in Eastern Europe have transformed the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe's supposedly ordinary history into the focus of many scholars and experts. To sum up, the domestic research on the causes of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has achieved great results. Scholars at home and abroad have explored the Soviet factors, internal and external causes of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe from different perspectives and levels. Among them, there are many real insights, which have important theoretical and practical significance. First, it provides theoretical support and practical guidance for the in-depth study of the contemporary Soviet-Eastern drastic changes, enriches the historical documentation of the Soviet-Eastern drastic changes, and promotes the research and development of socialism by socialists in various countries around the world; The development of socialism with characteristics has provided experience and lessons, which has created conditions for the continued development of socialism in the characteristic countries of the new era and the deepening of national governance and reforms. Third, it has accumulated new experience for the innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics and has provided new opportunities for China. Increasingly stepping into the world's horizons and enhancing China's international status have laid a solid foundation. Fourth, it has provided important experience and support for the development of other socialist countries, and has raised the confidence and determination of the world socialists to face history and revitalize themselves.

In recent years, the research on the reasons for the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has been very fruitful both in terms of research scope and depth of research. However, the author believes that there are still some problems: First, the author finds that there are relatively few regional research materials for the five Eastern European countries, and scholars focus more on the study of Soviet factors and ignore the study of nationalization; second, on the basis of various factors There is a lack of deeper research on the internal connections and the comparison of various power patterns. Finally, the discussion on the causes of upheaval is too complicated. Which factor is the most fundamental and decisive factor in many studies? Or what is the main reason for the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe? There is a wide range of opinions so far, and further research is needed to reach a deeper conclusion:

### ***3.1. In terms of research methods, a breakthrough has been made for a long time to mainly discuss Soviet***

factors and holistic research methods, combining categorical research with regional research, especially to place the causes of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in different social, economic, and cultural In consideration of political and political background, highlight their regional and national characteristics.

### ***3.2. Grasp the contradictions and connections between various factors and reveal the general law.***

Only by finding the internal connections, interactions and contradictions between them through various direct or indirect reasons and revealing the general laws can we prevent over-generalization and blind arrogance, and can we truly advance Marxism in China and improve Chinese characteristics The theoretical system of socialism provides theoretical support.

### ***3.3. Grasp the basic consensus and grasp the most important reason.***

Various issues and doctrines always have various controversies and consensus. In the process of research, we must keep a clear head and grasp some consensus and some relatively mainstream views. Only by grasping these, as time goes by and the archives are successively disclosed, will the study of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe get closer to the reality of history. Only by identifying the most important reasons can we sum up the lessons that we really should learn and truly avoid repeating the same mistakes as before.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Various issues and doctrines always have various controversies and consensus. In the process of research, we must keep a clear head and grasp some consensus and some relatively mainstream views. Only by grasping these, as time goes by and the archives are successively disclosed, will the study of the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe get closer to the reality of history. Only by identifying the most important reasons can we sum up the lessons that we really should learn and truly avoid repeating the same mistakes as before.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This work was supported by Shandong University of Finance and Economics Graduate Innovation Project "Research on Rural Education Modernization from the Perspective of Rural Revitalization" (Y01028).

## **REFERENCES**

- [1] Zhou Zunnan.Success in the Soviet Union and defeat in the Soviet Union—Historical Reflections on the Upheaval in Eastern Europe [J] .Journal of China Foreign Affairs University, 2000 (03): 62-66.
- [2] Guo Jie.Exploration of the "Soviet Factor" of the Upheaval in Eastern Europe [J] .History Teaching (Second Half Monthly), 2010 (09): 41-53.
- [3] Liu Chunrui. Soviet factors in the drastic changes in Eastern Europe [J]. Journal of Teachers College of Qingdao University, 2001 (02): 11-15.
- [4] Hu Jintao, Wang Guoshun.Thinking about the reasons for the drastic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe [J] .Journal of Chongqing University of Science and Technology (Social Science Edition), 2008 (04): 6-7.
- [5] Zhou Zunnan.Success in the Soviet Union and defeat in the Soviet Union—Historical Reflections on the Upheaval in Eastern Europe [J] .Journal of China Foreign Affairs University, 2000 (03): 62-66.
- [6] Liu Hebo.The first oil crisis and drastic changes in Eastern Europe: Taking Poland as an example [J] .Contemporary World and Socialism, 2016 (06): 194-201.