



The Inspiration of Lenin's Thoughts on the Construction of the Ruling Party for Improving the Modern Enterprise System with Chinese Characteristics

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Abstract. Upholding the leadership of the CPC and establishing a modern enterprise system are two basic principles for deepening the reform of China's state-owned enterprises in the new era. How to achieve the organic unity of the two is the core proposition of the construction of modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics. Lenin's dialectical viewpoint that the party should play a "general leadership" role in national governance, but should avoid direct administrative intervention, provided profound theoretical inspiration for answering this proposition. This article systematically summarizes the core essence of Lenin's ideology on the construction of the ruling party, and elaborates on the contemporary value of Lenin's ideology on the improvement of the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics.

Keywords: Lenin's Thought on the Construction of the Ruling Party; Modern Enterprise System with Chinese Characteristics; Revelation.

1 Introduction

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, pointed out that "upholding the Party's leadership over state-owned enterprises is a major political principle that must be consistently upheld, while establishing a modern enterprise system is the direction of SOE reform, which must also be consistently pursued"[1]. This important statement profoundly reveals the most essential characteristic of the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics—the intrinsic unity of Party leadership and the modern enterprise system.

Looking back at the history of international communist movements, Lenin, in the great practice of leading the Russian Bolshevik Party from a revolutionary party to a ruling party, conducted arduous explorations on how a ruling party should lead the nation and socialist construction, forming a series of far-reaching thoughts on ruling party construction. In particular, his view that Party leadership is "overall leadership" and that it is necessary to clearly delineate Party and government responsibilities, opposing the Party directly taking over administrative and economic affairs, highly aligns with our current explorations and practices, carrying significant theoretical value and practical guidance.

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2 Lenin's dialectical thinking on the leadership style of the ruling party

2.1 Core principle: Unity of "overall leadership" and "division of responsibilities"

Lenin first clearly established the leading core position of the Party in socialist countries. He pointed out that the Communist Party is the only legitimate political party, and "all intermediate regimes are illusions", and "there can be no division of power" Only by ensuring the ruling position of the proletarian party can the political power be fundamentally consolidated. At the same time, Lenin, with great theoretical courage and practical wisdom, profoundly pointed out the correct way to achieve the leadership of the Party. He repeatedly warned the whole party that the leadership of the party does not mean the direct management and outsourcing of all affairs by the party. He sharply criticized the phenomenon of the party organization and Soviet organs not separating their powers and using the party to replace politics, which was prevalent at that time. He believed that this would drag the party central committee and party staff into trivial affairs, thereby weakening the party's overall leadership over Soviet work.

For this reason, he proposed the important principle of "clearly defining the responsibilities of the Party (and its central government) and the Soviet regime". In Lenin's view, as the political vanguard, the role of the Party's "overall leadership" should mainly be reflected in: formulating and ensuring the implementation of correct political lines, guidelines, and policies; Unify the will of the entire Party and the people of the country through ideological and political education; Selecting, cultivating, and supervising cadres, and realizing the Party's intentions through the exemplary role played by Party members in various positions. State organs and economic organizations should independently and responsibly carry out daily administrative and business work within their statutory powers. This kind of leadership art of "taking care of everything but not everything" is precisely the valuable ideological wealth left by Lenin to future generations.

2.2 Implementation approach: combination of ideological guidance and organizational support

Since the Party does not directly issue administrative orders, how can the Party's leadership be achieved? Lenin's answer was to rely on the prestige of thought and the power of organization. On the one hand, he attaches great importance to the ideological and political construction of the Party, systematically expounding the famous "indoctrination theory" emphasizing the need to continuously promote, educate, and mobilize the scientific socialist theory and the Party's line, principles, and policies to be "infused" into the working class and the masses, so as to transform them into conscious actions of the masses. The leadership of the Party is largely manifested in its ideological guidance, theoretical persuasiveness, and political appeal. On the other hand, Lenin regarded the construction of the cadre team as a decisive organizational guarantee for achieving the leadership of the Party. He

proposed the cadre standard of "absolute loyalty and indeed knowledge and ability", emphasizing the need to boldly select and use experts and practitioners who are both loyal to the communist cause and possess the knowledge and abilities needed to build a new society.

The Party adopts the principle of "Party in charge of cadres" to allocate the most outstanding individuals to key positions in national and economic management, and through them to implement the Party's will, thus achieving effective leadership over the entire state machinery. Under Lenin's leadership, Soviet Russia established primary party schools, advanced party schools, Soviet schools, and workshops, as well as comprehensive technical universities aimed at cultivating cadres' professional skills, helping them quickly master "necessary knowledge, necessary experience, and necessary (in addition to knowledge and experience) political sense".

2.3 Important guarantee: Party supervision and adherence to the mass line

Without supervision, power will inevitably lead to corruption; If a political party is detached from the masses, it will eventually lose its vitality. Lenin remained highly vigilant about this. He regards strengthening intra party supervision as the lifeline to maintain the purity and combat effectiveness of the Party, advocates the establishment of a strong supervisory committee. He believes that the position of the ruling party poses an unprecedented risk of corruption for party members and cadres, and that the strictest supervision must be used to constrain power.

At the same time, Lenin pointed out that "for a Communist Party with a small number of people, for a vanguard of the working class to lead a large country... for a Communist Party transitioning to socialism, one of the most serious and terrifying dangers is to detach from the masses". In the field of economic management, he advocates absorbing workers to participate in production management, believing that this is the fundamental way to improve labor productivity and overcome bureaucracy.

3 Upholding and strengthening the Party's comprehensive leadership over state-owned enterprises is the political prerequisite for building a modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics

3.1 Clarifying the boundary of rights and responsibilities: solving the difficulties of integration and governance chaos

Lenin's idea that the Party is the core of leadership in socialist countries provides a theoretical basis for us to understand the "roots" and "soul" of the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics. "State owned enterprises are important pillar and reliance for our party to govern and revitalize the country." [2] An important prerequisite for us to improve the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics is to uphold the comprehensive leadership of the Party over state-owned enterprises and continuously strengthen the Party's leadership position and role.

Drawing on Lenin's idea of "dividing responsibilities", the key to solving the current problem of unclear rights and responsibilities and strained relationships between party organizations, board of directors, management, and other governance entities in state-owned enterprise governance lies in a scientific and clear institutionalized definition. This requires us to handle the relationship between the "political core" and the "governance center" correctly, achieving "overall leadership without monopolization, coordination without substitution, and in place without overstepping our authority".

Firstly, clarify the list of rights and responsibilities of the party organization. Its core responsibilities should focus on "directing, managing the overall situation, and ensuring implementation"[3]. "Setting the direction" means ensuring that enterprises resolutely implement the Party's theories, line, principles, and policies, implement national development strategies, and ensure the socialist direction of enterprise development. "Managing the overall situation" means upholding the principle of the Party managing cadres and talents, strengthening the training, selection, management, and supervision of enterprise leaders, and conducting collective research and supervision on major strategies for enterprise reform and development. "Ensuring implementation" means promoting the implementation of Party decisions and major enterprise decisions at the grassroots level.

Secondly, ensure that other governance entities exercise their powers in accordance with the law. The board of directors should play a core role in formulating strategies, making decisions, and preventing risks, and be responsible to shareholders (meetings). As the executing agency, the management team should fully perform their duties in terms of business planning, implementation, and strong management, and be appointed and managed by the board of directors in accordance with the law. Through the system design, a closed loop is formed in which the party organization plays a leading role, the board of directors makes strategic decisions, and the managers operate and manage, avoiding that the party organization directly replaces the decision-making power of the board of directors or the executive power of the managers, and preventing governance deviations such as "the party committee starts the board of directors", "the secretary and chairman" shoulder to shoulder "and then the individual the final say".

3.2 Innovative leadership mechanism: promoting the transformation of "institutional advantages" into "governance effectiveness"

Integrating the leadership of the Party into corporate governance must be achieved through innovative institutional mechanisms. At present, the leadership systems explored by state-owned enterprises, such as "pre research and discussion of major business management issues by party committees (party groups)" and "two-way entry and cross appointment", are creative applications and developments of Lenin's ideas on party building.

Firstly, the standardization of the "pre research discussion" mechanism. This is a crucial step in translating the intentions of the party organization into corporate decision-making. It is necessary to clarify the list of items discussed in the preliminary research, which should mainly cover major strategic issues related to the

development direction, overall situation, and long-term of the enterprise, rather than all operational and management details. We need to standardize the deliberation procedures to ensure that the research and discussion of party organizations are collective and democratic decisions. The opinions and suggestions formed by them are then transformed into board resolutions and management decisions through legal procedures by members of the party committee (party group) who enter the board of directors and management. "Through the deliberations and discussions of the party organizations of state-owned enterprises, the legitimacy of decision-making can be enhanced and problems of violations of law can be avoided." [4]

Secondly, the optimization of the leadership system of "two-way entry and cross appointment". Qualified members of the Party committee (Party group) shall enter the board of directors and management through legal procedures, and Party members in the board of directors and management shall enter the Party committee (Party group) in accordance with relevant regulations. Especially the implementation of the "shoulder to shoulder" policy for Party committee (Party group) secretaries and chairmen is conducive to reducing decision-making processes, improving decision-making efficiency, and ensuring that the Party's will can be smoothly implemented into enterprise strategic decisions. However, this model also puts forward higher requirements for the quality and power supervision of the "top leader".

4 Conclusions

Lenin's ideology on the construction of the ruling party was formed under specific historical conditions and has distinct characteristics of the times. The improvement of the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics also needs to keep pace with the times, constantly adjusting the Party's leadership style and corporate governance mechanism according to new practices and situations. Currently, China stands at a pivotal moment in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, with profound and complex changes occurring in both domestic and international environments. The rapid development of artificial intelligence and the digital economy, the accelerated restructuring of global industrial and supply chains, and the deepening of mixed ownership reform all pose new challenges and higher requirements for the leadership style of the Party and corporate governance mechanisms in state-owned enterprises. This necessitates that we adhere to a combination of inheritance and innovation, drawing wisdom from the valuable ideological wealth left by proletarian revolutionaries such as Lenin, while closely aligning with the practical requirements of the new era, boldly exploring and innovating, and continuously improving the Party's leadership style and corporate governance mechanisms, so that the greatest advantage of the Party's leadership can be better translated into the governance efficiency and core competitiveness of enterprises.

Lenin's dialectical thinking on the role of the ruling party as the "overall leader" while separating it from specific economic management functions still provides profound and lasting inspiration for us to answer the proposition of "two persistences"

and improve the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics today. Drawing on the essence of Lenin's ideology on party building and improving the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics, it is necessary to clearly define the boundaries of the rights and responsibilities of party organizations in corporate governance at the institutional level; We must regard ideological and political construction as a soul building project that consolidates consensus on enterprise development; We must adhere to the principle of the Party managing cadres and combine it with market-oriented mechanisms. Only in this way can employees "Following the Inward Path to Fulfilling Work and Inspired Leadership"[5]. This is a systems engineering project that requires continuous deepening of understanding in theory and continuous exploration and improvement in practice. Only in this way can we truly construct an enterprise system that conforms to the laws of modern enterprise development and embodies the essential requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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