

Study on Teaching of “Introduction to Basic Principle of Marxism” in Combination of Classics Reading*

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Abstract—Marx's classics are the source and theoretical basis of Marx's theory education. Through the study of Marx classics and the teaching of “Basic Principle of Marxism”, we should find an effective way to achieve it. It is necessary to take a variety of learning methods to enable students to really participate in the study of Marx classics, such as using textbooks to guide students to learn Marx classics, and the study of Marx classics through the whole teaching process. So that we should strive to make “Introduction to Marx's Basic Principles” become a student's favorite, life-long, and memorable course.

Keywords—Marxist classics; basic principle of Marxism; theoretical basis

I. INTRODUCTION

As one of ideological and political theory courses in colleges and universities, the course of “Basic Principle of Marxism” (hereinafter referred to as “the Principle”) is an important form and way to carry out Marx theory education, and an intermediary and tool for students to learn and grasp Marx theory. The basic principle of Marxism explained in the process of practical education and teaching is not only the systematic and theoretical results of basic ideological content and spiritual essence embodied in Marx's classic works, but also an interpretation and deduction of Marxism in the form of classical works. In terms of the nature and purpose of “the Principle”, the main purpose of the course is to educate students systematically on Marx's basic principles. Through the study of course, it can help students accurately grasp the basic viewpoints of Marxism, establish dialectical materialist outlook on matter and consciousness, materialist dialectical development view, scientific epistemology and view of truth, and historical conception of materialist dialectics. So that they can understand scientifically the theoretical foundation of Marxism in Mao Zedong thought and the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and establish Marx's world outlook, life outlook and values. We should lay a solid foundation of Marxism for students to establish the common

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ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics through improving the level of theoretical thinking and the ability of applying Marxism scientific world outlook, methodological observation and analysis of problems, and the teaching linking theory with practice,

The classics of Marxism are the basic theoretical basis for the teaching of “the Principles” and the ideological materials source of original texts. Marxism theoretical education without Marxist classics will become water without a source and a tree without roots. “The Principle” course is a bridge and link between the Marxist classics and the educated.

II. THE UNDERSTANDING OF MARX'S CLASSICS IS A HISTORICAL PROCESS

Repeating to read the classics in the history of human thought is essential step for understanding a classic. It is a historical process to understand a truly dynamic classic. During the development of social history, it is very important to understand and interpret Marx classics in depth. On the one hand, repeating to read the classics is a necessary process of understanding; on the other hand, the development of social history is constantly developing larger and higher background. Understanding the classics in such a larger and higher level background can make us learn more deeply the content of text logic which is not fully developed. Therefore, the overall understanding of the text itself will be advanced to a deeper level.

For the teachers and college students of “the Principle”, it is of great significance to repeating to read the Marx's Classics in the new era.

First of all, the contemporary social practice and the development of science and technology provide a newer realistic basis for a deeper understanding of the basic principles of Marxism as a whole. In the new stage of social development, we study Marx's classics, which not only helps to grasp systematically the basic principles of Marx under the new historical conditions, but also guide contemporary major events research through its internal logic.

Second, it is not only necessary but also significant to further understand and study the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics and further promote the development of the Marx doctrine. The practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics provides a deeper understanding of Marx's

Classics, and even launches the realistic soil of the basic logic of Marxism.

Finally, we should understand the connotation of classic expression in Marx's representative works, which is also the need to constantly update the way of thinking in the contemporary development. Even to this day, the forward-looking and realistic significance of Marx's classics has always had an important impact on the development of human society. Moreover, these important classics of Marx have always been the important texts of western academic circles to interpret Marxism. It is of great theoretical significance to further study these classics under contemporary conditions.

In a word, the classical contents of these Marxism classics are the basic basis for an accurate and holistic understanding of the basic principles of Marxism. Their bright points are the key to appreciate and further demonstrate the fascination of Marxism. Their ideas and charisma will also give us important enlightenment to improve our teaching skills and improve our teaching effect.

III. MARX'S CLASSICS ARE THE SOURCE AND THEORETICAL BASIS OF MARXISM THEORETICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of literature reading is to fully grasp the basic knowledge system of Marxism through the basic documents of Marx's basic principles, and improve our theoretical thinking ability and create a solid foundation for Marxism. When teaching students to read classics, teachers should adopt a combination of "intensive reading" and "extensive reading".

A. *Marx's Classics Are the Basis for Understanding Marx's Basic Principles — Focusing on Intensive Reading*

Every chapter of "the Principle" class is based on Marx's classic works. Therefore, Engels's *Ludwig Feuerbach and End of German Classical Philosophy* can help us to understand the theoretical source of Marx's philosophy from the perspective of thought history, accurately and systematically grasp the basic principles of Marx's philosophy, have a deeper understanding of Marx's philosophy, improve our teachers' philosophical theory, and enhance the persuasiveness and attraction of the theory teaching.

Marx's *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* is one of Marx's most important and most controversial works. There are two totally different evaluations of Marx's manuscript. One kind of evaluation thinks that the Manuscript belongs to Marx's early works, and the thought at that time is not mature enough, so the idea of understanding Marxism should be mainly focused on his later works. Another assessment advocated the return to early youth Marx. Early works are more related to the roots of Western thought, and more important. These two viewpoints have their own reasonableness. We should pay special attention to this point when we read the Manuscript. Especially in the early stage of development, the more open thought, the more mature ideas in the mature stage of thought, but the more common stereotypes. Therefore, we should not only pay attention to the thought of Marx's mature period, but also the earlier works of Marx. And the earlier works often have more theoretical growth points than the later works. Because while choosing a option, we will

obliterate other possibilities of buds. A thorough study of the Manuscript and the discovery of more ideological sources are of vital importance to the development of internal logic of Marxism with the development of practice.

Marx's *Introduction to Critique of Political Economics* is a very important literature of philosophical methodology, which is even closely related to Marx's philosophical revolution. The significance and contemporary value of studying the Marx's work today lies in the scientific understanding of nature of economic relations in real life. Since the reform and opening up, the development of social practice has greatly changed the characteristics of traditional society, and a series of new phenomena have appeared. For the questions of how to understand these phenomena scientifically, not only to explain the problem with Marx's viewpoint, but also to explain the new problems in reality, we need to use the developed Marx doctrine to answer. The basic principle discussed in Marx's work is the foundation of our development of Marxism. Developing its internal logic is of great significance for solving the major problems faced by contemporary social practice.

The approach described by *Introduction to Critique of Political Economics* is beyond economics, and is one of the most important and basic methodology.

In the *Introduction*, Marx explored the process of rising from abstract to concrete: "concretely, it is specific, because it is a combination of many rules, so that diversity is unified. Therefore, it shows as a comprehensive process in thinking, showing as a result, not as a starting point. Although it is the starting point of reality, it is also that of intuition and appearance. On the first road, the complete representation evaporation is an abstract stipulation; on the second way, the abstract rules lead to concrete representation in the formation of thinking. [1] It rises from abstract to concrete methods. Marx deeply realized that "the way from abstraction to concreteness is only the way that thinking is used to master concrete and to reappear it as a spiritual concrete, but no means that a concrete process is created." Thirdly, Marx also specifically discussed the nature of concept as a concrete thinking: "the concrete overall, as the overall and specific thinking, is the product of thinking and understanding in fact; however, it is by no means the product of the process in which intuition and representation are processed into concepts." [2] Marx not only reveals the nature of stage from concrete to abstract knowledge, but also reveals the historical generation and nature of abstract concepts. And it is deeply realized that the abstraction of resultant force always comes from concrete conditions, so its adaptability cannot be separated from these specific conditions.

Marx's *Theses on Feuerbach* is a small literature in Marx's literature, but very rich in connotation. It extends the space of theoretical interpretation with proverbs and assertions. In the era of globalization, information is developed, thought is open, and value is diverse. No matter "explaining the world" or "changing the world" is facing many new problems and new challenges. Under the new situation, rereading the contents of *Theses on Feuerbach*, comprehending the essence of outline, and grasping the essentials of the Outline are not only out of date, but more necessary. The Outline put forward the

scientific world outlook and methodology. On this basis, a series of views on human thought, namely, Marx's theory of human nature and reforming the world, have been formed. These ideas, no matter what we understand the socialism in the new situation and how to build socialism, still has important guiding significance to establish a correct world outlook, outlook on life and values, and how to train and educate people.

In the development history of Marxist thought, the German Ideology written by Marx and Engels is an important milestone, whose theoretical contribution lies in clearing up the mainstream philosophy of the past, including Marx and Engels's early philosophical beliefs. And it has achieved the greatest revolutionary change in the history of human philosophy. In this great book, Marx and Engels put forward the concept of "materialistic view of history" for the first time, establish the concept of scientific practice and reveal the law of the development of human society including the general laws of communist movement and expounding the basic principles of historical materialism with the contradiction between productive forces and production relations as its core. It also defines the concept and function of ideology, and the relationship between social economic foundation and superstructure, and points out that the dominant ideology of a time is the ideology of the ruling class. Today, earnestly reading the text of this book and deeply understanding its important spiritual essence are of great importance in further strengthening the world outlook of historical materialism and Marx philosophy, establishing the guiding position of Marx ideology in today's social life and the theoretical innovation of contemporary Marxism. It not only provides abundant ideological resources and correct methodological principles, but also provides a sharp ideological weapon to criticize various ideological trends.

Marx's Capital is an economic and philosophical work, especially a book on historical materialism. Marx demonstrated his materialist conception of history concretely and vividly through the Capital. Therefore, for someone not understanding Capital, it is impossible to grasp historical materialism in essence. The methodology of Capital is the realistic embodiment of Marx's materialist dialectics. This is the negative dialectics, and the way from "perceptual concreteness to abstract rule, and then to concrete reason".

If we do not understand the essential characteristics, internal contradictions, development rules and future trends of capitalist system, we cannot understand the times in which we live, and cannot grasp the direction of social development. The only original theory to answer this question is Capital. Without this book, we cannot understand our times and understand the ups and down of the contemporary international society.

The socialism theory with Chinese characteristics is a great sequel to Capital. The historical law revealed in Capital determines the general direction of socialism in Chinese society. And it reveals the huge driving force of capital driving the development of social productive forces and the inherent contradictions of capitalism, which is of fundamental practical significance for us to make use of capital and control and guide capital at the same time.

Engels's Anti-Duhring systematically expounds the basic principles of Marx's philosophy, and analyzes Marx's political economics systematically on the basis of Marx's theory of surplus value and labor theory of value. It is an important canon of understanding the basic principles of Marxism and has an important position in the history of Marxism's development. At present, the Marxist theory becomes a first-level discipline, and the whole construction of theory is at a critical stage in the new stage of development. In the new social and historical development stage of China and the world, the Anti-Duhring is undoubtedly the most important work. The Anti-Duhring is a classic work of systematically explaining the principles of Marxism in criticizing Dulin. It is also the first classic work, written by Marx classics writers, which has the nature of Marxism principle introduction.

The Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engels is the first programmatic document of the international communist movement, and also the first complete and systematic exposition of the Marxist theory. In practice, the Communist Manifesto is the universally acknowledged guiding principle of international workers' movement and has exerted a great influence on the international communist movement. Since the May 4th Movement, it has had a significant and far-reaching impact on the development of Chinese Marxist and Chinese society. Today we truly realize the Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of Chinese nation. Now Chinese society still needs to learn the Communist Manifesto more than ever. Only by insisting on studying and applying the world outlook and methodology in the Communist Manifesto can we fulfill the mission entrusted to us by history.

B. We Should Combine the Basic Documents of Marxist Principles with Contemporary Development — Focusing on Extensive Reading

Extensive reading mainly refers to the representative literature of the important theorists in the development history of Marxism and Western Marxist, the representative literature of modern science and technology closely related to the basic principles of Marxism, and the representative literature of important modern western schools for reference in teaching research. The extensive reading of literature research is aimed at linking the basic literature on the principles of Marxism with the contemporary social development through extending reading, providing the times nutrition for the modernization of Marxism principle through further integrating Marxism classics with new developments in contemporary research, and enhancing students' understanding and recognition of Marxism through comparative study,

IV. ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLASSICS AND TEACHING THROUGH PROBLEMS IN THE MARXISM CLASSICS

The focus of problems is to combine the key issues of textbook, and take the key points and hot spots and difficult points put forward by practice as clues, and analyze the forefront of Marxism's basic principles. The development of social practice and almost all basic problems in ideological and political theory courses will involve the basic principles of Marxism finally. With the development of practice, new

practical problems are emerging. In order to give accurate answers to some important problems, it is necessary to develop the inherent logic of basic principles of Marxism through Marxism's modernization. Only by answering these questions accurately can we constantly promote the development of social practice and improve the effectiveness of teaching the course of "Introduction to Basic Principle of Marxism". In order to further glow the vitality of Marxism, it must be linked with the practical problems in contemporary social practice, and must be taken with the students' concerned problem as a clue. The choice of problem is based on the theoretical system of basic principle of Marxism. We should choose the problems that students concerns and are closely related to students' growth and development and raised in life practice. And by answering questions, we constantly update the frontier dynamic analysis and take the forefront issues in the discussion as clues. And it is presented in a review of research progress and dynamics of basic principle of Marxism.

First, on the basis of basic literature and extensive reading of related literature, a bridge between teachers and students is built with taking problem research as the basic means to improve teachers' theoretical foundation. With answering questions and solving puzzles for students, teachers can improve their teaching, knowledge accomplishment, theoretical foundation and teaching skills in an all-round way.

Second, on the basis of basic literature and extended reading, in order to solve the problem, we should carry out the internal logic of Marx's basic principles. Through the research and summary of latest research results, a dynamic analysis of the academic frontier is formed. "Marxism should be kept pace with the times, constantly be enriched and developed, not only refers to individual conclusions, but also refers to the basic principles of Marxism." [3]It is necessary to scientifically master of the integrity of Marxism; and the development of individual principles is also the development of Marxism's basic principles. This is the logical expansion of basic principles of Marxism in practice.

Finally, on the basis of basic literature and extensive reading, with the latest development of contemporary philosophy, science and technology (including social sciences), teachers' knowledge of answering students' questions should be expanded. According to the needs of Marxism's modernization, it is necessary to select contemporary scientific and technological social documents. With a view to expanding the reading literature, we will provide important theoretical achievements in the development of contemporary science and society, and establish the relationship between Marx's classic writers and the achievements of major scientific and technological development and social development. It is helpful to clarify the position of Marxist theoretical system in the whole knowledge system, and it is also helpful for students to form the whole concept of knowledge. It will enable students to have an understanding of the basic principles of Marxism with the times, and avoid the impression that it is an isolated and dispensable theoretical system. It also enables students to go to specific scientific disciplines through the basic principles of Marxism, and have a proper understanding the importance of basic principle of Marxism with contemporary scientific and social development. Thus, the

basic principles of Marxism can be linked with contemporary major practical issues.

V. CONCLUSION

Marxist classics are the source and theoretical basis of Marxism theoretical education. Only carefully studying the Marxist classics, we can truly comprehend the true meaning and profound implication of Marxism. And the basic principle of Marxism is the summary and further elucidation of the important ideas and basic class stands, theoretical views and thinking methods in the Marxism classics. The study of Marx classics is integrated into the teaching process of "the Principle, which not only reproduces the original expression of the basic principles of Marxism, but also grasps the ideological essence of Marxism

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