

Original Paper

Marx's View of Interests and Its Development and Innovation in China

HongMei Ding^{1*}

¹ Jingjiang College, Jiangsu University, Jiangsu Province, China

* HongMei Ding, Jingjiang College, Jiangsu University, Jiangsu Province, China

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Abstract

Interests refer to the ultimate cause of human activity. Marx's view of interests has thoroughly analyzed the development of material interests in social history, which has been developed, innovated and specifically applied in China. From the age of reforming and opening up to contemporary China, the problem of interests should be the fundamental issue that we must pay attention to in all our work. This paper mainly studies the core of Marx's view of interests and considering the current situation, this theory has been constantly updated to meet the contemporary needs, while its development and innovation in China also add value to Marx's theory itself.

Keywords

Marx's view of interests, individual interests, common interests, public interests

From the perspective of history, material is regarded as the origin of the world. Marx, after his study, believes that the pursuit of interests is the driving force of all the activities in human society from ancient times to the present, and is also the deep-rooted power of social development. When establishing historical materialism, Marx and Engels criticize the contradiction in the capitalist society between the individual interests and common interests, and analyze the characteristics of interests in socialist society. Marx and Engels think that the individual and the masses have common interests which serve to be the beacon of all human interests. Marx and Engels clearly express the “popular” position in their theory. Marx's view of interests has been applied, developed and innovated in China,

which provide the theoretical and political basis for reforming and opening-up as well as revolution and construction for Chinese communists.

1. Material Interests Are the Most Fundamental Motivation of Development

Marx starts from the role of interests, and makes a scientific explanation on the activities and driving forces of human society (Hou, pp. 8-12). Here are a few points:

1.1 The Pursuit of Interests is the Reason of All Social Activities

The pursuit of interests is an important goal as well as an internal motivation of human activities. Therefore, only by understanding the people engaged in practice and the pursuit of their own interests can it be the real starting point of the historical investigation. This is because in order to create history, one must survive first. In order to survive, we need to meet the requirements of clothing, food, housing and so on. The first historical activity for this purpose is the production of the materials needed for the survival of human beings, that is, the production of material itself. It is this motivation for interests that pushes forward human activities and therefore humans make further progress in evolution, production and social development (Lui, pp. 1-8).

1.2 The Relationship with Superstructures and Productivity

From Marx and Engels' point of view, the initial reason for human activity concerning productivity remains in the desire and demand for material subsistence. In order to meet these needs, people have no choice but to carry out production and continuously accumulate relevant experience, which has contributed to the development of productivity. Meanwhile, gradually, people's level of needs and the demand for variety are increased, thus promoting the continuous development of productive relations and producers themselves. From another perspective, the relation of interests is also the embodiment and social nature of productive relations. Only in the view of interests can the core of productive relation and its historical influence be explained. Furthermore, the interests also have the influence of political power and its activities, which means "political power is a way to realize economic interests". It is based on interests to determine ideology. Therefore, taking interests as the starting point is indispensable to fully understand and experience the basic contradiction of society.

1.3 Conflicts of Interests is the Material Source of Class Struggle

Marx reveals class and class struggle from a deeper point of view of material factors and points out that the conflict of interests is the material source of class struggle. Class struggle is the fundamental conflict "starting from material interests", which is also the direct driving force for the development of class society.

The argument that material interests are the fundamental elements of social development provides a theoretical basis for the construction and development of other countries. The Communist Party members in China have correctly practiced the theory of interests, so they attach great importance to the social role of interests and apply them creatively in the revolution and construction of China (Wang 1-6).

2. Feasible Solution for Conflicts of Interests

In Marx's theory, violent contradiction remains between the individual interests and the so-called "common interests" caused by the division of labor and private ownership in class society. When a society turns to capitalism, private ownership will also reach its peak so does the conflict between individual interests and "universal interests". From Marx's point of view, the contradiction between the various interests in capitalist society is mainly concentrated in the bourgeoisie and the working class. Therefore, the capitalist society will eventually lead to a social division of the two camps. The contradiction between the two camps has promoted as well as determined the future of capitalism. The relationship of interests plays a very important role in understanding the communist society. Capitalism exploits the working class therefore the aim is to overthrow it and establish a new kind of relationship of interests. The society of communism is the inevitable result of the development of the contradiction among people in the capitalist society, and the realization of communism will make the contradiction disappear fundamentally and make all parts of society develop harmoniously. Communism benefits the vast majority of people, and achieves a high degree of unity of individual interests and common interests (Cai, pp. 4-5).

In the practice of Chinese socialism, Marx's theory of individual interests and common interests has been creatively developed and applied, which has already become the guiding principle of dealing with the relations of interests among individuals, groups and nations (Wen, pp. 56-60).

3. Centering on the Fundamental Interests of the People

In his theory, Marx stresses in particular that the Communists, the common people and the working class share common interests, and his position of "popularization" has been clearly expressed. Marx firmly opposes the system of depriving the minority in the capitalist society, and he always pays attention to the survival and destiny of the masses, and states that his theory represents the interests of the working class and all human beings.

The Communist Party is not only the representative force of the Chinese working class, but also the pioneer of national progress, and has been insisting on caring the people since its establishment, and adhering to the direction of China's historical development. Mao Zedong and other leaders have applied Marx's principle in Chinese practice that the masses are the creators of history. Caring the people is regarded as the basic guiding principle of Chinese development. Members of the Communist Party should act according to the interests and the recognition of the people (Li, pp. 121-122). People are masters of the country so their interests are fundamental to the country. "The river without water in its stream goes dry". The government and the Party must always keep the purpose of serving the people firmly in mind and act accordingly instead of empty words. China can really rise up based on wealth of the people and power of the nation. Otherwise it is only a beautiful and unattainable desire. The interests of the people should always be the first concern.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping has further inherited

and developed Marx's theory of "popularization". He points out that the people and their living standards should be the criterion of all the work has been done, which is a requirement not only for the Communist Party, but also for the prosperity and sustainability of the Party and the nation. Meanwhile, he also stresses that under new situation, the Communist Party of China faces many severe tests and has plenty problems to be solved, which requires effectiveness, self-reflection, improvement on working methods, adherence to the people, insurance of people's fundamental interests as a starting point. The interests of the people get insured so that the Communist Party of China can always take the leading role.

Marx's conclusion on interests shows that material interests play a vital role in the historical development of human society. Marx has drawn his conclusion from the perspective of the interests of individuals, the masses, groups, political parties and classes. Marx's view of interests plays a significant role in China and in turn gets developed and innovated. It is a theoretical as well as political basis for the reforming and opening up and construction in China led by Chinese communists. Considering the historical experience of modern China, The Chinese Communist firmly adheres to Marx's theory at any time. In the current unsteady situation, they have made innovative changes to policies and theories that are in line with the fundamental interests of the people, and at the same time added valuable points to Marx's view of interests.

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