

The History of the Development of Marxism from the Perspective of Historical Interaction

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Abstract: Marxism is a scientific theory about the historical development of human society, which reveals the law of development of human society from low to high, from simple to complex, from single to diverse. By studying the history of the development of Marxism, we can better understand the laws of the historical development of human society, so as to better understand the reality, guide the practice and promote social progress. Therefore, it is a very meaningful theoretical work to recognize the epochal subject of Marxism from the perspective of historical interaction. The history of the development of Marxism listens to the voice of the times, answers the questions of the times, meets the needs of the times, and opens the door of the times with the unique charisma of the discipline, which points out the way of the times for the promotion of the construction of the discipline system, academic system, and discourse system of the innovative interaction between the theory and the practice with the qualities of the new era, which is of great significance for the scholars to carry out the research of philosophy and social sciences.

Keywords: Marxism, History of Marxist Development, Historical Interaction

1. INTRODUCTION

Marxism, as a comprehensive system of thought, aims to guide the global proletariat and humanity as a whole to achieve complete emancipation. It is not only a theoretical level of thinking, but also a guide for practical action (Chen, 2023; L. Wang, 2023; S. Yang, 2023). This theoretical system consists of three major foundations: Marxist philosophy, political economy, and scientific socialism. These components are interdependent and together construct a complete and coherent theoretical framework (Li et al., 2023; Yao, 2023; Zhang, 2023). In Marxist philosophy, dialectical materialism and historical materialism form its core, delving into the laws of development of human society and the complex relationship between human beings and nature, and human beings and society. The political economy section focuses on analyzing the economic structure and development model of capitalist society, revealing its inherent contradictions and potential crises. The part of scientific socialism, on the other hand, focuses on proposing specific concepts and paths for realizing

the ideal society of socialism and communism (Yan, 2023). Overall, Marxism provides a profound perspective for interpreting and changing the world, especially for addressing social inequality and promoting social progress. Since then, Marxism has been enriched and developed in practice, constantly adapting to the changes of the times and the progress of human society (Luo, 2023; Nie, 2024; Xu, 2023). Marxism is adapted to the needs of the times, and it always pays attention to the real problems and development trends of human society. It constantly draws on the fruits of human civilization, including the excellent fruits of natural sciences, social sciences, and thinking sciences, in order to enrich and develop itself. At the same time, Marxism also fights against all kinds of non-Marxist trends of thought and resolutely defends its scientific and revolutionary nature. The discipline is distinctly historical, comprehensive and practical compared with other disciplines in the discipline of Marxist theory. At this stage, clarifying the characteristics of the history of Marxist development, understanding its disciplinary connotation, and adhering to good basic research principles are the key to recognizing and understanding the history of Marxist development. From the perspective of historical interaction, it is in the continuous interaction and development with history that Marxist concepts are formed, thus realizing new development in the process of contemporary practice and testing development (Jiang, 2023).

2. ORIGINS OF THE MARXIST THEORETICAL SYSTEM

2.1 Beginning Stage

The formation and development of the system of basic principles of Marxism is an important product of the transformation of the ideas of democratism and communism as well as philosophical thought from idealism to materialism. This process did not happen overnight, but after a long and complex theoretical exploration and practical testing. Marx first made a complete and systematic exposition of the theoretical system of Marxism in his 1844 Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts in the middle of the 18th century. This exposition not only laid the theoretical foundation of Marxism, but also marked the conception and birth of the system of basic principles of Marxism (Zheng, 2021). In this manuscript, Marx not only analyzed the political, economic and social problems of his time in depth, but also combined them with philosophical reflections and put forward many innovative ideas (Lai & Yang, 2020). Marx critically inherited Hegel, Feuerbach, and the French doctrines of socialism and

communism, and deeply reflected on and discarded them. He combined philosophy, communist doctrines and political economy to propose the theory of alienated labor (Liu & Bao, 2023). At the same time, Marx formally founded the materialist dialectic, a methodological tool that provides an important philosophical foundation for the Marxist worldview.

2.2 Establishment Stage

After the Syllabus on Feuerbach and the German Ideology, the ideas and concepts of Marxism were gradually established. This stage not only marked the outcome of their first collaboration, but also provided an important prerequisite for the establishment and formation of the Marxist theoretical system (Li, 2022). In their subsequent works, *The Poverty of Philosophy* and *The Communist Manifesto*, they further elaborated on the system of basic principles of Marxism. Particularly in *The Communist Manifesto*, the publication of the document marked a new stage in the development of the system of Marxist fundamentals. In the publication of *Capital*, Marx further strengthened this theoretical system (Zhou, 2022). He believed that the theoretical basis of the labor theory of value was the materialist conception of history, which complemented each other and formed an indispensable part of the system of Marxist fundamentals. The release of *Das Kapital* not only accelerated the process of development of the system of Marxist fundamentals, but also strengthened its influence at both the theoretical and practical levels, providing a profound theoretical basis for understanding and applying Marxism. This series of works focused on Marx and Engels' deep insights into social, economic, and political issues, providing theoretical guidance for subsequent socialist and communist movements (Feng & Peng, 2021).

2.3 The Stage of Deepening and Perfecting

Since the 1870s and beyond, the system of Marxist fundamentals has been gradually formed and deepened and perfected in the course of continuous practice, research and development (Chen et al., 2022). Marx and Engels particularly emphasized the close connection between scientific socialism, philosophy and political economy. In addition, Engels, in his late 19th century work *The Origin of the Family, Private Ownership, and the State*, provided a comprehensive exposition and argumentation of the areas that had not yet been explored in depth in the system of Marxist fundamentals (Wang, 2022). The release of this work not only marked the further improvement of the system of basic principles of Marxism, but also

had a profound impact on the understanding of the ideological sources of Marxism and the mastery of its system of basic principles by future generations. These works of Engels not only enriched the theoretical content of Marxism, but also made Marxism more complete and systematic, and provided subsequent scholars and practitioners with broader and deeper theoretical resources. These achievements further prove the importance and long-term value of Marxism as a scientific social theory. These two works have an important position in the history of the development of Marxism and provide important theoretical support for the deepening and improvement of the system of Marxist fundamentals. Through in-depth study and exploration, we can better understand the basic principles of Marxism and make greater contributions to promoting the progress and development of human society.

3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARXISM IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORICAL INTERACTION

3.1 Interaction between Marxism and Western Philosophy

Marxism has been closely associated with Western philosophy since its birth. In the 19th century, Marx and Engels, the founders of Marxism, deeply studied the Western philosophical thought of that time, especially the classical philosophy of Germany, criticized and absorbed it, so as to construct the theoretical foundation of Marxism (H. Yang, 2023). First of all, Marx and Engels criticized Hegel's idealistic philosophy, which emphasized the dynamic nature of spirit and thought, and considered history as a process of spiritual and intellectual development. However, Marx and Engels believed that Hegel's philosophy ignored the influence of real socio-economic conditions on historical development and overemphasized the role of spirit and thought. Therefore, they put forward their own historical materialism, which emphasized the role of material productive forces and relations of production in historical development. Secondly, Marx and Engels were also influenced by Feuerbach's materialism. Feuerbach emphasized the importance of the material world, arguing that the real world exists objectively and that human thought and consciousness are reflections of the material world. This view had a profound influence on Marx and Engels' thinking about the development of human society and history. They believed that the structure and changes in human society could be understood by studying the changes in material productivity and relations of production (Michael, 2013). In addition, the

interaction between Marxism and Western philosophy is manifested in the critique of capitalist society. Marx and Engels' critique of capitalist society was influenced by the critical thinking of Western societies at the time, especially the classical political economy of Britain and the socialist ideas of France. They argued that there was exploitation and inequality in capitalist society, and that this inequality was determined by the capitalist relations of production. Therefore, they put forward the theory of proletarian revolution, arguing that only through a revolution to overthrow the capitalist system could true equality and freedom be realized.

3.2 Interaction Between Marxism and Non-Western Cultures

Since its birth, the influence of Marxism has not only been confined to the Western world, but has also had a far-reaching impact on a global scale. This influence is not only manifested in the transformation of Western society, but also in the exchange and integration with non-Western cultures. The interactive influence of Marxism and non-Western cultures is reflected both in the ideological shaping of non-Western societies and in a variety of fields such as culture, art and social practice. First, in terms of ideology, Marxism has provided non-Western countries with a completely new perspective and framework for thinking. In many non-Western countries, Marxism is seen as a critique of the Western capitalist system and a challenge to traditional social structures (Liu, 2022). In these countries, the spread of Marxism is often accompanied by a reflection on traditional social structures and values, and a search for a more just and rational social system. In the cultural sphere, the intersection of Marxism with non-Western cultures is reflected in the excavation and re-creation of local cultures. Many artists and intellectuals from non-Western countries, under the influence of Marxism, have begun to pay attention to the inheritance and innovation of local culture. They try to re-examine and understand the local culture through the perspective of Marxism, draw inspiration from it, and create works of art with national characteristics and cultural heritage. In terms of social practice, the interaction between Marxism and non-Western cultures is manifested in the transformation of traditional social structures and the exploration of new societies (Tom, 2015). In many developing countries, Marxism has become an important ideological weapon for social change. In these countries, Marxists tried to change the irrational social system and achieve national independence and people's liberation by educating and organizing the masses (S. Wang, 2023). At the same time, they also actively explored the development path that suited their national conditions and tried to realize the goals of economic

and social development. However, the interaction between Marxism and non-Western cultures has not been smooth. In practice, the applicability and operability of Marxism often face many challenges due to the great differences in the history, culture and national conditions of each country. In addition, the ruling classes and traditional forces in some non-Western countries also tend to be hostile to Marxism, suppressing and repressing it.

3.3 Interaction between Marxism and Modern Society

Since its birth, Marxism has been closely connected with the development of modern society. As a profound social and political theory, Marxism has had a profound impact on all aspects of modern society. This influence is not only reflected in the criticism and change of capitalist society, but also in the guidance and innovation of the development of modern society. First of all, the most notable impact of Marxism on modern society lies in its critique and transformation of capitalism. Marxism argues that capitalist society suffers from fundamental problems of exploitation, inequality and class conflict. The overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a socialist society through proletarian revolution are important goals pursued by Marxism. In modern society, many countries have, to varying degrees, adopted the theories of Marxism and tried and practiced socialism, such as the socialist construction of the Soviet Union and the reform and opening-up of China. These practices have not only had a far-reaching impact on the development paths of various countries, but have also had a significant impact on the global political and economic landscape. Second, another important influence of Marxism on the development of modern society is manifested in the pursuit of social justice and rights (Zhang, 2020). Marxism emphasizes the freedom and equality of human beings and advocates the realization of these goals through the practice of socialism. In modern society, many countries have been influenced by Marxism in formulating laws and regulations, promoting social reforms, and safeguarding people's rights. For example, the constitutions of many countries have stipulated the basic rights of citizens, and the governments are committed to promoting fairness and universality in the fields of education, medical care and social security, which are all manifestations of the social justice and rights pursued by Marxism. In addition, Marxism has had a significant impact on the ideology and values of modern society. Marxism emphasizes practice and innovation and advocates social change through the practice of the people. The influence of this ideology is manifested in many aspects, such as the introduction of the mass line, the practice of democratic centralism, and

the rise of social movements. In modern society, more and more people have begun to pay attention to social injustice and class problems, and actively participate in social movements and public welfare, all of which are manifestations of the influence of Marxist ideology. However, the interaction between Marxism and modern society is not unidirectional. The changes and development of modern society have in turn presented new challenges and opportunities for Marxism. For example, the acceleration of globalization, the rise of the scientific and technological revolution, and the prominence of environmental issues all require Marxism to constantly innovate and develop to meet the needs of modern society (Gong, 2020).

3.4 Characteristics of the Development of Marxism from the Perspective of Historical Interaction

From the perspective of historical interaction, the development of Marxism presents the following remarkable features: first, the development of Marxism is a process of advancing with the times. Marxism is not an unchanging dogma, but a theoretical system that is constantly developed and improved with the times. In the process of founding the theory of Marxism, Marx and Engels, the founders of Marxism, constantly absorbed and drew on the advanced ideas and cultural achievements of the time, and carried out creative thinking and exploration in combination with the social practice of the time. In the later historical process, Marxists also developed and innovated Marxism under different historical conditions and according to the actual situation, so as to make it more adaptable to the needs of the times. Secondly, the development of Marxism is open and inclusive. The theoretical system of Marxism is an open and inclusive system, which constantly absorbs the excellent achievements of human civilization and engages in dialogue and exchange with other schools of thought. In the course of its development, Marxism has not only criticized and absorbed the ideological achievements of capitalist society, but also drawn on the theoretical and practical experience of other socialist schools. This openness and inclusiveness has enabled Marxism to continuously adapt to the needs of the times and jointly promote the development of human civilization with other schools of thought. Third, the development of Marxism is constantly tested and developed in practice. The essence of Marxism is practical, which emphasizes the connection of theory with practice, the application of theory to practice, and the continuous testing and development of theory in practice. The development of Marxism is constantly tested and perfected in proletarian revolution and social practice. In practice, Marxists constantly summarize the lessons learned

and revise and improve the theory to make it more in line with the actual situation and the needs of the times. Finally, the development of Marxism is global and universal. The theoretical system of Marxism is a theory about the universal laws of the development of human society, which is not only applicable to a certain country or a certain historical condition, but also has a global and universal significance. Historically, the influence of Marxism has not only been confined to socialist countries, but has also affected social movements and reforms in capitalist countries and under other social systems. Today, with globalization and multipolarity, the development of Marxism also faces new opportunities and challenges, but its quest for social justice, equality and freedom remains of great relevance and value.

4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARXISM IN A SPECIFIC HISTORICAL PERIOD

4.1 The Social Background and the Spread of Marxism In 19th Century Europe

Europe in the 19th century was at the peak of the Industrial Revolution. The social changes in this period profoundly affected the spread and development of Marxism. The Industrial Revolution brought about a great leap in the productive forces, the rapid development of the capitalist economy, the acceleration of urbanization, and profound changes in the social structure. First of all, the Industrial Revolution caused a large number of peasants to leave the countryside and flock to the cities, forming a huge proletariat. The living conditions of urban workers were extremely poor. They suffered from the cruel exploitation of capitalists, long working hours, low wages and insecurity of life. This increase in social inequality and class conflict made the working class begin to realize their situation and start to seek ways to change it. Secondly, with the development of the Industrial Revolution, the bourgeoisie dominated the economy, but they also faced many problems. For example, capitalist economic crises occurred frequently and the contradiction between the accumulation of social wealth and the accumulation of poverty became increasingly prominent. The existence of these problems made the bourgeoisie's dominance begin to falter and provided an opportunity for the spread of Marxism. Against this social background, Marxism began to spread in Europe as a new theoretical and ideological weapon. Marx and Engels penetrated deeply into the lives of the working class to understand their aspirations and sufferings, and systematically elaborated the theoretical

system of Marxism by writing the Communist Manifesto, Capital and other works. They pointed out that the capitalist system was the root cause of social inequality and class conflicts, and that true equality and freedom could only be realized through the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a socialist society by means of a proletarian revolution. In 19th century Europe, the spread of Marxism experienced many difficulties and challenges. The bourgeois governments brutally suppressed and persecuted Marxists, and many Marxists were forced into exile. However, the spread of Marxism did not stop as a result. On the contrary, more and more working class and progressive youths began to accept the ideas of Marxism, and they organized themselves to carry out the workers' movement and revolutionary struggle. the social background of Europe in the 19th century provided the soil and opportunity for the spread of Marxism. Driven by the industrial revolution, the formation of the proletariat and the intensification of social contradictions provided a broad social base for the spread of Marxism. At the same time, the crisis of bourgeois rule also created favorable conditions for the spread of Marxism. Under the influence of Marxism, the proletariat in Europe began to realize its historical mission and actively engaged in the struggle to overthrow the capitalist system.

4.2 Socialist Revolutions and the Practice of Marxism in the Early 20th Century

Entering the 20th century, the influence of Marxism in Europe expanded further. During this period, socialist revolutions were in full swing in many countries and the practice of Marxism reached a new height. First, in 1917, the October Revolution led by Lenin triumphed in Russia, establishing the world's first socialist state. This event had a profound impact on the globe, making socialism from theory to reality. Under Lenin's leadership, the Soviet regime adopted a series of measures, such as the introduction of agrarian reform, nationalization of industries, and the establishment of the Red Army, aimed at realizing the ideal of socialism. These practices provided valuable experience and lessons for other socialist countries. Meanwhile, the socialist movements in other European countries also made important progress. For example, the Communist Party in Germany led a revolution in 1918 which, though ultimately failed, provided valuable experience for the subsequent socialist movement. In France, Italy and Austria, socialist parties also made remarkable electoral gains. The practice of these socialist revolutions was not only a test of Marxist theory but also a further development of Marxism. In practice, Marxists constantly

summarized the lessons learned and revised and improved the theory. For example, Lenin put forward the theory of "socialism in one country" in practice, pointing out that in a proletarian revolution it is possible to achieve victory and establish a socialist system in one country. This theory is a major development of the Marxist theory of proletarian revolution. In addition to the practice of socialist revolution, Marxism at the beginning of the 20th century also manifested itself in the critique of capitalist society. With the prosperity of the capitalist economy and the progress of society, the Marxists' critique of capitalist society became deeper and more comprehensive. They pointed out that exploitation and inequality under the capitalist system remained the main problems of society, and that the capitalist economic crisis, class contradictions and social inequality remained contradictions that the capitalist system could not overcome. These critiques not only revealed the limitations of the capitalist system, but also provided an important ideological weapon for the practice of socialist revolution.

4.3 Socialist construction and Marxist Theoretical Innovations in the mid-20th Century

Entering the middle of the 20th century, socialist countries began to enter a period of peace building after experiencing wars and political turmoil. During this period, socialist construction became an important task for all countries, while the theoretical innovation of Marxism also made important progress. First, Marxism made important theoretical innovations in the economic field. In economic construction, socialist countries were faced with the problem of how to realize rapid economic development and the improvement of people's living standards. In practice, Marxists in various countries have continued to explore and innovate, putting forward many new models of economic theory and practice. For example, the Stalinist model of the USSR and the planned economy model of China are all developments and innovations of Marxist economic theory according to the actual situation of their countries. These innovations have achieved remarkable results in practice and have also provided reference and experience for the economic construction of other socialist countries. Secondly, Marxism has also made important theoretical innovations in the political field. With the establishment and development of socialist countries, the improvement of the political system has become an important task for all countries. In this process, Marxists have made in-depth discussions and innovations in political theory. For example, Mao Zedong's theory of "people's democratic dictatorship", Deng Xiaoping's

theory of the "primary stage of socialism" and the theory of "reform and opening up" are all significant developments in Marxist political theory. These innovations have contributed to the political construction of socialist countries. These innovations have provided important theoretical guidance and practical experience for the political construction of socialist countries. In addition, Marxism has also made important theoretical innovations in the field of culture. With the deepening of socialist construction, the cultural issue has gradually become the focus of attention of all countries. Marxists believe that culture is an important part of social development and that cultural construction must be compatible with economic and political construction. Under the guidance of this idea, socialist countries have strengthened cultural construction and promoted the development of cultural undertakings. For example, China's "Double Hundred Principles" and the Soviet Union's "Socialist Realism" are all practices and innovations of Marxist cultural theory. Finally, the innovation of Marxist theory in the mid-20th century was also manifested in the criticism of capitalism. In this period, many new problems and contradictions emerged in capitalist countries, such as economic crisis and social inequality. Marxists carried out in-depth criticism and analysis of these problems, further revealing the limitations and contradictions of the capitalist system. These critiques not only enriched the theoretical system of Marxism, but also provided important ideological weapons for the development of socialist countries.

4.4 Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of Marxism in the Context of Globalization in the 21st Century

Entering the 21st century, globalization has become an irreversible trend, which brings new challenges and opportunities to the development of Marxism. Globalization has made the economic, political and cultural ties between countries closer, and has also made the contradictions and problems of capitalism more prominent. At the same time, globalization also provides a broader stage and more resources for the development of Marxism. First, globalization has intensified the contradictions and problems of capitalism, which poses new challenges to Marxism. With the deepening of globalization, the scope and degree of influence of the capitalist economic crisis has been expanding, and social inequality and class contradictions have been further aggravated. In addition, many new problems have arisen in the course of globalization, such as shortage of resources, environmental degradation and cultural conflicts. The emergence of these problems has put forward higher demands and

challenges to the theory and practice of Marxism. However, globalization also provides new opportunities for the development of Marxism. Globalization has made exchanges and cooperation between countries more frequent and closer, and Marxists can learn more deeply about the experiences and lessons of other countries, and draw on and absorb the theoretical and practical experiences of other socialist schools. In addition, globalization also provides a broader stage and more resources for the spread and development of Marxism. In the context of globalization, the development of Marxism requires continuous innovation and improvement. Marxists need to study and explore the laws and trends of globalization in depth, reveal the nature and inner contradictions of globalization, and put forward strategies and methods to deal with the challenges of globalization. At the same time, Marxists also need to pay attention to and solve global problems, promote the reform and improvement of the global governance system, and contribute to the realization of global peace, stability and development.

5. CONCLUSION

To summarize, looking at the development history of Marxism, from the perspective of historical interaction, it can be found that it is a process of continuous evolution and enrichment. The in-depth study of the development history and thematic evolution of Marxism enables us to more deeply understand and grasp its core viewpoints as well as its significance in practice. Marxism, as a product of the times, evolves with the changes of the times. In grasping the dialectical unity between change and constancy of the theoretical themes of Marxism, we are able to clearly recognize the logic of Marxism's development in the twists and turns of history. We have the responsibility to consciously assume the sacred duty of promoting the development of Marxism.

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