

World Socialism Studies

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MAIN CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

• Special Contribution •

Expertise in Marxism as a Special Tool of Utmost Importance for Communists: In Commemoration the 200th Anniversary of Karl Marx's Birth Wang Weiguang (4)

Marxism is the theoretical foundation for the guidance of our cause, and the impregnable spiritual prop for every single communist. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Marx's birth, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core fully acknowledges and attaches great importance to Marxism, calling on the whole Party to work hard and obtain expertise in Marxism as a special tool of utmost importance for communists. First, we must always stick firmly to the belief in Marxism, and to the high degree of unity between the great communist ideal and common ideal of socialism with China characteristics. Second, to obtain expertise in Marxism, we must promote a Marxist style of learning, maintain a problem consciousness and problem orientation; we must learn the fundamental Marxist viewpoints and scientific methodology, and continue to carry forward the Sinicization of Marxism. Third, we must master the Marxist way of thinking and working, which means to stick to the people-centered position, the ideological line of seeking truth from facts, and the departure point of actual conditions in all our work; to stick to the scientific method of materialist dialectics and the historicized thinking of historical materialism; to correctly grasp the development trend for the cause of the Party and the law of development of history; and to continuously carry forward the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era.

Learning from the Revolutionary Spirit of our Predecessors in the Xinmin Institute and Continuing to Strive for the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation Zhu Jiamu (10)

The Xinmin Institute established by Mao Zedong, Cai Hesen, etc., in 1918 was an important beginning in the early organization of the Communist Party of China. The proletarian revolutionaries of the older generation in the Xinmin Institute had three outstanding characteristics. First, they were deeply concerned with the future of the nation and the people, with great ambition and lofty goals. Second, they never stopped in their pursuit of truth. Third, they were faithful to their belief with unswerving determination. At the current critical moment in the development of the Chinese nation, the younger generation should learn from the revolutionary spirit of our predecessors in the Xinmin Institute, inherit their lofty communist ideal and keep striving for the happiness of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

• Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era •

Material Conception of History as the Foundation for the Scientific Nature of Marxism Yin Hanning (14)

Material conception of history is the most important foundation for the scientific and truth value of Marxism, as well as the soul of Marxist philosophy. Marx's study of political economy was actually the process of discovering and applying material conception of history. The discovery of surplus value was the scientific application of material conception of history. Material conception of history is the basic concept of dialectical materialism that is applied in social spheres, and the basic way of thinking in scientific socialism. With this conception, Marx and Engels reveal the fundamental path of the comprehensive development of human being. Both history and reality show that only through upholding historical materialism can we continuously raise the understanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics to a new height and open up new realms for the development of Marxism in contemporary China.

On Xi Jinping Thought on the Confidence in China's Political System Liu Zhiming (20)

Xi Jinping thought on the confidence in China's political system is an important component of Xi Jinping thought on the

“Four Confidence,” and represents the important construction of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. To profoundly grasp the reason, main points and demand of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s discussion on the confidence in China’s political system is of great significance for our Party to ensure the correct direction of the advance of the reform and opening-up, to better uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, and to fulfil the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

• In Commemoration of 200th Anniversary of Marx’s Birth •

There Is Only One Marxism in the World Zhou Xincheng (27)

Currently there are various forms of Marxism, categorized by the historical stages to which they belong, by being traditional or modern, and by the regions or countries where they emerge. These various forms of Marxism need to be treated and understood in a dialectical way. Marxism is a science. Its basic tenets form a scientific theoretical system. A theoretical system can be defined as Marxist one only if it approves the basic tenets of Marxism, whereas those that do not approve or even oppose such tenets are not Marxist but should be called non-Marxism or anti-Marxism. The basic tenets of Marxism are the guide of action for the proletariat in their revolutionary struggles, and must be applied in combination with concrete conditions at specific moments in specific places in order to find solutions to the problems in the revolutionary struggles and socialist construction. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the theoretical product of combining the basic tenets of Marxism with the current conditions of China, which in essence is scientific socialism and presents Chinese characteristics in the concrete ways of realizing the fundamental principles of scientific socialism.

Analysis of the Dialectic Relationship between Mode of Production and Class Struggle—In Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of Marx’s Birth and Strengthen the World Outlook and Conception of History among the Communists Sun Duo (33)

There have long existed two types of misunderstandings concerning the role of productive forces, mode of production and class struggle in social development. The first one ignores the effect of class will and class struggle, attributing the development of history solely to economic factors, especially productive forces; the second one ignores the effect of the mode of production, especially productive forces, and believes that class will and class struggle create history independent of objective economic conditions. Both misunderstandings left profound lessons in the history of international communist movement and the socialist construction of China. The *Manifesto of the Communist Party* serves as a model for us to correctly understand, master and apply the fundamental ideas of historical materialism in Marxism. It helps us strengthen our world outlook and conception of history as communists through revisiting related explication by Marx and Engels and learning from their stance, viewpoints and methods in the analysis of the development of human society.

Comrade Marx That the Post-90s Generation Should Know—In Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of Marx’s Birth Zhu Jun (38)

Upon the 200th anniversary of Marx’s birth, a “Marx Heat” is emerging in the West. Various commemoration activities were held in Britain and Germany. A series of publications and literary and artistic works have been produced, which demonstrates Marx’s influence around the world and the respect that artists have paid to Marx. While scholars in the West reevaluate Marx, the communist parties in different countries are also paying tribute to Marx, fully acknowledging the profound influence that Marxism has had at the global level and the significance of Marxism for the world today. For the post-90s generation, the best way to commemorate Marx is to learn and practice Marxism, prevent the erosion of capitalist ideology, maintain firm belief in Marxism and consolidate the important role of Marxism in the national ideology.

• Marxist Political Economics •

Marxism Has Been Seriously Marginalized in the European Universities—Analysis Mainly Based on the Current Situation of Marxism in Teaching and Research in Italian Universities

..... [Italy] Andrea Catone Translated by Li Shuqing (44)

Marxism is closely related to universities. In universities, the struggle for cultural hegemony between bourgeoisie and proletarians, imperialism and oppressed mass is rather fierce. Looking back at the existence and development of Marxism in universities in developed capitalist countries, we can see that the teaching of Marxism and the existence and development of

Marxism curricula were closely related to the ups and downs of the workers' movement. Italian Marxism in the 20th century made significant contributions to the world. Currently, however, Marxism has been removed from the curriculum of political economy in Italy by all sorts of measures and has been completely marginalized in scientific research. In universities of Italy and other Western countries, Marxism has already been separated from real struggles and movement and from political parties of working class. Marxist professors do not communicate with each other and there is no unified theory and proletarian world outlook. In addition, the emergence of Marxist professors who occupy a privileged position with purely theoretical discussions that bear no connection with social movement in reality is to some extent a method adopted by bourgeoisie in order to take the lead in ideological struggles, which has succeeded in subtly infiltrating the Marxist troops and undermining the Marxist coalition.

The Ideological Suppression of Left-wing Political Parties by the Right-wing Government in Japan Tan Xiaojun (50)

In developed capitalist countries, capitalist ideology prevails, attacking and suppressing the proletarian ideology in various aspects. In Japan, there is a fundamental opposition between the Liberal Democratic Party representing the bourgeois interests and the Communist Party of Japan representing the interests of the working class. The right-wing force in Japan has set out new anti-Communist strategies, i. e. , to create a system of “Two Major Political Parties” . The strategy is actually to create a situation for the two major conservative political parties to hold power in alternation so as not to leave the left-wing force any opportunity to win the majority of seats in the parliament via election, and prevent the Communist Party of Japan from growing and shaking the foundation of the current regime. For that reason, the ideological struggle is rather fierce and will exist in the long term.

• International Studies •

The Emergence of Structural Changes in Sino-American Power Relationship Wang Wen (54)

The Sino-American relations have such global impact that one small change could lead to systemic shift. For that reason, the power relationship, changes in strategic situation, intensification of trade friction and escalation of conflicts between China and the United States have always received wide attention from the two countries and the world. Since 2008, the power comparison between China and the US has undergone significant changes, and the strategic situation between the two countries has undergone structural changes; China has moved from a position of strategic defense to that of strategic equivalence. The current Sino-US interaction must be understood under the unity between single short term event and long-term trend, individual gains and strategic situation, opportunity and tendency, and “Tao” and “technique” . Currently, we should explore the reasons of the rise of the US, grasp its social and political characteristics, understand its internal contradictions, and gain a favorable position through taking advantages of its cyclical policy mistakes and domestic crises. The outcome of Sino-American power struggle depends on the level of domestic governance. As long as we continue to deepen the reform and opening-up, proceed with established strategy of development and patiently handle the all-around power struggle with the US with the mindset of a protracted war, China will eventually become the one that prevails.

Change and Consistency: New Changes in the US Election and the Underlying Causes Chen Chengxin (59)

With the development of the US style democracy and the change in the status of the United States in the world, the US presidential election continues to draw attention with its influence and value for research. Currently, research on the issue of political donation in the US system of democracy mainly focuses on revealing and highlighting the dilemma—as an endogenous contradiction—it has brought to the US style democracy. Looking at the 58th US presidential election, this article analyzes the changes and consistencies in the three dimensions of political donation, the role of candidates, and the election culture. It further reflects upon the relationship between the new changes in political donation and the social structure of the United States, with the hope to gain a more accurate understanding of the form and essence of Western, particularly the US style democracy.

• Issues of Ideology •

The Relationship between Upholding Atheism and Exercising Freedom of Religious Belief Shall Not Be Reversed Zhu Xiaoming (67)

The relationship between upholding atheism and exercising freedom of religious belief must be correctly recognized,

understood and grasped. We cannot partially stress the freedom of religious belief. Otherwise errors could take place in our action. Freedom in religious belief cannot be exclusively interpreted as freedom of belief in various religions, while ignoring the freedom of not believing in any religion and promoting atheism. In China as a socialist country led by the Communist Party of China, political solidarity should be established between atheism and theism and guidance provided for religions. The goal of building a socialist and communist society led by political party of the proletariat is to free belief from religion, which is the general principle in Marxism, the essence and destination of Marxist concept of religion, and the touchstone to differentiate true and fake Marxism regarding the issue of religion.

Class Category under the Perspective of Transformed Theory of Practice Zhu Yiyi (71)

The attention to and the use of class as a category has its beginning in modern times. Before Marx, the inherently mechanical, intuitive and abstract methodology had resulted in a metaphysical way of thinking that cannot possibly be removed from the class analysis of the time. The establishment of Marxist philosophy represents a great transformation in the history of philosophy, which achieved realistic, concrete and dialectic understanding and application of class as a category directly connected with private ownership. Class in Marxism is a holistic entity which should be neither completely denied nor understood or applied in our analysis in a simplistic, intuitive, and mechanical manner.

• Insights from History •

Renewal of Respect for the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in the New History Textbook for Middle Schools in Russia Wu Huixin (76)

The latest textbook of national history in Russia published in 2016, *The 10th Grade Textbook of Russian History*, acknowledges that the October Revolution was the choice of the history, and recognizes the historical status and significance of Lenin and his action. In this textbook, the October Revolution in the form of armed uprising was not only the result of Bolsheviks' seizing of the opportunity at the time being under the leadership of Lenin, but also the right choice of history and inevitable outcome under specific historical conditions. The textbook presents an objective evaluation of the Stalinist system and Stalin's contribution in the Great Patriotic War was acknowledged. Khrushchev, as always, receives mixed comments with as much blame as praise. Gorbachev's ideas and practice of reform were criticized; his "democratization" was disapproved in that it led to the crisis in the political system of the Soviet Union without providing a better and more sophisticated alternative in its place, thus leaving the reform with an uncertain future.

Memories of Family Love and Teaching—In Commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of Comrade Wang Zhen's Birth Wang Zhi (80)

• Academic Reviews •

Public Oriented Theory and Reality Based Research—Reflections upon the publication of the Fifth Volume of *Vigilance in Times of Peace* · *Booklet Series of World Socialism* Chen Zhihua (82)

Liberalism Will Only Intensify Global Inequity, and The Real and Only Way Out Is Socialism—The 2018 World Inequity Report and Samir Amin's Comments Shan Chao and Liu Xiaolan (84)

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