

# World Socialism Studies

No. 11, 2018

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## MAIN CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

• Special Contribution •

**Reflections the Current World Structure** ..... Zhang Quanjing (4)

We must first be aware of the general trend of the world when we engage in revolution, construction and reform. The Communist Party of China persists in holding high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, actively promoting the great cause of reform and opening up, and pushing forward socialism with Chinese characteristic for a new era. Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era will prove to the world that development towards socialism is irresistible. The current world is in an era of transition from capitalism to socialism, and its principal contradiction is between capitalism and socialism, or rather, between the United States and China. The capitalist countries, especially the United States, have not changed their plots of “peacefully evolution” in the socialist countries at all. We must, under the guidance of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s series of important comments on understanding and grasping the world’s general trend and the trend of our time, be fully aware of the difficulties, correctly estimate the situation, well handle our own issues, and lose no time in pushing forward socialism with Chinese characteristics and world socialism.

**Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the Current World Structure** ..... Zhu Jiamu (7)

Turning from their initial forms to the ones with more national characteristics, especially the proposal of socialism with Chinese characteristics, is an inevitable choice for the socialist countries after the disintegration of the socialist camp, with the developed countries promoting economic globalization and their own economic restructuring, and with the majority of the developing countries asking for peace and development at an increasingly stronger voice after independence. The recent domestic and international situation has once again shown that socialism with Chinese characteristics is socialism rather than any other doctrine. In integrating into the world economy, China adheres to the dominant role of public ownership with the co-development of various other forms of ownership, and persists in combining the role of market with that of the government. This is indeed a beneficial and effective way in line with China’s national conditions, and must be maintained for a long time. We must respond rationally to some recent arguments about state-owned enterprises and the role of government. We should not only fully understand the great and profound changes in the world today, but also strengthen our

belief while comprehensively deepening the reform and expanding the opening up, so as to better follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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

**An Analysis of the Relationship between the “Belt and Road” Initiative and Major Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics** ..... Ding Bing (11)

Marxists believe that the economic base determines the superstructure. The promotion of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, which is based on the principle of joint construction and sharing, determines that China’s diplomatic thought is bound to be different from the imperialist countries’ hegemonic and colonialist diplomatic thoughts aiming at global economic expansion. The “Belt and Road” Initiative put forward by China has received strong support and active participation from a vast number of developing countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America and countries in the Pacific region. It has greatly consolidated, expanded and strengthened China’s foreign relations, has highlighted the unique charm of China’s idea of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and has laid a solid economic foundation for the formation of a new type of international relations with greater fairness and justice at the global level.

**Always Adhering to the Right Direction and Path of Reform and Opening-up** ..... Zhu Jidong (19)

The successful experience of China’s reform and opening-up over the past 40 years tells us that it is the bottom line and principle that we must always adhere to the right direction and path of reform and opening-up. We must not only see that there has indeed been debates on the direction and path of China’s reform and opening-up, but also deeply understand that one of the important reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union is that there were major problems in the direction and path of its reform and opening-up. Therefore, on the basis of the existing lessons, we should conscientiously study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping’s important expositions on the direction and path of China’s reform and opening-up, so as to ensure the correct direction and path of China’s reform and opening-up in the new era.

• **Studies on World Socialism** •

**Revisiting the Basic Idea of Socialist Revolution in Marx and Engels** ..... Liu Zhiming (28)

Marx and Engels believed that revolution is not based on the will of man. Fundamentally speaking, Marx and Engels were in an agreement on the path of socialist revolution, that is, they both thought that violent revolution should be the main path. Although they affirmed “legal” system of universal election and other forms of struggle, they believed that it was the strategy aimed at preparing for the final battle with the ruling class. Therefore, it is wrong to regard Engels as one who advocated peaceful evolution into socialism. Since different countries have different systems, customs and traditions, and

the paths, means and strategies of socialist revolutions in different countries are diversified, communist parties of all countries have the right to independently develop their own revolutionary strategies.

### **China's Evolving Approach to Socialist Construction**

..... Written by [South Africa] Chris Matlhako, Compiled by Li Shuqing (36)

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has explained the long-term policy of China's socialist development. Xi Jinping elaborated on the scientific significance of the path, the theory and the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the relationship between them in the report of the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress. He has further clarified that the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the way to achieve China's goal, the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the guide for action, and the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental guarantee.

### **Marx and Engels' Scientific Definition of "Marxism"** ..... Wang Zhilin, Zhou Hang (41)

In history, people have used the concept of "Marxism" in both commendatory and derogatory terms, and they all treated "Marxism" as certain sectarian theory. However, since Marx always disapproved of the concept, and disliked very much the dogmatic and sectarian practice in relation to the concept, to the extent that he even solemnly asserted that "I only know that I am not a Marxist." After the death of Marx, Engels began to use the term "Marxism" and to refer to Marx and the theory he had founded. This is not only to commemorate Marx, but also to hold high the banner of Marxism, to fight against all kinds of anti-Marxism, opportunism and sectarianism, and to promote and realize the correct integration of Marxism and the workers' movement. Engels repeatedly stressed the need to correctly understand and grasp the essence of Marxism. He was consistent with Marx's position in criticizing and opposing the abuse of Marxism by all kinds of opportunism and sectarianism, and in adhering to the truth and scientificity of Marxism. In this sense, he agreed with Marx's idea that "I only know that I am not a Marxist." While some scholars at home and abroad come to a conclusion that Marx himself denied Marxism based on this assertion of Marx, their fundamental purpose is still to deny Marxism.

### **• Hot-spot Analysis •**

### **How to Understand the Basic Connotation of Intraparty Political Life** ..... Yang Jun (49)

"Intraparty political life" refers to the sum of various activities with political implications within the Communist Party of China. The most essential feature and the greatest strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Both the nature of the Party's political organization and the Party's political status dictate that all the Party's activities are directly or indirectly political. Adding the word "political" to the phrase "intraparty life" is meant to emphasize the political nature of the life within the Party and the requirement of "politicizing the Party's life".

From this perspective, since the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has put equal stress on “emphasizing politics in a clear-cut way” and “carrying out political life within the party” .

**Adam Smith’s Theory of Sympathy as an Opposition to the People** ..... Jiang Nan (53)

Adam Smith systematically put forward a social moral theory with sympathy at the core, in which he highly appraised the great significance of sympathy to human ethics. However, although in the 18th century in which he lived, at least one-third of the British working people lived in poverty, suffering and despair, Adam Smith was so indifferent that he not only had no sympathy for them at all but also thought that the rich had no obligation to help the poor. He even advocated that the market should replace the government to provide aids to the poor. On the one hand, Adam Smith spoke loudly of sympathy; while on the other hand, he did not have any sympathy for the working people in suffering. The fundamental reason is that as a thinker living in the rising period of capitalism, Adam Smith had strong confidence and belief in capitalist market economy and capitalism which are not centered on the people. Therefore, Adam Smith talked about his theory of sympathy from the standpoint of the ruling class, and he was on the opposite side to the people. Such a theory staying away from the people cannot be a guiding economic theory in a socialist country centered on the people.

**The Role of Building a Powerful Modern Socialist Country in International Socialist Movement**

..... Zeng Xiankui (62)

Building a powerful modern socialist country is a major strategic goal put forward by the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress, which will play an important leading role in China’s economic development in the next 30 years. At the current stage, both the developed and developing capitalist countries in the world are facing a protruding problem: development stagnation. This shows that the capitalist system and the division of labor in its economic system are confronting insurmountable difficulties, which has proved that the world requires new ideas on development. China’s process of building a powerful modern socialist country will have an impact on all aspects of the international socialist movement, mainly in the sense that it will lead to a further rethinking about the capitalist system, a deeper understanding of and an increase in people’s confidence in the socialist system, and a positive impact on the existing socialist countries. China’s process of building a modern powerful socialist country is a peaceful process without any alleged “China threat” by Western countries.

• **Insights from History** •

**The Latest Historical Writings in Russia and their Analysis** ..... Wu Enyuan (69)

Around the year 2007, Russia adjusted the direction of research on Russian history: distortion of the national history was opposed; some viewpoints representing the mainstream national ideology was put forward; the government passed legislation to oppose distorting the national history. These measures have reversed the chaotic historical research in the field

of humanities and history education in Russia, as well as the defamation of Russian history filled in the history textbooks. The course of history is thus re-steered towards the correct direction. In addition, Russia has put forward new concepts such as the “great revolution” and “modernization” in the studies of history so as to objectively evaluate the Russian history, which has led to the publication of a number of important works.

### **Gorbachev's Reform and the Disintegration of the Soviet Union**

..... Written by V. I. Zhukov, Translated by Su Ruixue (72)

In 1985, Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, at the beginning of his administration, was ambitious in pursuing “reform and new thinking” in the USSR in an attempt to comprehensively transform the Soviet system, but he eventually became the grave digger who ended the Soviet Union. Gorbachev put forward the slogan of “openness” at home and “new thinking of diplomacy” to the outside world. However, Gorbachev's reform design for the Soviet Union lacked not only the right direction of Marxism, but also an overall judgment, grasp and well-targeted road map. Moreover, the Gorbachev ruling bloc had basically lost its flesh-and-blood connection with the masses of the people, had lost its due representativeness and advanced nature, and had become an obsolete corrupt privileged group. All of this led to the inevitable failure of the reform and become the painful lessons in the course of the socialist movement.

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