Historical Practice and Inspiration of the Popularization of Marxism of the Communist Party of China in Yan'an Period

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Abstract: The popularization of Marxism has the theoretical quality of practicality and mass. So the historical practice of the popularization of Marxism in Yan'an period still provides lessons for contemporary. In Yan'an period, relatively stable external and education and publicity environment on Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, as well as ideological unity within the Party, provided historical practice for the Communist Party of China to promote the popularization of Marxism. CPC launched a series of practical activities, such as translating Marx and Engles classics and writing books, carrying out mass education, re-constructioning social and shaping models. CPC interacted with the mass and had made the mass cognitive, identity and believe Marxist theory. Combined with contemporary Chinese reality, this paper further proposes enlightenments for contemporary the popularization of Marxism.

Introduction

The 17th National Congress of CPC put forward the major theoretical propositions of “popularization of Marxism”, and the academic circles have carried out theoretical research. At present, the academic community's understanding of the connotation of Marxist popularization mainly includes the broad and popular nature of theoretical communication; the mass can turn theory into practice; the people consciously spread and develop Marxism, etc. During the period of Yan'an, CPC took Marxism as the guiding ideology, attached great importance to the theory construction, paid attention to the actual needs of the people and took various measures to effectively promote the popularization of Marxism. Historical experience proves that the popularization of Marxism is not a purely theoretical education problem, but a subject that sticks to the mass line and has distinctive characteristics of the times and the characteristics of practice. Therefore, the study of the CPC's practice of promoting the popularization of Marxism in the Yan'an period is of great significance to the popularization of contemporary Marxism in China.

1 The Historical Conditions for CPC to Promote the Popularization of Marxism in Yan'an Period

1.1 The external environment of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region was relatively stable

The peaceful settlement of the Xi'an Incident at the end of 1936 basically ended the ten years of civil war between the KMT and CPC. After the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, the national crisis intensified, the national anti-Japanese national salvation movement continued to rise, and the second cooperation between the KMT and CPC was formally put on the agenda. In September 1937, the KMT Central News Agency issued the “CPC Central Committee for the promulgation of the KMT Communique Declaration”; Lin Boqu on behalf of the CPC issued a power to all parties, announced that Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia “workers and peasants democratic government” changed its name to “Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border government”. These were in fact recognized that the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region was established by the National Government and had a legitimate political organization. “The CPC began to move from a single guerrilla military organization to a comprehensive and solid ruling organization. Speaking for an objective perspective, the original can’t be considered all kinds of business now to proceed to practice,
construction, including cultural undertakings. The relatively stable external environment provided a relatively peaceful space and relatively abundant time for the military and civilian to study and publicize the Marxist theory, which provided the possibility for the popularization of Marxism.

1.2 The Relative Improvement of Educational Propaganda Environment in Shaanxi - Gansu - Ningxia Border Region

The border region carried out the new democratic political, economic and cultural policies. In politics, the CPC vigorously organized and promoted the people's democratic electoral campaign, initiated various forms of electoral activities, specially proposed and implemented the election, and included in the electoral regulations. The unselected government was temporary and must be elected by people to call the official government. On the economic side, CPC adjusted the land policy according to the changes of the main contradictions in each period. For example, during the War of Resistance Against Japan, CPC implemented a policy of landlords to reduce interest rates and farmers paying rent. These measures met the needs of all levels of the rural community at that time, laying a favorable foundation for mobilizing them to participate in the construction of the border areas. CPC regarded cultural work as a part of the overall construction of the border areas and required cultural work to penetrate the mass. Under this regime, there is complete freedom of speech, publication, research and belief. For cultural and young intellectuals, as long as they stand on the stand of the war of resistance, they are united and absorbed and try their best to help their work and study. For the various departments of culture, as long as the work of the War of Resistance Against Japan is conducive to the country, as far as possible to promote its free upward development.

Through the creation of newspapers, the issuance of leaflets, posters, organization propaganda team, acting drama, the CPC had also set up a large number of primary and secondary schools to carry out social education to improve the political quality of the people of the base.

1.3 The Party 'S Learning Movement and the Rectification Movement in Yan'an to Unify the Party' S Understanding

Before the Yan'an period, dogmatism existed within the CPC, which caused the CPC to suffer great losses. Dogmatists have created serious bureaucratic and subjective doctrines in real work, and this serious dislocation of the mass and practice has seriously hindered the spread of Marxism in China. In addition, in the local organizations of CPC, especially in rural grassroots organizations, and some members of the composition of impure, some landlords, rich peasants and rogue elements also joined the CPC's organizations. Whether it was for the Chinese revolution, or for the popularization of Marxism, these were extremely serious obstacles. In order to overcome the harm of dogmatism, the party launched a learning movement with the Marxist theory as the main content of the party's senior cadres from the Sixth Plenary Session of the Sixth Party Committee in 1938, with the aim of enhancing the height of the party's Marxist theory and theoretical study Consciousness, and establishing a scientific attitude towards Marxism. In the spring of 1942, the CPC carried out the Marxist theory education movement in the whole Party - Yan'an rectification, and comprehensively and systematically summed up the historical experience of the Party, including the ideological reflection of the past history of the party suffered “left” and right-leaning ideological roots, the achievement of unity and understanding of the party, and the maintain of a high degree of unity of thought. Therefore, the inner-party learning movement and the rectification movement in Yan'an enhanced the consciousness of the whole party's study of Marxist theory and laid the ideological and practical basis for the popularization of Marxism.

2 The Historical Practice of Cpc to Promote the Popularization of Marxism in Yan'an Period

2.1 The Main Force of the Development of Marxism Popularization in Yan'an Period

2.1.1 Leader—Party Leading Cadres and Party Members

During the popularization of Marxism in Yan'an period, the leading cadres of the Party became the leading forces, advocated, organized the practice of popularization of Marxism and played the role
of controlling the whole process. After the Zunyi meeting, Zhang Wentian was in charge of the party's propaganda work, and he required the party's propaganda cadres to have the ability to encourage in a passionate or humorous manner to be familiar with the language of the mass, to understand the mass of life and psychology.[4] The Party Central Committee with Mao Tse-tung as the core attached great importance to the construction of the contingent of cadres, and he asked that all should to understand the Marxist theory. In October 1936, in a letter from Mao Tse-tung to Ye Jianying Liu Ding, he asked the two to buy a number of popular social science, natural science and philosophy books for learning in Yan'an, including Ai Siqi's “Philosophy for the Mass”. [5] At the Sixth Plenary Session of the Sixth Plenary Session, Mao Tse-tung pointed out that Party members should study Marxist-Leninist theory, national history, China's development trends, and educate lower-level party members. [6] It is obvious that the Party attaches great importance to the improvement of Marxist theory of knowledge and accomplishment. And asked the party members to help the mass to analyze the situation of the Chinese revolution and solve the real problems with the Marxist standpoint, viewpoint and method, and unite the broad masses to participate in the revolution.

2.1.2 Booster—Intellectuals

In 1937, Mao Tse-tung pointed out in the “Substantial Absorption of Intellectuals” that intellectuals played a huge role in organizing the mass, developing revolutionary cultural movements and establishing a revolutionary united front. The intellectuals were an important driving force for the victory of the Chinese revolution. However, China's intellectuals were special. “Intellectuals and young students are not a class or class...the majority can be classified as petty bourgeois category... Marxism-Leninism in China are first spread and accepted in intellectuals and young students.” [7] To this end, Mao Tse-tung stressed that intellectuals must “learn Marxism-Leninism” and “must have the knowledge of Marxism-Leninism” in order to “participate in the actual struggle of the mass of workers, peasants and soldiers in actual action to show the workers and peasants People, to educate the mass of workers, peasants and soldiers.” [8] By the end of 1938, more than 100,000 intellectuals had traveled to Yan'an, and they gradually changed their thinking, understood and accepted Marxism through the Party's Marxist theory of education. The intellectuals have vigorously promoted Marxism among the mass of workers, peasants and soldiers, promoted the effective development of the popularization of Marxism and made a positive contribution to the victory of the Chinese revolution.

2.1.3 Communicator—The Media of Newspapers and Broadcast

Party newspapers, mass newspapers, radio and other media spread the party's words to every citizen of the base. “New Chinese Newspaper” and “Jiefang Daily” focused on the party, the country's major events. “Communists” and “Jiefang” weekly focus on the party's policy guidelines and the CPC Central Committee documents, party leaders speech and articles. In addition, the “Chinese Workers”, “Chinese Youth”, “Chinese Women”, “Popular Literature”, “the Eighth Route Army Military and Political Journal” spread a new culture, mobilized the various people to study. The Xinhua News Agency was established in 1937, and Yan'an Xinhua radio station was established in the spring of 1940. They were two “warriors” on the party's radio communications front. The party's theory and policy was promoted to the country and abroad. Newspapers and broadcast media and other media set up a bridge between the theory and the mass, and enhance the intuition of theoretical communication, inspire the political consciousness of the mass.

2.2 The Cpc 'S Practical Activities to Promote the Popularization of Marxism in Yan'an Period

2.2.1 Translation of Marx's Masterpiece and Writing Works to Understand Marxist Theory

The compilation department of Yan'an Marella College is the first specialized institution in the history of the party to compile Marxist-Leninist classics. At that time the translation books were mainly from the Soviet Union. The main task of the compilation department was to compile the book “Marne Series”, “Selected Works of Lenin” and Stalin's writings. In addition, some literary and military theories of Marx and Marvin were also translated. For example, Yan'an Lu Xun Art
Institute published “Marx and Engels Lenin on the Art”; Jiao Minzhi translated Engels' military papers “Charge” and “Military Theory”. During the Yan'an period, the leading cadres and intellectuals of the Party studied Marxism-Leninism, wrote a large number of Marxist theoretical monographs and papers. For example, Mao Tse-tung's “On Practice” and “On Contradiction” is the main symbol of the party's exploration in the field of Marxist philosophy. “On the Protracted War” is the main symbol of the party's exploration in the military field. Ai Siqi's “Philosophy for the Mass” links philosophy with daily life. The translation of Marxist-Leninist works has transformed Marxism from Western languages and followed Chinese language and Chinese style. The leaders of the party's leading cadres and intellectuals have provided new materials and new ideas for the general public to understand and learn Marxism. These popular works were representative and easy to understand. It was one of the basic ways to promote the Marxist theory of the party in the mass during the Yan'an period, which had made a profound influence on the mass.

2.2.2 Carry out Mass Education, and Establish the Mass' Recognition and Belief in Marxism

The popularization of Marxism is the process of public perception of Marxism from cognition to practical use. During the Yan'an period, Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region was a cultural desert. The mass were not fully aware of the concept of Marxism, democracy and nation. The mass even thought that the early revolutionary activities of the Red Army were as same as those of the previous “good bandits”. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out mass education. In order to fully publicize the theory of Marxism, education and research institutions had established, such as Yan'an Marella College, Anti-Japanese Military and Political University, Lu Xun Art Institute, Tse-tung Youth College. These institutions used the basic theory of Marxism-Leninism as an important teaching content to train students to use Marxism-Leninism to analyze and solve specific problems. In the process of education and teaching, the school will turn the theoretical discourse and political documents into daily-life discourse. For example, external factors are the conditions of change, internal factors are the basis of external changes. In order to illustrate the dialectical materialist view, Mao Tse-tung gave an example of eggs hatching chicks. The CPC took into account the differences in the level of understanding of educational objects. It established the cultural and educational activities center such as the Civilization Room and the Rescue Room, run the night school, literacy classes, organize literacy groups, speech, drama and other activities. The CPC combined Marxism with the literature and art that are known to the mass. “Nanniwan” is a typical masterpiece, as well as opera “The White Haired Girl”, drama “Thunderstorm”, the song “Ode to Yan'an”, “Chorus of Yellow River”. These works are not only art works to enjoy, but also educational material to affect people. Various forms of mass education not only improved the cultural quality of the mass, but also made the party's Marxist ideology in the base area had been widely disseminated.

2.2.3 Promote the Transformation of Marxism to Material Power through Social Construction and Models

The mass recognize and believe in Marxism, and realize the transformation of Marxism to material power. It is the ultimate goal of popularization. During the Yan'an period, in order to achieve effective mass mobilization, the party carried out an effective transformation of the society of the base areas, and the mass participated in various social organizations. For example, children participated in children's groups, women participated in women's salvation, young men and women participated in the self-defense forces, cooperatives, tributararies, etc., everyone in the organization had their own duties and positions. In this reorganization of the social structure, the party's Marxist propaganda work had a broad mass base. In the Yan'an period, in order to shape the example model, the Party Central Committee used newspapers and radio to strengthen the publicity of typical cases of outstanding people, and guided people to study and follow suit. For example, “Jiefang Daily” published “To the exemplary rural labor hero Wu Manyou in line”, “Serve the people”. For the study of labor hero Wu Manyou, border region carried out a variety of labor competitions. There are a number of model workers of the station lines. This measure set off a production competition and the climax of mutual assistance in mobilizing the labor initiative of the mass. Actively participating in production is the best way to fight the war, which also promotes Marxism.
3 The Revelation of CPC 's Popularization of Marxism in Yan'an Period

3.1 Adhere to the Dominant Position of Marxist Ideology in the Field of Ideology and Culture

At present, under the influence of globalization, marketization and network, the mainstream ideology construction in our country faces a very complicated situation. For example, the diversification of social culture has affected the political mobilization ability in ideological construction, the new situation of network has brought pressure to the mainstream ideology construction, the western ideology penetration and the national separatism has digested the dominant ideology of mainstream ideology. We need to calmly analyze and actively solve the dilemma in the mainstream ideology in the context of popular culture. How can we not only adhere to the dominant position of Marxism in the field of ideology, but also promote the survival and development of mass culture in the market economy under the background of increasingly diversified value orientation and increasingly diversified social trend of thought? The reason why mass culture is sought after by the mass is that the popular culture is simple, convenient, instant, unique and innovative. Therefore, the above characteristics of mass culture objectively put forward the requirements for the popularization of Marxism. We should change the top-down irrigation education, to respect the mass of the main position, to pay attention to the movement of the inner world of the mass, to carry out multi-channel multi-angle theoretical education, so that ideological education becomes appropriate and vivid.

3.2 Strengthen the Grassroots Organizations, and Lay a Mass Foundation of Marxist Popularization

Compared with the Yan'an period of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, both urban and rural areas, grass-roots public social organizations and cultural organizations is far from being able to meet the needs of the mass. Practice has proved that grassroots party organizations is a strong fortress in leading the mass, mobilizing the mass, and enhancing the popularization of Marxism. Grassroots social organizations carried out various forms of public recreational activities, learning activities and even collective labor, which attract the mass. Grassroots literary and artistic groups have enriched the social and cultural life of the mass, which stimulated the enthusiasm of the mass to participate, and promoted the cultural quality and spiritual realm of the mass. Therefore, we must pay close attention to the feelings and voices of the mass, timely solve the difficulties of the mass, and earnestly play the role of grass-roots party organizations. We should focus on the establishment of public cultural organizations and social education organizations to speed up the construction of public cultural service system, expand cultural and educational platform, use grassroots organizations and grassroots propaganda carrier and cultural carrier, such as museums, cinemas, libraries, etc. to promote contemporary China Popularization of Marxism.

3.3 Improve People's Livelihood, Build a Harmonious Society, and Maintain a Stable Environment for the Development of Marxism Popularization

The successful experience of the popularization of Marxism in Yan'an shows that the stable external environment and the harmonious social environment are the external conditions for the realization of Marxism. In the context of contemporary peace and development, if we do not understand the people, pay attention to people's livelihood, solve problems for the mass, the popularization of Marxism will always be empty talk. Marxism has practical characteristics. Only by closely contacting the mass, serving the mass, taking care of the real interests of the mass, Marxism can become the power of matter. At present, to achieve the interests of the mass, we must pay attention to and solve the education, health care, food safety, housing, employment and a series of people's livelihood. We should use the Marxist theory to explain the hot issues of concern to the mass, solve the practical problems related to the mass, let the truth into the mass, to build a harmonious space of Marxist popularization.
4 Summary

Marxism is the scientific theory of liberating all mankind, and it is derived from the European struggle of the liberation of the needs of the mass. After the October Revolution, it was passed into China. After the interpretation and propaganda of the early leaders of the CPC, it became the guiding ideology of the CPC. But to make it become a theoretical weapon of the masses, it needs a more extensive of popular process. Marxism arises from the needs of the mass and develops in the needs of the mass. Therefore, the popularization of Marxism must also be closely linked to the needs of the mass. We must not only understand, study and develop Marxism in theory, but also continue to use Marxist standpoint, theory and viewpoint to solve practical problems, and further promote the popularization of Marxism in contemporary China.

References:


