

# A Review of Research on Marxist Theoretical Education in the New Era—Quantitative Analysis Based on CiteSpace

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**Abstract:** *The Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China emphasized that Marxism is the fundamental guiding ideology for us to establish the Party and the country, and to strengthen the Party and the country. Strengthening the study, promotion, and education of Marxist theory has always been a powerful weapon for our party to enhance leadership, consolidate ideas, unite the masses, and form a joint force. The article is based on core journals indexed by China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) and 478 pieces of data on Marxist theoretical education published in CSSCI journals. Using the bibliometric analysis software Citespace as the carrier, it visualizes and analyzes Marxist theoretical education in the new era, and proposes suggestions to strengthen research on Marxist theoretical education and penetrate other disciplines.*

**Keywords:** *Marxist Theoretical Education, Knowledge Graph, Colleges and Universities*

## 1. Introduction

The great era creates great ideas, and great ideas drive the great era. As the fundamental guiding ideology of our party and country, the study of its theoretical kernel and the grasping of its logical framework need to utilize good Marxist theory education as the main grip and an important way. Currently, scholars pay extensive attention to the research of Marxist theory education, but from the macro level analysis of research, few scholars analyze the Marxist theory education in the new era with the method of econometric analysis, with the help of Citespace software to visualize and analyze the Marxist theory education in the new era, and through combing and filtering out 478 effective documents, we get the new era Marxist theory education's hotspots and cutting-edge issues.

## 2. Research Program

### 2.1. Data sources

The literature is based on journal articles included in the China Knowledge Network (CNKI). The theme was set as Marxist theory education, and the search time spanned from November 8, 2012 to June 24, 2023, obtaining 1,191 results respectively. Non-academic and repetitive literature such as conferences and real-time reports were screened out, and 478 valid documents were finally filtered out. The final analysis graph is presented visually in Citespace by converting the corresponding formats, setting appropriate thresholds, choosing reasonable paths, performing keyword clustering, and other operations.

### 2.2. Research Methods

In this paper, in the selection of research methods, China Knowledge Network bibliometrics and Citespace (version 6.2R4) knowledge graph visualization software are combined, and keyword co-linear graphs, keyword clustering graphs, and mutant word co-occurrence graphs about Marxist theory education in the new era are obtained through relevant settings. Among them, the bibliometric analysis of China Knowledge Network shows the annual publication and journal sources of the research on Marxist theory education in the new era by combining pie charts and column charts, and the CiteSpace software shows the development process of the research field of Marxist theory education in the new era in the form of graphs, and the keyword clustering can automatically identify the research frontiers of the selected fields. Before using Citespace software to analyze the 478 effective literature, the data Refworks

form should be imported into CiteSpace software, the time is set to 2012-2023, and the time slice is set to "1", and by visualizing the keywords, institutions, and authors in turn, we get Keyword co-linear graph, research institution cooperation network graph, author relationship graph.

### 3. Visualization Analysis

#### 3.1. Analysis of Annual Publication

Through the time distribution chart of the number of literature published on Marxist theory education in the new era, we can clearly grasp the change of the dynamics of this research in the academic world. The overall number of publications on Marxist theory education in the new era in core journals and CSSCI journals is relatively optimistic. 116 (2012), 108 (2013), 102 (2014), 91 (2015), 112 (2016), 113 (2017), 129 (2018), 126 (2019), 106 (2020), 101 (2021), 66 (2022), and 61 (2023), which shows that the research on Marxist theory education is still booming and hot, with corresponding research significance.

#### 3.2. Analysis of Published Source Journals

In order to analyze the distribution of educational research institutions about the new era of Marxist theory, the article collates the number of articles published by relevant institutions, the top three source journals for the research on Marxist theory in the new era are Secondary School Political Teaching Reference (14 articles) sponsored by Shaanxi Normal University, Beijing Education (Moral Education) (14 articles) sponsored by the Capital University Student Ideological and Political Education Research Center, and Research on Ideological and Political Education (12 articles) sponsored by Harbin Institute of Technology. These influential journals have played an important role in promoting the development of Marxist theory education research in the new era.

#### 3.3. Analysis of Authors' Publication Volume and Cooperation Relationship

Core authors refer to scholars who have deeper attainments in a specific research field, who have obtained relatively more scientific achievements, who have more novel academic ideas and perspectives, and who also play a leading role in the development of most disciplines. [1] After collecting the data of the authors, the formula  $M \approx 0.749$  is used to determine the minimum number of publications of the core authors. In the above formula,  $N_{max}$  refers to the researcher with the highest number of publications, i.e.,  $N_{max} = 5$ ,  $M \approx 1.674$ , and the minimum number of publications of the core authors in the field of study is 2 (see Table 1). It can be concluded that there are 40 core authors in this field, and at the same time calculate the percentage of all core authors' writings in the total amount of searched literature, from the calculation, we can get that in the field of research on Marxist theory and education in the new era there are about 40% of all core authors in our country, and a stable research group of core authors has not yet been formed; from the academic disciplinary composition of the scholars, the research on the education of Marxist theory and education in the new era focuses mainly on the traditional disciplines such as law and Philosophy and other traditional disciplines; from the distribution of disciplines, the research on Marxist theory and education in the new era needs to strengthen the exchange and cooperation between different disciplines.

Table 1: Frequency table of core authors.

serial number	author	frequency	discipline orientation	serial number	author	frequency	discipline orientation	serial number	author	frequency	discipline orientation
1	Ding Zhendong	5	Higher education; Communist Party of China; Marxism.	4	Li-Ping Liu	3	Higher education; Chinese and international politics.	7	Yangxiaojuan	3	Educational Theory and Management; Marxism
2	Young man	4	Higher education; Marxism.	5	Zhou Jinnian	3	Higher education; Marxism.	8	Renhuiifen	3	Military; Chinese and international politics; Communist Party of China.
3	Xin-gang WANG	3	Political parties and mass organizations; higher education; Communist Party of China.	6	Zhongshan	3	Military; Marxism; Philosophy.	9	Hanlu	3	Higher education; Scientific research management; Communist Party of China.

### 3.4. Analysis of Institution's Issuing Volume and Cooperation Relationships

Through the analysis of the publishing institutions of Marxist theoretical education in the new era, high-frequency publishing institutions with a volume of more than or equal to 3 articles can be obtained by screening and summarizing, as shown in Table 2. From the table, it can be seen that the main research institutions of Marxist theoretical education in the new era are mostly universities; from the perspective of regional characteristics, there is a lack of research papers on Marxist theoretical education in the new era in northwestern China. Thus, it is necessary to continuously strengthen the research, as well as its validity and sustainability. In terms of institution of the research, it mainly focuses on the Marxism College of major universities, reflecting from the side that the Marxism College focuses on more research on the topic.

Table 2: List of high-frequency issuing institutions of Marxist theory education in the new era.

No	Institution	Frequency
1	College of Marxism, Wuhan University	11
2	College of Marxism, Northeast Normal University	11
3	School of Marxism, Renmin University of China	7
4	Nanjing Institute of Political Science	6
5	Institute of Marxism, Beijing Normal University	5
6	College of Political Science, Guangxi University	4
7	College of Humanities and Social Sciences, National University of Defense Technology	4
8	College of Marxism, Shaanxi Normal University	3
9	College of Marxism, Changchun Normal University	3

## 4. Research Hotspot Analysis

Research hotspot reflects that in a specific time domain, different researchers focus on the same issue. It needs to have both two conditions at the same time, one is the keywords with high centrality and the other is the keywords with high frequency, and the higher the value of the two, the more it reflects the high and low frequency degree of the keywords in the field. The analysis of the nodes in the line before part of the text has been introduced, and then do not do the continuation of the CiteSpace software, the centrality of the keyword is another synonym for the centrality of the larger the value, the more the keyword in the field of the importance of the keyword. In general, the centrality is greater than 0.1, it is considered that this node is a central node, which is more important and has a greater impact in the study. Through centrality analysis, the high-frequency keywords ranked in the top 20 (see table 3 ) were finally screened out, and the research hotspots on Marxist theoretical education in the new era in recent years were obtained. Keywords with centrality greater than 0.1 include theory education (centrality 0.21), colleges and universities (centrality 0.12).

Table 3: Statistics of high-frequency keywords of Marxist theory education research in the new era.

No	frequency	centrality	keywords	No	frequency	centrality	keywords
1	49	0.21	Theoretical Education	11	7	0.02	Countermeasures
2	37	0.12	Colleges and Universities	12	6	0.02	Cultural Confidence
3	28	0.09	University students	13	5	0.01	Challenges
4	24	0.09	Education	14	5	0.01	Faith Education
5	21	0.07	Effectiveness	15	5	0.00	New Media
6	14	0.02	New Age	16	5	0.03	Dilemma
7	14	0.01	Innovation	17	5	0.00	Internet+
8	10	0.00	Ideology	18	4	0.01	General secretary
9	8	0.03	Yan'an Period	19	4	0.01	Historical Process
10	7	0.02	Revelation	20	4	0.00	China

As shown in Table 3 Statistics of high-frequency keywords in the research of Marxist theory education in the new era, the research hotspots in the field of Marxist theory in the new era can be divided into three aspects, such as the research of Marxist theory education in the field of Internet thinking; the research of innovation and path of Marxism in colleges and universities; and the general secretary's important exposition on the theoretical education of Marxism in colleges and universities. These researches are representative and forward-looking in the research, providing diversified perspectives and theoretical soil for the current research on Marxism theory education.

### 4.1. Research on Marxist Theory Education in the Perspective of Internet Thinking

Scholars are mainly concerned about the interrelationship between information datatization and

Marxist theory education in the era of big data, for example, Fu Anling and Zhang Yaocan Marxist theory education has benefited from the educational resources brought about by big data, digital platforms, and so on, but crises coexist. The effective combination of the two can promote the change of thinking. [2] Liu Zheng, Gong Daqing pointed out that in the era of new media, Marxist theoretical education has a leading function, a following function, an infiltration function and a fusion function, which requires us to do in the practice of theoretical education to carry forward the mainstream values, bring together the common ideals, integrate into the social life, and innovate the technical means. [3]

#### ***4.2. Research on the innovation and path of Marxism in colleges and universities***

Scholars are mainly concerned with the innovative development of Marxist theory education in colleges and universities, and how to enhance the path of the effectiveness of Marxist theory education. Through literature analysis, it can be found that domestic scholars have analyzed the developmental changes and transmutation mechanisms, etc. of Marxist theory education in colleges and universities in the new era, with the aim of adapting to the diversified developmental situation. For example, scholars Wang Ting and Wang Yini pointed out in their research that enhancing the effectiveness of Marxist theory education in colleges and universities is not only an inherent requirement of the development of Marxist theory, but also a necessary precondition and a practical need to build a new era of college and university education system. To this end, the effectiveness of Marxist theory education in colleges and universities should be comprehensively improved from four aspects: building a high-quality teaching staff, constructing a “student-oriented” education method, creating a Marxist theory nurturing environment, and perfecting the evaluation and feedback mechanism for the establishment of a moral character, so as to enhance the depth of students’ understanding of Marxist theory and their ability to put it into practice. [4] Song Juncheng pointed out in his article “On the Innovative Development of Marxist Theory Education in Colleges and Universities” that we attach importance to the problems and shortcomings of the current Marxist theory education in colleges and universities, and constantly promote the innovative development of theory education, so that we can truly combine the task of “cultivating morality and nurturing people” in the socialist universities with academic teaching, and combine the solution of ideological problems with the solution of practical problems. It is useful to constantly enhance the practical effect of Marxist theory education by combining the network theory education approach with the media literacy education of college students, combining the improvement of teachers’ quality with the cultivation of students’ learning ability.[5]

#### ***4.3. The General Secretary’s Important Discourses on Marxist Theory Education in Colleges and Universities***

Some scholars mainly focus on the research of the General Secretary on Marxist theory education. By analyzing and reading the general the literature, it can be found that scholars mainly discuss the core essence, theoretical qualities, and the value of the times. Some scholars suggest that the General Secretary emphasizes the importance of Marxist theory education in colleges and universities from the strategic height of the Party’s cultivation of people and the country’s cultivation of talents. It focuses on six key links, namely, orientation, standard, puzzlement, implementation, planning and responsibility, and answers the value goal, content system and implementation path of education. These unique and innovative expositions not only have distinctive Marxist characteristics, but also incorporate the flavor of the times, and are the basic guidelines for carrying out education in colleges and universities. The in-depth study and implementation of the General Secretary’s important expositions on Marxist theory education in colleges and universities is of great practical significance and far-reaching historical significance for the goals of adhering to the direction of socialist running of schools, promoting the tradition and innovation of ideological and political courses, and cultivating high-quality talents.

## **5. Conclusion and Outlook**

### ***5.1. Research Conclusion***

#### ***5.1.1. The research results of Kesemism theory education in the new era of Ma are relatively rich and continue to grow***

New era scholars on the topic of the research fever only increase, the research results are more abundant, the article to China Knowledge Network as a medium, the time set in November 8, 2012 to June 25, 2023, retrieved 1,191 journals, doctoral and master’s theses 167, conference articles 41. Among

them, 116 (2012), 108 (2013), 102 (2014), 91 (2015), 112 (2016), 113 (2017), 129 (2018), 126 (2019), 106 (2020), 101 (2021) articles were published in the past 12 years, respectively, 66 articles (2022), 61 articles (2023).

### **5.1.2. The research disciplines of Marxist theory education in the new era are too centralized and lack coherence with other disciplines**

Scholars and research institutions are mostly independent research, and have not yet formed a stable research group of core authors. The research on Marxist theory education in the new era is mainly concentrated in disciplines such as law and philosophy, and does not have too much penetration into other disciplines. In the future, research on Marxist theoretical education is expected to strengthen communication and cooperation among scholars, institutions and disciplines, and to form a multi-perspective network of cooperative mapping.

### **5.1.3. The hotspots of Marxist theory education in the new era cover a wide range of areas**

The research hotspots can be categorized into the research on Marxist theory education in the perspective of Internet thinking; the research on the innovation and path of Marxism in colleges and universities; and the General Secretary's important exposition on Marxist theory education in colleges and universities.

### **5.1.4. Informative research frontiers of Marxist theory education in the new era**

The keyword frontier topics of Marxist theory education include "new era", "new media", "revelation", "faith education", "countermeasures", and "education". "Countermeasures" "Cultural Confidence" "Ideology" "Founding Period" "Historical process" "Antiwar period" "Yan'an period" "Development history" "Optimization" "Chinese Dream" "Innovative Development" "Philosophical Reflections" "Ideological and Political" "Basic Principles" "Discipline Construction" "Relationship" "China" "Dilemma" and other 23 aspects.

## **5.2. Prospects**

### **5.2.1. Broaden the disciplinary field of Marxist theory education research**

The disciplinary fields of research are too concentrated, mainly focusing on jurisprudence, philosophy. In the future research, we should integrate Marxist theory education with philosophy, history, literature, economics, management and other disciplines to form a cooperative network of Marxist theory education research in an omni-directional, broad field and multi-level perspective.

### **5.2.2. Multi-dimensional examination of hot issues**

In terms of Marxist theory education and research in the perspective of Internet thinking: first, in the face of today's rushing wave of data, in order to explore the deep currents under the water through the surface waves, it is necessary for Marxist theory researchers to grasp the innovative theories of the Party. The second is to distill and summarize the nature and laws of new technologies such as big data and the Internet in general, to highlight the vitality and contemporary value of Marxist theoretical education in the new era in concrete practice, and to continuously enrich and develop Marxist theoretical education.

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