

Analysis of the principal contradiction of Chinese society for a new era based on the theory “On Contradiction”

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ABSTRACT. *The view of contradiction is the fundamental view of materialistic dialectics, and the thinking of Mao Tse-tung's dialectical has been an important theoretical weapon in guiding the Chinese social revolution in modern times. Comrade Mao Tes-tung's On Contradiction is a philosophical work on Marxist dialectics that is rich in philosophical principles. The principles and methodology contained therein are important inspirations for exploring the various contradictions in our social development and resolving the major contradictions in our society for a new era.*

KEYWORDS: *on contradiction, principal contradiction in society, revelation*

1. Introduction

On Contradiction is one of the most representative philosophical classics written by Mao Tes-tung in 1937 during the Yan'an period, combining the essence of Marxist worldview and methodology with the reality of the Chinese revolution, and has had a profound impact. *On Contradiction* has enriched the theoretical form of Marxist philosophy, provided people with a scientific worldview and methodology, and provided us with a powerful ideological weapon for analyzing and solving problems. In the new era, China has entered a new stage of development, and the conditions of social development and the international and domestic environment have also undergone great changes, with which the principal contradiction of our society has been transformed. The new refinement of the principal contradiction of our society in the new era is the enrichment and development of the Marxist doctrine of social contradictions by the Chinese Communists. Revisiting the theory *On Contradiction* at this point will help us to understand and interpret all aspects of social contradictions accurately, so as to apply them correctly in the practice of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

2. The Dialectical Thought of *On Contradiction*

Contradiction analysis is the fundamental method to guide us in understanding the world and transforming it. Things change and develop in the movement of contradictions. Comrade Mao Tes-tung pointed out in his theory *On Contradictions* that “The universality or absoluteness of contradiction has a twofold meaning. One is that contradiction exists in the process of development of all things, and the other is that in the process of development of each thing a movement of opposites exists from beginning to end.”[1]. The fundamental contradictions of society are the basic driving force behind social development, the universality and particularity of contradictions, the identity and struggle of contradictions, and the primary and secondary aspects of contradictions are all key elements and methods for solving real-life problems. To accurately grasp the connotation of contradictions and their mutual development links, and to adhere to the problem orientation, is to objectively understand the essence of things. In *Dialectics of Nature*, Engels summarizes the dialectical movement of contradictions as the three main laws of dialectics: “transformation of quantity and quality-mutual penetration of polar opposites and transformation into each other when carried to extremes-development through contradiction or negation of the negation-spiral form of development.” [2] The “two cosmological views” is the prerequisites for our objective understanding of the development of things, when we recognize contradictions, we first have to clarify the premises, the metaphysical view of the universe is idealistic

and cannot accurately cognition the development of objective things, while the dialectical view of the universe is an objective understanding of the law of development that does not depend on human will and teaches people to be good at using contradiction analysis grasps the contradictory movement of things in development. The essence of contradiction is the law of the development of things. Only by correctly understanding the essence of things can we grasps the law of the development of things and thus use the law to solve contradictions.

The doctrine of contradiction in the theory *On Contradiction* is a scientific method of understanding, a dialectic that respects the inherent laws of objective things. By correctly analyzing the changes in contradictions at different stages in the development of things, we can grasp the overall trend and direction of the development of things in a global perspective. For example, during the Chinese Revolutionary War, the Chinese Communist Party with Comrade Mao Tse-tung as its core, accurately analyzed the history and current situation of the Chinese Revolution and deduced the future direction of the Revolution. *On Contradiction* was gradually formed in the practice of Chinese revolution. Mao Tse-tung inherited and developed Marx's theory of historical materialism and dialectical materialism, enriching his philosophical ideas and enriching the philosophical theory of Marxism. Mao Tse-tung applied the theory of contradictions to the Chinese revolutionary war, and wrote his military strategic thought *On the Protracted War*, which objectively analyzed the transformation of contradictions in war and the strategies and tactics for resolving them, and made the military guiding thesis of "defence-holding- counter-attack". After gaining a profound insight into the dialectical relationship between the universality and particularity of contradictions, one can scientifically grasp the relationship between the "global" and "local" situation and correctly understand the "laws of war", "laws of revolutionary war" and "laws of revolutionary war in China". In *On the Correct Handling of Internal Contradictions among the People*, he objectively analyzed the universality, particularity and struggle of the contradictions between the problem among the people and the contradictions between the enemy and ourselves; in handling the problem among the people, we must first clarify the nature of the contradictions, distinguish clearly between the enemy and ourselves, and draw a clear line as a prerequisite for correctly handling the problems and resolving the contradictions.

3. The basis for the assertion of the transformation of the principal contradiction of our society at a new era.

General Secretary Xi Jinping at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that: "As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, the principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved. What we now face is the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life." [3] The important assertion that the principal contradiction in China's society has changed is based on the transformation of the contradictions caused by the tremendous achievements of China's reform and opening up that have contributed to the development of all aspects of society over the past 40 years.

In 1981, the Sixth Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Party pointed out that the principal contradiction resolved in China was between the growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backward social production. 36 years have passed between 1981 and 2017, and the 19th National Congress Report has made a major assertion on the principal contradiction of our society, which reflects the radical change in the level of social development in China! It also shows that over the past 36 years, our social development has resolved the old contradictions and created new ones.

Since the reform and opening up, with China's great achievements in social economy, political building, cultural and intellectual, People's wellbeing ,building an ecological civilization and the progress made in all areas of China's endeavors have all created a better social life for the people's needs. The basic dimension of the Chinese context in the new era has not changed, This is a concrete expression of the development of the social basic contradiction in the contemporary movement in our country. With the advancement of globalization, countries around the world have benefited from the dividends brought by economic globalization, and some developing countries have been able to develop rapidly, China has steadily become the second largest economy in the world since 2010, contributing to China's power in the process of economic globalization. China's economy has been transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a high-quality development, with higher requirements for development.

Over the past 70 years since the founding of the country, China has made hard-won achievements under the superiority of the socialist system, the social productive forces have been greatly liberated,

and the “backward social productive” have been transformed into “unbalanced and inadequate development”, China has also made qualitative development in improving people's wellbeing, and the quality of life of our residents has been greatly enriched compared with before, people's material life is greatly secured, and in the new stage, people have new demands for the improvement of spiritual realm.

A deep understanding of the historical and realistic basis of development stages is the basic premise for a political party and a country to establish the direction of development and implement development strategies. To accurately understand and grasp the transformation of the principal contradiction of Chinese society in the new era, to summarize the historical and practical experience, to grasp the CPC's understanding of the principal contradiction of Chinese society in different periods, to grasp the inner evolution of the principal contradiction of Chinese society, to grasp the relativity of balanced and full development, and to grasp the connotation of a good life, is of great and far-reaching theoretical significance to enhance the Party's governing ability, to enrich the Party's governing wisdom, and to better apply Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It is of great and far-reaching theoretical significance to promote the continuous development of the party and the state. At the same time, a profound understanding of the new changes in the principal contradiction in Chinese society will help China to better solve the principal contradiction in the new era and clarify the goals and directions of China's future development, which will be more conducive to promoting the continuous progress of social development in contemporary society.

4. Inspiration of the method to solve the principal contradiction of our society at a new era

In the new era, when solving the principal social contradictions in China, we should apply dialectical thinking and grasp the dialectical relationship between the “change” of the principal social contradictions and the “no change” of the primary stage of socialism. Apply the law of unity of opposites. Seize the principal contradiction, the key is to solve the principal contradiction to drive the solution of the secondary contradiction. After the transformation of the principal contradiction, to accurately grasp the main aspects of the contradiction, to make the key accurate choice. The current series of multi-measure policies of the Party and the government to address the needs of the people are constantly sound and play their due effect.

The main aspect of the current principal contradiction in our society is the unbalanced and inadequate development, “There are many contradictions in the process of development of a complex thing, and one of them is necessarily the principal contradiction whose existence and development determine or influence the existence and development of the other contradictions”.^[4] With the development results achieved in the process of economic globalization, the principal social contradictions have also changed, and in the process of promoting the “five-sphere integrated” construction and “four-pronged comprehensive” deepening reform, a series of policies have been introduced to solve social development contradictions, such as “deepening supply-side structural reform”, where material, cultural and spiritual needs are on the demand side and social production is on the supply side. Therefore, it is necessary to continuously develop social production on the supply side to meet the development needs of the demand side. For example, “cutting overcapacity, destocking, deleveraging, reducing corporate costs and shoring up weak spots” is to make the allocation of resources in the various aspects of social development to reach the optimal, so that the effective use of resources. As in the new development concept of “coordination” development is one of the effective ways to fully address the imbalance in development. These new ideas, multiple initiatives to fully resolve the imbalance in the development of the prominent contradictions.

In the process of socialist construction, China has always adhered to our people-centered philosophy of development, and promoted the reform and development of various social undertakings around ensuring and improving living standards. For example, we ensure that rural poor people are free from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing, improve the construction of rural roads, hydroelectricity, broadcast, network and other infrastructure, solve the basic living conditions of the villagers, promote the “toilet revolution” according to local conditions, and strengthen the efficient use of agricultural resources and resource utilization of waste. Improve the renovation of water and electricity networks, consolidate and improve drinking water safety projects, support the construction of rural Internet, so that the “Internet accelerated speed” into thousands of households; improve urban and rural health insurance, pension integration, establish a sound poverty prevention mechanism, dynamic update the income statistics of rural residents; guide social capital to participate in rural construction. paying attention to wellbeing,

protecting wellbeing and improving wellbeing is the top priority and the key to building a harmonious socialist society in the new era; the current focus on solving wellbeing issues is the concrete embodiment of our country's solution to the principal social contradiction. Put an end to the tragic historical situation of "The portals of the rich reek of flesh and wine while frozen bodies lie by the roadside" in the daily lives of the people, At present, China has won the battle against poverty to build a moderately prosperous society, but relative poverty will still exist for a long time, and it is necessary not only to consolidate the current achievements of poverty eradication, but also to establish a long-term mechanism for relative poverty.

"The common people have worked too hard, and it's time to get a little peace and quiet." In 1979, Comrade Deng Xiaoping used the term "prosperous" for the first time to paint a picture of China's modernization in his mind. To be moderately prosperous is to be moderately prosperous for the whole population, not one of them can be pulled, and it is to benefit all the people. At present, the task of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects has been accomplished, but the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development is still prominent. We should adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics in for a new era, implement the new development concept, promote coordinated regional development, deepen the structural reform on the supply side, adhere to the general keynote of seeking progress in a stable manner, and accelerate the construction of a modernized economic system based on the new development pattern of international and domestic double circulation. thus promoting comprehensive deepening reform and allowing the fruits of development to benefit the people. Seize the weakness problem is to seize the special nature of the contradiction, the correct understanding of the current development of the weak links, specific analysis of the specificity of the contradiction, in order to accurately apply policies, targeted solve the short weakness problem. at present, China has entered a new stage of development, the domestic and abroad environment is also undergoing significant changes, the domestic material base is strong, in the development of a variety of advantages, at the same time, it is also to see the current existence superposition of contradiction and risk challenges, especially the sudden epidemic on our social development has brought adverse effects, the danger and opportunity is coexisting, the contradictions are mutual transforming, turning the threat of the pandemic into an opportunity is what we can do, we are currently capable of dealing with emergencies, under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, the whole people was united, the more difficult the more forward, the unity of purpose to resolutely win the battle of epidemic prevention and control, to coordinate epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development.

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