The Influence of Stalin's “Three-Phase Theory” on Nanchang Uprising

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ABSTRACT. Stalin's “three-stage theory” was an important theory used by the Communist International to guide the Chinese revolution during the Agrarian Revolutionary War. According to the “three-stage theory”, after Chiang Kai-shek's rebellious revolution, the Chinese revolution was in the second stage of its development. This judgment ideologically promoted the outbreak of Nanchang Uprising, it also affected the use of the Kuomintang and the National Revolutionary banner in the Nanchang Uprising, and therefore formulated a strategy for the uprising troops to Guangdong.

KEYWORDS: Stalin, “three stage theory”, Nanchang uprising

1. Introduction

According to Stalin's “three-stage theory”, the first stage of the Chinese revolution was the revolution of the national united front, It is an alliance of the four classes of the proletariat, peasants, national bourgeoisie, and petty bourgeoisie, the task of revolution is to fight against imperialism; The second stage is the bourgeois democratic revolution, Chiang Kai-shek and the national bourgeoisie transferred to counter-revolutionary camps, Allies of the proletariat are peasants, urban poor, petty-bourgeois intellectuals, the revolution entered the higher class of its development-the stage of the land revolution, the task of the revolution is to fight against the emperor and imperialism;The third stage is the Soviet revolution, at this time, the Wuhan Kuomintang government leadership group broke away from the revolutionary camp, the petty bourgeois intellectuals broke away from the revolution, allies of the Chinese proletariat are only peasants and the urban poor.

2. “Three-Stage Theory” is the Theoretical Support of Nanchang Uprising

In May 1927, the eighth plenary session of the Communist International Executive Committee was held in Moscow, in the resolution on the Chinese revolution, the Executive Committee pointed out: Chiang Kai-shek's coup and the dramatic changes in the distribution of class power, is the starting point for formulating the whole strategy in the future. Chiang Kai-shek’s coup marked the
second phase of the Chinese revolution, this shows that what the Executive Committee wants to emphasize is that the CPC’s starting point for formulating strategies in the future should be based on the fact that the Chinese revolution is in the second stage of its development. It is based on this fact, the main tone set by the Eighth Plenary Meeting on the Chinese revolution is to carry out the agrarian revolution, and carry out armed struggle on this basis. The Eighth Plenary Meeting believed that, agrarian revolution is the basic and internal socio-economic content of the new stage of the Chinese revolution, only on the basis of implementing this policy from the bottom up can a truly reliable armed force be established. At the same time, the policy of armed masses of workers and peasants must be implemented quickly, boldly and resolutely. However, whether it is the agrarian revolution or the armed workers and peasants, what the Communist International requires is to go through the Wuhan government, it did not realize the urgency of the Communist Party of China leading the army independently. Despite this, the idea that this meeting based on the Chinese revolution is in the second stage of its development to establish a revolutionary army, spread to China through the “May Emergency Instructions”, affirming the idea of armed struggle existing in the party, formed the theoretical basis of Nanchang Uprising.

3. The Use of the Kuomintang Flag during the Uprising under the Influence of the “Three-Stage Theory”

The Nanchang Uprising is an armed uprising of great significance. However, the armed uprising characterized by opposition to the Kuomintang started with the banner of the Kuomintang. Talking about the reason, there are many factors, there are restrictions on specific historical conditions, as well as considerations of realistic factors such as securing the support of more sympathizers and maintaining the revolutionary united front. However, this article believes that the deeper reason is influenced by Stalin's “three-stage theory.”

On July 14, 1927, the Communist International Executive Committee passed a resolution, it point: the important and necessary premise for the Communists to formulate the correct strategy is to make an extremely strict and calm Marxist-Leninist analysis of all the characteristics of the revolutionary situation in this period, and to correctly determine the stage that the revolution is going through. And “Chinese revolution is a bourgeois democratic revolution at this stage of development”, the second stage of what Stalin called the Chinese revolutionary development. At present, “The Wuhan government has become a counter-revolutionary force”, the Chinese Communists have to “withdraw from the Wuhan government without hesitation in protest”, but the “second stage” is not over yet, the time to establish the Workers and Peasants Soviet is not mature, Therefore, while withdrawing from the Wuhan government at the same time as not quitting the Kuomintang, “it is necessary to establish closer ties with the Kuomintang's grassroots, make decisions at the grassroots level, resolutely protest the actions of the Kuomintang Central Committee”. Under the direction of the Communist International, On July 24, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
issued the “Circular of the Central Committee on Wuhan's Reactionary Situation. "It believes that, on the one hand, "the party members in the government should be recalled immediately," on the other hand, the Communist Party “has to remain in the KMT, because who is a member of the Kuomintang who truly believes in the three major policies of the Three People's Principles. So we and other revolutionaries are real party members, Wang Jingwei and others are no longer true believers. Since the Communist Party still needs to stay within the Kuomintang and maintain the orthodoxy of the Kuomintang, it is not surprising that the Nanchang Uprising flaunted the Kuomintang banner.

After the Nanchang Uprising broke out, The Communist International continues to insist that the Communist Party of China stays within the KMT. August 7, 1927, Communist International Representative Rominaz, who just arrived in China, gave a report at the “August 7th” meeting, While affirming the Nanchang Uprising, still emphasizes that "cannot withdraw from the Kuomintang", a complete break with the Kuomintang, can only be “raised when the National Revolution succeeds in the social revolution. "According to him, upholding the flag of the KMT is a long-term policy. Until the proletarian revolution, the Communist Party of China can flaunt its own banner. According to Rominaz’s report, The Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China passed the Resolution on the Political Tasks and Strategies of the Communist Party of China on August 21, The resolution stated: “The Communist Party of China should organize workers and peasants to riot under the banner of the revolutionary leftist Kuomintang”, Especially important: “It is to democratize the Kuomintang”. Therefore, “Wherever the riots are held under the banner of the revolutionary Kuomintang, the mass groups of workers and peasants should join this kind of Kuomintang by the method of joining the groups, so that the Kuomintang will become a party united by the mass organizations. “In this way, it will be easier when the revolution develops to a higher stage, that is, when it transitions to the third stage. On August 23, the CPC Central Committee also pointed out in its reply to the Hunan Provincial Party Committee that “China has not yet completed the civil rights revolution and is still in the second stage of the civil rights revolution. “Therefore, “we still have to sponsor the democratic regime of agricultural workers in the name of the Kuomintang”, only “The third stage is when the Kuomintang's eradication of the Soviet Union is realized”. During this period, although the Communist Party of China was aware of the harm caused by the Kuomintang flag, However, due to the instructions of the Communist International, the Kuomintang banner continued to be displayed in the Nanchang Uprising. Until September 19, the Politburo meeting passed the “Resolution on the “Left Nationalist Party” and the Soviet slogan”, Put forward: “Now the masses see the Kuomintang banner as a symbol of the bourgeois landlord counter-revolution, a symbol of white terror, an unprecedented symbol of oppression and slaughter”, Therefore, “the August resolution on the leftist Kuomintang movement and the execution of the riot under its banner must be cancelled. "At this point, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China formally abandoned the flag of the Kuomintang.
4. Conclusion

On July 24, 1927, Communist International Representative Rominaz held a meeting with General Gallon and Zhou Enlai and Zhang Guotao. Based on the judgment of the situation, the meeting decided to launch an uprising in Nanchang. It also stipulates that the uprising forces’ direction of action is: Go south immediately, occupy Guangdong, obtain Haikou, and get international assistance. This shows that the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China set the direction of the uprising troops before the uprising. However, it was not a coincidence that the uprising troops went south, but the result of a combination of factors. This is related to the importance that the Communist International attaches to Guangdong, and because Guangdong is close to the estuary, which is convenient for receiving international assistance. In addition, Stalin's “three-stage theory” also has an important influence on the formulation of this strategy. As stated earlier, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decided that when Nanchang launched the uprising, it was in the second stage of what Stalin called the development of the Chinese revolution. The Communist International’s guidance of the Chinese revolution was also based on this fact. Since the Chinese revolution is still in the second stage of its development, The time to use Soviet as the organ of power is not yet mature. According to the instructions of the Communist International, the Communist Party of China should remain in the Kuomintang. Wuhan has already become the center of the counter-revolution. If we want to continue the revolution, maintain the orthodoxy of the Kuomintang, revive the leftist Kuomintang, and make the Kuomintang democratic, we must “strive to establish a new center of the Kuomintang.” As the birthplace of the National Revolution, Guangdong has a good mass foundation. At the same time, it has served as a base for Mr. Sun Yat-sen's revolution for many years. For most of the Kuomintang, it is a special existence that can absorb more revolutionary people. It is very clear that since the Chinese revolution is in the second stage of its development, So the Communist International requires the Communist Party of China to continue to display the flag of the KMT, However, In order to fight the banner of the Kuomintang and the National Revolution, Guangdong, which has unique advantages, is the first choice for the new revolutionary center. Therefore, the uprising troops went south, and Stalin's “three-stage theory” had an important influence on this.

References