

Historical Analysis of Marx's Theory of Surplus Value

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ABSTRACT. *Through combing the relevant works of Marx's theory of surplus value theory, combing the exploration of Marx's previous scholars and the starting point of Marx's research, the Marx's three "manuscripts" are introduced, and the writing characteristics of the three works are summarized in chronological order. Bringing out the great work of Capital, it has a series of ideas to scientifically and intuitively describe the source of surplus value in capitalist society, as well as the operation and circulation, and the surplus value in capitalist society. Performance. Finally, the related works of Marx's theory of surplus value are summarized.*

KEYWORDS: *Marxism; Theory of surplus value; Theory of capital*

1. Introduction

In the process of studying the history of Marxist philosophy, I learned that the completion of Marx's theory of surplus value and the publication of related works have been going on for more than a decade. In Marx's theory, the theory of surplus value is a very important theory of Marx. thought. Therefore, I would like to make a general review of Marx's theory of surplus value and his research time, writing and completion time, so as to better understand Marx's process and significance of economic research.

2. The Analysis of Marx's Theory

2.1 Marx's research premise

(1) Exploration of Marx's previous scholars

Western economists have explored the issue of surplus value for quite some time, from the original business school to British classical political economics to the British and French utopian socialists. Their research has a good inspiration for Marx's theory of surplus value theory.

Marx's theory of surplus value has to talk about British classical political economy first. British classical political economics ushered in the peak of David Ricardo's era, but there are problems in the relevant theoretical aspects of surplus value in classical political economy. The existence of this problem also directly led to the debate between the Ricardo school and the supporters of Malthus.

(2) The starting point of Marx's research

Since Marx entered the law department of the University of Bonn in 1835, he has not studied in depth the issue of economics. It was not until 1842 that the debate on forest theft was started. Marx first studied the related issues of economics. Since then, Marx has explored economics and the issue of surplus value for a long time.

2.2 Three works of Marx

(1) The 1844 Philosophical Manuscript

With regard to Marx's theory of surplus value, Marx began to study the capitalist economic phenomenon in the 1840s. During this period, Marx wrote the "1844 Philosophical Manuscript" through a profound analysis of capitalist society. Among them is a new concept of alienation labor, which also contains the idea of surplus value. The "Manuscript of Philosophical Economics in 1844" also contains the concept of the theory of alienated labor and the germination of the theory of surplus value.

In the "Manuscript of Philosophy and Economics in 1844", the concept of alienated labor is considered to be mainly embodied in four aspects. The first is that the workers are alienated from the products produced by the laborers. Secondly, the workers are alienated from the process of labor production. The third nature is alienated and the fourth person is alienated.

In Marx's "Manuscript of Philosophy and Economics in 1844", it can be seen that Marx's research on political economy is still in its infancy, and the main purpose of Marx's "Manuscript of Philosophy and Economics in 1844" is for British classical political economy. Criticize. But in this article we can still see the shining point of the theory of surplus value. Marx reflects in the article the possession of working class labor and labor products embodied by the capitalists in the stage of alienated labor, and the working class The value created in the work is far more than the income of his work. [3]

Marx's theory of surplus value is not a clear concept in the 1844 Philosophical Economics Manuscript, but appears in a more ABSTRACT.concept. Nor did the concept of value be elaborated, and the lack of value concept made Marx fail to articulate the concept of surplus value.

(2) The Economics Manuscript of 1857–1858

The concept of surplus value was formally proposed in Marx's "Economic Manuscripts of 1857 - 1858" to indicate the balances that were held by capitalists for free and exceeded the capitalist's initial prepaid price. The formal formulation of this

concept marks that human beings have got rid of the reality of surplus value, so that the distribution of surplus value can be studied on the basis of an ABSTRACT concept. As Marx described in his later book *The History of Capital*, “All economists have made a mistake. They are not in the pure form of surplus value, not in the surplus value itself, but in profit and land rent. Special forms to examine the residual value.” [1]

In this stage of research, Marx believed that the surplus value is the difference between the labor quantity contained in each component of capital and the labor quantity of materialization in the product. The description in the article “remaining value as a product Higher prices can only be achieved in circulation... These prices are realized in circulation because they existed in conception before circulation before they entered circulation, and they have already been decided.” [2] It also shows that Marx not only understands the production process of surplus value, but also understands the realization process of surplus value.

In this stage of Marx's research, Marx created the labor theory of value, realized the division between labor and labor commodities, and conducted in-depth research on capital theory.

(3) The Economic Manuscripts from 1861 to 1863

In Marx's original writing plan, the Economics Manuscript of 1861–1863 was written as a sequel to the *Critique of Political Economy* published in 1859, but it was not realized for some reason. This article by Marx has a great leap from the “Economic Manuscript of 1857 - 1858”. First of all, the understanding of related concepts should be more accurate. In this stage of research, Marx can accurately grasp the fixed The difference between capital and working capital can also be scientifically divided into constant capital and variable capital, and the decomposition formula of product composition $W=C+(V+M)$ is proposed. This is a measure of the true source of surplus value and the degree of exploitation. And the calculation of the profit rate provides a theoretical basis. Secondly, the understanding of the stage of capitalist production development is more profound. It is in this stage of research that Marx first proposed the issue of labor's subordination of capital, because The development stage of capitalist production and the change of surplus value production mode, so Marx believes that labor subordinates to capital have experienced a subordinate to actual subordinate transformation; third, the understanding of management between classes is more accurate, here In one stage, Marx not only saw the existence of the capitalist society on the surface. Relations, see, the relationship between the social dimension of deeper relationships through this surface.

2.3 A comprehensive summary of Capital

In 1857, Marx began to write “*Capital*”. In the same year, the economic crisis broke out in Europe and the United States. In 1858, Marx wrote a letter to Engels in his detailed plan of writing economics. In 1862, Marx wrote the handwriting *The Theory of Value*, the main content of 1863 was written, and at the same time, the

outlines of Volumes I and III of Capital were compiled. Until 1867, the first volume of Capital was published in Hamburg. In the same year, Engels wrote a comment; in 1885, Engels compiled the manuscript of Marx's Capital, and in the same year the second volume of Capital was published in Hamburg; in 1894, The third volume of Capital, organized by Engels, was published in Hamburg.

Capital is called Marx's most important economic work, and it is also a summary of all the economic theories in the previous three manuscripts.

(1) Progress of Capital

The biggest characteristic of Marx's "Capital" and the previous "Manuscript" writing period is to sort out the previous scattered and fragmented surplus value theory, thus forming a complete system construction. We can see that Marx explained the residual value in the previous Manuscript, but in Capital, he did not explain the concept in detail. Through a series of ideas, he has scientifically and intuitively described the sources of surplus value in capitalist society as well as the way of operation and circulation, as well as the performance of surplus value in capitalist society. [4]

3. Conclusion

In the process of sorting out the history of Marx's theory of surplus value, we can see the research focus of Marx in different time periods, as well as his progress in research and theoretical perfection. In the study of surplus value and capitalist economics by Marx in such a long time span, it is not difficult to see that his research has very important practical significance:

The first is scientific understanding of the class nature of economic research. Before Marx, many researchers studied the theory of surplus value, but they failed to extract the concept of surplus value from the ABSTRACT.level. On the contrary, they all focus on the realistic expression of surplus value. This is the embodiment of the class nature they represent. [5] The pursuit of surplus value by the bourgeoisie is only manifested in the various forms of value expression of reality, and the ABSTRACT.concept is for them. It is not very attractive to say.

Secondly, Marx's research method provides a reference for the study of modern economics. Marx first puts forward the accurate concept of the ABSTRACT.theory of surplus value in the research process, and in the subsequent research, the ABSTRACT.concept is thought and residual value. The process manifests itself to a concrete description that transforms the ABSTRACT.concept into a concrete reality.

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