

# The Evolution Logic and Development Trend of the Sinicization of Marxism Since the Reform and Opening-up

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## Abstract

Since the reform and opening - up, the Sinicization of Marxism has stepped into a new historical stage, achieving a series of epoch-making theoretical achievements and practical breakthroughs. Sorts out the evolutionary context of the Sinicization of Marxism from the perspective of historical logic, theoretical logic and practical logic, and deeply analyzes the internal driving force and core connotation of its development. By combing the theoretical achievements from Deng Xiaoping Theory to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, it is pointed out that the Sinicization of Marxism always adheres to the unity of combining the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific national conditions and excellent traditional Chinese culture. Meanwhile, explores the future development trend of the Sinicization of Marxism , and holds that it will continue to keep pace with the times, respond to the demands of the times, and provide a strong theoretical support for building a great modern socialist country and promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

## Keywords

Reform and opening-up; the Sinicization of Marxism; Evolution logic; Development trend

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## 1. Introduction

The Sinicization of Marxism combines Marxism's basic principles with China's national conditions and traditional culture, and is the core clue of the CPC and PRC's development. The 1978 reform and opening-up was a turning point in China's history, opening a new path for development and providing space and connotation for It provides new development space and connotation.

In the past 40 - odd years, guided by the Sinicization

of Marxism achievements, China has changed greatly and achieved remarkable results, from solving the food-clothing problem to building a moderately prosperous society, and from an agricultural country to the world's second-largest economy, demonstrating the vitality and power of the Sinicization of Marxism.

Currently, the world is changing profoundly, and China is building a modern socialist country and approaching the second centenary goal. Sorting out the

evolution logic of the Sinicization of Marxism since reform and opening-up and exploring its trend are significant for Marxism innovation and guiding China's practice.

This paper will analyze the evolution of the Sinicization of Marxism since reform and opening-up from historical, theoretical and practical aspects, and predict its future trend, aiming to provide reference for related research.

## **2. The Evolution Logic of the Sinicization of Marxism Since the Reform and Opening-up**

The evolution of the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up is a process of mutual promotion of history, theory and practice. It follows the historical context of China's development, adheres to the theoretical guidance of Marxism, and responds to the practical needs of China's modernization drive.

### **2.1. Historical Logic: Keeping Pace with the Times in the Process of Responding to Historical Opportunities and Challenges**

The historical logic of the Sinicization of Marxism since reform and opening-up is shown in its continuous adaptation to China's development and the times, continuously responding to China's historical opportunities and challenges.

In the late 1970s, the world pattern was undergoing profound adjustment. Economic globalization and the scientific and technological revolution advanced rapidly. At home, China's economy was on the verge of collapse, and people strongly desired development. Facing this situation, the Communist Party of China made the strategic decision of reform and opening-up and re-established the ideological line of seeking truth from facts.

Deng Xiaoping Theory, the first major theoretical achievement of the Sinicization of Marxism since reform and opening-up, answered the question of "what is socialism and how to build it". It broke through the traditional understanding, proposed that poverty is not socialism, and put forward ideas like building socialism with Chinese characteristics. These theories laid a foundation for China's development and guided it onto a

suitable path.

In the 1990s, the collapse of the Soviet Union and changes in Eastern Europe set back the world socialist movement. Meanwhile, China's reform and opening-up entered a critical stage with new problems emerging. The the Theory of Three Represents thought answered the question of "what kind of party to build and how to build it". It emphasized the Party's representation of advanced productive forces, advanced culture, and people's interests. This thought enriched the Sinicization of Marxism and guaranteed the Party's advanced nature and governance capacity.

At the beginning of the 21st century, China's economy developed rapidly, yet problems like unbalanced urban-rural development, a widening rich-poor gap, and ecological environment deterioration became prominent. The Scientific Outlook on Development, with a people-centered core and requirements for comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development, answered "what development to achieve and how to develop". It stressed development for, by and shared by the people, and promoted coordinated development in economy, politics, culture, society and ecology..

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China has entered a new era. The principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved into the contradiction between the people's ever-growing needs for a better life and unbalanced and inadequate development. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has been put forward, which systematically answers the major question of "what kind of socialism with Chinese characteristics to uphold and develop in the new era, and how to uphold and develop it". This thought covers various fields such as economy, politics, culture, society, ecology, national defense and military, foreign affairs, and party building, and forms a complete and systematic theoretical system. It has pushed the Sinicization of Marxism to a new height, and guided China to achieve historic achievements and undergo historic changes in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics<sup>[1]</sup>.

### **2.2. Theoretical Logic: The Unity of Inheritance and Innovation of Marxism**

The theoretical logic of the Sinicization of Marxism

since the reform and opening-up lies in its adherence to the basic principles of Marxism, at the same time, it continuously innovates and develops Marxism according to China's specific national conditions and the characteristics of the times, realizing the unity of inheritance and innovation.

On the one hand, the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up has always adhered to the position, viewpoint and method of Marxism. The materialist conception of history, which holds that the development of society is determined by the development of productive forces, the theory of surplus value, which reveals the essence of capitalism, and the dialectical materialism, which emphasizes the unity of theory and practice, have always been the theoretical cornerstone of the Sinicization of Marxism. For example, Deng Xiaoping Theory's emphasis on developing productive forces as the primary task of socialism is a concrete application of the materialist conception of history; Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era's emphasis on dialectical thinking and systematic thinking is an inheritance and development of dialectical materialism.

On the other hand, the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up has made bold innovations on the basis of inheriting Marxism. It has broken through the traditional dogmatic understanding of Marxism, and combined the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific national conditions and excellent traditional Chinese culture, forming a series of theoretical achievements with Chinese characteristics, Chinese style and Chinese manner<sup>[2]</sup>. For example, the theory of the primary stage of socialism has scientifically judged the development stage of China's socialism, which is a major innovation in the theory of scientific socialism; the concept of ecological civilization, which emphasizes that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, has integrated the traditional Chinese ecological concept with the Marxist view of nature, which is a new development of Marxism in the field of ecology.

In addition, the theoretical innovation of the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up is also reflected in its absorption of the beneficial achievements of human civilization. It has critically

absorbed the reasonable components of Western economic theories, management experience and cultural thoughts, and integrated them into the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, making Marxism localization in China more inclusive and open.

### **2.3. Practical Logic: The Interaction Between Theoretical Guidance and Practical Testing**

The practical logic of the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up is reflected in the close interaction between theoretical guidance and practical testing. The theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism are derived from practice, and at the same time, they guide practice and are tested and developed in practice.

First of all, the theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up are based on China's practical experience. The reform and opening-up is a great practice of exploring the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In this process, the Communist Party of China has summed up a lot of successful experience and lessons in practice, and raised these experiences to the theoretical level, forming a series of theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism. For example, the household contract responsibility system in rural areas, which was first put forward by farmers in practice, was affirmed and promoted by the Party and the state, and then rose to a theoretical height, becoming an important part of the rural reform theory of the Sinicization of Marxism.

Secondly, the theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up have strongly guided China's practical development. Every theoretical achievement has played an important guiding role in China's reform and opening-up and modernization drive. For example, Deng Xiaoping Theory guided China to carry out market-oriented reforms, and promoted the rapid development of China's economy; Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has guided China to promote high-quality development, and promoted the all-round progress of various undertakings of the country.

Finally, the theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism since the reform and opening-up have been continuously tested and developed in

practice. Practice is the sole criterion for testing truth. The theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism must be continuously tested in practice, and revised and improved according to the results of practice. For example, in the process of promoting the reform of the economic system, the Communist Party of China has constantly adjusted its theoretical viewpoints according to the changes in practice, from the initial "planned economy as the mainstay and market regulation as the supplement" to "the socialist market economy system", which is a process of continuous development of theory in practice.

### **3. The Development Trend of the Sinicization of Marxism in the New Era**

Entering the new era, with the profound changes in the domestic and international situation, the Sinicization of Marxism is facing new opportunities and challenges, and showing a series of new development trends.

#### **3.1. Keeping Pace with the Times and Responding to the Demands of the Times More Proactively**

In the new era, the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. The global economic recovery is sluggish, the competition among major countries is becoming increasingly fierce, and the problems of climate change, public health emergencies and other global issues are becoming increasingly prominent. At home, China's economy has shifted from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development, and a series of deep-seated contradictions and problems need to be solved urgently.

Facing such a situation, the Sinicization of Marxism must keep pace with the times, closely follow the changes of the times, and proactively respond to the demands of the times. It is necessary to deeply analyze the new characteristics and new rules of the development of the times, and put forward new theoretical viewpoints and strategic thoughts to solve the problems facing the times. For example, in the face of the tide of anti-globalization, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era put forward the important concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, which has provided a Chinese

solution for solving global problems and promoting the common development of mankind.

In the future, the Sinicization of Marxism will continue to focus on the major issues of the times, such as promoting global governance reform, realizing common prosperity, and building a beautiful China, and constantly enrich and develop its theoretical connotation, so as to provide a strong theoretical support for responding to the challenges of the times.

#### **3.2. Deepening the Integration with Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture**

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China emphasized that we should adhere to the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific national conditions and excellent traditional Chinese culture. This is an important conclusion drawn by the Communist Party of China in the long-term practice of the Sinicization of Marxism, and it is also an important trend in the development of the Sinicization of Marxism in the new era.

Excellent traditional Chinese culture is the spiritual treasure of the Chinese nation, with a long history and rich connotation. It contains a lot of philosophical thoughts, humanistic spirits, moral concepts and other elements, which are in line with the basic principles of Marxism<sup>[3]</sup>. For example, the traditional Chinese concept of "the unity of man and nature" is consistent with the Marxist view of nature; the idea of "governing the country with virtue" is compatible with the Marxist view of building a country ruled by law and virtue.

In the new era, deepening the integration of Marxism with excellent traditional Chinese culture is not only conducive to enhancing the cultural confidence of the Chinese nation, but also conducive to promoting the innovation and development of the Sinicization of Marxism. It is necessary to excavate the excellent traditional Chinese culture, give it a new connotation of the times, and integrate it into the theoretical system of the Sinicization of Marxism, so that Marxism can take root in the land of China and show stronger vitality.

In the future, the integration of Sinicization of Marxism with excellent traditional Chinese culture will be more in-depth and comprehensive. It will not only be reflected in the field of ideology and culture,

but also penetrate into various fields such as economy, politics, society and ecology, forming a more distinctive theoretical system with Chinese characteristics.

### 3.3. Focusing on Solving Practical Problems and Strengthening the Guidance of Practice

The value of Marxism lies in its practicality. The Sinicization of Marxism has always been closely combined with China's practical development, and its ultimate goal is to solve the practical problems faced by China's development.

In the new era, China is facing many practical problems, such as promoting high-quality development, realizing common prosperity, building an ecological civilization, and strengthening national security. The Sinicization of Marxism must focus on these practical problems, conduct in-depth research, and put forward targeted solutions.

For example, in terms of promoting high-quality development, the Sinicization of Marxism needs to study how to transform the mode of economic development, improve the quality and efficiency of economic development, and enhance the core competitiveness of the economy; in terms of realizing common prosperity, it needs to study how to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas, the gap between regions, and the gap between the rich and the poor, and promote the fair distribution of social wealth.

In the future, the Sinicization of Marxism will pay more attention to the pertinence and effectiveness of practice, and strengthen the guidance of practice. It will not only put forward theoretical viewpoints, but also form a complete set of policy systems and implementation plans to ensure that the theoretical achievements can be effectively implemented in practice and play a role.

### 3.4. Enhancing International Influence and Discourse Power

With China's comprehensive national strength and international status on the rise, global attention to its development path and experience has grown significantly, and so has the need to understand how Marxism has been localized in the Chinese context.

In the new era, enhancing the international influence

and discourse power of the Sinicization of Marxism is an important task for the development of the Sinicization of Marxism. It is necessary to strengthen the external communication of the Sinicization of Marxism's theoretical achievements, tell the Chinese story well, spread the Chinese voice, and let the world understand the connotation and charm of the Sinicization of Marxism<sup>[4]</sup>.

At the same time, it is also necessary to strengthen international academic exchanges and cooperation, and conduct in-depth discussions with scholars from all over the world on the theory and practice of the Sinicization of Marxism. Through exchanges and cooperation, we can absorb the beneficial achievements of foreign Marxism research, and promote the development of the Sinicization of Marxism to be more international.

In the future, the international influence and discourse power of the Sinicization of Marxism will be continuously enhanced. It will not only become the theoretical guidance for China's development, but also provide reference for the development of other countries, especially developing countries, and make greater contributions to the development of world socialism and the progress of human civilization.

## 4. Conclusion

Since the reform and opening-up, the Sinicization of Marxism has gone through a glorious course of more than 40 years, achieving a series of epoch-making theoretical achievements and practical breakthroughs. Its evolution logic is embodied in the unity of historical logic, theoretical logic and practical logic, which is a process of keeping pace with the times, inheriting and innovating, and interacting with theory and practice.

Entering the new era, the Sinicization of Marxism is facing new opportunities and challenges, and showing the development trends of keeping pace with the times, deepening integration with excellent traditional Chinese culture, focusing on solving practical problems, and enhancing international influence. In the future, as long as we adhere to the guidance of Marxism, adhere to the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific national conditions and excellent traditional Chinese culture, and keep close to practice and

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the times, the Sinicization of Marxism will surely continue to achieve new development and new breakthroughs, and provide a strong theoretical support

for building a great modern socialist country in an all-round way and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

### **Disclosure statement**

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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